

The Good News

International Magazine of
THE CHURCH OF GOD

VOL. VII, NUMBER 8

DECEMBER, 1958

Over 4000 Attend Feast of Tabernacles!

A Wonderful Time of *Rejoicing* Has Been Set Aside for You!
Have You Been *Missing* It?

by Garner Ted Armstrong

HAVE you been MISSING OUT on what should be the greatest Spiritual experience of your life? This past fall thousands of God's people gathered at the huge tabernacle building near Big Sandy, Texas for the annual Feast of Tabernacles. Multiple *hundreds* of them had come to a Feast for the very *first time!*

And what a real FEAST it was! God says, "Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month . . . ye shall keep a *feast*

unto the Lord seven days, on the first day shall be a sabbath, and on the eighth day shall be a sabbath . . . and ye shall REJOICE before the Lord your God seven days" (Lev. 23:39-40).

And God's people truly REJOICED!

But to the WORLD, in which you live, such a practice would be considered a YOKE OF BONDAGE! The world scoffs at the customs of a people they believe to be returning to SLAVERY—to a harsh LAW!

Is it Bondage?

Satan has deceived all nations (Rev. 12:9) into keeping certain false religious customs. Among them, he has introduced COUNTERFEIT FEAST days. The *greatest* of the "Christian" holidays is *Christmas!*

Let's COMPARE the pagan holiday of "Christmas" and the GOD-ORDAINED HOLYDAY OF THE *Feast of Tabernacles!*

Millions save money all year long, by

Mammoth New Tabernacle towers above huge parking lot filled to capacity during Feast of Tabernacles.



The Good News

International magazine of
THE CHURCH OF GOD
*ministering to its members
 scattered abroad*

VOL. VII NUMBER 8

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 By the Radio Church of God

**Be sure to notify us immediately of
 change of address.**

means of special savings accounts, for Christmas. The money is spent on *buying gifts* for others! THIS, the world assures us, is FREEDOM!

God's people *save money* ALL YEAR LONG (Deut. 14:22-26) to travel wherever He designates and SPEND IT ON THEMSELVES! *This*, according to the world, is surely BONDAGE!

Millions of obedient servants to custom (Rom. 12:2, Rom. 6:16) look forward to ONE day spent in total or near drunkenness, slaughtering each other on the highways, mayhem and murder (more murders are committed during the 24-hour period encompassing Christmas eve than any other similar period during the year), and family dinners. *This*, the world loudly proclaims, is FREEDOM!

God's OBEDIENT CHILDREN look forward to EIGHT FULL DAYS spent in eating wonderful physical food, and drinking in of deep, satisfying SPIRITUAL food, days of *moderation*, of *rejoicing*, of HELPING one-another, of learning how to SAVE lives. This, the world would have you believe, is BONDAGE!

SERVANTS—but of WHOM?

Have YOU found the real delight of serving God?

When you were still of the world—you were practicing customs you never questioned, "going along" with the press of the crowd, wherever it led you. You were a *servant of sin*. But God has called His true people OUT of slavery—INTO true FREEDOM!

How many times have you heard people expressing how they HATE to think of Christmas shopping, traffic jams, confusion, gift lists, and all the dizzying hubbub of the year's biggest commercial season?

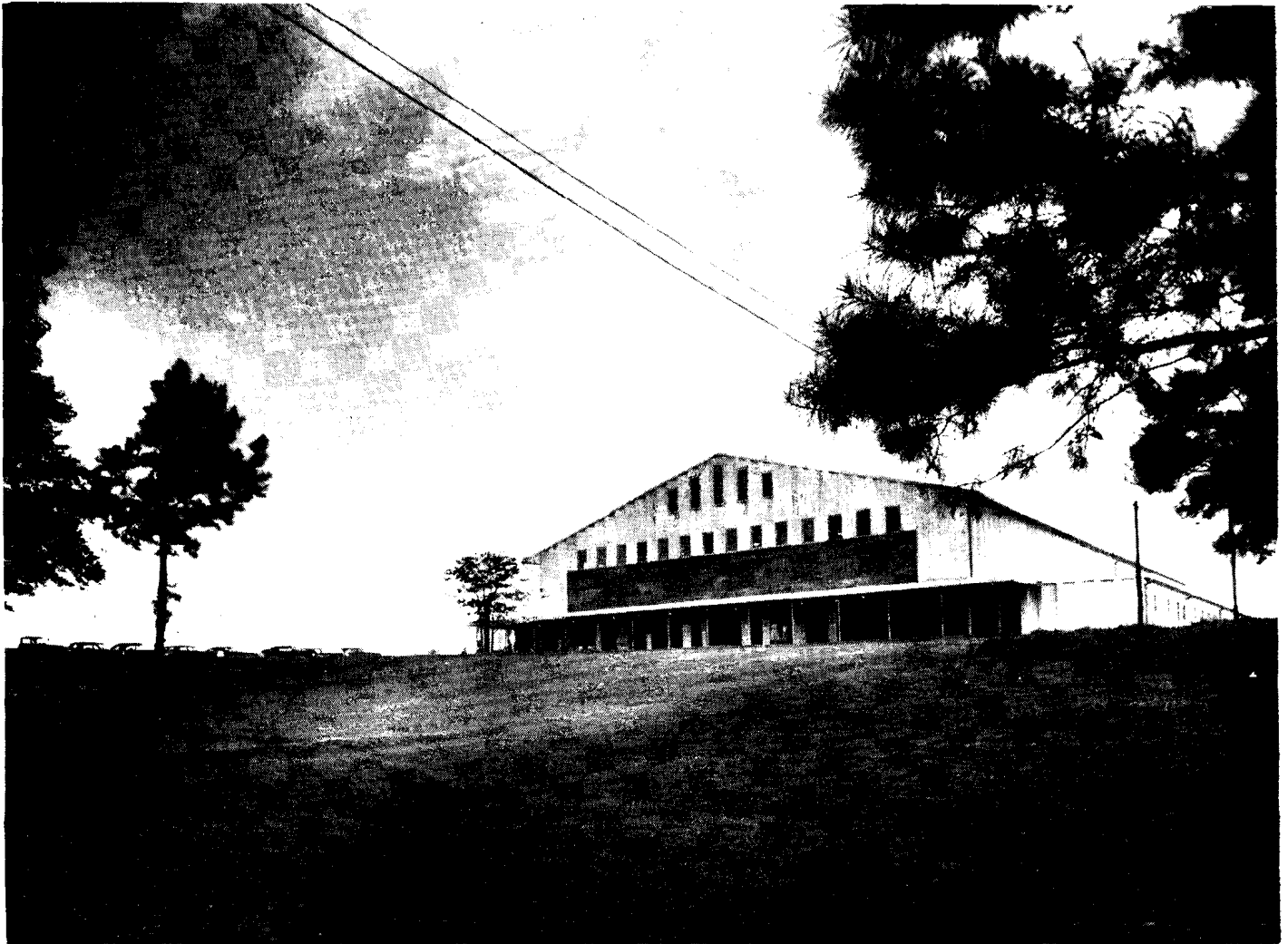
And how many times have you observed these *same* people CONTINUING blindly in the same customs?

Peter, when warning about false prophets, said, "While they promise them LIBERTY, *they themselves* are the *servants of corruption*. For of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage!" (II Peter 2:19)

This world SERVES Satan, its own

Mealtime brings thousands into line in front of first Tabernacle, now converted into dining hall. The outline of original Tabernacle is barely visible through trees.





Beneath beautiful East Texas skies stands the majestic New Tabernacle! Thousands marvelled at its solidity and its hugeness—but it already needs to be enlarged for next year!

lusts, vanity, and the whims of society!
 IT IS THE **WORLD** THAT IS IN TOTAL
 BONDAGE—**ABJECT SLAVERY!**

But **YOU** have been given the oppor-
 tunity to become a servant of **GOD!** **YOU**
 have been given the opportunity to be

made truly **FREE!** "Know ye not, that to
 whom ye yield yourselves servants to
 (Please continue on page 12)

Interior of New Tabernacle filled to capacity during Mr. Armstrong's delivery of sermon.



What Church Members should know about MASONRY

Editor's Note: An intensive and extended examination and thorough research into the FACTS, too long concealed from the Church, has been the conscientious and painstaking work of Mr. Elliott in the preparation of his forthcoming book, "What Church Members Should Know About MASONRY." The FACTS he brought to light from many authentic sources are astounding. This startlingly revealing book was written as a Thesis, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Theology conferred on Mr. Elliott June 6th, 1958, by Ambassador College.

This book is being reproduced serially in *The Good News*, the present article being the first installment. It will be continued in future numbers.

You will find it to be an astonishing and eye-opening revelation. We feel it is breathtaking in interest, intriguing, and shocking—but it is all the TRUTH, carefully documented.

We feel it is high time these little known facts be published for our Church members. We need to know *how* it came about that, even in our modern times, as the Word of God foretold: "all nations were deceived!"

by Jack R. Elliott

IS MASONRY a Christian organization? Do they have the truth? Why are they so secret? Is it all right to remain in the Lodge? Is it all right to join the Masons?

This series is designed to help you answer these questions, give the reasoning behind the answer, and produce the evidence to back it up!

This series is NOT WRITTEN FOR GENERAL PUBLICATION, but to supply information for members of the Church of God. It is important that you know something about the Masonic Lodge—its teachings and its beliefs—so that you can answer questions on the subject with understanding. Many persons who are interested in the way of life ask questions that need a true and accurate answer, not the evasion they get when they ask information from a Mason.

The Mason cannot answer most of their questions because he has sworn, under penalty of death, not to reveal Masonic secrets. Since the details cannot be revealed, he merely assures them that Masonry is a Christian organization based on the Bible. They further assure us that Masonry is in accordance with God's laws and a candidate is not required to take any action against nation, state or family.

Definitions of Masonry

Definitions of Freemasonry have been numerous. Seldom do you find two alike.

Here are quoted some of the most celebrated ones which were composed by influential Masons and, as you might expect, they heap much praise upon the Lodge.

"Freemasonry is a beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols."—Hemming.

"Masonry is an art, useful knowledge and learning, and stamps an indelible mark of pre-eminence on its genuine professors, which neither chance, power, nor fortune can bestow."—Preston.

"The grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race."—George Washington.

If such statements can be made of the Lodge by such noted people, then surely it is a worthy organization! "How can belonging to it be a discredit to anyone?" they ask.

Take a closer look and you will see that while these definitions are impressive, they still leave the reader in the dark as to the what, why, and how of Freemasonry.

Confusion in Doctrine

Masonic doctrine is very pliable because it is so loosely knit together and embodies such a tremendous scope of Christian as well as pagan ideas. Furthermore, it is cushioned with allowances for those members who wish to disagree with either or both because the Lodge embraces men of all religions. These

allowances also absorb or explain away any accusations brought against Masonic doctrine. It makes no difference whether the accusation is pro-Christian, pro-Mohammedan, pro-Pagan, or pro-anything. To be more specific, Masonic philosophy is very inexact, vague in principle and so devious in application that it can mean almost anything to anyone. Its basic teaching method is by subtle suggestion which allows the candidate to warp his former beliefs into the Masonic framework.

Masonry can be more revealingly defined as a group of men, banded together in an exclusive lodge to advance, first and foremost, their personal interests and second, the interests of certain others of their fellowmen. They set as their guide, morals that are as high as other man-made codes. The fact that they are man-made is not considered a degradation by the brotherhood.

They set as the highest and simplest of these morals "brotherly love"—(the brother referred to, however, is a brother Mason). The spirit of Masonry is that of mystery, feigned pomp and ceremony, and intemperate revelry. They search ancient writings, Christian and pagan, in order to find the mysterious secrets of life.

The teachings of the Holy Bible and the ancient (pagan) mysteries are accepted alike and constitute their main sources of information. From these they

select the principles which most appeal to their desires. They have worked out ten of their own commandments which are an amalgamation of some of God's laws, and some gleaned from the "ancients."

Membership Is Profitable

Belonging to the Lodge is profitable for a number of reasons. Among these is the fact that a Mason is usually better informed than the average person on community and civil affairs. Masons are of every profession imaginable. They have a vast storehouse of knowledge at their command which they share with one another at "refreshment" and during special meetings. Furthermore, they do not content themselves with the knowledge that is already among them, but certain members make a life work of seeking out the uncommon, and proclaiming it from lodge to lodge at special meetings. Not all information is edifying, however. Much error is introduced by the informed. (Among these is the erroneous teaching about the construction and architecture of King Solomon's Temple. Illustrative drawings of the structure while very impressive usually show it adorned with winged bulls and other pagan objects of worship.)

Another helpful principle is that of extending aid to a brother Mason. Each member is dedicated to help a needy brother wherever or whenever he is able. Membership in the Lodge is therefore very useful to those who seek political office, political favor, employment opportunities, business connections, travel accommodations, or a privileged position in the community. So pronounced are some of these aids that all who do not enjoy them are greatly handicapped when they compete for certain offices or favor. Political office is a good example, and the Presidency of the United States is not excepted. Most of our Presidents have been Masons, either active or honorary.

Secrecy

Our definition could not be complete without mentioning the secrecy of Masonry. Symbolism, which means nothing to the average person, is used to remind the Mason of his duties and morals while hiding the allegoric meaning and "beauty" from the "vulgar eye of the uninformed." Lodges meet in secret behind guarded doors. Secret signs, handshakes and utterances reveal one Mason to another regardless of his lodge, rite, or country.

Membership in the Lodge is, therefore, a ticket to favoritism in any city or any state or any country, and is a Masonic promise to happiness and prosperity.

In actuality, Masons find that altruistic ideals of the Lodge break down in practice. Brother Masons are not much more trustworthy than the "unenlightened." Some do not find the oaths they take binding enough to keep them from defrauding even a brother.

At least two Church of God brethren have confided to this author that they have been seriously defrauded at the hands of brother Masons. One put it this way: "In swearing to give aid and assistance to a brother Mason, an upright member falls prey to dishonest members of the Lodge and is frequently defrauded. I have found the word of most Masons is just so much wind, and they would not hesitate to defraud if they could do so successfully. They follow Masonic teachings just as far as is conducive to their own gain."

Size and Importance

One does not ordinarily realize the scope or importance of Freemasonry in our country. Its different rites, all in an interdependent system, boasted 4,175,000 members in 1939—3,300,000 of which were in the United States. There are probably between five and six million members in the United States today.

The various rites have upon their rolls the names of emperors, kings, princes, priests, and governors, together with scholars, statesmen, and men of lesser stations in church and state. Here are a few famous men who have been Masons in the United States: Benjamin Franklin, President Washington, Jefferson, Monroe, Adams, Jackson, Polk, Fillmore, Harrison, Buchanan, Johnson, Garfield, McKinley, Taylor, Pierce, Taft, Theodore Roosevelt, and Truman. Other prominent members were Lafayette, Fulton, Montgomery, Sherman, Burr, Rush, Whipple, Paine, Hamilton, Gerry, Steubon, Stark, Livingstone, Dekalb, Warren, Paul Jones, Witherspoon, Revere and Hancock. Most of these are proclaimed Masons by no lesser authority than the *Encyclopedia Americana*.

Most local, state and federal officials are Masons. Realize that when you apply for employment, the man who may or may not employ you is likely to be a member of the Lodge. By handshake or other Masonic sign, you would be able to greatly increase your chances of securing that job because he has sworn an oath to extend aid and comfort to a fellow Mason if it is within his means to do so.

You are, likewise, in a much better position to have a favor granted from a public official who belongs to the Lodge when you are a member. Throughout the United States, many Masons admit that they know or have heard of brothers guilty of a crime

against society, who were never brought to trial because of their affiliation with the Lodge, and because of "aid" rendered by an official who was a Mason. Others who have been brought to trial were either acquitted by a jury containing Masons or were given light sentences.

In one such instance which occurred recently, a man killed one of his close friends. He was convicted of "premeditated murder without malice," and sentenced to only two years in prison. After two months' imprisonment he was out on a 30 days' leave. The man was a Mason and so were a number of the jurors and law enforcement officials.

Anti-Masonic Literature

One seldom sees anti-Masonic literature, even though much has been written. Because printers are often Masons, dedicated to conceal the secrets of the Lodge, it has little chance. Bookstore owners or librarians seldom stock books either pro- or anti-Masonic. Laymen who are Masons are unwilling to divulge secrets because they have been sworn to secrecy.

Nevertheless, even in the face of all these obstacles, anti-Masonic literature does exist. Certain organizations have been very zealous in their fight against the Lodge. Today, though their zeal is gone, some continue to publish lodge secrets. Masons, more than anyone else, buy their books because they find them a convenient aid to learning the long list of lodge secrets. This is against lodge rules, however, because Masons are not allowed to write down these secrets, but new members are supposed to be taught by word of mouth only. The arduous and grueling task of instructing the uninformed is simplified greatly by this underhanded method of using available written material.

One example is the Ezra A. Cook Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 796, Chicago 90, Illinois. A letter to the Ezra A. Cook Company requesting publications on the subject of Freemasonry will bring you a lengthy list of available books which accurately reveal Masonic secrets. These books are available to anyone.

Structure of Masonry

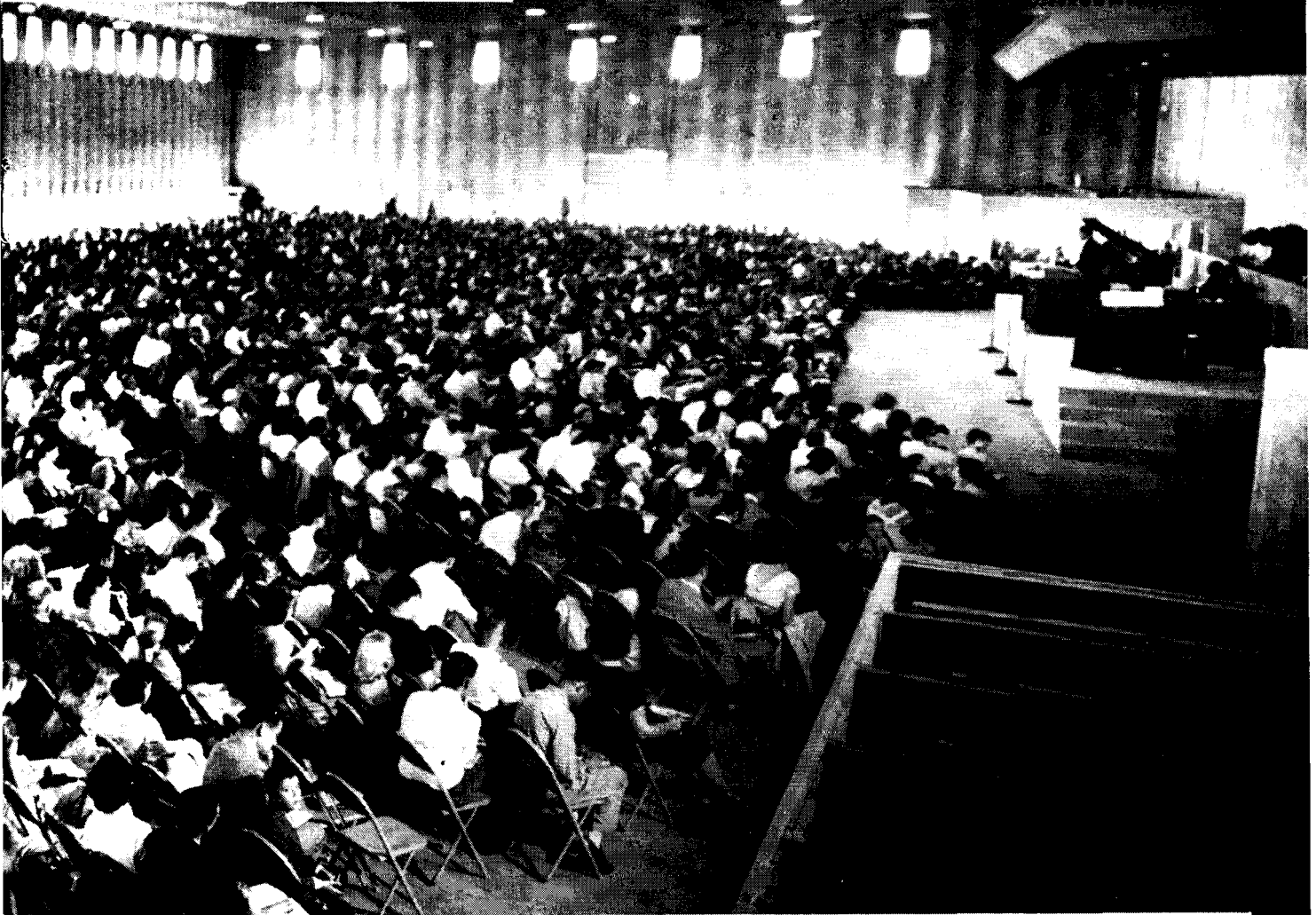
Figure 1 (found on page 9 of this installment) is the symbolic representation of Freemasonry in America. It is represented by a square and compass supported by two pillars, *Jachin* and *Boaz*. The illustration has been considered highly secret and was allowed only to Masons of high degree. It was given to me by a church member who had formerly been a Mason. Recently however, an article appeared in *Life* magazine (October 8, 1956, pages *Please continue on page 8*)

PREVIEW OF THE 1959 ENVOY

The 1959 Envoy presents an insight into the yearbook be



eing prepared for you.



The CHURCH OF GOD Tabernacle, near Gladewater, Texas

Thousands of God's people listen intently to inspiring messages brought by God's ministers during the 1958 gathering. The large, newly constructed tabernacle—an architectural triumph—free from obstructing pillars, is supported only by the walls. Plans are being made for its enlargement to provide a seating capacity of 17,000.

MASONRY

(Continued from page 5)

104-122) in which the structure of Freemasonry was represented in similar manner. The fact that Masons decided to let the vulgar eye of the public see

the different but accurate illustration, demonstrates their inconsistency.

The apprentice enters the structure, symbolically, between the two columns, Jachin and Boaz, which are said to represent the two columns of Solomon's Temple (see II Chron. 3:15) and progresses by degrees toward perfection. All this happens under the "All-Seeing

Eye" shown at the top of the figure, "whom (they say) the sun, moon and stars obey and under whose watchful care even the comets perform their stupendous revolutions, (who) pervades the inmost recesses of the human heart, and who will reward us (Masons) according to our merits." (Lightfoot, page 33.) The reward supposedly comes after death releases him from this world and his soul progresses upwards toward heaven and perfection.

When the apprentice enters Masonry, he is compared to a rough ashler (or rough building stone), and as the ashler is shaped and polished before it is ready for use, so must the candidate become perfected during the first three degrees until he becomes a perfect ashler and may be used as a building block in the house of God (the house of God as symbolized by Solomon's Temple). Thus perfected the Master Mason may enter into and work within the Holy of Holies. The Holy of Holies is symbolized by the central part of the structure surrounding the letter "G". The letter "G" stands for God; therefore work in all degrees from the master's up is done symbolically in the presence of God, in His most holy place. (Note: Fig. 1 shows that all of the degrees from the master's to the thirty-third are in this part of the structure.)

After one has successfully mastered the first three degrees, or the Blue Lodge, he proceeds up through the Grand Lodge by way of either the York or the Scottish Rite.

The Scottish Rite accepts members of all faiths, so long as they profess a creator God and believe in a life after death. The York Rite is just as liberal, except in its higher orders an oath has to be taken that affirms a belief in Christ, thus excluding conscientious Jews from degrees beyond that point.

More information can be attained from the *Encyclopedia Britannica* by those who wish to pursue the technical organization of Freemasonry in the United States.

The Beginning of a Dilemma

Very few Masons understand or care about the technical aspects of the Lodge or about its symbolic teachings. They are interested instead in such questions as how important it is to be a member; therefore, how big, important and righteous Masonry is; how to join; how to climb to the top; how to keep others from getting to the top without due process; how to keep enemies out, et cetera.

The great majority embrace Freemasonry for the purpose of enhancing their business prestige. As long as they can pass themselves as Masons and make use of the secret language which Masonry

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

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New and Different

EACH year a new creation—a new, different ENVOY. Not an up-to-date reprint of last year's issue but a new insight into the headquarters of God's Work.

An alert new Staff is eager to present a true view and yet a new view of Ambassador. The campus youths of today are candidates to lead and serve you tomorrow. Get to know the Faculty and Student Body through professional portraits in the ENVOY! You will meet many of them in person at the Festivals through the years to come.

Why We Include You

An ENVOY is the solution to several of your problems. Few of you are able to visit the Headquarters of God's Work in person. Visitors from the campus to your individual homes have also been few. The ENVOY has the solution. Once a year in late spring an Ambassador, an ENVOY is sent to you. Once a year in the fall you come to the tabernacle in Texas and meet our 200 Ambassadors.

Our solution is to pack as much information and interest, quality and quantity into an ENVOY as the subscription price will allow and give every family a first-hand account of campus activities. Now each family can have a visitor from the Ambassador Campus year by year.

What You Make Possible

An increase in pages to 128—sections in rich new duotone, the printing process that through the addition of a single color will add life and realism to the pages of your new ENVOY. Attend a commencement program on the Amba-

sador Campus—relive the moments of the recent Feast of Tabernacles in scenes caught by the camera of a top professional photographer. These are an example of the planning being done now as Ambassador students express their gratitude for your participation in past years.

Added new subscribers this year can make these dreams come true. Our final word to the printer must be given early in January. The 1200 copies he is planning to print now includes you. Portions of the new ENVOY will be printed before you read these lines. Contracts were signed late last spring giving tentative specifications for this new book. The final decisions are being made now! Your immediate decision is needed.

A flood of subscriptions will allow us to add still more to the quality of the ENVOY you will receive next June. Few orders would mean a sharp cutback in all specifications.

Act Now!

In spite of its increased size and quality, in spite of increased postal rates, and labor costs, the price per copy of the ENVOY is being held to \$5.00 . . . and that is the complete price to you including postage, mailers and so forth. The ENVOY will be ready for mailing in early June but the printers must know months in advance the exact number of copies to print. We have given them an early guess as to the number you will order. They need to know now if that guess is correct.

Just fill in the coupon below or PRINT the required information in a letter and send it IMMEDIATELY to "The ENVOY," at Post Office Box 111, Pasadena, California! Please use the enclosed envelope.

The ENVOY Staff:

YES! I want to reserve a copy of the 1959 ENVOY for delivery next June! I enclose the sum of FIVE DOLLARS (\$5.00) which pays the subscription price in full. Please make all checks payable to: The ENVOY.

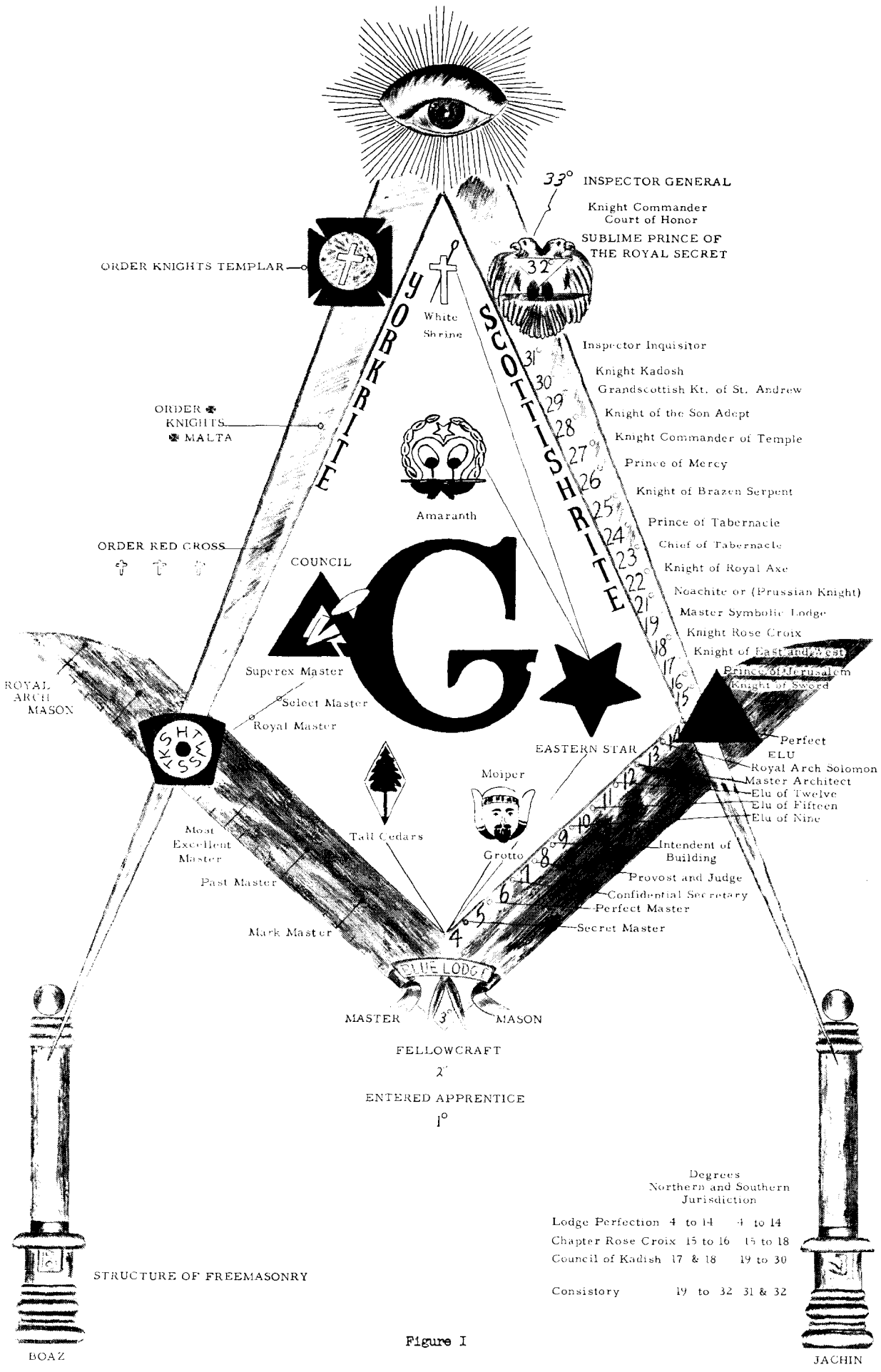
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ORDER KNIGHTS MALTA

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ROYAL ARCH MASON

33° INSPECTOR GENERAL

Knight Commander Court of Honor
SUBLIME PRINCE OF THE ROYAL SECRET

Inspector Inquisitor

Knight Kadosh
Grandscottish Kt. of St. Andrew

Knight of the Son Adept

Knight Commander of Temple

Prince of Mercy

Knight of Brazen Serpent

Prince of Tabernacle

Chief of Tabernacle

Knight of Royal Axe

Noachite or (Prussian Knight)
Master Symbolic Lodge

Knight Rose Croix

Knight of East and West
Prince of Jerusalem

Knight of Sword

Perfect ELU
Royal Arch Solomon
Master Architect
Elu of Twelve
Elu of Fifteen
Elu of Nine

EASTERN STAR

Intendent of Building

Provost and Judge

Confidential Secretary

Perfect Master

Secret Master

COUNCIL

Suprex Master

Select Master

Royal Master

Most Excellent Master

Past Master

Mark Master

MASTER MASON

FELLOWCRAFT

2°

ENTERED APPRENTICE

1°

Degrees Northern and Southern Jurisdiction

Lodge Perfection 4 to 14 4 to 14

Chapter Rose Croix 15 to 16 15 to 18

Council of Kadish 17 & 18 19 to 30

Consistory 19 to 32 31 & 32

STRUCTURE OF FREEMASONRY

Figure I

BOAZ

JACHIN

puts within their reach, they are perfectly satisfied and desire nothing more.

Information given in the first chapter was concerned with the overall structure and organization of Masonry. A Mason is not required to know this unless he sits in one of the governing councils. It is only when his ambitions spur him in that direction that a Mason is willing to expend the effort to learn it, plus a mass of other laws, doctrines, and philosophies.

The present chapter is concerned with what the candidate for the various degrees is exposed to and what he is forced to learn. Every attempt will be made to show you Masonry as the candidate sees it. Therefore, few remarks will be made to expose fallacies or to criticize the Lodge at this phase.

As the candidate proceeds thru the degrees, no one points to any of the facets of Masonry and says, "That is condemned by God Almighty." On the contrary, each aspect is drawn up in beautifully phrased allegories—the high (human) morality being greatly emphasized. Who would dare question this "holiness"?

Who Can Belong?

If a person wishes to become a member of the Masonic Lodge, he must be freeborn, under no bondage, of at least twenty-one years of age, in the possession of sound senses, free from any physical defect or dismemberment, and of irreproachable manners, or, as it is technically termed, "under the tongue of good report." No atheist, eunuch, cripple, or woman can be admitted. Even those who possess all these necessary qualifications can be admitted only under certain regulations.

Masons' wives or children may not attend the regular meetings, but only such special functions as may be planned for them.

To satisfy the desires of wives and children to take part in Masonic functions, special or side orders were adopted—such as the Eastern Star ritual, the De Molay for boys, and the Rainbow Girls. These orders have their own secrets and functions apart from the regular Lodge, but follow its general pattern. They are supervised by Masons. Indeed, their meetings cannot be held without a Mason present to supervise.

Joining the Lodge

Because Masons are forbidden to solicit members, a man must request admission for himself.

The usual procedure for petitioning the Lodge is to have another Mason recommend the candidate. He does so by presenting a formal petition, signed by the candidate, to the particular lodge which he wishes to join.

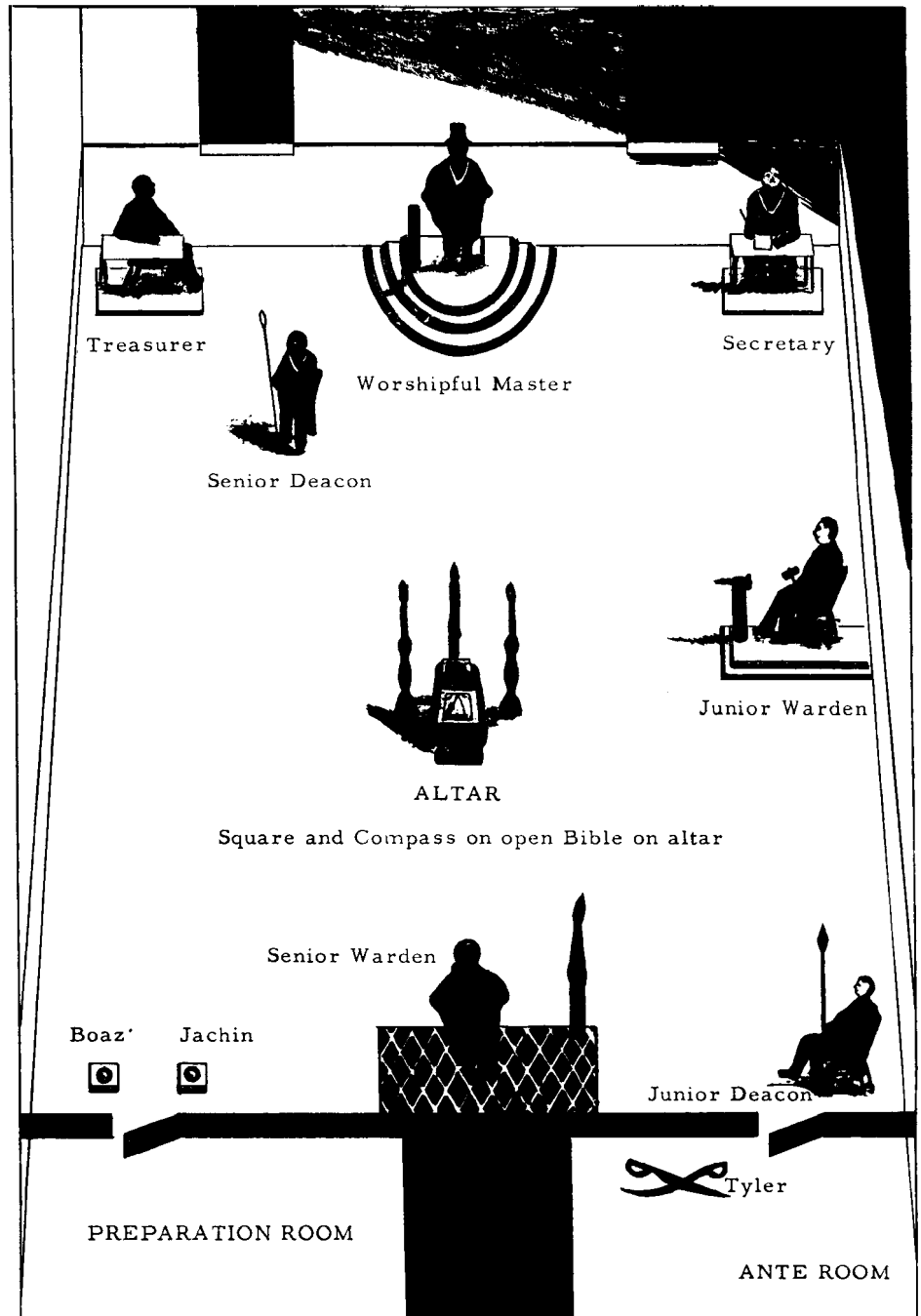
The applicant must be vouched for and recommended by one or more Masons. Once submitted, his petition is read before the assembly, and a committee is appointed to inquire into his character. If nothing is found to disqualify him and the committee gives him a favorable report, his petition is again presented to the assembly one month later and voted upon by the brethren.

Once the applicant has been accepted, he becomes a candidate for the first, or Entered Apprentice, degree.

Preparation for Initiation

Before attending any meetings or taking any part in Masonic rituals, the candidate must be initiated. On his first visit to the Lodge, he is kept outside in the anteroom (see Figure 2) while the first part of the meeting takes place. Neither he nor anyone else has a chance to know what is going on in the meeting because the door is closed and a guard—usually with drawn sword—is standing beside it.

Finally, three raps are heard at the
(Please continue on page 12)



PLAN OF THE LODGE
(Figure No. 2)

Continued GROWTH in The Church of God!

*The world-wide body of Christ is now more strongly knit together.
God continues to BLESS His Church!*

by Roderick C. Meredith

DURING this time of increasing world chaos and the threat of human annihilation, God continues to bless His "little flock"—the Church Jesus built. This Church is now developing into a real spiritual organism around the face of this entire earth!

Many changes have taken place—a wonderful feast of tabernacles has come and gone—since the last "Church News" column in this magazine. During the coming year, we hope to be able to give you the point by point news of growth in God's local churches—and in His work around the world. May God move your *hearts* so that you will REJOICE that He has called us as co-workers together with Christ to do the work of His Church in this age just before the World Tomorrow!

New Churches Growing

News from Mr. Carlton Smith—now pastor of God's churches in Springfield and St. Louis—indicates that both of these churches are growing in every way. The new Springfield church, particularly, has continued its growth and development. Mr. Smith reports that the average attendance there recently has been around 85 adults plus children! Indications are that this new church will continue its growth. All of us should pray for it—for these new brethren are *our* brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. Also, we should pray for God's ministers in this and every area that the Churches of God may be strengthened *spiritually* as well as numerically.

The new church in El Paso, Illinois, near Peoria, is continuing to grow, and the brethren in that area have indicated that they are certainly thankful that the founding of this church was made possible. At present, Mr. Dean Blackwell is ministering to this church, which is steadily but slowly growing. Average attendance is now around 25 adults plus children.

Mr. Blackwell also reports that the Chicago church is continuing its remarkable growth, and average attendance there is well over 200 people, including children! The Chicago church was recently blessed by moving into a new and better hall. Every indication is that it will become a possible rival even to the headquarter's church in

Pasadena if this rapid growth keeps up! But isn't this kind of "rivalry" the kind that comes as a BLESSING from God?

Mr. Wayne Cole reports that the church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is continuing its slow but steady growth and that the members are now becoming really *grounded* in God's truth. This is something to be very thankful for, because it often takes years for some brethren to become spiritually mature. Exciting plans are in the making that Mr. Cole may possibly raise up a new church in New York City within the next several months! Let us all PRAY that God may make this possible as He knows is best—and guide and bless through His Spirit in all of these plans.

Mr. Raymond McNair, pastoring God's flock in the British Isles, reports that the London church is continuing its growth and that there are people from many outlying cities who now attend services occasionally.

A new blessing in this area is the beginning of a Bible Study in Bristol, England! This is undoubtedly the beginning of a new church, and now comprises about 15 people who regularly attend this study. Let us continue to pray for our brethren in "Ephraim!"

We will save other local church news until next time, but it should be most interesting to all of you scattered brethren to hear—if you have not already done so—of the speech clubs for the men in our local churches.

Several of our churches now have these clubs, and they are patterned after the Ambassador Clubs for the men students at Ambassador College. These, in turn, are patterned after the national organization of Toastmaster's Clubs! Anyway, they are after dinner public speaking clubs for the men of several of God's Churches which provide opportunities for Christian fellowship, personality and character development and ability to speak and explain God's truth as a witness. More details will be given about the "Spokesmen" Clubs later, and new clubs may be inaugurated in other local churches as the need and opportunity arises. Certainly they are something we can be thankful for, however, and we should *pray* that God will guide and bless them and help the men involved to draw ever closer and more

surrendered as instruments of Jesus Christ in His service.

More Deacons Ordained

Four more deacons were recently ordained in the Pasadena congregation. Their service is needed not only in the local church, but at the annual Feasts. They are all men who have been in God's Church for some time, and we should rejoice that He has prepared them for this office. They are Mr. Al Dennis, Mr. Selmer Hegvold, Mr. Bill Rapp, and Mr. Lee Sefcak.

These men—with many others like them—are the ones who SERVED all of us in the many physical duties involved in carrying on the Feast of Tabernacles and our other annual Feasts. We all owe them a great big expression of THANKS for the wonderful job they did during this last Feast of Tabernacles! We should continue to pray that God will add more consecrated men to this office and all of His local churches. God's Church is to be one "body"—working *together*—knit together in love (Col. 2:2). Having more of our local brethren in these offices ordained by Christ—*once He has called them*—certainly helps us realize more the meaning of *unity* and the "family spirit" that ought to permeate God's Church today.

Nation-Wide Visiting Tour

One thing that many of you brethren probably didn't know is that scores of our brethren and scattered co-workers are being helped, counseled, and some baptized by a nation-wide visiting tour. This tour is competently led by Mr. Gerald Waterhouse, recently returned from acting as Pastor of God's Church in London, England. His companion on this tour is Mr. Bill McDowell, a zealous senior theological student in Ambassador College and member of The Letter Answering Department. These men have already visited dozens of people in the states of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and are now heading for northern Florida. They are visiting many people missed by the summer baptizing tours, plus many co-workers who have indicated that their real church-home is in *God's* true church. What a tremendous *blessing* this is to the scores of scattered brethren who might not otherwise be able to meet

with any of God's ministers or people except at the annual feasts!

In view of this fact, I know that you will all be happy to join with us in *praying* that God will bless and guide in this tour, and others like it in the future. As a matter of fact, by the time you read this Mr. Waterhouse will probably have returned from this tour and be preparing for another most important duty which we will now outline.

World-Wide Baptising Tour

It is now planned that shortly after the ministers' conference ends—probably around the first of February—Mr. Waterhouse will fly from Pasadena back to London, England. There he will join Mr. George Meeker. After preaching a Sabbath or two in the London Church, Mr. Waterhouse and Mr. Meeker will take a jet flight to Johannesburg, South Africa. From there, they will take side trips out to nearby areas to visit and baptize many interested people whom God is calling into His Church. After finishing their work in South Africa, they will fly to Australia and visit many prospective candidates for baptism in the continent "down under." Remember, brethren, God is using us together as a "team" to reach this continent over an entire network of stations! We can be very thankful that Christ is already calling out a nucleus of what may develop into a large segment of His Church in that continent.

At this point, it is planned that Mr. Ted Armstrong will fly to meet these two men in Sidney, Australia, and help direct the important decision of selecting a site for an office and headquarters for God's work in Australia and Southeast Asia. Tremendous opportunities are opening up in that area! From there, these three men will fly to the Philippines to contact and visit with the ministers and brethren whom God has added to His Church in the Philippine Islands. This will be a wonderful meeting!

Mr. Ted Armstrong has written many, many letters and shared many things with Mr. Orteguero and the others whom God is calling in the Philippines over a long period of time. Now they will have the opportunity to meet in person, to become fully acquainted, and to share the blessed fellowship, the growth, the knowledge, the mutual love that comes through our union one with the other in Christ Jesus. In fact, it is hoped that these men from God's headquarters may be with our Philippine brethren at the Passover and share all the blessings of God's feast days with those whom God is calling in this far-off land!

At this point, Mr. Ted Armstrong may leave the other two men and proceed back to the United States and his

many important jobs here. If possible, he will stop by Formosa to visit and counsel with a minister there whom God is calling. Meanwhile, Mr. Waterhouse and Mr. Meeker will continue to visit with, counsel, and strengthen the various congregations throughout the Philippines whom God is adding to the *living* branch of His true Church. Then they, too, will proceed back to God's headquarters in Pasadena, probably having to go by way of Japan to obtain proper air passage.

Brethren, all of you should PRAY for the safety of these men on this trip and that God's *blessing* and *guidance* will be with them in every way! I hope you can envision the fact that this trip will help many scores of people throughout the world to be more closely "knit together" as part of the very *body* of Christ from now on, and will help to firmly establish God's Church and work in several foreign lands as we continue carrying out our Divine commission to preach the *gospel of the kingdom* as a "witness" to all nations, and then to feed the "little flock" that God is calling.

In His parting commission to this Church—His Church—Jesus said: "I am with you always, even unto the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). Let us REJOICE that God has given our lives real meaning by permitting us to be members of His Church in this eventful age before the return of His Son!

MASONRY

(Continued from page 10)

door and the guard (whom he will later come to know as the "TYLER") returns them in like manner.

A short silence follows, then three Masons emerge to interrogate him. All wear short white aprons. These men are the Secretary and the two Stewards.

The Secretary then proceeds to question him in a routine manner and to charge him with the great importance of belonging to the Lodge and the seriousness of his undertaking. At the same time the candidate is promised that he will not be required to do anything contrary to the laws of God or duty to his king, country, state, family or self.

The reader must keep in mind that the candidate knows *nothing* of the rules and customs of the Fraternity. He can only take the word of Masons that there is nothing in those rules contrary to the laws of God, etc.

After the Secretary leaves, the Junior Deacon, another official who had served as inside door keeper, joins the candidate and the Stewards and takes charge of preparing the candidate for initiation. He is taken into the preparation room,

is divested of his coat, vest, pants, boots, stockings, drawers, neck-tie, collar—in fact, *everything* except his shirt. He is then handed a pair of drawers (always furnished by the Lodge) which he puts on.

All the studs, sleeve-buttons and other furnishings are taken off his shirt. Everything of a *metallic* kind is taken away. The left leg of the drawers is rolled above the knee, so as to make the left foot, leg, and knee bare; the left sleeve of his shirt is raised above the elbow, so as to make the left arm bare; and the left breast of the shirt is tucked back, so as to make his left breast bare. A slipper is put on his right foot, with the heel slipshod; a hoodwink (blindfold) is fastened over his eyes; a blue rope, called a *cabl-tow*, is put around his neck, and he is then *duly and truly* prepared to be made a Mason.

The candidate has no idea why this is done, except he is told that it is necessary—the explanation must come later. The candidate is kept in a state of profound darkness and all is calculated to confuse and bewilder him. Once the hood-wink is placed over his eyes, he can see nothing and must rely totally on his other senses.

Next, the candidate is conducted by the Junior Deacon to the door, where he is caused to give, or the Junior Deacon gives, three distinct knocks, which are answered by three from within. What goes on behind the closed door is still an enigma to the candidate—all this for the purpose of filling him with awe and cultivating an air of mystery. The door is then partially opened.

Senior Deacon (from behind the door) calls, "Who comes there? Who comes there? *Who comes there?*"

The Junior Deacon answers, "A poor blind candidate who has long been desirous of having and receiving a part of the rites and benefits of this *worship lodge*, dedicated (some say erected) to God, and held forth to the *holy order of St. Johns*, as all true fellows and brothers have done who have gone this way before him."

Thus the initiation begins and the gullibility of the candidate is taxed to its extreme in the performance of weird rituals.

To be continued

Feast of Tabernacles

(Continued from page 3)

obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey . . . being then made *free* from sin, ye became the *servants* of righteousness" (Rom. 6:16-18).

DON'T MISS attending the glorious FEAST OF TABERNACLES next year!

Learn what it means to be a servant of God, and to be really FREE!