

The Good News

International Magazine of
THE CHURCH OF GOD

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Amazing 2000-Year History of the Church of God

How much do you really know about OUR CHURCH—YOUR CHURCH? Have you supposed it was founded by or through the efforts of Herbert W. Armstrong? IT WAS NOT! Hundreds of you will be ASTONISHED to see the true history of this, our Church—GOD'S Church. This actual true and authentically documented history is breathtaking. Here, then, are the astounding facts! This surprising truth is bound up in the real meaning, revealed at last, of the seven churches in Revelation!

by Herman L. Hoeh

HERE is the TRUTH about our church! Almost two thousand years ago a messenger came to this earth bringing startling news of a coming world government!

That messenger was Jesus Christ. His message was the good news or gospel of the kingdom—the coming world-ruling government of God (Mark 1:14)—the very family of God into which we must be born to gain eternal life (John 3:3-5).

Jesus came to *deliver* this message from God to man. He did *not* come to preach it *personally* to the whole world. Instead, Jesus spent his ministry *preparing the foundation for the CHURCH* which would carry his gospel of the kingdom to all nations.

Why Jesus Promised to Build Church

Jesus devoted his ministry to calling out disciples, teaching them the gospel, setting them an example by his own ministry. He authorized them with the greatest commission ever given to human beings—to preach the gospel of

the kingdom of God in the whole world (Matthew 24:14; Mark 16:15).

Before Jesus ascended to the throne of God, he commanded the apostles and disciples to remain in Jerusalem until they were imbued with the Holy Spirit, which made them the begotten sons of God and endowed them with the POWER OF GOD to carry out His work.

Jesus founded his church by sending the promised Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, Monday, June 18, 31 A.D.

It was an inspired church, a church in which Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, was living his life and THROUGH WHICH JESUS BEGAN TO PREACH AND PUBLISH HIS GOSPEL TO THE WHOLE WORLD.

What Is the True Church?

The true church is the collective body of individuals, called out from the ways of this present world, who have *totally* surrendered themselves to the rule of God, and who, through the Holy Spirit, become the begotten sons of God (Rom. 8:9).

Jesus purchased *the church* by shed-

ding his own blood for it (Acts 20:28). The true church is not some *politically organized denomination* which one joins or becomes a member of in order to be "saved." Jesus did not die for some one *organization* called a church.

You can't *join* the true church; *only God can put you into it!*

The church is called the body of Christ because it is a *spiritual organism* whose LIVING, ACTIVE HEAD is Jesus Christ, in the same sense that the husband is head of the wife (Eph. 5:23,31).

Church Subject to Government of God

Notice that from the very beginning the church was subject to the rule of God. It was not a government by the will of man or boards of men. Jesus is the head of the church. He rules the church.

Directly under Jesus, *God set the apostles* first in positions of authority to carry out God's will, to be instruments in His hand, through which He could spread the gospel and lead the church (I Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11). Paul the

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scattered abroad

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By the Radio Church of God

apostle was such a man. He was subject to Christ, so yielded to God that Jesus could make His will known to him and could use him in directing the work of the church and in preaching the gospel to the nations. Notice Acts 16, verse 6, where Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, made known to Paul that he was not "to preach the word in Asia." Paul was not free to go and to act as he pleased.

Under Paul in authority were the evangelists, such as Timothy and Titus, who assisted the apostles by carrying out the will of God as Jesus revealed it to the apostles. Under the authority of the apostles and evangelists were the pastors and teaching elders in local congregations (Titus 1:5).

This was the government of God. The Father manifested His will to Jesus. Jesus revealed the Father's will to the apostles, who, in turn, revealed it to the evangelists. Through the apostles and evangelists, God's will was manifested to the local churches.

Church Grows in Truth

Before He ascended to the Father, Jesus prayed that His church would be kept ONE in the Father's name. "Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be ONE, as we are" (John 17:11).

The true church—the "church of God" (I Cor. 1:2)—is not many divided quarreling denominations, but ONE church, composed of many scattered members, ONE church united in Spirit, mind, attitude and heart because its members have totally surrendered their wills to God and have yielded to correction and reproof from the Word of God.

No denomination could be the true church, because none has been willing to admit where it has been wrong, none has received God's correction, none has allowed the Holy Spirit to guide it into truth. The church which Jesus is building is composed of those *scattered* individuals who have God's Holy Spirit, who admit it when they are wrong, as the apostle Peter did when he made a serious mistake (Gal. 2:11).

Now notice Jesus' promise in John 16:13. He would send the Spirit of truth who "will GUIDE you INTO all truth."

Here is the KEY which proves who are in God's church. It is composed *only* of those who are *growing into truth* as God reveals it. The moment anyone ceases to GROW, but wants to retain only what he had five or ten years ago, *from that moment on the Holy Spirit ceases to live in him.*

False Teachers Prophesied by Christ and Apostles

Now let's notice what was prophesied to happen to the church.

Jesus warned that there would be a great falling away—MANY false ministers deceiving the MANY (Mat. 24:4,5). Paul earnestly warned the *elders* that from their own number some would depart from the faith (Acts 20:29,30). False apostles and false brethren arose within local church assemblies (II Cor. 11:13-15,26). Soon they outnumbered the faithful who *alone* made up the TRUE Church of GOD.

Several years before the apostle John died he had to write his third letter about the fact that the few faithful brethren that were left were being *put out* of the local assembly (III John 9, 10). Yet they, *only*, constituted the real Church of God!

Not only did Jesus prophesy that false ministers would deceive the many, but he also said his church would be *scattered* and persecuted. The church first became scattered in the days of the apostles (Acts 8:1).

But that did not mean the scattered individuals were not part of the church. They *were* the church because they were joined to Christ through the Holy Spirit. Those who drove them out became the *false church*—the church of the god of *this world*—"the synagogue of Satan."

Notice what Daniel says about the church: "And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: *yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days.* Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: *but many shall cleave to them with flat-teries.* And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge them, and to make them white,

even to the time of the end" (Dan. 11:33-35).

How plain! The true church was forced out of the local organized congregations and scattered. False churches would arise professing to be the churches of Christ. False brethren would *betray* God's people.

But Jesus promised to be with the faithful remnant to the end of the age—to guide His people into truth.

Where has His church been these 1900 years?

An Amazing Prophecy!

In the book of Revelation is an amazing prophecy. Almost no one understands it, yet it is so very plain. It is the seven churches of Revelation.

Notice Revelation 1:12-13. John sees a vision of seven candlesticks and Jesus in their midst. The Bible interprets the seven candlesticks to mean seven particular church congregations (verse 20). Jesus Christ is pictured as dwelling among the seven churches AS THOUGH THEY WERE A TYPE OF THE ENTIRE CHURCH.

There is the answer. Jesus dwells in the entire church. Since this vision pictures Him dwelling only in seven churches, *those seven churches represent the entire church!*

Jesus chose the seven because *they formed a perfect two-fold pattern.*

First, they were typical of general conditions among God's people anywhere. That is why we today are admonished to hear what the Holy Spirit says to *all the seven churches.*

Second, those seven churches, each with its own particular characteristics, were chosen because their location *in successive order* on a long mail route WAS TYPICAL OF SEVEN SUCCESSIVE STAGES OF EXPANSION OF THE CHURCH OF GOD THROUGH ALL AGES.

Who ARE the Seven Churches?

WHY have all Bible students, until NOW, been unable to identify these churches? It is due to the fact that everyone has ASSUMED, erroneously, that these picture the seven stages of the visible, organized churches which have called themselves "Christian." In other words, it has been assumed that the churches of *this world* are pictured in Revelation 2 and 3 as continuations of the true church in apostolic days.

Everyone, it seems has *supposed* that, following the apostolic Church, these seven churches picture the course of history in the Roman Catholic and the protestant churches—the churches of the god of *this world!*

This is not true!

These two chapters of Revelation picture, and convey God's message to (Please continue on page 7)

Thy Kingdom COME!

Do you fully realize how IMPORTANT a work this is? Are you a real PART of the work of God—looking for a better kingdom—and working hard to speed its arrival?

by Garner Ted Armstrong

SANTIAGO, CHILE:

GREETINGS, brethren, from below the Equator! Mr. Benjamin Rea and I are presently in Santiago, the capital of Chile, a city of over one and one half million population. Since arriving here, it has been impressed upon me more than ever before the vital importance of the great work God has commissioned us to do, and the urgency of completing it!

The Work of God

If you are like many of the brethren in God's Church, you tend to *take things for granted!* Most of us begin to take each other for granted, and so begin to neglect our real Christian duty toward one another. It is because of this that many weak brethren become disinterested, or, because of hurt feelings, leave the Church! Not only do we take each other for granted, and the material blessings God has heaped upon us, but what is worse, we begin to take the WORK OF GOD for granted!

For instance when some hear of a recent crisis in the finances of the work, or that a radio station is threatening to cut the *World Tomorrow* program off the air, or that we are having problems with an advertising agency, they begin to reason: "Well, brother Armstrong will take care of things—he's had a lot of business and advertising experience—and it'll all work out somehow."

Instead of becoming so deeply concerned about this work, just as they would if their very LIVES were in danger, and beginning to FAST and PRAY in deep, sincere ZEAL toward God, some simply sit back and wait for the next Co-Workers' bulletin. They are sure they will read that Mr. Armstrong has "worked it all out, somehow."

Could this be *you*? Do YOU really become CONCERNED when the very work of God is endangered, or hindered in some way? Do you?

Think of it!

The work of God! Most of us have begun to take *that very phrase* for granted. It's just another name, like the "Sears Roebuck Company," or the "Chrysler Corporation." Many of God's own people have begun to take HIM for granted!

But this truly IS the very WORK, the

DOING of the awe-inspiring, all-powerful GOD who created the heavens and the earth, who spoke to Adam, who talked and walked with Enoch, who directed Noah to build the ark, who saved Moses and our ancestors at the Red Sea! The God who protected Daniel, who revealed Himself to Nebuchadnezzar, who raised up Jesus Christ from the dead! It is THIS God whom WE SERVE! It is THIS God, the CREATOR, who is directly IN, who is GUIDING, WATCHING OVER, VITALLY CONCERNED about His own work!

Your Part to Perform

Jesus Christ performed the WORK of God on this earth (John 17:4). However, Jesus only finished the work God gave Him to do. He then commissioned His disciples to go out into all nations and perform the work of God—that of preaching the Gospel to every creature! (Matt. 28: 19-20). That very commission is being performed today, by THIS work, going out from Ambassador College, at the Headquarter's Church in Pasadena! Today, we are beginning to fulfill the commission of Jesus in great POWER, reaching out to many nations! Mr. Rea and I are overwhelmed to think that we are possibly the first two representatives of God to be in these darkened countries in this age, if not in the history of the world!

God has given you a definite PART to perform in this great task! You have heard this many times, you have seen it written, you've heard Mr. Armstrong preach about the great WORK being done from the pulpit at the annual Feast days. Are you tired of it? Does it BORE you? It *does*, if your very BEING is not completely wrapped up in this work, then YOU are not the kind of Christian you ought to be!

In the last article I wrote for the *Good News* magazine, I reminded you of the great task of judging that God will give to those who are worthy. Part of that judging may be upon the wicked spirits now loose on the earth (I Cor. 6:2-3). But have you ever thought just how much this world NEEDS God's Government?

The Plight of This World

Many times, perhaps, we are allowing

our entire concentration to dwell on the fact that God is going to PUNISH this world for its sins, rather than how much God LOVES this world, and all the suffering humans who live in it! Jesus Christ said, "My Kingdom is not of this world!" (John 18:36). He came as a representative of a better kingdom, into which we can be born (John 3:3).

But have you ever fully realized how much this world NEEDS a better way? Do you know WHY God is going to send His Kingdom here?

Unless you have seen—with your own eyes—the poverty, the disease and sickness, the misery and woe, the unhappy, wretched, miserable conditions throughout MOST of this world, you cannot fully realize WHY God wants to establish His Kingdom so badly!

Here in Chile, conditions are comparatively good, when compared to many other countries of the world. Yet, even here, the sights to be seen would sicken and throw disgust and pity into the hearts of most of you. For example, yesterday I saw a bedraggled man, unshaven and filthy, spank and pick up a small child about 2 years old. The child was wearing only the tattered remains of a boy's short overcoat, with nothing to cover any of his body from his waist to his bare feet. The temperature was in the low 60's right at this time, with fog and mist in the air—not as cold as it might have been, but cold, nevertheless. The crying child's bare bottom was filthy, blue and red from the cold and the spanking. I couldn't help feeling a sudden wave of deep pity for the little boy—since I have three boys of my own at home. I thought, "What if this were my child—and what if that were ME, living here, knowing only the limited sphere of filth and misery that is the lot of the common citizen of Chile?" And I realized it is but for the grace of God that it isn't me!

The same thing applies to ALL of us!

Mr. Rea visited Valdivia, a city of some 45,000 population about 870 kilometers south of Santiago. The city is almost entirely German. On his return, he was sitting in the train at the station when he saw a small boy, selling flowers outside the train. There was a

great deal of ice on the ground, with ice clinging to the buildings, and the visible breath of people showing the extremely low temperature.

The boy was crying his wares in a thin, plaintive voice, as he stood on the icy ground *without shoes*, his bare legs showing blue and quivering knee-caps as he tried to earn a meagre sum. Mr. Rea said something about the boy to a well-dressed Chilean (called "Chileno" here) who answered, in Spanish, "Oh, he's just some young puppy."

These are just minor illustrations of an overall picture of national life in some of the poverty-stricken countries of this earth! Perhaps the sight of one starving, freezing infant is more expressive to most than the cold statistics of how many hundreds of thousands die every year the world over from hunger, famine, disease and malnutrition.

Most of us, living in America, or the British Isles, just cannot *imagine* the squalor in the lives of other human beings!

Remember, God **LOVES** these suffering humans (John 3:16), and it is because of this great *love* that He is going to bring a *better* kingdom to this earth.

Magnify these two illustrations several million times, and you have only a partial picture of the actual living conditions of other humans in China, Japan, Russia, India, Africa and the Middle East, in Europe and South America.

These conditions are the net result of **SIN!** They represent the **INEVITABLE** outcome of man's attempt to govern himself in the way that *seems* right to him (Prov. 14:12). God is going to punish this earth, **NOT** to make their plight *worse*, but to teach them, once and for all, that their **WAY** is wrong! Finally, the world will begin to seek happiness in the *only* way it can ever be attained—*God's way!*

Thy Kingdom Come!

God's inspired word tells us of imagination-defying times yet ahead. He gravely warns every true Christian: "Take ye heed, behold, I have *foretold* you all things" (Mark 13:23). Jesus described these very days in His Olivet Prophecy when He said, "For in those days shall be *affliction*, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be" (Mark 13:19). The conditions on this sin-filled earth are growing so increasingly *violent*, so *explosive* that "except that the Lord had shortened those days, *no flesh* should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days" (Mark 13:20).

Do *you* really *yearn* for the coming of a **BETTER** world? Do you constantly ask God, in prayer, to **SEND** His righteous

kingdom even sooner than we expect?

You should!

Have you never wondered why Jesus gave, as his perfect example of **HOW** to pray, a direct admonition to ask for the coming of God's kingdom? Notice! "After *this manner* therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. **THY KINGDOM COME!**" (Matt. 6:9-10). Immediately after acknowledging God's office, Jesus said to **PRAY** that *His kingdom* will come!

Probably, if you are like many others, you have begun to think of your salvation merely as a continuation of *your* life, a continuous existence of **YOU!** This is a false concept! **YOU** must be *changed!* (I Cor. 15:50-53). And this *entire world* must be *changed* (Rev. 21:4).

God tells us we should be filled with **LONGING** for the arrival of His kingdom, "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation (conduct) and godliness, *looking* for and *hasting* unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?" (II Pet. 3:11-13).

We should regard ourselves as *pilgrims*, as *strangers*, as direct men and women of **GOD**, who represent this coming Kingdom, and are only enduring this age *temporarily* in order to finish **HIS WORK** before His kingdom does come! (I Pet. 2:9, Matt. 24:14). Our whole *beings* should be **ON FIRE** with purpose, with **DRIVE**, with **ZEAL** to *accomplish* our part in this work, to **HURRY** the day when the squalor and misery of this worldly system can be forever blotted from the memory of men!

God says every fervent believer will, "according to his promise, **LOOK FOR** new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth **RIGHTEOUSNESS**" (II Pet. 3:13).

A JOB to Complete First!

Before God is going to send His wonderful kingdom, the World Tomorrow, **WE HAVE A JOB TO PERFORM.** And, believe it or not—His kingdom will **NOT** come **UNTIL** that job is finished—whether *we* continue to be His yielded servants, or whether He must raise up someone *else* to do it.

A woodsman, working in the timber with his double-edged fallers' axe, must wear certain kinds of protective clothing,

steel supports in his shoes, a metal helmet, heavy trousers, and gloves. If he does *not* equip himself with the tools of his trade, he *cannot* effectively fall the giant trees for the sawmill. Observe the neglectful woodsman, sitting on a fallen log, trying to pick out splinters from his feet because he wasn't wearing the proper kind of shoes! He has to spend so much time mending his *own* body, taking care of his *own* problems, that he doesn't have time to do the **WORK** the boss has hired him for. Chances are, *that* woodsman will be fired!

What about **YOU?** Are you a "splinter" in the Body of Christ? Are you a "problem" to the ministers, to others around you—or are you a smoothly functioning, well-oiled *part* of the machine God has been using to perform His great work? If the very Body of Jesus Christ must spend all its time concentrating on "splinters" it *cannot* carry out the great commission ahead!

God tells us to be *equipped!* "Put on the *whole* armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil . . . your loins girt about with **TRUTH**, and having on the breastplate of righteousness. And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of **FAITH**, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of *salvation*, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: **PRAYING ALWAYS** with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints" (Eph. 6:11-18).

THERE is a major part of **YOUR JOB** in this great work of God. You should be wearing the proper kind of equipment so **YOU** don't become a problem, and constantly praying for *others* so *they* will not. But that's not all!

"And (pray) for **ME**," Paul said, "that *utterance* may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth **BOLDLY**, to make known the mystery of the gospel" (Eph. 6:19). Do you see? You should be **CONSTANTLY, DILIGENTLY praying** for Mr. Armstrong, and for *all* the ministers, that they will "speak *boldly*" as they ought to speak, in carrying this Good News of a future world filled with **JOY** and **HAPPINESS** to a world now teetering on the brink of disaster.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always *abounding* in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is *not in vain* in the Lord! (I Cor. 15:58).

Are **YOU** really "*abounding*" in the work of the Lord, **LOOKING** for the coming of the glorious Kingdom of God? This world **NEEDS** God's government! **YOU** should be helping to hurry the day by praying, without ceasing, "**THY KINGDOM COME!**"

NOTICE

Booklets explaining the annual Holy Days are being set in type. As soon as they are off the press they will be mailed to you.

God's Church GROWS!

Do you realize how many true churches of God now exist in local areas? You should understand and REJOICE over the many people God is continually adding to His Church. They are YOUR BRETHREN!

by Roderick C. Meredith

THE ETERNAL has raised up local churches of God in nineteen different cities in the United States, and one in London, England. Nearly every year, *new churches* are being added!

And throughout the nation and in Britain, *hundreds* are being baptized to full repentance each year who are *unable*—as yet—to attend a true church of God. God is *adding* to His church throughout the world!

These people are *our brethren*—our brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. All of us together who are converted comprise the very *body* of Jesus Christ—the Spirit-begotten *family* of the Eternal God.

The relationship is *REAL*. After all, we are going to spend *ALL ETERNITY* together in the *family of God!*

So let's *get acquainted*. Let's *pray* for each other—*rejoice* with each other—*encourage* each other. We should be one family bound together by *LOVE* (Col. 2:2).

KNOW Your Ministers and Brethren!

YOU need to be *informed* of the progress, growth and blessings being experienced by your brethren in the scattered local churches of God. You will then be better able to *LOVE* the brethren, *pray* for them and have your whole *heart* and *interest* in this important phase of God's work.

Mr. Armstrong has wished for some time to have a regular "Church News" section in the *Good News* magazine. This will keep you regularly informed of the interesting, significant and unusual events in each local church. It will help you to really "get acquainted" with the ministers and leaders in each church, and to know of their activities and growth. We hope to start this in the very next issue if possible.

But many hundreds of you scattered brethren probably don't as yet know even *where* all of God's local congregations are and *who* their ministers are! It's time you *KNEW!*

First of all, most of you realize that the church here in Pasadena is the *headquarter's church* of the present day Church of God. It is also the *largest* local church at the present time—with

the weekly attendance constantly growing and now approaching 600. Mr. Armstrong, of course, is the Pastor of the Pasadena church—together with his many other duties as President of this great work and of Ambassador College, and being Pastor-General of all the local churches.

Assisting Mr. Armstrong in ministering to the large Pasadena congregation are his two sons, Richard D. Armstrong and Garner Ted Armstrong, and several other ministers including at the present time, Herman L. Hoeh, Dr. C. Paul Meredith, Roderick C. Meredith, Norman A. Smith and George Meeker, Jr. As most of you know, all of these men are kept very busy with many, many duties beside ministering to the local church. A complete list of the duties of each man would fill several paragraphs.

It is sufficient to say that Mr. Armstrong and the other ministers here at headquarters are kept *very busy*. But the Pasadena congregation keeps growing by leaps and bounds, and we also look for our largest incoming freshman class to enter Ambassador College this fall.

Pacific Coast Churches

Beside the *headquarters church in Pasadena*, God has raised up a number of local congregations up and down the Pacific Coast. Two of these churches, in California, are ministered to by men who drive each week-end from headquarters in Pasadena.

The present minister of the Fresno church is Mr. Richard Armstrong. The congregation is growing, and now comprises about 55 adult members. Since our first evangelistic campaign in recent years was held at Fresno last August, the church is well grounded in Bible truth and very aware of prophetic events now taking place.

The *San Diego church* is presently pastored by Mr. Roderick Meredith, and has a growing attendance of about 60 members. This church will soon be five years "old," and is noted by all visitors for its warmth and friendliness.

In Oregon, the *Eugene church of God* is the oldest congregation and was once the headquarters of this work. After the departure of Mr. Armstrong and others

to Pasadena several years back, its membership and interest began to lag. But it is currently flourishing once again under the ministry of Mr. Raymond McNair with a growing attendance of about 25 members.

I shall pause at this point to explain to many of you scattered brethren that our ministers in the field often handle *two or three* different congregations! As Jesus said: "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are *few*" (Matt. 9:37).

So God's true ministers are *hard workers*—often driving several hundred miles each week ministering to their scattered congregations. But even though their time is limited, each minister is able to give his congregations much spiritual "meat" and personal help.

In addition to the Eugene church, then, Mr. Raymond McNair is also pastoring the churches at Salem and Portland, Oregon. The Salem church is relatively new, but the attendance there is now around 35 and is growing steadily.

Mr. McNair shares the work of the large church at Portland, Oregon, with Mr. Jim Friddle. The Portland church has been established for many years, but is still typified by an active *zeal* for God's truth. Its attendance now runs frequently over 100 and is still increasing—as does *everything* that God builds.

The northernmost congregation on the Pacific Coast at present is the church in Tacoma, Washington, which also comprises many of our Seattle brethren. It is a growing church, whose membership is now approaching 75 adults, plus many children. The new minister in Tacoma is Mr. Jim Friddle—formerly the pastor of the Gladewater, Texas, church.

Churches in Colorado and Kansas

Some of our newest churches are in the Colorado-Kansas area, and we hope later that several others may be raised up here. These churches are relatively small as yet, and their zealous members often drive over 100 miles to attend. They were established primarily through the efforts of Mr. Raymond Cole, but are currently pastored by Mr. Carlton Smith—while Mr. Cole is helping direct

the work in many of our other local churches as evangelist-at-large.

The first of these churches is the one at Lyons, Colorado. As mentioned, its members often drive long distances in order to attend. In spite of this, the attendance usually runs between 35 and 50 persons—depending upon the weather and road conditions.

The church at Pueblo, Colorado, is relatively new but is growing steadily. Its members also often drive some distance to attend, but in spite of this the present congregation there is usually about 30 persons.

The newest church in this area is the one at Garden City, Kansas. It is a zealous group, and with time will increase greatly in size. The congregation is now composed of about 20 adults.

If you will consult a map, you will see that Mr. Carlton Smith must drive about 1000 miles every week-end to minister to these three scattered churches! In addition, he usually drives other hundreds of miles during each week visiting scattered members of the congregation, praying for the sick, holding Bible studies, helping solve personal and family problems, baptizing people and attending to the many other duties of a true minister of the Living God!

This is just one example of why God's true ministers must be *hard workers*, in *good health* and *completely yielded to God*. It is not just a "job" or "profession"—it is *their very LIFE!*

Churches in Texas and Louisiana

Perhaps our best-known local church is the one at Gladewater, Texas, where our large tabernacle is located. Thousands of our listeners and members have come there for baptism, for counsel and for the annual church festivals.

The current pastor at Gladewater is Mr. Kenneth Swisher, and the congregation there now runs over 100 persons and is steadily growing. Having our own local grade and high school there is an advantage enjoyed by this congregation—as is the case also at Pasadena.

Our first church in Louisiana is located at Minden—near Shreveport—and Mr. Swisher is the minister for this congregation also. The attendance here comprises around 40 adults and is a growing, zealous body of God's people.

Currently, the churches in Dallas and Houston, Texas, are being pastored by Mr. Jon Hill. The Houston congregation averages about 35 in attendance and prospects indicate that in time it may become one of our largest churches.

The attendance at the Dallas church has been augmented by the evangelistic campaign held there last Spring, and now comprises a growing body of about 70 adults. Because of its central location among our listeners, we expect that the

Dallas church also will increase greatly within the next few years.

Some of our oldest listeners and members in Texas compose much of the "backbone" of our churches in Corpus Christi and San Antonio. These two churches are presently under the pastorage of Mr. Burk McNair, and are noted for their zeal and friendliness. The Corpus Christi church has a current attendance of about 50 adults, and San Antonio about 40.

As you scattered brethren should know, the attendance in many of these churches varies because many of the members drive considerable distances to attend. God's churches are not like worldly "social clubs." They are composed of people filled with ZEAL for God's truth! And the average new visitor to one of our churches is often surprised to see nearly all of the members with their *Bibles* and *notebooks*—really concentrating to *absorb* the message, to *study* it later at home, to *prove* it! Even in its local congregations, God's Church is truly *different*.

Churches in St. Louis, Chicago, and Milwaukee

Mr. Dean Blackwell is the current pastor of our three congregations in the northern Midwest. The St. Louis church is the oldest of the group, and its current attendance averages about 35 adults.

The church in Chicago is rapidly growing, with a current attendance of about 70. It is still a relatively young church and should increase greatly with time.

One of our newest congregations is the one in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Although its membership comprises only about 20 adults thus far, it is filled with

the "first love" and *zeal* for God's ways and truth. It's small membership is *GROWING spiritually*, and we know that the *material* and *numerical* increase is bound to follow in due time.

The London Church of God

Last but far from least is our church located in London, England. It is our *first* church outside of America and—so far as we know—the *only* such church in the recent history of the Church of God.

The wonderful people in this church are *your brethren!* Even though separated by several thousands of miles, they are *related* to you, *bound* to you—if you *have God's Holy Spirit*—by even stronger and more enduring ties than *your own physical relatives!* Do you fully *REALIZE* that?

About 25 persons now attend our church—*God's church*—in far-off London. The baptized members there are *filled with* and *led by* the *SAME* Holy Spirit that guided and empowered Peter and Paul and Jesus Christ himself in His earthly ministry! If you could attend there some Sabbath you would *very quickly* feel at home. Because the *lives* of these dear brethren, their *interests*, their *goal*—all would be the *same* as ANY of you whose lives are fully surrendered to God.

If you could visit there some Sabbath, you would soon recognize that these people are *YOUR BROTHERS*.

Mr. Gerald Waterhouse is the present minister in the London church. He is also the manager of our mailing office in London, and is ably assisted in both capacities by Mr. Frank Longuskie.

You should *PRAY* for these brethren
(Please continue on page 11)

Here is a recent photo of our London church during services!



Amazing 2000-Year History of the Church of God

(Continued from page 2)

THE TRUE CHURCH OF GOD—the Church in which CHRIST lives and works—the Church which is HIS BODY—His instrumentality—the Church HE USES! It is the Church that was scattered, persecuted, unorganized—many of whose members have been martyred. This Church is composed of members who, even though begotten by and led by the Holy Spirit, yet are human and therefore not perfect. In the message to each of these seven churches Jesus has a word of correction. In every case He points out things they need to overcome. But they are the people who have and are led by His Spirit, who put themselves under GOD'S government instead of human traditions or self desire or the way that seems right to a man, and who have in the main THE TRUE GOSPEL, even though they often lost vital portions of it.

Notice, chapter 2, verse 1: "These things saith He that holdeth the seven stars (the angels of the TRUE church) in His right hand, *who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks*" (these seven churches). Jesus Christ is IN these churches. They are HIS churches, not Satan's churches which falsely masquerade as "Christian."

And remember, the TRUE Church has not been politically organized, powerful and recognized by the world—but scattered, persecuted, *seldom noticed* by the world, and even then regarded as heretic.

Now let's UNDERSTAND who they are, one by one.

The Apostolic Age

The church at Ephesus pictured the *apostolic church*, a church which patiently labored in the gospel, which met many false apostles but remained nearly steadfast to the truth (Rev. 2:1-7).

THERE WERE TWO 19-YEAR CYCLES IN THE HISTORY OF THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH DURING WHICH THE GOSPEL WAS CARRIED TO THE OLD WORLD. It was exactly 19 years from A.D. 31, when the church was founded, to the time that Paul received the vision to go into Europe! In Acts 16:9 Paul had a vision of a man in Macedonia (in Greece) who shouted "Help us!" Paul described this event in II Cor. 2:12-13 where he wrote that "a door was opened

unto me of the Lord" by which he meant that a way was opened to preach the gospel in Europe.

Paul went into Europe in the late spring of 50 A.D. After a few months of preaching, he arrived in Corinth in the fall of that year (Acts 18:1) where he remained for *a year and six months* (verse 11). It was now the beginning of 52 A.D. An insurrection broke out against Paul when Gallio was deputy or proconsul of Achaia (verse 12). A recently discovered inscription in Greece states that Gallio held this position during 52 A.D., which proves that the gospel went to Europe in 50 A.D., just 19 years after the Church was founded!

From 50 A.D. it was another 19 years until the fleeing of the mother church at Jerusalem, when that city was surrounded for the last time by Roman armies in 69 A.D. From that time forward the *united* power of the Church of God to spread the gospel of the Kingdom ceased. No longer was there a mother church at Jerusalem to whom all churches could look as the standard of TRUTH. It now became *a struggle to strive for the faith once delivered* (Jude 3). The church had left its first love.

Soon after John finished the book of Revelation, the remnant of the true church, which kept the commandments and believed the gospel of the kingdom, was cast out and scattered over the length and breadth of the whole Roman Empire. This fulfilled Jesus' warning: "I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place" (Rev. 2:5). Jesus *removed*, or took out, the true Church—the light-giving candlestick—from the unrepentant local congregations where they had assembled (Rev. 2:5).

Thus ended the Apostolic Age typified by the church of Ephesus.

The church at Smyrna arises next. It appeared to be dead—non-existent—yet it was alive, *suffering persecution*. This pictures God's church during more than four centuries under the persecuting Old Roman Empire. Beside the true church there was also a "synagogue of Satan" developing during this period.

The Synagogue of Satan—What Is It?

Now read Revelation 2:9. "I know the blasphemy of them which say they

are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan."

Notice, this is a synagogue of Satan. A synagogue is merely the Hebrew word for church. Then Jesus is not speaking of a *race*, but of a *church* that belongs to the devil!

This church claims they are Jews. Why? Because Jesus said, "Salvation is of the Jews" (John 4:22). "To the Jew first, then also to the Greek" (Rom. 1:16).

In Romans 11:16-27 Paul explains that Israel and the Jews to whom salvation belonged were broken off because of unbelief. Gentiles were grafted in their place. But once grafted in they were no longer Gentiles—"being in *time past* Gentiles in the flesh" (Eph. 2:11). Now they were all one in Christ Jesus, "no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints" (Eph. 2:19).

"He is a Jew," says Paul, "which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God" (Rom. 2:29).

So here was a church made up of Gentiles, claiming salvation, claiming to be Jews inwardly, masquerading itself as a "Christian" church.

This synagogue of Satan is the Catholic Church which developed immediately after the Apostolic Age. That church has had many daughters which are also Satan's churches.

The True Church Persecuted

The world at this time did not recognize which was the true church. "The world knoweth us not" (I John 3:1). It is from the enemies of God's church that we have scanty records of God's people, who were now maligned as heretics.

For centuries, Catholic writers mention remnants of the true church within the bounds of the Roman Empire. Sometimes they were individuals, sometimes scattered families, and especially in the Near East there were still a few local congregations preaching the gospel and keeping the commandments. As late as the beginning of the fifth century in Asia Minor, the bishop Chrysostom bewailed members of the Catholic Church, who, upon learning the truth from the scattered remnants of the true church, repented of their ways and began to observe "the feast of trumpets, the feast of tabernacles, and the feast of the great day of expiation" (Bingham's *Antiquities of the Christian Church*, bk. XVI, ch. VI).

With the restoration of the Roman Empire in the West under Justinian in 554, the true church fled into the valleys and mountains in Europe. John describes this flight for over a thousand

years in the twelfth chapter of Revelation where he pictures the true church as a woman fleeing from persecution.

A Miracle Occurs

Now notice what John writes to the church at Pergamos: "I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and has not denied my faith" (Rev. 2:13).

The local church to which John wrote was situated in Pergamos, the capital of the Roman province of Asia in Asia Minor—Pergamos was Satan's seat of worldly human government for that province. Just as the local church at Pergamos was situated in a city where Satan swayed human politics, so the next stage in the expansion of God's church occurred *within* the bounds of Satan's government—the Eastern Roman Empire—where the main body of God's people were still found.

It was about 650 A.D. that God, as if by miracle, raised up among the scattered remnants of his church in Cappadocia and Armenia a man who revita-

lized his people and spread the gospel. This well-educated man, by the name of Constantine of Manales, was given a gift of portions of the Bible. He was utterly amazed by the truth he found revealed in it after study. Soon he began preaching and with the help of trained evangelists found such a fruitful harvest that there were tens of thousands converted to the truth.

After twenty-seven years of ministry, he was stoned to death in 684, but an officer, Simeon, sent to destroy him, was so stirred by his death that he became converted and carried forth the gospel until he was burned at the stake six years later! Within another hundred years God raised up a third minister, Sergius, to guide his people who were allowing many false teachings to grow in their midst.

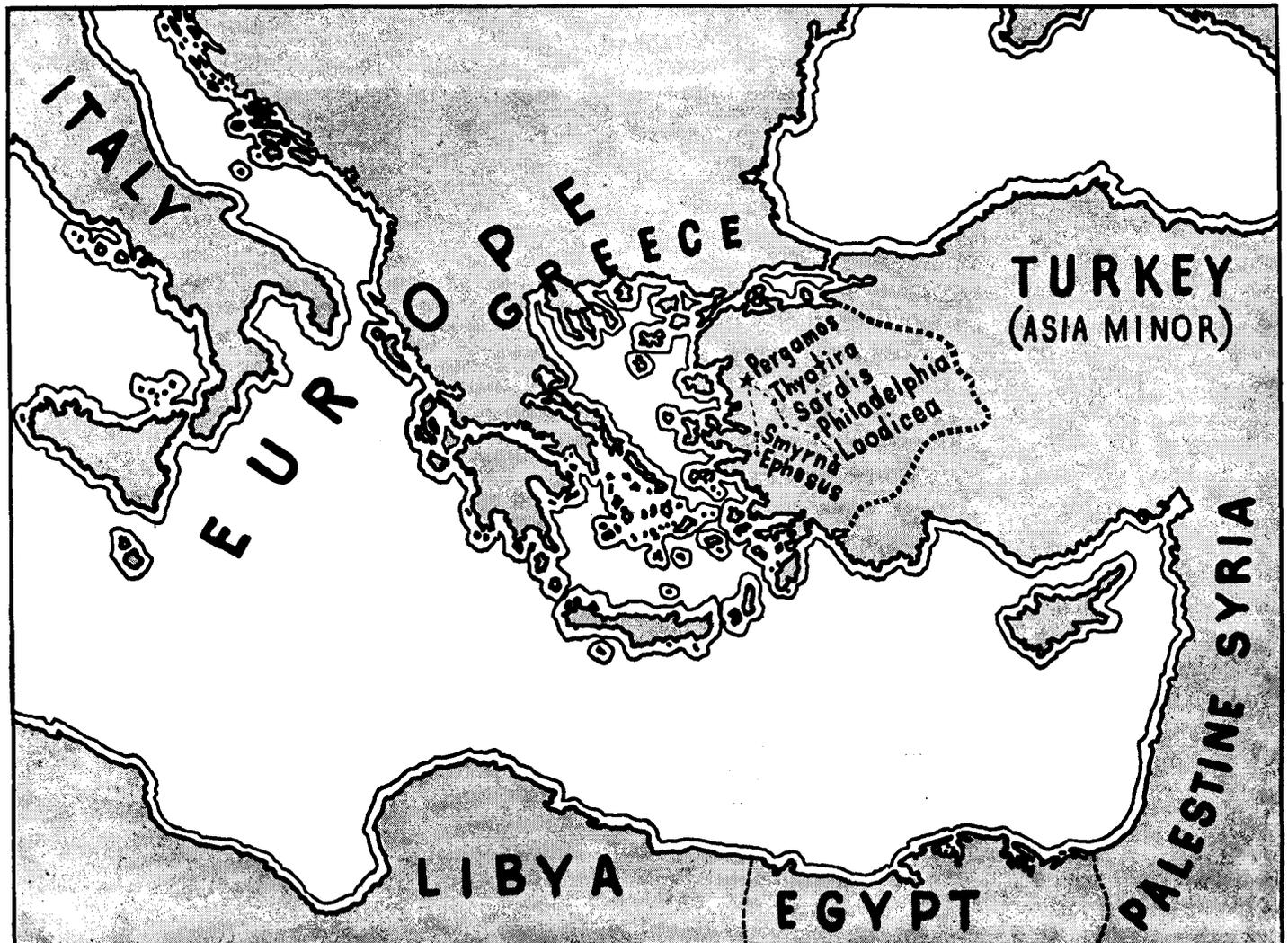
The name given to these people of God by their enemies was the *Paulicians*. The reports circulated about these people were slanderous and false. It was not till almost the beginning of the twentieth century that a book called *The Key of Truth*, containing many of

their teachings, was translated into English by Fred C. Conybeare.

This partially preserved record of God's people proves that *they preached the gospel of the Kingdom; that they believed the church was founded not only upon Jesus Christ, but also upon the apostles and prophets* (Eph. 2:20); *that they baptized by immersion; that they laid on hands for the "reception of the Spirit"* (p. CXXIV). *They not only "continued to keep the Passover on the fourteenth of Nisan," but they also observed the sabbath and the festival of unleavened bread* (pages CLXII and CLII of *The Key of Truth*).

The devil was angry with these people who understood the gospel and kept the commandments. Knowing that he could not overthrow their faith by force, he corrupted them by introducing false teachers who taught the "doctrine of Balaam" (Rev. 2:14). In turning to Numbers 31:16, you will see that Balaam induced the Israelites to practice idolatry and commit fornication.

Once again Satan, in his wiles to overthrow the church, introduced false



teachers among God's people. These teachers induced many in the church to celebrate certain *idolatrous* pagan holidays, particularly Epiphany, in honor of Christ's birth and baptism.

Satan also caused many in the church to take part in worldly politics in the hope of safeguarding themselves. Mixing with the politics of this world is called "fornication" in Revelation 17:2. God's church is to be a virgin and remain pure and *separate from the world*, waiting for the marriage to Christ (II Cor. 11:2).

As a result of these sins, Jesus warned his church: "Repent; or else I will fight against thee with the sword of my mouth" (Rev. 2:16). Most took the warning lightly until it was too late. Trusting in their worldly political alliances with neighboring Arabs, instead of relying on Jesus' protection, they were betrayed and slaughtered—one hundred thousand of them! The faithful few who escaped were driven to southeastern Europe and called Bogomils. "There they thrived for centuries, and . . . spread . . . their tenets into Bohemia, Poland, Germany, Italy, France, and even into . . . England" (p. CIV).

The Church in the Wilderness

John was inspired to commend the church at Thyatira because *the last works* of the church were *more than the first*. But in the local church there was a false teacher who taught some to practice idolatry. Jesus warned them that He would cast them into great tribulation and "kill her children with death" unless they repented (Rev. 2:18-29).

Now let us notice how this description fits exactly the next great expansion of God's people.

As a result of the evangelization of the Alpine regions by the Paulicians and Bogomils of Bulgaria, as God's people were called, there arose numerous ministers and faithful congregations. One of these men was Peter de Bruys who preached the gospel of the kingdom in the south of France (Jones' *Church History*, ch. 4, sect. 3). Two other preachers of the time were Arnold and Henri. They were charged by the Catholic Church with remaining faithful to the whole law of God and of observing the sabbath (*Ecclesiastical History*, by Peter Allix, pp. 168-169).

The Lutheran historian Mosheim says of another branch of the church of God in the twelfth century that they held "a notion that the observance of law of Moses, in everything except the offering of sacrifices, was obligatory upon Christians . . . they abstained from those meats the use of which was prohibited under the Mosaic economy, and celebrated the Jewish Sabbath. The second tenet which distinguished this sect

was advanced in opposition to the doctrine of three persons in the divine nature."

Yes, they knew that God was not a trinity, but a family!

A crusade was instituted against many of these people in Southern France. Thousands perished. But when it seemed that *the first work would soon be ended*, there arose an even *greater* leader among God's people.

It was the close of the twelfth century. In Lyons, France, lived an astonishingly successful and wealthy merchant, Peter Waldo. "One day, while in the company of some of the leading citizens, one of his friends fell lifeless at his side. Terrified by the event, he said to himself: If death had stricken me, what would have become of my soul?"

Being a Catholic, Waldo asked one of these theologians what is the *perfect* way. "Ah! answered the theologian . . . here is Christ's precept: 'It thou wilt be perfect, go, sell that thou hast and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come take up thy cross and follow me.'" (Comba, *History of the Waldenses*, p. 21).

Waldo disposed of his property by distributing to the poor. But from his wealth he also had a translation of the Scriptures made. In this translation he noticed the command to the apostles to preach the gospel of the kingdom of God. His mind began to understand the Scriptures.

God was using Peter Waldo.

Comba says that "he brought to the study of the Scriptures that practical common sense which had guided him in his business transactions . . . The word of Christ was clear enough; for Waldo it was simply a question of furnishing a literal translation" (p. 243 of Comba's *History*).

The humble remnant of the church of God listened to him. Soon many new disciples were coming to repentance. "His disciples became almost as many *co-workers* for him" (p. 26).

Called the "Church of God"

God's church was once again spreading the gospel! *A school for ministers was established to provide the trained help to carry the gospel.*

Here is a marvelous record from these people, dated 1404: "We do not find anywhere in the writings of the Old Testament that the light of truth and of holiness was at any time completely extinguished. There have always been men who walked faithfully in the paths of righteousness. Their number has been at times reduced to a few; but has never been altogether lost. We believe that the same has been the case from the time of Jesus Christ until now; and that it will be so unto the end. *For*

if the Church of God was founded, it was in order that it might remain until the end of time . . . We do not believe that the Church of God absolutely departed from the way of truth; but one portion yielded, and, as is commonly seen, the majority was led away to evil." (Quoted in Comba's *History*, pp. 10-11.)

Catholics admit that these people proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom of God, that they baptized repentant believers and obeyed the *whole* law of God.

But just as there was a false teacher, Jezebel, in the local church at Thyatira, so now there were many *false* teachers and *false* brethren among God's people who taught that it was all right to have Catholics baptize their children or to attend *idolatrous* mass once in a while. Others committed spiritual fornication by meddling in politics in the hope of avoiding persecution.

To correct his people God caused a frightful crusade to pass over them 300 years after the death of Waldo. Only a faithful remnant escaped.

Once again we see the repeated fact that after a few generations, the local congregations are no longer composed of truly converted brethren, but of unconverted children and halfhearted believers who either go aside into total error in the face of persecution or else give up their lives for the faith, as Daniel prophesied.

But in 1315, long before the crusade against the Waldenses occurred, the truth of God was carried to England by a German Waldensian preacher, Walter Lollard.

Now let's notice what John wrote to the church at Sardis.

The Church in England and America

The church at Sardis had a name that it was alive but it was dead (Rev. 3:1). Only a minute fraction of its people were really surrendered to God and holding to the faith once delivered. This is just the picture of the church of God for over 600 years after the preaching of Walter Lollard.

Through the preaching of Lollard and other helpers, hundreds were repenting. Thousands were learning for the first time that Catholic religious holidays came from paganism and that Sunday was not the Sabbath.

But within sixty years after the coming of Walter Lollard, a reform movement under John Wyclif arose in England and nearly engulfed the teachings of the original Waldensian preachers. After a period of persecution, there remained only a few who kept the faith and observed the Sabbath and the annual festivals. When confronted with imprisonment for their faith, several

ministers gave up the faith even though some of their followers remained steadfast (Cox's Sabbath Literature, Vol. 1, p. 162).

It was not until about 1650 that there were enough Sabbath keepers to establish local congregations. They called themselves the churches of God, but the world termed them Sabbatarians and Sabbatarian Baptists.

From England the churches of God spread to America. In 1664, Stephen Mumford, sent to Newport, Rhode Island, raised up a small church mainly from Baptist converts. One by one new churches were established through continued help of the churches in England.

But as always happens, after several generations the children take truth for granted and never really surrender their wills and their lives to God. In less than one hundred and fifty years, the English churches almost disappeared, having cut themselves off from God by *turning from his truth*, and by adopting the name "Seventh-day Baptists."

In America the number of churches gradually increased as the gospel was spread from state to state. But so nearly dead were these congregations that in 1802 many began to ORGANIZE THEMSELVES together into a General Conference instead of submitting to the government of God for the carrying out of the gospel. At this serious juncture, most of the local churches *joined themselves together* to form the Seventh-day Baptist General Conference. Some of the ministers began teaching the Trinity doctrine and the immortality of human souls.

Several congregations did not become members of the Conference. For another half century they maintained the truth they possessed, although most of them did not go all the way in obedience to God. John aptly described this period: "Be watchful, and establish the things remaining, *which are about to die*: for I have not found thy works perfected before my God."

The Adventist Movement

During this time the advent movement among Sunday-observing churches was begun by William Miller. In 1843 several followers of Miller in Washington, New Hampshire, became acquainted with the truth of the Sabbath. It was not until after the miserable disappointment of 1844, however, that the general body of adventists had the Sabbath called to their attention. A small number accepted the truth and soon united with the few remaining Church of God brethren who refused to be affiliated with the Seventh-day Baptist Conference.

They called themselves the "Church of God" and began publishing "The Ad-

vent Review and Sabbath Herald." Their first songbook was dedicated to "The Church of God scattered abroad."

With each passing year, new and different doctrines were being introduced to explain away the adventist failure of October 22, 1844. Finally, a meeting was held in Battle Creek, Michigan, September 28 through October 1, 1860.

"This conference also took into consideration the subject of a name by which our people should be called," wrote Loughborough on page 351 of the *Great Second Advent Movement*. "This again called forth a diversity of opinions, some pleading for one name and some for another. The "Church of God" being proposed, it was objected to on the ground that it gave none of the distinctive features of our faith, while the name "Seventh-day Adventist" would not only set forth our faith in the near coming of Christ, but would also show that we were observers of the Seventh-day Sabbath. So unanimous was the assembly in favor of the latter name that when *put to vote* only one man voted against it, and he soon afterward withdrew his objection."

In the spring of 1861 another conference was held in an unscriptural effort to reorganize local congregations. The following covenant was recommended for this new church organization: "We, the undersigned, hereby ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER AS A CHURCH, taking the name of Seventh-Day Adventist . . ."

Once again men forgot that they can not organize themselves *into* the Church of God. They can only organize themselves *out of* the Church of God!

A Remnant Remains!

When this new name was being forced on the churches, there appeared an article in the April 9, 1861 issue of the "Review and Herald" in which a few brethren from Ohio wrote that they would not give their offerings for any other purpose "than the advancement and extension of the truth and the 'Church of God.'"

Within the space of sixty years, two major departures from the Church of God occurred. *The ministers would not strengthen that which was ready to perish!*

For another seventy years conditions remained almost unchanged. The remaining brethren retained the name "Church of God." Among local congregations only a few individuals repented and strengthened the truth that was ready to perish in their midst. But most of the ministers resorted to organizing evangelistic work on the pattern of state conferences rather than yielding themselves to God's government and direction in the carrying of the gospel.

In fact, instead of the true gospel, most ministers taught a "third angel's message," which they had accepted from the adventist people.

Today's Church Prophesied!

Notice the amazing description of the next event in the history of God's people. John writes to the church of Philadelphia: "I know thy works: behold, *I have set before thee an open door*, and no man can shut it: *for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word and hast not denied my name*" (Rev. 3:6).

Here is a church with little strength, few in numbers, but which has kept the word of God, one which has not denied the truth. Here is a church which is preaching the gospel because Jesus promises to set before it *an open door* until the work of the church is completed.

Here is a church which Jesus loves! Here is a church to which He says: "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience (which Jesus interprets in Revelation 14:12 as *keeping the commandments* and the faith), I also will keep thee FROM THE HOUR OF TEMPTATION, WHICH SHALL COME UPON ALL THE WORLD, TO TRY THEM THAT DWELL UPON THE EARTH" (Rev. 3:10).

This verse pictures a church which is carrying the gospel just prior to the last great time of trouble that will engulf all the world. *This is the Church of God TODAY!*

The Gospel Goes to All the World

Jesus chose Paul, who was highly educated, for spreading the gospel to the Gentiles. He later raised up Peter Waldo, a successful businessman, to keep his truth alive during the Middle Ages. In these last days WHEN THE GOSPEL MUST GO AROUND THE WORLD Jesus chose a man amply trained in the advertising and business fields to shoulder this mission—Herbert W. Armstrong.

Paul was struck down. Waldo was shocked by the sudden death of his friend. In like manner God three times swept away Mr. Armstrong's business in order that he might come to understand the truth.

Shortly before this event, God had opened the mind of Mrs. Armstrong to understand the Sabbath truth from an elderly Church of God woman. After six months of study, in a persistent effort to prove Sabbath-keeping unscriptural, Mr. Armstrong also surrendered his will to God and accepted the Sabbath.

From this moment forward, God opened the minds of Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong to understand one truth after another. The Church of God brethren with whom they associated became so intensely interested that Mr. Armstrong

soon found himself speaking at their insistence—then *preaching*—to small groups in the state of Oregon!

Not long after his ordination, a momentous juncture occurred. A movement was under foot to organize the local churches of God under human government—a financial board of seven men. By 1933 certain leading ministers demanded that no more *new* truth be preached to the brethren. They were refusing to repent and allow the Holy Spirit to work through them to establish the truth that was ready to perish!

Most of the congregations succumbed to error. The age of the church of Sardis was over. *The church period of Philadelphia was to begin!*

A DOOR Opens

The time had come for the gospel TO GO AROUND THE WORLD! Having tested and proven that Herbert and Loma Armstrong would remain faithful and subject to His government, God opened before them and a few faithful brethren the marvelous DOOR of radio and the printing press to carry the gospel. From a minute beginning in Oregon, the work of God spread to cover most of North America in 19 years, and now it is leaping to Europe and the world!

This is very significant.

God gave the Apostolic Church just two nineteen-year cycles to carry the gospel to the Old World. He opened a DOOR to the apostle Paul at the beginning of the second nineteen-year cycle by which the gospel went to Europe (Acts 16:9; II Cor. 2:12-13).

So now, just before the second coming of Jesus Christ, God has given His Church—THIS CHURCH—just two nineteen-year cycles in which to carry the gospel to the world!

The first cycle has already passed. God opened the door for the second cycle in January, 1953, and the gospel is going to all Europe.

Do you really catch the significance of this?

It means that this work, this MISSION to which God has called us *all*, is a DIVINE work, a DIVINE mission!—not the work of some one man. WE ARE THE CHURCH OF GOD to whom Jesus committed the *greatest* task ever to fall upon mortal man—the carrying of His gospel, the good news of the kingdom of God, to *all* nations.

Future Is Dangerous

We are a people with "little strength," but God has set before us an OPEN DOOR WHICH NO MAN CAN SHUT. We must use that door. We must become zealous, working, praying, studying, giving tithes and offerings as we have never given before, so that this gospel can go

in power around the entire world.

This is the time of the end when prophecies hidden for ages are being revealed. TRUTH is being restored, knowledge is rapidly increasing. But knowledge brings *responsibility*; it becomes *dangerous* if it is not rightly handled.

Now notice Jesus' LAST WARNING to the church. At the *very close* of this age, when the work of spreading the gospel is almost finished, Jesus addressed the church at Laodicea: "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: . . . I WILL SPUE THEE OUT OF MY MOUTH" (Rev. 3:15, 16).

This frightful condition *will happen* to most of God's people at the very end because they will become *spiritually proud* of the knowledge God is revealing. Yes, *some of you* will say, "I am

rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing." And Jesus will reply: "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be ZEALOUS therefore, and *repent*."

It is time we WAKE UP! If we become complacent, lacking in zeal, looking upon our local church as a social club, instead of having our hearts in the gospel, Jesus will *not* deliver us from the tribulation.

Notice Jesus' admonition in Luke 21:36. "WATCH ye therefore and PRAY *always*, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape *all* these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Let's take these things to heart. Let's pray and work together to carry this gospel to all nations so Jesus will say to each of us, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

God's Church Grows!

(Continued from page 6)

and their minister in far-off London. They are now helping to lay the foundation of what will soon become a large and *powerful* work of reaching the British Isles and Europe with God's *truth*!

Even as this goes to press, plans are being made to hold two *evangelistic campaigns* in the Midlands of England possibly within a year! Your *heart* and *interest* should be in reaching these people with the very *message* that Jesus Christ brought to SAVE this world from its *miserable ways*!

Get Acquainted With God's People

In this article, we have only *sketched* some of the *many* details you need to know about the local churches of God and His scattered people everywhere. We hope to give you *much more* of this information in a regular "Church News" section of this magazine. That is one reason why we are enlarging it to 12 full pages!

Have you noticed?

There is much to tell about the many wonderful people who make God's work and His churches "tick." We hope to introduce you to the local elders, deacons and deaconesses in each local church. We hope to give you more information about Ambassador College, and about our grade and high schools and their instructors.

Let's not forget the wonderful *wives* of the ministers who help them so much in their service to all of you. Yes, and the "kiddies" too!

Also, we know that you will thrill and rejoice with us to learn more—in a per-

sonal way—about the many *blessings* and *miracles* God is showering upon His work and people. Perhaps you have *heard*—in a second-handed or round about way—about some of the miraculous *healings* and other *blessings* that God has granted many of our brethren. But would you like to READ the exact account of these events each month in the *Good News* magazine?

Are you interested? If so, please WRITE and tell us you are, and make any suggestions you think might be helpful!

The Nature and Purpose of Local Congregations

It is *important* that you fully realize that you are a member of the very Church Jesus Christ said He would build (Matt. 16:18). But you *also* need to understand how *different* is the part played by God's local churches from the normal worldly conception.

Remember that the primary *commission* given to God's Church is to preach the *true gospel* as a "witness" to ALL NATIONS (Matt. 24:14). In Mark's account, Jesus instructed: "GO YE into *all the world*, and preach the gospel to *every creature*" (Mark 16:15).

God's Church is NOT a "club" with its interest and objectives centered upon *ourselves* and upon *local activities*. Rather, it is a living, vital organism through which Christ can carry His *message* as a last "witness" to this entire world!

Secondarily, however, we do find Jesus' instruction to Peter: "Feed my *sheep*" (John 21:17). And we find numerous examples in the book of Acts

and Paul's epistles showing the pattern of *local church congregations*. This provided the means of strengthening those already converted by feeding them the spiritual "meat," and helped provide an *organized backing and cooperative effort* in the evangelistic effort of God's Church.

Teamwork and cooperation is absolutely necessary in carrying the gospel to all the world. Local churches provide the means of *learning and carrying out* these lessons and procedures. The emphasis should be on the **EVANGELISTIC MISSION** of God's Church!

Local Church Buildings

In keeping with the evangelistic spirit, we find that the early true Church of God often met in hired halls or in private homes—often not having church

edifices or lofty cathedrals as do all the denominational churches today.

During his stay at Ephesus, Paul preached for about two years in the rented hall or "school" owned by one Tyrannus (Acts 19:9). Later, he taught in his own hired house at Rome (Acts 28:30).

The apostle Paul writes of the "church" which met in the house of Priscilla and Aquila (Rom. 16:3-5). Paul addressed Philemon and "the church in thy house" (Philemon 1-2).

Following this pattern, most of God's local churches today meet in rented halls, and have sometimes started out by meeting in individual homes.

Yet, having local church buildings is certainly *not wrong*. It is, in fact, the more ideal thing to do *whenever possible*. Remember that the original apostolic church first met at the beautiful *temple* at Jerusalem. And throughout the Old Testament, God designated the temple or tabernacle as the place His people were to meet.

Today, in order to avoid interruptions, inconveniences, cigarette smoke and ashes and many other things which *detract* from the spiritual richness of our church service, we earnestly hope—whenever possible—to provide local *church buildings* for many of our established congregations! Then we can dedicate the buildings *wholly* to the service and worship of *Almighty God*.

Mr. Armstrong has recently learned of a special type of construction which—though of *good quality* and appearance—is only about *one half* as expensive as ordinary church buildings would be. Pray with us that God will lead us in this and make it possible for us to have some of our *own church buildings* before long. What a great **BLESSING** this will be in many areas!

Mr. Armstrong will inform you of the further progress of these plans in the near future. Meanwhile, *do your part* and pray.

In *every way*, God's Church is **GROWING!** Is your *heart* in it? Do you *thrill* at the news of reaching foreign lands with God's truth? Does your heart *rejoice* at the news of new churches being raised up?—of new church buildings?—of hundreds more being converted and baptized in scattered areas?

Are you *intensely interested* in learning to know more about God's local churches and His scattered people in future articles in this magazine? If you are *really* in God's Church, they are *your brethren*.

Remember what Christ—the Living *Word*—inspired the apostle John to write: "For he that loveth not his BROTHER whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath *not* seen?" (I John 4:20).

CORRECTION

In an article about attending the **FEAST OF TABERNACLES** in the preceding number, it was stated that "widows" as used in Deut. 14:29, means those whose parents or husbands are **NOT** in the Church—whose source of sustenance is **AN UNCONVERTED MATE** who will not allow them the money to keep the feast.

Actually this definition was given only in reference to help extended by the Church, out of surplus second tithe turned in by some brethren who had more than they needed, which the Church may do, at the discretion of the ministers, if circumstances warrant, and if there is sufficient money in the fund.

However, in Deut. 14:29 the expression "the fatherless and the widow" is used to designate **TO WHOM** the Church may give help out of the **THIRD** tithe fund—the third tithe God has instructed us in this passage to save every third year. The literal and intended meaning of "fatherless and widow" is the widow indeed, whose husband is dead and who has not remarried, and the children too young to support themselves whose father is dead.

It cannot, and does not, mean that the Church should support wives and children of unconverted husbands. Nor is there any direct instruction here for the Church to give money out of the second or third tithe funds to aid wives or children of unconverted husbands to attend the Festival—or, for that matter, even those whose husbands and fathers are dead. The Church may, if circumstances seem to warrant, and if the Church is able, give such aid. But it must not be understood that this is automatically or generally done.

Be careful, brethren, not to go to **EXTREMES** either way about being able to come to the Feast. While the article in the June number put emphasis on the fact that **SOME** people or families, who have not saved the second tithe, and are not in any manner able, ought **NOT** to come to the Festival, do not go to the extreme of deciding you don't need to come, and it's all right to neglect to save the second tithe and to stay away.

GOD COMMANDS YOU TO COME! But He also commands you to save, by **HIS PLAN**, the second tithe, so you may be able to come. Be sure you do not disobey God *either way*.

The **NEW TABERNACLE** is being erected! It did look for three months as if we could not go ahead with it. But God opened the way, provided you brethren continue to send in extra money for the building fund—over and above tithes and regular offerings!

If in every way you *do your part* to come, God **WILL** make it possible!

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

Herbert W. Armstrong analyzes today's news, with the prophecies of **The WORLD TOMORROW!**

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