

# The Good News

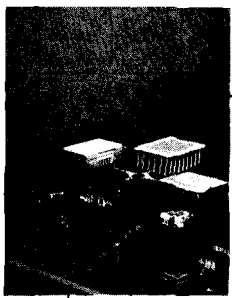
*International Magazine of The Church of God*



**TOMORROW'S CAMPUS  
TODAY!**

AUGUST 1971





## More About Our Cover...

The wrap-around cover picture on this month's GOOD NEWS and most of the pictures in the lead article are actually photographs of a recently finished MODEL of the Ambassador College Campus in Pasadena. These pictures reveal how the campus will look when the current Master Plan is complete. Be sure to read the story of how this intricate model was built, and — more important — WHY.

Ambassador College Photo

## What our READERS SAY...

### Envoy Gives Insight

I received the 1969 *Envoy* two weeks ago. I was amazed at such a fine production — the artwork, layout, color separation, printing and the cover. I have worked as an illustrator and commercial artist in the past and I appreciate good art work and printing when I see it. To have such a nice publication for myself is quite a privilege, and I want to thank you very much for the *Envoy*. It also gives us a better insight of the Work and helps us to work harder to do our part.

Edgar F.,  
Aurora, Missouri

### Building Fund

I am a widow on third tith and can give very little. I was giving \$1.00 to the Building Fund and decided to increase it to \$2.00 per month. A couple of hours after I filled out the "Statement of Intention Card" for the Building Fund I learned that my share of the rent went down \$1.00 a month! God intervenes in big ways and in "little" things as well.

P. F.,  
Banning, California

At the Feast I decided to save quarters that I get in change and add them to the regular Building Fund offering. It is relatively painless!

D. R.,  
Saginaw, Michigan

### Unusual Third Tithe Blessing!

Last week my wife gave birth to our first child, a healthy son. It was a home delivery, but the lady doctor walked out because we refused to go to the hospital and have a Caesarian operation, which she said was the only way our child would be born alive. Forty-five minutes after she left, and about 30 minutes after Mr. Carl Fowler came and anointed my wife, the baby was born — delivered by God. What a third tithe year blessing! Since the doctor refused to take any fee, and since God delivered us, we are sending this \$200 doctor fee to God's own Work.

Mr. & Mrs. J. H.,  
College Park, Maryland

### Prospective Member

Just five weeks ago I wrote to you requesting that one of your ministers get

in touch with me, which he did within three weeks. We had a nice discussion, and since then I have attended church in this area twice and I wish to continue going. I can't begin to tell you how in just two short weeks I have obtained such peace of mind. I found the people at church friendly, truthful, and outgoing, and the sermons have hit pretty close to home for me. I have never seen so many happy and contented people before. I had been putting off writing to you about requesting a visit by a local representative of the Worldwide Church of God for a couple months, and I regret now that I didn't do it sooner.

L. S.,  
Minnesota

### Ready to Learn the Truth

My dad is a member of the Worldwide Church of God and my brother has just recently decided to be baptized. I have never given the Church or its literature a real chance, and my attitude has been one of antagonism generally. I have come to realize that my feelings toward the Church have been more a result of a fear that the Church might have the truth rather than an absolute conviction or knowledge that it is wrong. I want to find out for myself.

Member's daughter,  
California

### Mr. Waterhouse Makes It Plain

We have been in God's Church almost seven years. Since we were called at the same time it hasn't been necessary for me to write many letters to Headquarters. My husband has faithfully taken care of the correspondence and sending tithes. But after having heard Mr. Gerald Waterhouse a night or two ago, I felt I should write and let you know how very much we appreciate hearing from him.

He can really paint a picture of God's soon-coming Kingdom and the part we play in God's Master Plan. He can get me out of the dishes, housework, etc., and show me why our calling is necessary. And why everything we do is so important. We could have sat and listened all night long. His visits are always thrilling and inspiring. Thank you for sending him.

Couple,  
Atlanta, Georgia

# The Good News

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ministering to its members  
scattered abroad

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# Tomorrow's Campus TODAY!

*An amazingly realistic model of the Ambassador College campus in Pasadena as it will look when the Master Plan is complete has been built. Here are the interesting facts behind the construction of this fascinating model, and the VITAL PURPOSE it serves in God's Work.*

*by William F. Dankenbring*



**T**O VIEW this spectacularly lifelike *model* is almost as realistic as viewing the campus itself from the air and from every conceivable angle!

Most of the major buildings and other features shown in this model are in existence today — though many were only dreamed of a few years ago! The Hall of Administration and the beautiful Dining Hall, or Student Center, are now reality; the Gymnasium and Natorium have been in existence for several years. Only the Auditorium, Library, Running Track, Parking Structure and the Campus Mall remain to be built.

Thus this model shows graphically the **PROGRESS** which has been made in the beautification of Ambassador College. It also reveals, in comprehensible form, the **GROWTH** at the Headquarters of God's Work!

The new Ambassador College Library Building is not yet shown on the model, but will be incorporated when conceptual plans are approved and a scale-sized, preliminary model of it is fitted into the landscape to make sure that it will blend into the rest of the campus in perfect harmony.

But what else does the future hold? This unbelievably realistic model gives us a picture — a detailed view — of the Ambassador College campus of tomorrow!

### The Auditorium

Notice, especially, the Auditorium between the Student Center and the Hall of Administration. This is to be the keynote of the campus of tomorrow. It will be far more than just another beautiful building. To us the new auditorium will be the "House for God" which Mr. Herbert Armstrong has for so long a time wanted to build. We still hope to see this building finished and in use!

Whether or not that will be possible, of course, will depend a great deal on our prayers, and our contributions to the Building Fund. Because of pressing financial obligations, Mr. Armstrong had to postpone the groundbreaking for the new House for God early this year. But postponement does not mean cancellation. There is still a very good chance that we will be able to build it, and we all hope and pray that construction will move ahead *soon!*

### The Story Behind Our Model

Why was this beautiful model of the Master Plan of Ambassador College constructed? What is its purpose?

The first idea came as a result of a meeting between Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, Mr. Albert J. Portune and the men in our Physical Plant Division

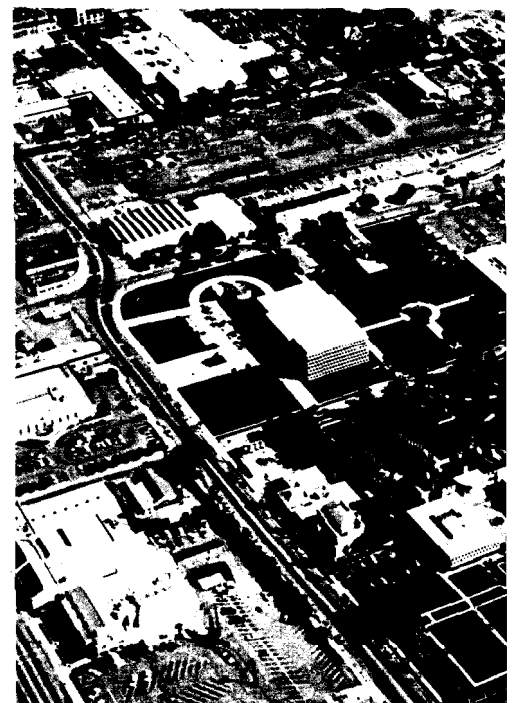
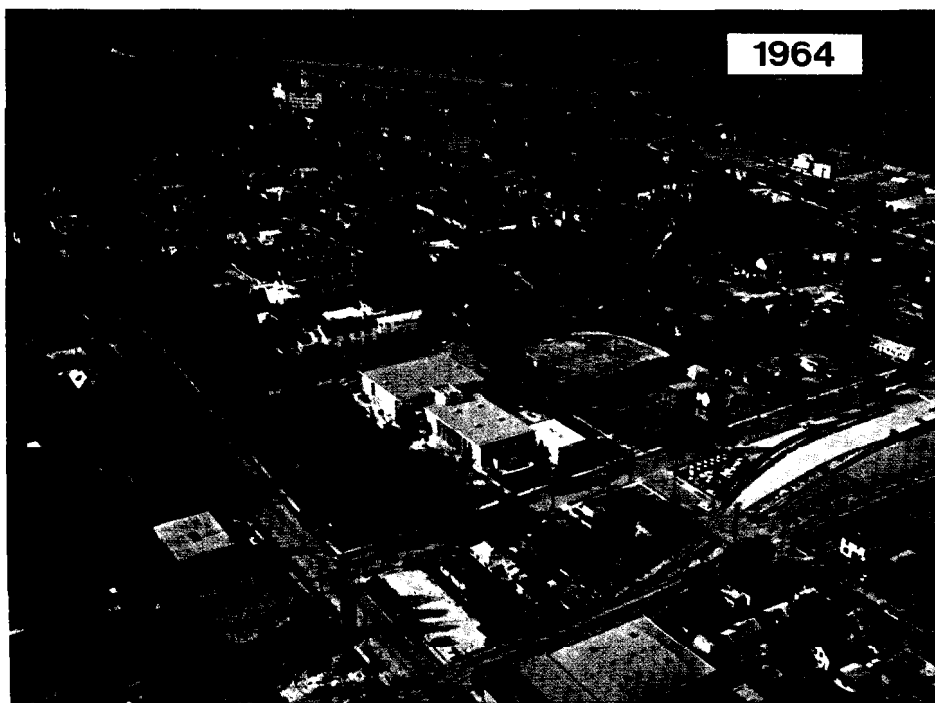
about a year ago. At that time a similar model of the Industrial Park area at Headquarters, where the press, mailing and data processing centers are located, was created. That model (to be covered in a future pictorial display), triggered the idea of a campus model.

Under Mr. Jack Elliott's overall supervision, Mr. David Hyun, our Architectural Planning Designer, organized the project and saw it through from start to finish. Work began in January of this year. The plans of existing buildings had to be ferreted out from our Architectural and Engineering Department files, from the firm of Daniel, Mann, Johnson and Mendenhall (DMJM) and the O.K. Earl Corporation, who designed and built many of the newer buildings, and from landscape plans of Eckbow, Dean, Austin

### CAMPUS GROWTH — Below

left: The Pasadena campus is shown shortly after the Gymnasium, first step in the college Master Plan, had been completed in December 1964. Below: In March of 1971, much of the Master Plan had come to fruition. Notice the Academic Center (lower middle), the Hall of Administration (upper left) and the Student Center (middle right). Below right: The photographer comes in close for a detailed shot of our model of tomorrow's campus.

Ambassador College Photos



and Williams — landscape architects for the college.

After our own Architectural and Engineering Department had pulled together all the various existing plans for the different buildings, this information was submitted to Armin Kaufstein of Presentation Associates in Venice, California. Mr. Kaufstein is one of the top model builders in the area, as the extremely realistic model itself testifies. Mr. Kaufstein then shot over 300 color photographs of the entire campus from every conceivable angle, and our television department gave him aerial photos taken from the famous Goodyear blimp.

But all this work was just preparation for the real job.

In today's world, modelling is an exacting science. It requires more than just natural artistic ability. For example, large drawings were made of the fence around part of the campus and then photographed. These photographs were then reduced to scale (1" to 20') and chemically etched as follows:

The reduced image of the fence was projected onto a sheet of brass covered by a thin coat of photosensitive gelatin. It was then "developed" in such a way that the gelatin on which the fence image fell was hardened and remained intact when the remaining gelatin was washed away. Then acid was introduced

which ate away the remaining brass not covered by the fence image. The result — a brass fence of the exact scale!

Similarly, the egret fountain was drawn up, photographed, and the photos were reduced to scale and projected onto flat pieces of the same photosensitive metal. After being etched they were bent into the proper configuration. The result? An amazing replica of the egret sculpture!

This metal etching process was also used to obtain the fine detail shown in the trellises, railings and benches.

The model is actually 62.5 inches by 71.5 inches. It includes in its construction plexiglass, styrene, urethane foam, metal and wood. The finish used was lacquer. Building colors were matched to the buildings themselves. Six different kinds of glue were required to put the various materials together.

There are 850 handmade trees, each carefully made to the size and shape of existing trees on the campus and placed exactly where they grow. Even flowers are also shown where they are growing, and people and cars were put in place to give added realism.

(In these photographs, notice in particular the wide and spacious mall extending through the present area of Terrace Drive and Grove Street, both of which the city has rezoned for college use.)

The whole terrain and topography of the campus are accurately portrayed in the model. A special topography-cutting machine was used so there would be no horizontal or vertical distortion.

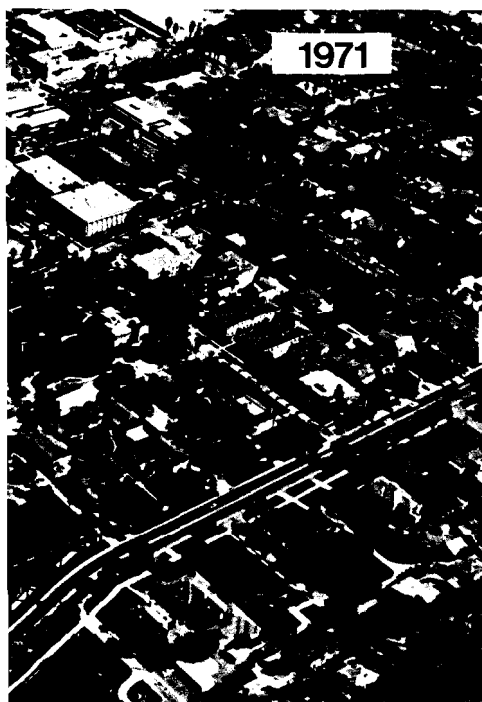
The model builder spent 4,200 man-hours on this marvelously intricate project! He looked upon it as a fascinating challenge — it became a labor of love, and he went *over* and *above* what was required of him.

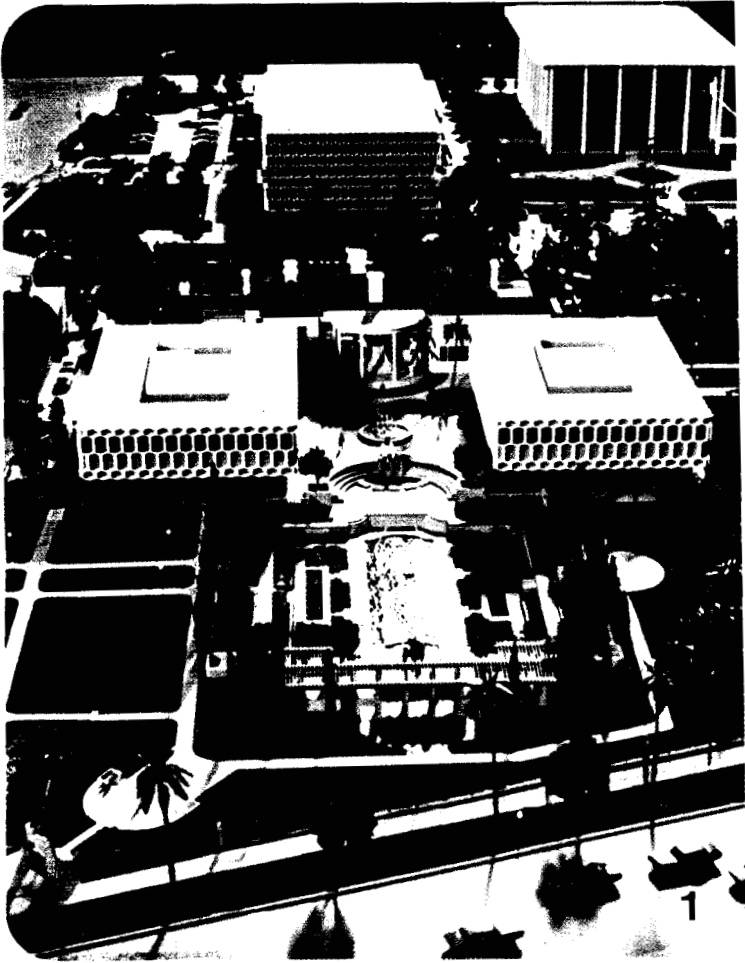
#### Purpose of the Model

This model is not just a decorative piece of craftsmanship. It certainly is that, too, but *much more*. It is a valuable TOOL! It serves a vital purpose to those in our Physical Plant Division, in public relations, and in helping Mr. Herbert Armstrong visualize and plan the future use of the campus.

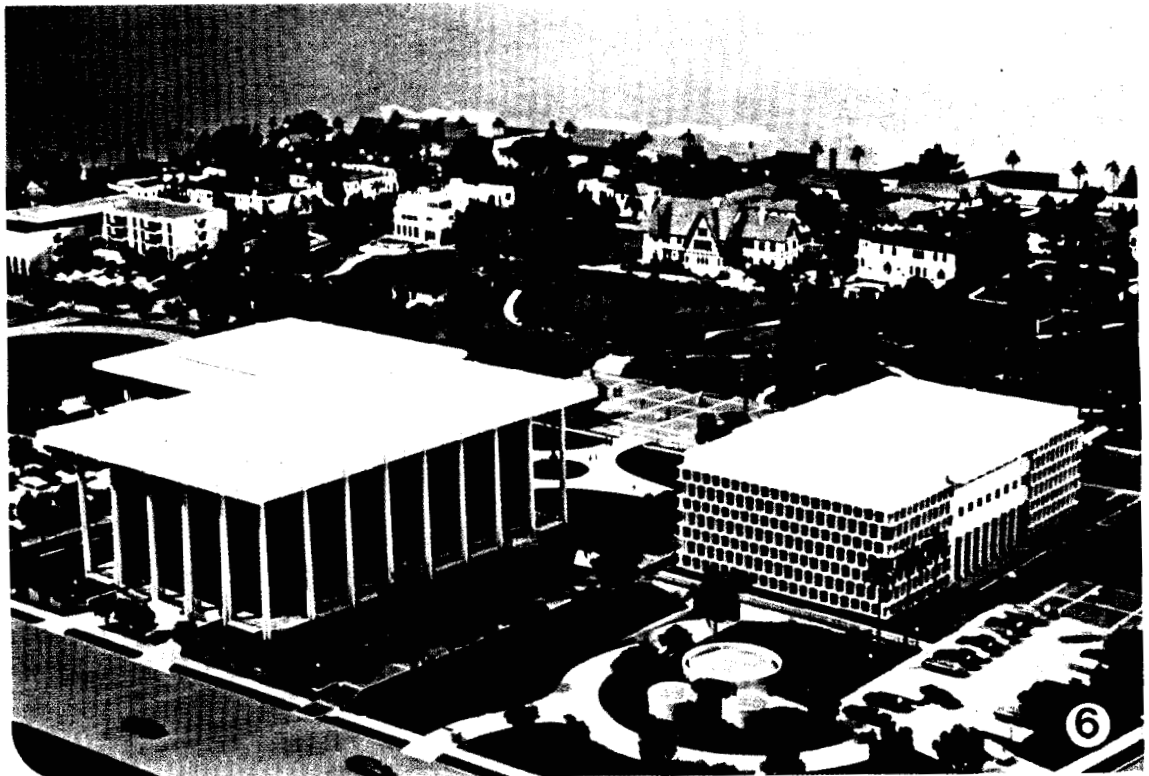
The Scripture says, "Where there is no *vision*, the people perish" (Prov. 29:18). According to those involved in the planning of the Ambassador College campus, this model helps us define our goals, aids us in *visualization* and planning, gives us the overall view and *vision* needed to plan wisely. Without proper planning and foresight, aided by such tools as this model, there would be danger of error or faulty design. Therefore the model serves a very *practical* purpose and will save the Work of

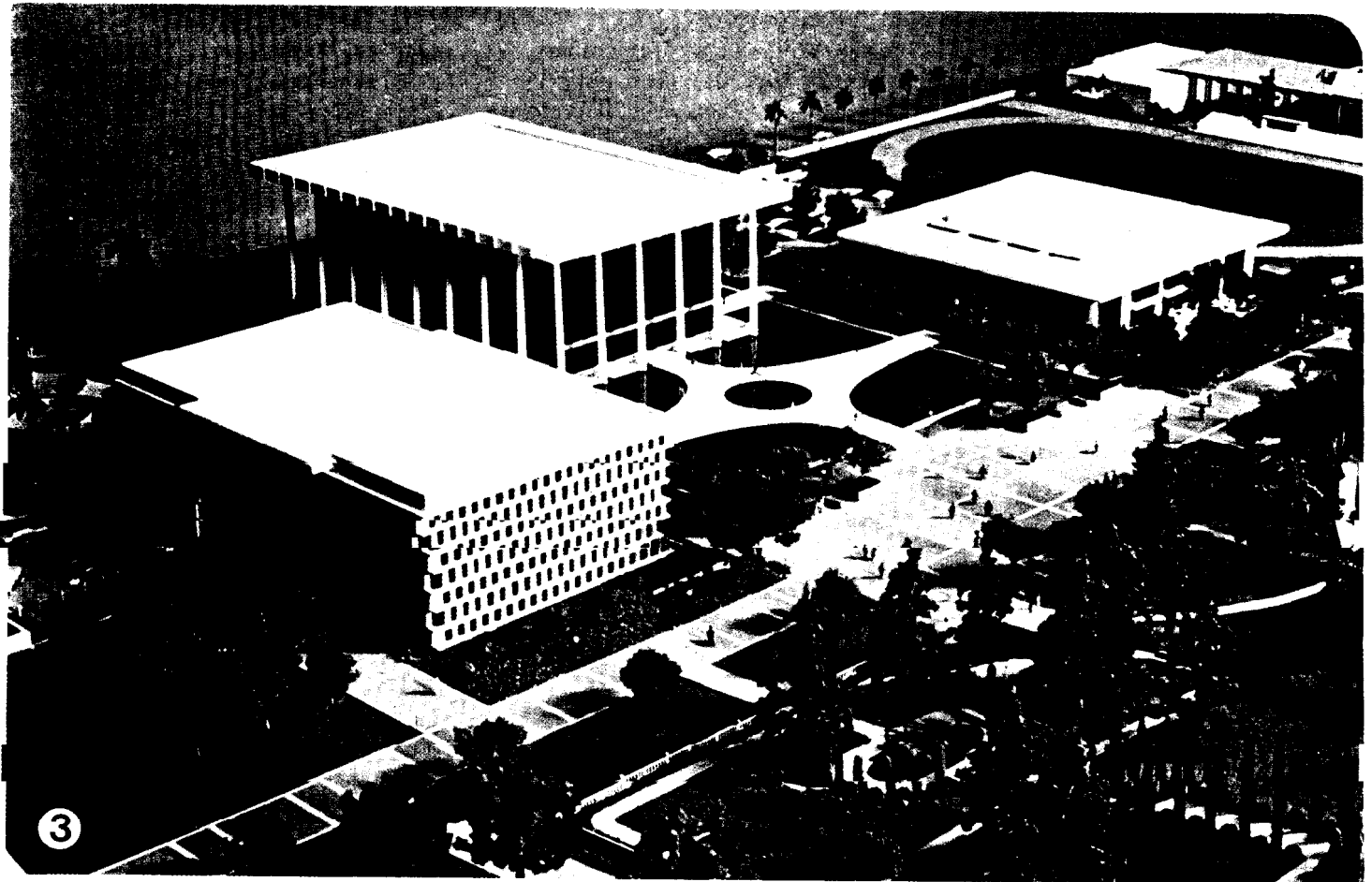
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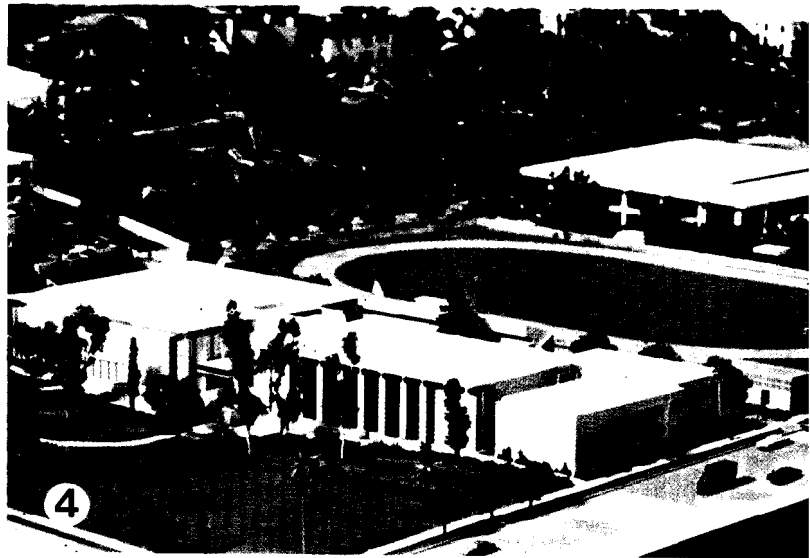
# Touring





# our model

1. The Loma D. Armstrong Academic Center and its beautiful sunken gardens. Ripples in pool and reflected "sunlight" add a touch of realism. 2. Walkways link stately student residences and the college library (just above Mayfair). Modern men's residence (upper left) was finished in 1968. 3. The Auditorium as planned is flanked by the Hall of Administration at left, and the Student Center to the right. Notice huge reflecting



*Ambassador College Photos*

... pool, egret sculpture, and large mall in front of Auditorium. 4. Physical education complex with gym, natatorium, handball courts and one-sixth mile track with underground parking facilities. 5. Bird's-eye view of student and faculty residences. 6. When finished, the Auditorium will be the dominating feature of the entire campus from any angle.





God many thousands of dollars!

Remember the model is basically a "tool" — it is not the "final word" on the subject of campus growth or design. Mr. Jack Elliott has called it a "planning model." It is always helpful for architects and builders to have an overall grasp of what they are doing — to see how their work fits into the Master Plan. It will also help formulate design changes in, and additions to, the Master Plan. As these changes are made they will be incorporated into the model itself. The model provides a central starting point for discussions and plans about the campus, enabling planners to see in advance and get a "feel" of the overall plan before committing money in actual construction.

Another valuable use of the model is in public relations. Visitors to Ambassador College enjoy seeing the whole layout of the campus illustrated before them by the model on display in the Hall of Administration. It gives them a better picture of the size and scope of the campus. And increasingly, prominent and important figures visit the campus to see Ambassador College for themselves!

The model also will be a vital tool for the civic officials of Pasadena as we pursue our Master Plan. It will help them to see, with their own eyes, what we are talking about, thus making approval easier to obtain for needed construction and changes.

### The Model and YOU

Finally, the model also provides a service to you brethren, wherever you live. It helps *you* to be cognizant of the *plans and progress and growth* of Ambassador College, and the Headquarters of God's Work. It helps give you some idea of what Mr. Herbert Armstrong means when he mentions the *tremendous needs* of the Building Program. Although the model is NOT complete, as mentioned before, it provides you with a graphic view of what is planned and intended for "the most beautiful spot on earth" — Headquarters of God's Work, the Ambassador College campus in Pasadena!

We hope that the pictures of the model in this magazine will help stimulate you to think continually of

God's Work and its Headquarters. We sincerely hope that these pictures will provoke you to pray more diligently for the Work of God, and its completion. We hope that they will inspire all of you, as the model itself has inspired those of us at Headquarters.

Someday soon a "Master Plan" will encompass not only the Ambassador College campus, but the *WHOLE WORLD!* We all want to have a part in that plan.

The day is not far off when we in God's Church will be used to remake the entire framework of that world — planning its cities, its industries, its agricultural areas, its geography, and even its religious and political framework — under the overall direc-

tion and supervision of Jesus Christ!

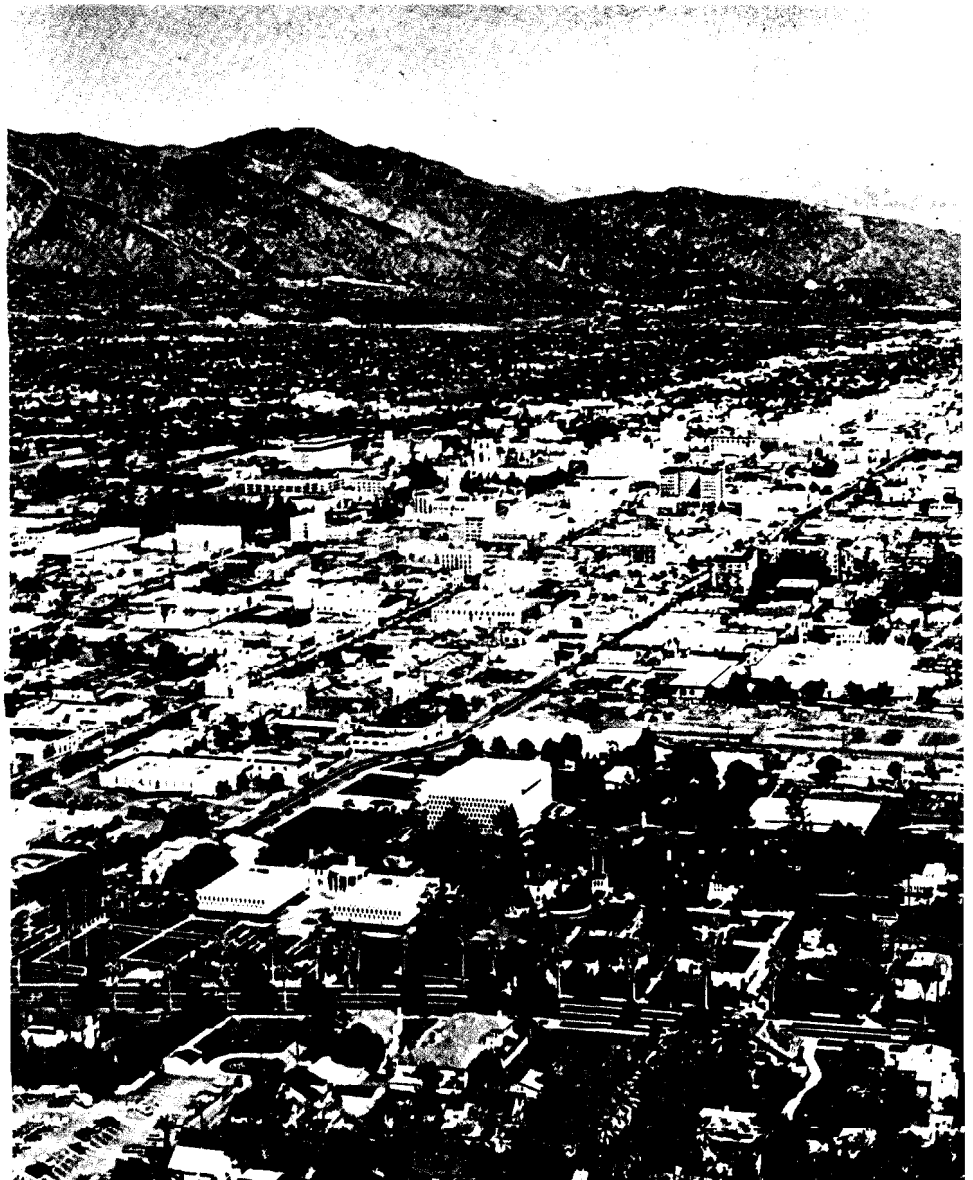
This miniature model is itself a model of a greater "model" — the Ambassador College campus, which is a *model* of the World Tomorrow!

We hope that these pictures will stir you and help you to "catch the vision" so you can better fulfill your vital role in helping to complete the Work of God in proclaiming the GOOD NEWS of the soon-coming Kingdom of God around the world! □

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**CAMPUS AN OASIS** — Pasadena on a sparkling clear day with the Ambassador College campus in the foreground. View is to the northeast. Notice that the campus is as an oasis in the midst of a concrete desert.

Ambassador College Photo





# What can YOU do for God's Work?

***This is an age of noninvolvement — a time of self-interest and personal gain. No one, it seems, wants to become INVOLVED IN A CAUSE — no matter how great. What about YOU? Here's how you can become MORE INVOLVED in the greatest commission ever given to mankind!***

by Alfred E. Carrozzo and James J. Young

**A**LARMED government psychologists concluded recently that people can no longer be moved by causes — only benefits. “What’s in it for me?” is the question most often asked.

This is the generation of total “get” and never give — except to get. Our system has been founded on the principles of *acquisition*: “Buy *now* and pay later!” “Fly *now* and pay later,” scream the ads. “Get that new car off your mind and *into* your driveway,” pleads the auto industry.

Our society is wallowing in borrowed affluence. The shorter work weeks, the welfare checks, the fringe benefits and the endless “free” gimmicks have combined to build the psychology of GET into the minds of our generation to a frightening extent!

## **Needed: A Strong Sense of PURPOSE!**

The recipients of today’s unique blessings are so filled with the doctrines of avarice and appetite that they find it difficult — IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE — to identify with any cause that does not directly center around the *self*.

The book *In Every War But One* tells how many American soldiers in Korean prison camps, lacking any *strong sense of purpose*, would quickly lose the will to live, lie down, and pine

away until they died. In an effort to prevent this, their own sergeants would curse and kick the men, hoping to make them just fighting mad enough to want to live. This illustrates just how deeply the philosophy of causelessness and total selfishness had bitten into the character of our nation as early as 1950.

Today it is even worse. We live in a land filled with citizens without a cause except self-aggrandizement. Only a handful, seemingly, have any *sense of purpose*.

And, brethren, most astounding and alarming of all, even some of us in God’s Church suffer from this same lack of purpose. Some of us seem to want to “pass the buck.” After all, we reason, there are so many thousands of *others* “doing the Work” in God’s Church today. So we “excuse” ourselves from ACTIVE participation!

Do you realize God chose *you* out of THREE AND A HALF BILLION PEOPLE ON EARTH TODAY?!

God chose you *at this time* for a PURPOSE, and that purpose is NOT because He desperately *needed* you among the firstfruits!

God has called you *today* to DO HIS WORK! The need to finish His Work is *your personal responsibility*. You have a part to do *now*, and you dare not fail!

## **Don’t Underestimate Your Part**

Some in God’s Church feel so inferior and personally useless that they think of themselves as unable to do *anything* for our great cause — the very WORK OF GOD! They defeat themselves in their minds before they start.

It is not at all God’s will that any one of us *be* useless or *feel* useless to His Work! Yet some, especially when newly converted, have honestly felt they had no capability of doing anything to help in God’s Work. Have you ever felt this way?

Brethren, don’t *underestimate* your value in this great Work. What would happen to a tug-of-war team if several of the members began to think their part wasn’t important? The team would get pulled off its feet at the very first tug!

What would happen in your body if half your red blood cells individually decided they were not worth much and might just as well quit functioning? You would be totally without energy, flat on your back and unable to work. In fact, you would soon *DIE!*

What would happen if half of the members in the spiritual body of Christ individually decided they were so insignificant that it made no difference to the health and strength of the body whether

or not they did their part? The Church would soon become enervated and unable to do the Work that God has commissioned us to do.

We must understand and believe we are on a TEAM and that *our part* in the Work is IMPORTANT! Whether or not we have realized it yet, God knows our part is important and is holding us personally responsible for fulfilling it!

As we admit and accept our part and strive to fulfill it, God will begin to use and inspire us to do more and more. As we participate, the Work will become more personal. Then it won't ever be others' work — it will be OUR WORK in the greatest commission in the history of the world!

### Our GREAT Commission!

Noah was commissioned to build an ark as a witness to his generation. Moses had to receive God's laws and build a nation. David founded a new dynasty and qualified to govern Israel forever. Daniel received great prophetic forewarnings of world significance, and John the baptist prepared the way for the coming of Christ.

Each was a fantastic commission, but none was more significant than the end-time commission God has given to His Church.

Since we live at the time of the end, Christ has commissioned us to do a mounting combination of all these things. Like Noah, we must witness to our world, and at the same time we must prepare a people for the world tomorrow. Like Moses, we received the Law — but in the Spirit — and we must help build a spiritual Israel.

Like David, we must qualify to become kings and rule the nations forever. Like Daniel, we have received prophecies, and we must explain to the nations their dire and worldwide significance. Like John the baptist, we have to prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah — His second, and permanent, coming. Could anyone ever be chosen to perform and contribute to a greater cause than this?

The whole creation groans — and waits — with eager longing for the sons of God to be revealed (Rom. 8:19-22). The need for us to roll up our sleeves and get on with this job has

NEVER been greater, and YOU have an active part — NOW!

### What YOU Can Do

Some think they are unimportant and useless if they can't send in large sums of money to God's Work. They think their "little bit" won't matter one way or the other.

What if the widow Christ mentioned had that attitude? She would have thrown in the towel instead of her mites. Then Christ would not have been able to commend her and say: "This poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: for all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living" (Mark 12:43-44).

Do you know just how little a "mite" really was?

A mite was a small thin Jewish copper coin called a *lepton*, which meant "peeled" or "pared down." It had the value of a little over three-sixteenths of a penny, and she cast in two — all she had — making a total contribution of about *three-eighths of a cent!*

Yet Christ did not think she was unimportant or insignificant — He praised her for doing her part! And He recorded her fine example in His Word for all to read ever after.

So your contributions, no matter how "small," are important! Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong has shown us in the past just how much *one* dollar can accomplish in this great Work. That's what YOUR DOLLARS are accomplishing! Combined, all of *our* dollars are having a TREMENDOUS IMPACT on this world as we send Christ's warning witness to all nations via the printed page, radio and television!

Of course, the *bigger* your salary the more financial thrust you can add to the Work in tithes and offerings. Without hurting their families, many of our brethren have been working several hours overtime each week to be able to increase their tithe and fatten their offering. This is a fine example and of great benefit to the Work.

But contributing money is only a *part* of what you can do.

### The POWER of Prayer

Do you somehow feel, in spite of all previous admonitions, that praying for the Work is just spiritual garnish, but not a very *real force* in fulfilling our Commission?

In Luke 2:37 we read of a widow who SERVED GOD with fastings and prayers day and night. Far from being ineffectual murmurings in a dark room, our prayers are pictured in Revelation 8:3 as sweet smelling incense coming up into the very presence of God.

Because prayer *is* so important, Christ gave us the sample outline for prayer (Matthew 6). In that prayer, the very first thing He teaches us to focus our minds on, after worshipping and acknowledging the power of our heavenly Father, is — "Thy Kingdom come." So since this Work is preparing the way for the coming of that kingdom, your prayers and supplications obviously can have *great effect!*

Incense is a Biblical symbol for prayer (Rev. 8:3). But to burn properly, incense has to be beaten small. Likewise, to be most effective, our prayers for the Work must be beaten small — be broken down and made very *specific*.

There are countless *thousands* of things to pray for, if we will only stop to think about the needs of the Work. You should pray earnestly for the many things it takes daily to do the Work of God — divine guidance — inspiration — intervention — protection — wisdom — good judgment, etc.

Mr. Herbert Armstrong and Mr. Ted Armstrong are especially encouraged to know that you are praying to God on *their behalf*. It is a tremendous help to them in fulfilling their great responsibilities. It helps to "hold up their hands" as Aaron and Hur did for Moses (Ex. 17:12).

Mr. Portune, Vice-President for Financial Affairs and Planning, has reported many times that the income has taken a sudden upswing for no apparent reason, and often in spite of general economic trends. The reason, of course, is that God's people have been beseeching Him fervently to bless His Work!

Believe it or not, this Work runs

more on *PRAYER POWER* than on any other force!

Of course, praying to God is not a *substitute* for our paying tithes and giving offerings, but it is a *multiplying* of their effect.

Our Father in Heaven enjoys having His people come to Him in prayer. The prayers of the upright are His "delight" (Prov. 15:8). If everyone is doing his part, the sun literally never sets on the people praying to God for His Great Work, for we really are the *Worldwide Church of God!*

### Other Ways to Serve

There is much, much more you can do. You can contribute to God's Work in many other ways — but you must be *willing*.

In Exodus 35:21 we read: "And they came, every one whose heart *stirred him up*, and every one whom his spirit made *willing*, and they brought the Lord's offering to the work..." Once a right attitude has made you willing, you will soon find other things to do for God's Work.

Opportunities for service are *endless!*

Down through history, people from all walks of life — kings, widows, fugitives — have found a way to do their part, from building a temple to visiting the sick; from taking in strangers to giving a cup of cold water to a thirsty disciple.

Many today are serving as elders, deacons and deaconesses, and many of our young people are attending one of the three campuses of Ambassador College. There is a job for each to do. However, apart from these responsibilities, there are many other roles and responsibilities to fulfill.

### Help in the Church

We live in a cutthroat, dog-eat-dog society where the weak are continually exploited because they are weak. Paul says in Romans 15: "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves."

From time to time people in God's Church become spiritually, physically or financially weak. We need to be vigilant and ready to offer a helping hand. As Paul said to the Galatians, "Bear you one another's burdens, and so fulfill the

law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2). "As we have therefore opportunity," he added, "let us do good to all men, *especially* unto them who are of the household of faith" (verse 10).

For example, how encouraging it is to a sick person to be visited. When one is ill his spirits are usually at a low ebb. Almost more than at any other time, this is when a person needs to be cheered up. Flowers especially help to bring sunshine into his or her room. It's a comfort to the patient to feel that he or she is loved and not a burden at this time.

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father," said the Apostle James, is "to visit the fatherless and the widows in their affliction." Paul said that if "one member suffer, all the other members [should] suffer with it" (I Cor. 12:26).

To develop empathy for someone in affliction and to visit them really helps any wounds in the "*body* of Christ" to heal fast!

Some, because of poor health or lack of transportation, are unable to do much visiting. But all are able to write a letter or send a card for just a few cents. This is a very important binding agent within the Church. Many times you can express thoughts and feelings in a letter that you would be unable to do in person. You have put part of your being on paper and given it to someone else in service, which is always appreciated.

Sometimes one can see a few sad or discouraged faces at Sabbath services. Before attending services, you could pray that God would help you to talk with the right people — those you can help. *Be zealous* — *not by trying to solve personal problems, but by being a friend*. Try to shed some cheer into that life. This is really letting your light shine (Matt. 5:16) and setting a fine example. And remember we are exhorted to *provoke* one another to LOVE and GOOD WORKS (Heb. 10:24).

Romans 12:1 tells us to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God — "Which is your reasonable [logical] service." Life is time, and certainly to give up some of our time for others is a logical service. Why not take some of your time and

call up someone who lives alone? Why not take some of your time and give it as an offering to someone who needs transportation to the store or a ride to services? This is certainly acceptable and pleasing to God.

The Apostle John says, "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?" (I John 3:17.) Sometimes a breadwinner in the Church loses his job. Why not take over a few of your canned fruits or vegetables or leave a sack of groceries on his doorstep? They don't have to know where it came from.

There are *many* other ways in which we may help in the Church. There is always a need for people to set up chairs — arrange flowers — play the piano — sing in the choir — look after used clothing or take care of the Church library.

When the TOMORROW'S WORLD lectures come to your area you might be invited to attend to help set the atmosphere. Here is a real opportunity for participation — will you respond?

### Be Zealous

God's Word shows we *all* definitely have our part to do in the Work of God. We are not vestigial organs in the Body of Christ. *We have individually been specifically placed in the Body for a GREAT PURPOSE!* All of the things we have covered in this article which we can DO are *vitaly important* in fulfilling the big, overall commissions of preaching the gospel and feeding the flock!

We all need to deeply believe and understand that Christ placed us in His Church as unique individual members and that we have our *own active role* to perform for the healthy working of the overall Body of Christ. When we really think in those terms about our PERSONAL CALLING, how can any one of us feel unnecessary or useless?

Christ says: "I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to reward every man *according as his work shall be*" (Rev. 22:12).

So let's get on with the job of accomplishing the greatest Work of all time! The world and God's Church are waiting — on *you!* □



# DO YOU REALLY DESIRE



# GOD'S KINGDOM?

***Do you still see the need for Christ's return? Or has the comfort and fine living of the Western world clouded your vision of the world's suffering masses? Read this eye-opening article from our office manager in the Philippines to see what conditions are really like in that part of the world!***

by Colin Adair

Manila, Philippines

**“E**VEN if the Work doesn't end as soon as some of us thought it would, that's fine with me. Life is pretty good and I'm enjoying it. I don't mind a few more years' enjoyment.”

These words, or words to this effect, were uttered by a member of God's Church, believe it or not! My wife and I were shocked!

## But Why Be Shocked?

We were on a visit to Britain after our first five months in the Philippines. We brought with us an account of conditions in that nation of almost 38 million people. More than ever before we had been able to see the startling contrast between the have and the have-not nations.

More than ever before we had been able to see just how God has blessed our peoples of modern-day Israel — Britain and the United States. Even in this time of economic distress our peoples are still way ahead in physical possessions and blessings.

And more than ever before we were painfully aware of the absolute *necessity* of the return of Jesus Christ to put an

end to the suffering of millions of people who live from day to day in poverty and ill health.

Yet here was a member of God's Church who was an integral part of telling the world the good news of the *end* of all suffering, actually saying he would be quite happy if Christ *delayed* His coming for a few more years!

What is wrong with this attitude, brethren? Is it an attitude that you see in yourself from time to time?

Can you *HONESTLY* say you really *long* for God's Kingdom to be established? Or would you, like this person, rather see it delayed a little longer so you may continue to enjoy the good things of life that God has given to modern-day Israel?

## Why This Attitude Is WRONG

Notice what God says in Amos 6:1, 4-6: “**WOE** to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came! . . . that lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of

the stall; that chant to the sound of the viol, and invent to themselves instruments of musick, like David; that drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief ointments: *but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.*"

Here God condemns certain of our peoples who are taking life easy, putting their trust in the government to provide for them, and who couldn't care *less* about the troubles in the land. If they care little for the sickness in their own nations, how much *less* do they have concern for the untold sufferings of *other* nations!

This describes *many* of our people today, brethren, *and* it can also describe an attitude we in God's Church can get into *if* we are not careful!

It is all too easy for some of us to forget that there are MILLIONS of people outside our own nations who are living in abject misery and deprivation and for whom each sunrise heralds another day eking out a living in frustration and emptiness.

In this article I want to make you aware of just *one* nation's problems — the Philippines — in order to *stir you up* to pray more fervently, "Thy Kingdom come," and *never* to fall into the SELFISH attitude of hoping it is "delayed a while" so *you* personally can enjoy the physical pleasures while millions of others continue to suffer.

### Health in the Philippines

In the Philippines, 53 out of every 100 children are undernourished. The reasons for this are economic. With an annual per capita income of only \$180, the daily average income of less than 50 cents is inadequate to meet food needs, let alone any other household expenses. As a result, carbohydrates (mostly rice and corn), account for 78 percent of the total food consumed. Protein accounts for only 14 percent. The average Filipino just cannot *afford* a great deal of protein in his diet. Cereals such as rice and corn are readily available, while meat and milk products — rich sources of protein — are both scarce and expensive.

As a direct result of malnutrition children grow up physically impaired. By the time they reach adulthood they

are capable of working at only 74 percent capacity!

Following hard on the heels of malnutrition is disease. As I write this an epidemic of cholera and gastro-enteritis is afflicting the greater Manila area and parts of the provinces. Already some have died. Most of those affected just haven't the strength to fight the illness.

Tuberculosis, which many years ago was a dreaded visitor to many British and American homes but which is little heard of in those countries today, still haunts the Philippines! It has been reported that almost 90 percent of the population is afflicted with it in some form. It is one of the top three killers of Filipinos, sharing this ignominious distinction with pneumonia and gastrointestinal diseases.

Intestinal parasites are another scourge. Believe it or not it has been reported that 97 percent of all Filipino school children are infected to some degree!

Add to this the modern "imported" diseases of the Western world — heart disease and cancer, which are growing at an alarming rate — and you have a *very* sad picture.

It has been estimated that to solve the twin problems of malnutrition and disease could cost the country 1,860,000,000 pesos! The nation just doesn't *have* that kind of money! So the suffering continues.

### Poverty

The visitor arriving in Manila doesn't have to drive very far from the airport before seeing some of the worst squalor in Asia!

Homes made out of wood and held together by loosely bolted cast-iron sheets lean on each other precariously like a pack of cards. During heavy rains many of these dwellings are flooded. Others lose their roofs when the familiar typhoon blows across the country. Not all homes are as bad as this, but far too many are! Most people live in substandard housing and in overcrowded conditions, sometimes two or three families to one house.

It is not uncommon to see blind beggars, led often by children, begging from cars stopped momentarily at the traffic signals. It is a pathetic sight and one that you don't easily forget.

Helping to increase the poverty level is the continual rise in the cost of living. Since the peso began "floating" in early 1970 the cost of food has soared. This hasn't been helped at all by the shortage of rice in the country. The nation that produced the "miracle rice" has had to import additional tons from Taiwan and Thailand this year. Since the average Filipino family is large it is a real hardship for the breadwinner to keep his children fed daily.

God's people in the Philippines are not immune from these conditions. A short while ago I received the following report from one of our leaders in Mindanao:

"Sir, the present condition of non-professional members in God's Church here in Tagum and other areas is really very hard due to high prices of those prime commodities in the homes of everyone. The cereal food of the poor people is corn and the price of the corn grits now is two pesos a ganta and the fresh fish is three to four pesos per kilo... really these two items only a minimum wage earner can't afford if he has four members in the family — how much more for those with nine members. They pity each other here in Manikling and other areas... some people (not our members) *are selling their children* already, some are stealing anything."

Another leader reported the following: "Some of our neighbors are eating already the dust of Buri Palm, some are planning to steal. Other people are wounded because of ambush on the street."

At that time we had to send them some money from our office in Manila just so they could buy rice and corn to feed their families!

*Your* brethren *here* are certainly looking forward to the day prophesied by Amos in chapter 9:13, "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt."

### Crime and Violence

"The Dodge City of the Orient." This is how our Crime booklet describes Manila. Every day there is a holdup, a

shooting, a knifing, or an armed ambush somewhere in the Greater Manila area.

A particular evening newspaper seems to specialize in plastering the photographs of the victims on its front page. Most of these crimes are caused by unbridled human nature. Usually the suspect had a grudge or got into an argument with his victim and resorted to the knife or the gun to settle it.

Only last week a prominent retired army general was shot and killed while driving his own car a few blocks from his home. The reason? No one knows, but more than likely it was an old score being settled.

This year alone five million pesos (about \$800,000) have been stolen by armed gangsters, many of the holdups taking place in broad daylight! Tragically in all too many cases policemen have been involved in the crime. How do you solve a nation's crime problem when those who are supposed to uphold the law cannot be trusted?

"Carnapping" is also widespread. I have been one of the recent victims! A few days ago I had a car. Now I don't! It was stolen from outside our office in the street below. I don't expect to see it again. It has probably been stripped or given a new look by now!

The drug problem is not unique to the Western world. A recent survey made in Manila reveals a pathetic picture. Almost 50 percent of the entire student population in Greater Manila uses marijuana and similar drugs! This means 200,000 young people are seeking a thrill or trying to escape from their problems! The same report said that the number of persons addicted to hard drugs has *doubled* during the past five years.

Recently the National Bureau of Investigation discovered various "plantations" of marijuana throughout the country, most of them in the back yards of "ordinary" households.

This is only part of the crime picture. I could go on and on, but it lets you see the gigantic problems facing this nation.

### Religious Warfare

Most of you already know about the Huk insurgency problem in Central Luzon. This hit-and-run warfare has

been going on for years. Admittedly it is not as bad now as it used to be.

But a new front has opened up, this time in Mindanao. The problem is a dispute as old as history itself — religious differences! The province of Cotabato contains many Muslim people as well as "Christians."

Land rights bring this animosity out into the open. Both sides claim the land as their own and resort to violence to settle it. Already many people have been driven from their homes by both Muslim and "Christian" bandits.

One particularly horrifying event happened in June. On the pretense of having a peace conference a band of "Christian" armed men herded a group of Muslim men, women, and children into a mosque. Once they were seated on the floor the bandits opened fire with automatic weapons and threw hand grenades. Sixty-one people perished in the massacre, including very young children and even babies in their mother's arms! This roused great indignation in the Philippines and the government dispatched scores of troops to flush out the bandits responsible. But the bandits have not been stopped, and an average of four people per day have been killed since the trouble started. Many homes and extremely rich farmlands have been abandoned as a result.

Some of our brethren in Cotabato have left their homes and have come north to the province of Bukidnon in order to avoid the trouble. You can be sure, brethren, that *they* are looking forward to the establishment of God's Kingdom when they will see these "swords beaten into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks."

### The Weather

The Philippine Islands are situated right in the middle of the typhoon belt. These destructive winds continually batter the nation year after year, causing extensive damage to lives, property, and crops.

As an example, five typhoons which struck between September and November last year took 2,139 lives and inflicted damage to property in the region of 920 million pesos (about \$150 million).

Much of the damage is never

repaired simply because of a lack of finances. Even now many schools lie in ruins and children are denied their education due to lack of facilities.

### Right Education the ONLY Solution

Ironically enough, the biggest part of the government's budget is spent on education. But the education the people receive here is *not* solving the numerous problems facing the country. Undernourishment, bad health, poverty, crime and violence, and internal warfare are *not* being eradicated by the knowledge contained in the textbooks of the nation's educational institutions.

Only the *right* education pointing out the *cause* of these problems is going to solve it. That right education is being disseminated now by the work of God's Church. But only a dent is being made in the thick armor of tradition and superstition which guards this nation from the sword of God's truth. It will take the government of God to completely smash this armor!

The Filipinos are a talented people. They desperately desire knowledge and understanding. But as in all nations the god of this world has blinded their eyes!

Thank God the day is coming when they will listen to the One who can solve all their problems! Notice Isaiah 11:10: "And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious."

"Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles" (Isa. 42:1).

"... I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth" (Isa. 49:6).

### Only One of Many Nations

Meanwhile the Philippines continues to suffer. But it is only one of *many* nations, some in even *worse* condition! What about India with its starving millions? Pakistan, with its thousands of dead due to civil war and the cholera  
(Continued on inside back cover)



# YOU and your "spiritual computer"

**There are many parallels between computers and the human mind. Understanding these parallels should help you see more clearly how YOU can be an overcomer through proper "spiritual programming" and "data reception."**

by Frank Brown

COMPUTERS have become fundamental tools in our 20th century space age. Already a \$10 billion industry, the U.S. alone has 500,000 computer users.

The military, business and industry use computers on a vast scale. Computers are used to count votes and predict the results of elections, for data storage, maintaining magazine subscription lists, for translation, teaching and myriad other purposes.

Eventually scientists hope computers will permit and implement global weather prediction. In the home, mini-computers could take over such chores as paying the bills. Or serve, via a telephone line to a computerized library, as a home information center.

## The Power of Computers

The *power* of the computer was convincingly demonstrated by NASA last year. The Apollo 13 moon flight which left its flight path would have ended in tragedy without the help of computer technology. Within minutes, computers had figured out the corrected flight path and brought the mission under control. But the calculations involved were extraordinary, to say the least.

In order to save the mission it was necessary to compute the trajectory around the moon and back all over again. NASA says one man working with a pencil and paper could have done the necessary calculations in 1,040,256 years. With a desk calculator

to aid him it would have taken 60,480 years. With computers the flight was corrected in just 84 *minutes!*

## "Moron With a Good Memory"

The computer's powers seem so awesome that many have speculated, "Will computers ever replace man?" "Will machines ever out-think their designers?"

But is a computer "almost human"? Does it have real intelligence? Some people have claimed that computers do have intelligence, but that depends on how you define "intelligence."

According to an apocryphal story, a computer was once asked the question, "Is there a God?" It replied (so the story goes), "*Now there is!*"

One expert said: "Up until the computer everything designed was just an extension of the *hands* of man, but the computer is an extension of his *mind*."

But as another said, a computer is simply a "big dumb moron with a good memory." And, you might add, with an aptitude for mathematics!

The fact is that computers are not "conscious" as human beings are. These machines are essentially high-speed abacuses or slide rules — accurate and fast, but "morons" nonetheless. As one wag jokingly commented, "If a computer ever gets out of line, all we have to do is *pull the plug!*"

## Delicate Tools

The computers we use in God's Work are crucial to our operation.

Without the capacities of these incredible machines, we would have to employ a battery of hundreds and hundreds of clerks just to do the same jobs our computers are doing! And with a much greater risk for error.

But in spite of their great usefulness, these computers are very delicate tools, and a mistake on the part of an operator or a programmer can send them clicking away in futility.

Computers require a highly controlled environment. The temperature in that environment must not fluctuate more than a few degrees up or down. If it does, the operation is immediately shut down and emergency procedures come into play to bring the temperature back to normal. Computers are that sensitive!

The computer (even more than a human being) also has to have clean air. It cannot function properly in a dusty environment. In one instance, a French computer kept malfunctioning and nobody could understand what the problem was. Technicians repeatedly checked the whole operation, but errors and failures continued. Finally the problem was discovered. Did you ever hear of a computer that choked on cookie crumbs?! One of the operators who brought his breakfast to work would eat it in the same room where the computer was housed. The very light, fluffy croissant crumbs from his breakfast floated into the atmosphere, and

these were the culprits that gummed up the works!

Another enemy of computers is static electricity. When you walk down a carpeted corridor and touch a metal door-knob, you often receive a little shock or jolt, especially in dry weather. That is static electricity, which can completely negate stored information in a computer. To avoid static electricity, employees in the computer area must not wear nylon clothing. The carpet, if any, in the computer room has to have interwoven copper threads to conduct the electricity away from the machinery.

Also, computers need "clean" power. Their power supply must not go through other buildings first. The computer has to have the "first shot" from the generator, so to speak, in order to have least fluctuation in current, which otherwise could bring about error and impair operation.

Clearly, computers must be handled, maintained and utilized very carefully. Fortunately, our minds are not so sensitive. . . . *Or are they?* Does your God-given human mind make mistakes, or work at half capacity, because of improper or "dirty" conditions in your physical body, or wrong "data" fed into it through miseducation?

### Feeding a Computer

Even if all the previously mentioned factors are perfectly balanced, there is still one major cause of computer errors the "data" that is put into it.

Data processing people have a saying, "Garbage in — garbage out." If you put the wrong information — *bad* data — into the machine, you are going to get *bad* data out of it.

It is possible, however, to program a computer to *recognize* bad data. It is possible to program an "edit check" capability into the machine which will recognize bad or spurious data. The computer will "flag" that which is not good, or sometimes it may display the bad data on a video screen, as if saying, "Try again, this information is not acceptable." Or the computer may print out that inacceptability on paper as "hard copy."

If it is programmed that way, however, the operator can overrule the computer to make it accept bad data. Or he

can simply *ignore* its objection. He doesn't *have* to do what the computer says. It merely responds as it has been *programmed* to respond. It doesn't make any decisions. It is quite possible, even though the bad data is recognized, to ignore the fact and go ahead to make a bad judgment or action based on that wrong data.

If the operator should make such a mistake though, who would be at fault — the machine, or the operator? Obviously, not the computer — because the operator overruled it, he ignored its alert.

### What About YOUR "Computer"?

There is much superstition about the computer. As mentioned before, some people actually think it has independent thinking, *creative* intelligence. But this is absolute nonsense because the computer is at all times *subject to the man who is operating it!*

It is an utter fallacy to suppose that a machine — a collection of wires, transistors and resistors powered by a man-made current — could *ever* create anything! No computer has ever composed a beautiful symphony. No computer has ever written an educational book. As a matter of fact, one computer even lost a game of chess to a ten-year-old boy — in thirty-five moves!

Computers do not begin to compare with the human brain which packs into a volume no larger than a grapefruit some 10 *billion* neuron cells, and another 100 billion glial cells. Says D. S. Halacy, Jr., "Hooked up like some ultracomplex switchboard, the network in interconnections stores an estimated 200,000,000,000,000,000 bits of information during a lifetime! By comparison, today's most advanced computers do seem pathetically unimpressive" (*Computers, The Machines We Think With*, p. 125).

Added Isaac Asimov, "Even the most complicated computer man has yet built can't compare in intricacy with the brain. Computer switches and components number in the thousands rather than in the billions. What's more, the computer switch is just an on-off device, whereas the brain cell is itself possessed of a tremendously complex inner struc-

ture" ("The Thinking Machine," *Science Digest*, Dec. 1967).

There is a world of difference between even the most sophisticated electronic computer and the brain of any man!

Yet computers ARE a lot like our human minds in certain ways. Both must be *programmed* properly, given the *right instructions* — and both, to function properly and accurately, require considerable attention to their environment as well as to their "diet," the *data* they are fed — call it *right education*.

### Garbage In — Garbage Out

Our minds, like a computer, have been fed "data" since the day we were born. Every conscious moment data flows into our minds. Much of it has been *bad* data. But before conversion we didn't have the "*program*" to tell us whether or not it was bad! We simply responded impulsively to whatever was fed in. Most of the time we just grew up doing what other people were doing. We followed the crowd. We accepted blindly what other people told us.

There simply was no "edit program" in our minds to tell us whether it was good data or bad data. And if by any chance some suggestion was made to us that some of the data was "garbage" — usually we simply rejected the suggestion, forcing our mental computer to continue judging by that "garbage." We just overruled the truth!

Most of the tradition and education we received — our "input" — *was* garbage! The result was bad "output" — bad action in our lives!

Our data sources were unreliable. We were victims of the wrong influences of the devil's society and religion (II Cor. 4:4; Rev. 12:9). We were ignorant of the right source of information — GOD.

But now we have knowledge from the right source. And now we are able to *differentiate* good data from bad. Now we *know* how to handle it.

In Matthew 15, Jesus Christ talked about the concept of "garbage in — garbage out." He didn't use the word garbage, of course, nevertheless He said: "Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth [any *physical* dirt, such as sand or grit]

goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught?" — just goes right through — "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart [the *mind*]; and *they* defile the man" (verses 17-18).

When *mental* garbage is put in and processed, defiling thoughts and actions come out. "For out of the heart [the *mind*] proceeds *evil* thoughts. . . ." They are the certain result of bad input, bad data — "garbage" put into the mind!

"For out of the *heart* [mind] proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. *These* are the things which defile a man" (Matt. 15: 19-20).

For example, an idea goes into the mind which says, "It's perfectly acceptable to break the Sabbath." So a man by his actions breaks the Sabbath. The idea that it *is* all right to break the Sabbath was spiritual "garbage." And the result — breaking the Sabbath — is garbage also. Garbage in — garbage out.

**The World Around Us**

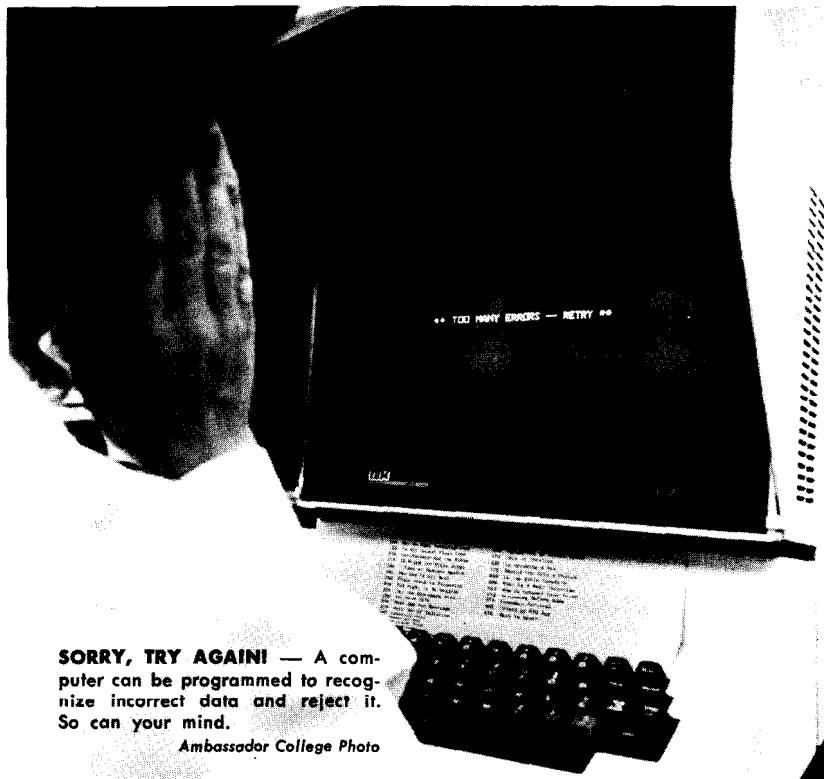
We see all around us, today, the results of a wrong way of life — the results of *wrong information* being acted upon.

Information which has been fed into the world is from a *wrong source*. Originally, Satan pumped poisonous data into Adam's mind. He put garbage in and look what happened — garbage came out. Ever since that time mankind has been cut off from God — the source of *right* spiritual data!

Adam made a wrong decision based on wrong information. He certainly had a proclivity for doing that, since he was *self-centered*, but God didn't give him wrong information! Adam's source of wrong information was Satan. Ultimately, then, Satan is the source of ALL this society's wrong "output"!

**Has Your Mind Been Reprogrammed?**

The computer's previous programming instructions can be completely obliterated from its memory instantly. Its stored data can be similarly expunged. But the human mind has to *unlearn*. It has to unlearn *gradually* all the wrong ways and wrong ideas that have been fed into it. It has been "programmed" to react in certain ways and its "memory bank" is filled with wrong information. So it has to learn by degrees to *recognize* and *reject* bad



**SORRY, TRY AGAIN!** — A computer can be programmed to recognize incorrect data and reject it. So can your mind.

Ambassador College Photo

spiritual data which cause wrong thoughts and actions, and replace it with *good* data. The human mind has to learn to discern between good and evil — right and wrong. This process is spiritual growth.

God has told us what is right and wrong, yet we have to *study* His instructions — and His good data — the Bible. We must feed these right instructions into our minds DAILY.

It is possible for us through Bible study, by practice and application of the power of the Holy Spirit, to "re-program" our minds, just as a computer may be programmed to accept only good information and reject the bad.

When we reprogram our minds — or rather, when GOD reprograms them for us through the power of His Holy Spirit — our minds are *changed*. We begin to develop the ability to discern what's right from what's wrong, and to *do* the right.

With our reprogrammed minds we now can *resist* data which is wrong, because we can now differentiate between good and bad input and impulses. We can also make *right* decisions since our source data is good! Now, if we see an ad about a movie entitled *I Drink Your Blood* or *I Eat Your Skin*, we reject it.

Our new programming says, "That's garbage!"

Exactly what kind of data *should* go into our minds daily? What kind of information? In verse 8 of Philippians 4, Paul answers: "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are *true*, whatsoever things are *honest*, whatsoever things are *just*, whatsoever things are *pure*, whatsoever things are *lovely*, whatsoever things are of *good report*; if there be any *virtue*, and if there be any *praise*, THINK ON THESE THINGS."

The good, the just, the honest and true things — God's Word

tells us to accept and process this kind of data! It provides the right kind of input for our minds.

No mechanical computer can really choose its own course. We can — *you* can! But even when your mind has been converted — "reprogrammed" — by God's Spirit and given right data, what you *DO* is still entirely up to you!

You have the capability either to choose the right data, make the right choices, do the right things — or to reject the right and continue the wrong. Brethren, let's always remember that we have to *make a special effort* to CHOOSE and *DO the right things in life!* □



# How to Open and Close Services With Prayer

**Are you terrified at the prospect of opening or closing services with prayer? Here are guidelines to help you if you are called upon.**

by Brian Knowles

ONE OF the most mind-shattering occasions to many men in God's Church is their first time to be called upon to lead in an opening prayer before the congregation. Some actually live in FEAR of being called upon!

A few have been known to skulk deliberately in the shadows of obscurity hoping to avoid notice. Others will sit behind larger people in order to "escape" being called upon. Grown men have been found trembling and quaking at the prospect of being asked to lead an opening prayer.

On the other hand, there always seems to be a small number of men in every congregation who can *hardly wait* to be called upon! They strive to be noticed — in hope they *will* be asked. They would relish the opportunity to lead the "prayer to end all prayers." (And it probably *would* end all opening prayers — at least for *them!*) But fortunately such individuals appear to be a minority.

To *most*, however, opening or closing a service with prayer for the first time is a somewhat traumatic experience, but one that can be taken in stride and made profitable for the entire congregation.

## Why Opening Prayers?

What, after all, is the object and purpose of having opening prayers? Is it merely to make services sound more "religious"? *Would it make any difference if we did not have such prayers?* Is it simply part of a hollow, meaningless "ritual" which serves no worthwhile purpose? Not at all!

We are instructed in God's Word not to be given to "vain repetitions" (Matt. 6:7). An opening prayer should not be vain or worthless, nor should it be repetitious. It should not be a mouthing of mere words. Some have been known to repeat "our Father" or "Father" a dozen or more times in a short opening prayer. This certainly is vain repetition!

Nor should an opening prayer be overly long. Simply because a prayer is short does not mean it is ineffective. The Bible contains examples of very brief prayers that resulted in powerful miracles being performed.

An opening prayer to one of God's Sabbath services should also be prayed in earnest, believing FAITH! You should *expect* that prayer to MAKE A DIFFERENCE in the service that follows.

## What to Ask For

The *primary purpose* of this type of prayer is to ask for God's *guidance* and *inspiration* on the entire service. This includes both the hearing and the speaking. It takes in the singing and even the announcement period.

It would be appropriate to begin by THANKING God for the opportunity to meet in peace and harmony. Gratitude could be expressed for the hall or the fine weather or various other favorable conditions the Church has been blessed with, as the Apostle Paul says: "*Giving thanks always for all things* unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph. 5:20).

The most important thing is to ask and expect God's *inspiration* on the sermonette and the sermon. You could

request that Jesus Christ actually be *present* in spirit to guide and direct the proceedings. Ask God to speak through his human instruments and lead them to say what is most needful and profitable for the whole congregation.

As the world becomes more and more violent and Satan's wrath is increasingly intensified, it becomes more necessary also to ask God for *protection*. Up to now, we have enjoyed relative peace in our services and little interference from outside sources. But times are *changing!* Violence, hatred, religious persecution and intolerance are on the increase.

Of course there are other things that could be appropriately mentioned in an opening prayer, depending on each local situation.

## How to Pray

Keep in mind that you *are* speaking to GOD — not the listening audience before you. Remember it *is* a prayer!

*Avoid "King James English!"* The English of 1611 does not make a prayer any more effective. In fact, it tends to render a prayer downright sanctimonious! Jesus never used it, as some have erroneously supposed.

Be *sincere!* Do not pray a "canned" or well-rehearsed prayer. Let God inspire your words and don't worry about being grammatically perfect.

*Stick to the point!* An "opening prayer" is just that. It is a prayer meant to open the *services*. There is not time or need to cover the entire spectrum of current events, the forthcoming local election and Aunt Mini's bunions! Re-

main in the realm of the apropos.

Strive to avoid "pseudo-humility." Humility is commendable, of course, if it is sincere and from the heart. But some have been known to bang their heads on the end of the microphone because they bowed too low! Try to speak *into the microphone* and not into your tie clasp.

When you are called upon, avoid making a "grand entrance." There should be a minimum of noise and commotion. During the last song, arise from your chair and move discreetly to the outside isle, and walk *quietly* to the speaker's area on the stage. As the last strains of the song are being sung you should be near the song leader (but out of reach of his arms). That way you are *ready* when the hymn is over.

Do not use the opening prayer as an opportunity to give a sermonette. It is not intended as a "witness" or "testimonial" or anything of that sort. Be **SINCERE**, straightforward and unaffected! Get your mind **OFF SELF** and say what you have to say. Be confident without conceit. Be humble, but not grovelling. Use a normal, clear voice and avoid any form of theatrics.

### The Closing Prayer

If you have been informed that you will be called upon to lead the *closing*

prayer, follow the same procedure in getting to the stage as with the opening prayer.

Make an effort to indicate to God in the closing prayer that you did indeed comprehend the sermon and derive benefit from it. Often, closing prayers are so general that they are totally unrelated to the message that preceded them! Express *gratitude* for the spiritual food God has provided. Perhaps *mention some specific points* discussed in the messages and *briefly* ask God to enable all the congregation to apply *them* in their lives.

Of course, it is *not necessary to summarize*, or add an "additional point" to the sermon in the closing prayer! Primarily the closing prayer is intended to ask God to help the congregation achieve the object the speaker had in mind in delivering the message. Sometimes the sermon is to *educate* us on a point of knowledge. Occasionally it is intended to *correct*. Sometimes *encouragement* is the object. But *all* sermons are not meant to encourage. *All* are not intended to correct. Strive to understand what the speaker had in mind in this regard and relate your request in the prayer to it.

It is also appropriate to *ask God's protection* on the brethren traveling home following the services. Sometimes

the minister may have a long, hazardous drive between churches and adverse weather conditions to cope with. So seeking God's protection can be an important element in the closing prayer.

The *announcements* may have contained news of a very sick person or some other crisis in God's Work. This could certainly be alluded to in the closing prayer.

Many men neglect to *acknowledge the sermonette* in the closing prayer. This is natural since the sermon often overwhelms it due to length and impact. But the sermonette is part of our spiritual food every Sabbath, and we ought to thank God for it.

If you have been profoundly moved or inspired by the messages it is not wrong to express this in your prayer. But do not writhe in paroxysms of emotions and create an embarrassing scene! Be *sincere*, but not overemotional. But the closing prayer, as the opening prayer, should not be overlong.

The *guidelines* in this article are given to *help* you, and are not intended as a "gnat-straining" set of rigid rules. If you are called on to lead an opening or closing prayer, look upon it as an opportunity and a blessing. And be sure your prayer is one to which the whole congregation can sincerely say "Amen" (so be it!). □

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## GOD'S KINGDOM

(Continued from page 12)

outbreak? Africa, China, South America . . . the list is endless.

Can we, brethren, continue to push these nations out of our minds and settle down into the deceptive, overfed comfort of modern-day America, Britain and the Commonwealth?

Can we secretly hope the return of Jesus Christ is still "away off?"

We CAN'T — *and* still expect a part in changing this world!

Our purpose is to qualify to teach all nations the **WAY OUT** of their misery. We are training to bring hope, happiness, prosperity to millions who at this very moment are barely existing!

How can any of us profess to *hope* to do so and yet have so little concern for them now that we would let them

continue suffering just so *we* can enjoy the "good life" a little longer?

### A WARNING to Us

Notice what God goes on to say about those who are "at ease" today in Israel. "Therefore now shall they go captive with the first that go captive, and the banquet of them that stretched themselves shall be removed" (Amos 6:7).

Yes, God will allow them to suffer along with the rest of our peoples to impress upon their minds what they have chosen to ignore in order to let them see what suffering is like — the hunger, disease, and squalor happening to millions now — which is *not pleasant* to experience!

Brethren, we should never get into an attitude where we want Christ's return to be delayed. But it can easily happen to us — *unless* we continually bear in

mind that as we enjoy the physical life for the present, millions of other hapless human beings are wondering why they were born!

Let us, for the sake of suffering humanity, be really looking to the time prophesied by Micah: "But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem" (chapter 4:1-2).

Are you fervently **PRAYING** for *that* day? □

