

The Good News

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SEVEN PROOFS OF THE TRUE CHURCH

The first four proofs of the true Church appeared in the Nov. 20 *Good News*. This installment continues with Proof No. 5.

By Herbert W. Armstrong

PROOF NO. 5

THE TRUE GOSPEL

Could anything sound more unbelievable? To say the true Gospel of Jesus Christ was not proclaimed to the world during 19 whole centuries — from the middle of the first century until the middle of the 20th — may sound preposterous!

Incredible! But TRUE!

The world has heard much preaching about Jesus Christ as a person. That is well — but the Gospel of Christ is the MESSAGE Christ proclaimed and taught.

Jesus Himself said that many would come in His name — claiming to represent Him — saying that He, Jesus, is the Christ — and deceiving the MANY (Matthew 24:4-5).

Good news proclaimed

But the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the good news — the message — He proclaimed and taught.

The word *gospel* means "GOOD NEWS." Jesus brought the GOOD NEWS of the world's ONLY and SURE HOPE! And I do not mean an ethereal, spiritualized unreal hope. He brought the good news of a coming entirely new and real world. A time when the earth will be filled with PEACE, HAPPINESS, JOY and ETERNAL SALVATION!

God's one original true Church is virtually alone in proclaiming that GOOD NEWS today!

Jesus was the world's first NEWSCASTER — a FORECASTER, with news for the future — of our generation near the end of the 20th century — when all the world's problems shall be solved, and its evils eradicated! He taught His apostles from the fall of A.D. 27 to the spring of A.D. 31. Yet by about A.D. 53 to 58, that GOOD NEWS of the world's ONLY HOPE had been SUPPRESSED

WHERE is the one and only true Church today — the Church founded by Jesus Christ in A.D. 31? Seven major eye-opening proofs identify it unmistakably.

by powerful world forces!

True Gospel SUPPRESSED!

What was that Gospel message? One of the proofs that identifies God's one true Church in our time is the fact that as Jesus foretold, His Church would, at this crisis end time, be proclaiming that same Gospel at last!

But first, notice what was written in the book of Galatians around A.D. 53 to 58 to the churches in Galatia:

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

Again, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of men who by their wickedness SUPPRESS THE TRUTH" (Romans 1:18, Revised Standard Version).

No wonder we read of "... the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world ..." (Revelation 12:9).

Gospel prophesied

The prophet Malachi lived among the Jewish colony that had been sent to Jerusalem out of the captivity in the ancient lands of Babylon and Medo-Persia to build the second temple. Malachi wrote about a generation after Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah. He wrote about 397 B.C.

This is important, because his writings reached only a small portion of Judah and none of Israel (the "lost" 10 tribes). Yet Malachi's prophecy is addressed to Israel, not the minimal Jewish colony among whom he lived. It never reached Israel of those days — hence it is a prophecy for ISRAEL (not Judah or the Israelis of today). It is a NOW BOOK!

The prophet Malachi foretold

the proclamation of the Gospel, saying, "... the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the Covenant ..." (Malachi 3:1).

Jesus Christ was that Messenger — of the new covenant. Actually Malachi here is referring to the two appearances of Christ on earth — but verses 2 to 6 definitely refer to His yet-future SECOND coming.

Yet, he did refer also (in verse 1) to Christ's first coming, because this prophecy is quoted in Mark 1:1: "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; as it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee" (Mark 1:1-2).

Actually, this latter statement applies to both Jesus' appearing more than 1,900 years ago and to preparing the way before His second coming in power and glory, as WORLD RULER. The latter is now being prepared from within the one true Church of God! That is another evidence of its identity!

However, in Mark 1, the account continues describing John the baptist preparing the way before His first appearing, then, verses 14-15: "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the KINGDOM OF GOD, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the KINGDOM OF GOD is at hand; repent ye, and believe the gospel!" (emphasis added).

Gospel of the coming Kingdom

The Gospel Jesus brought from God, proclaimed and taught His apostles was the prophetic message of the coming KINGDOM OF GOD.

Jesus went all over the Holy Land teaching this same Gospel. "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their

synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom ..." (Matthew 4:23).

He taught in parables about the KINGDOM OF GOD. Jesus said, "... Unto what is the KINGDOM OF GOD like? ... it is like a grain of mustard seed ..." (Luke 13:18-19). Again the KINGDOM OF GOD "... is like leaven ..." (Luke 13:21).

Again, "There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the KINGDOM OF GOD, and you yourselves thrust out" (Luke 13:28).

Jesus sent His 12 disciples out to proclaim the KINGDOM. "And he sent them to preach the KINGDOM OF GOD, and to heal the sick" (Luke 9:2).

He sent another 70 disciples out on a special mission: "... the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two ... into every city and place, whither he himself would come ..." And he said unto them "... heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you" (Luke 10:1-9).

After His resurrection "... unto the apostles whom he had chosen ... being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to [concerning] the kingdom of God" (Acts 1:2-3).

The apostles proclaimed the Gospel of the KINGDOM OF GOD. Philip, who became an evangelist, proclaimed it, "But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God ..." (Acts 8:12).

Gospel proclaimed to gentiles

The apostle Paul proclaimed the Kingdom of God to the gentiles. "And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the KINGDOM OF

GOD, shall see my face no more" (Acts 20:25).

Again, Paul "... expounded and testified the KINGDOM OF GOD ..." (Acts 28:23) and "Preaching the KINGDOM OF GOD ..." (verse 31).

To the Corinthian church Paul wrote, "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the KINGDOM OF GOD ..." (1 Corinthians 15:50).

To the Galatians Paul wrote: "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:8). And in verse 9 it was made a DOUBLE CURSE to preach any other Gospel!

YET THAT GOSPEL WAS SUPPRESSED about or just past the middle of the first century and was not again proclaimed to the world until 1953 — 19 centuries later — and THEN by the present living generation of that same ONE and ONLY true original Church of God, established by Jesus Christ A.D. 31!

The proclaiming of that only true Gospel message taught by Jesus identifies the one and only true Church of God TODAY!

What is the Kingdom of God?

IF "traditional Christianity" has NOT proclaimed that Gospel — when the Bible is replete with passages showing that was the Gospel Jesus preached, HOW DO THEY EXPLAIN IGNORING IT? The Roman Catholic church simply claims that their church IS the Kingdom of God. It is not generally realized, but the pope's title, "Vicar of Christ," means, literally, "in place of Christ." Not one merely serving Christ but one who has REPLACED Christ! The Kingdom of God was already here! The papacy had come IN PLACE of Christ, to rule the nations for 1,000 years. And the papacy did rule the "Holy Roman Empire" of Europe 1,260 years — A.D. 554 to 1814! But the popes and all Catholics are "flesh and blood," and flesh and blood cannot inherit or enter into the Kingdom of God!

Many Protestant churches have simply designated the Kingdom of God as "the church" in general, not necessarily their particular denomination.

Others have spoken of the (See SEVEN PROOFS, page 4)

"The proclaiming of that only true Gospel message taught by Jesus identifies the one and only true Church of God TODAY!"

Sharing...

Just who needs a boss?

It's not generally known, but in the center of the Vatican there is a tiny private garden used by the pope when he feels like refreshing his mind and being alone with his thoughts. There's a gardener there named Guiseppe who has been taking care of that area for more than 40 years.

One day Guiseppe was working in the garden when he noticed on the far side a bush begin to shake and shimmer as the light hit it. The whole bush seemed to dance and move. Guiseppe became afraid and ran to a telephone to call the cardinal.

"Cardinali, Cardinali, God's in the bushes!"

And the cardinal responded about the way you would expect. He thought Guiseppe had been standing in the sun a little too long, or maybe he was getting a little senile. So he said, "No, Guiseppe, that's not so."

But Guiseppe says, "Cardinali, look outa your window."

So the cardinal says, "All right." He walks over and sees the bush shimmering and shaking boldly and brightly. And he comes back and tells him, "You're right, Guiseppe. You're right!"

Then Guiseppe says, "Cardinali, what should I do? What should I do?"

"I'd better call the Papa," says the cardinal. So he telephones the pope. Meanwhile, Guiseppe is cringing down in his telephone booth. Down in the corner, he can barely see the light shining through, blinding everything around. Finally his phone rings again, and the cardinal says, "Guiseppe, I just talked to the Papa."

And Guiseppe says, "Well, what did he say?"

"The Papa say," came the reply, "looka busy."

When the boss is around, everyone tries harder, everybody "looka busy."

Everybody has a boss

But who needs a boss? Do you? Judging by the fact that everybody has a boss, evidently everybody must need a boss, right up to and including Jesus Christ Himself. He has a boss. The Father is clearly in charge and the Father is the only one in the entire universe who does not have a boss.

But how do you suppose the relationship between Christ and the Father is? Do you suppose the Father has ever had to say, "Now look, Christ [or whatever name He calls Him], where's that report I asked you for? It was supposed to be on my desk last Wednesday. It's already Thursday. Where's the report?"

Or does He ever have to say, "Now look, you'll have to do that over again. That's not right."

Mutual trust

Do you suppose that's the relationship? No, there's a total trust,

This issue's column was written by Bob Fahey, former regional director of the South African Work now in Pasadena on sabbatical.

a total dependency, a total respect, really a total freedom for Christ. He's totally free under the Father's direction because He knows what the Father wants, and it's His will and His desire to do it as fully and completely as possible. The Father doesn't have to worry at all because, unlike most of us, Christ isn't plagued with pride and vanity, to make Him go off and do His own will, His own thing. He isn't plagued with selfishness to seek His own advantage or laziness to need day-to-day supervision to make sure the job will be done. The two have a trust and a love and a mutual admiration that defies our understanding. Nevertheless, the Father is still the boss.

Who needs a boss?

So who needs a boss? The person that can't boss himself (or herself). If a man can't make himself work, someone else must tell him to do it. The man or individual who can't control his money: Someone else must hold the purse strings. The person that can't control his tongue: Someone else must speak for him. A group that can't work together in peace and harmony: Someone must oversee the group members to be sure they don't fight and bicker.

Wrote Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:31 (Revised Standard Version): "... if we judged ourselves truly [if we would judge, decide and govern the right conduct for us in the light of God's law with God's Spirit], we should not be judged." If we control ourselves, then we don't need to be controlled by someone else.

Abraham a trusted servant

Abraham never heard of the old covenant. Yet he'll be in the Kingdom of God, and God said of him: "I know him, that he'll do just the way he's supposed to do according to the law. I've tested him. I've seen him over a long period of time. I don't have to spend time checking up on him to make sure" (see Genesis 18:19).

The more we control ourselves, the more freedom we can be given.

When we prove that self-control to God, maybe over a long period of time, we can be trusted like Christ to have a throne in the world tomorrow.

Govern oneself

Turn to Psalm 32:8-9, where God says, "I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle. . . . Men control the big dumb things because they can't control themselves. You have to put fences around them, or they'll go stomping on your flower bed or whatever. God doesn't want that for us. He wants us to be self-controlling — with His spirit, under His law.

So who needs a boss? The man or woman who can't govern himself, who when the boss is around is always trying to "looka busy."

Europe's 'spirit of Charlemagne'

PASADENA — Nearly 21 years ago, on Jan. 1, 1958, the European Economic Community was officially launched, tying together the fortunes of continental Europe's most important and economically advanced powers — West Germany, France, Italy and the Benelux nations. On another New Year's Day, this time in 1973, the Community was enlarged to nine member states with the addition of Great Britain, Ireland and Denmark.

Jan. 1, 1979, will mark another milestone in European unity. From all indications, on that day the new European Monetary System (EMS), pushed heavily by the Germans and the French, will be put into operation. Approval of the EMS scheme is expected at the next Common Market summit conference in early December.

Enter the ECU

The details of the EMS were covered in the October-November issue of *The Plain Truth*, but briefly they entail keeping the various national currencies tied together within close tolerances in a kind of "super-snake" arrangement. Backing up the arrangement will be a pool of gold and national currency reserves (including Euro-dollars) estimated at roughly \$32 billion. The sheer size of the fund is expected to take the wind out of the sails of currency speculators attempting to profit unduly from the rise or fall of EMS currencies.

The core of the system will be a new artificial currency unit dubbed 'the ECU. West Germany's weekly newsmagazine, *Der Spiegel*, notes the coincidental historical association of this acronym: "Its initials stand for the English-worded European Currency Unit, but the experts pronounce the word in French, 'ekuh,' and are thus polishing up the glorious past: The *ecu* was the French gold or silver coin from 1266 to 1803."

Settlements between the EMS members will be denominated in this initially artificial currency. But many believe the "ecu" will eventually become a genuine European currency at some later date.

Britain out, Ireland in

It is extremely doubtful at this moment that Britain will be in the EMS. Britain's Labor government — many of whose members loathe the Common Market — objects to being forced into what it considers a straight-jacket of German-imposed fiscal restraints. Thus, if or when Britain does join, it will have had only marginal influence on its structure.

"If we miff this one," remarked a columnist in the *London Times* of Nov. 14, "as we muffed the inception of the [EEC] in the late 1950s we could find ourselves once more standing on the platform while the European train moves off."

Meanwhile, the train is at the station loading up. And, even though it may not stop in London, it appears that it will pick up an enthusiastic passenger in Dublin. The Irish government is fully supportive of the EMS plan. The Irish pound, presently tied to the British unit, is already under pressure to rise and will do so whenever the link is cut. While it won't be easy for small countries to abide with the stiff EMS rules, the Germans, according to the above *London Times* account, "are apparently prepared to underwrite Irish membership." (German industrial and property investments in the Irish Republic are substantial.)

France and Germany together

If the British have grave reservations about EMS, its two leading exponents, West Germany and France — especially in the persons of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and President

Valery Giscard d'Estaing — most emphatically do not. And these two nations and their leaders pretty much call the shots for all of Europe today.

Never in the history of post-war Europe, not even in the heady days of French-German cooperation epitomized by Charles de Gaulle and Konrad Adenauer, have the interests

of the coronation of 30 German kings. The cathedral choir presented classical polyphonic music and German motets, music of appropriate historical significance. For the concert Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Giscard were seated in front of the golden bust of Charlemagne (which supposedly contains the

WORLDWATCH BY GENE H. HOGBERG

of the continent's "Big Two" converged so well.

During their day, Mr. de Gaulle and Mr. Adenauer launched the tradition of periodic head-of-government consultations to deal with French-German relations. In September, their successors, Mr. Giscard and Mr. Schmidt, held a conference of their own. This time, however, the agenda was the EMS and European matters, not just relations between the two nations.

Historic summit site

Ever since Mr. Schmidt called for the EMS plan at a Common Market scheme in Bremen, West Germany, last July, it had fallen on some hard times. Proposals and counterproposals flew back and forth. Compromises were needed. Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Giscard finally took all the differing ideas in hand in September, went off by themselves at their own mini-summit, ironed everything out and produced the EMS structure as it now stands. Where they conferred in their exclusive minisummit is as significant as the result they achieved. The two leaders met in the West German town near the French border known as Aachen. The French prefer to call it Aix-la-Chapelle. Reports *Maclean's*, the Canadian newsweekly:

"The choice of the ancient Alpine border town as the site for a summit tete-a-tete between France's President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt did not go unnoticed.

"There, on the spot where Charlemagne once presided over his united *European empire*, the two close friends and former finance ministers hammered out the technical framework for a new European Community currency system, which will create an independent 'stable European monetary zone' that is scheduled to go into effect next January, cutting the community's ties to the vacillating American dollar."

The West German daily, *Hannoversche Allgemeine*, on Sept. 8 added: "Helmut Schmidt deliberately chose Aachen as the venue: Aachen, the city of Charlemagne, an emperor whom both Germans and French claim as their own. It was the first Franco-German summit concerned almost entirely with a *European project*, the European Monetary System, which is the brainchild of Giscard and Schmidt and an outstanding political achievement."

'Spirit of Charlemagne'

At Aachen, according to the German-language newsweekly, *Der Report*, "the descent of the dollar and the luckless politics of [President] Carter . . . may have caused Schmidt and Giscard to invoke the spirit of Karl der Grosse [Charles the Great, Charlemagne] to lead 'East and West France' at least in currency politics together." (At one of the Aachen meetings, *Maclean's* reported that Mr. Giscard actually made reference to "the spirit of Charlemagne which has blown through this summit.")

Also during the conference, the two leaders attended a concert at the Catholic Cathedral in Aachen,

skull cap of the ancient Frankish emperor). The *Frankfurter Allgemeine* said this about the unusual concert and setting:

"The perfect architecture, the stone witnesses of European history and the rich tones of old music of the Occident created an atmosphere that visibly moved the statesmen in their easy-chairs in front of the golden shrine of Charles. And it is to let the European public know, that a new era in the development of the European community is being rung in."

At the end of the conference, the *Bonn General-Anzeiger* (Sept. 16) commented: "In Aachen, the cooperation of both neighbors reached such a level that it can scarcely be improved upon, and their joint European will has never before been manifested so convincingly. . . . Not even de Gaulle and Adenauer, in whose tradition Schmidt placed this meeting, swore to German-French unity with such strong words and dared, in a similar manner, to appeal to Charlemagne as key witness."

One thing is for sure, both Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Giscard went to the right place to find the inspiration they needed to propel Europe farther, and at greater speed, down the road of unity.

THANKS

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We ask that you bear with us in keeping costs down.

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IS CHRIST STARTING A SECOND CHURCH?

By Herbert W. Armstrong
HOW MANY CHURCHES does God have at one and the same time?

The dissidents following a MAN, Garner Ted Armstrong, are now speaking out of both sides of their mouths. They KNOW that God condemns leaving God's Church and following a MAN. So, in an effort to take members away from God's Church, actually THREE false claims are being spread.

1) They are spreading the LIE that Garner Ted Armstrong is only doing the same thing his father did — FALSELY claiming I left the "Sardis" church to pull away their members and so start a church of my own. The long article recently appearing, on "How the Worldwide Church of God Came into Being" [GN, Nov. 6], ought to NAIL THAT LIE!

a) I did not leave them, for I have never been a member of them; b) I continued working alternately with their two main divisions — Stanberry, Mo., and Salem, W. Va. I was still working with them in 1945, 12 years after the present "Philadelphia" era came into being, 1933. Note that in this he concedes the seven churches of Revelation 2 and 3 were consecutive eras, as well as seven continuous conditions in the one Church.

2) Again they admit the successive eras depicted in Revelation 2 and 3, claiming that my son is now starting the "Laodicean" era of the Church. But God does not start His Church or any era of it by one disfellowshipped for causing division, sowing the seeds of discord among brethren, and then attacking God's Church

and trying to draw away its members after him, on pretext of being a CHURCH — when those few are only following a MAN. It is NOT a Church! It has no apostle, evangelist-pastor-elder organization. It is NOT proclaiming Christ's Gospel into all the world for a witness unto all nations! It is a MAN, with one or two working with him, merely seeking to take away members of God's true Church.

3) Then they speak out of the other side of their mouths, I am grieved to say. This time, they say Revelation 2 and 3 do NOT portray seven SUCCESSIVE stages or eras of the one true Church. Apparently they try to explain, or twist its true meaning, by saying seven is God's number of completeness — therefore there are now MANY churches, as Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, etc. — all of which COMBINED constitute the BODY OF CHRIST. Anyone who believes that had, perhaps, better get into one of them, or follow a man who has incorporated himself to be a church. But a legal corporation does not make it GOD'S CHURCH!

It might be interesting, at this point, to explain the TOTAL DIFFERENCE between what Garner Ted is now doing and what his father did in 1930.

He has incorporated under civil law, under a church name as a starter. This was done to try to draw away members from the true Church to follow him.

The Oregon Conference

But what his father did was totally different. In Oregon a number of members of the Church of God, Seventh-Day, headquartered at Stanberry, Mo., pulled out and incorporated

themselves separately as the Oregon Conference of the Church of God. They became a SEPARATE CHURCH, operating with their own tithes, directing and paying salary to their own ministers. They were ORGANIZED. They did not understand God's form of organization — they had no apostle, but they did employ evangelists — as Robert L. Taylor, Roy Daily and myself — and later, Sven Oberg and A.J. Ray. Their form of organization was a board of trustees, with a president, vice president and secretary-treasurer. The board was in authority — not the ministers.

Shortly after the Oregon Conference separately incorporated, a division occurred in the Stanberry church, and approximately half of their members followed Andrew N. Dugger into a new church based at Salem, W. Va., and named, simply, "Church of God."

In August of 1933, I renounced the salary from the Oregon Conference, but did not leave their fellowship. In fact, later that August a new church was established at Jeans schoolhouse, 12 miles west of Eugene — all but one family my own new converts, and that family not attached to either Sardis group.

BUT, more — most of the Oregon Conference members began coming to Eugene to fellowship with the new Radio Church of God (now the Worldwide Church of God), and I continued, as a voluntary service, to preach Sabbath afternoons at the schoolhouse near Jefferson where they met. I never sought to pull away any of their members. They were enamored

with the new Salem-based church, and a little later — (not now sure of the date) probably 1934, while the Radio Church of God was on the air and *The Plain Truth* being published — they abandoned their Oregon Conference and went in with Salem.

Parent Church grows

At, and just west of Eugene, the parent church of the Worldwide Church of God was very much alive and growing. I was leading elder, and I had appointed and ordained an assistant pastor and a deacon. We counseled seriously on the matter and decided, in early or mid-1934, not to go in with the Salem people — and we had never gone in with Stanberry. However, a little later I agreed to cooperate and work with the Salem ministers. And under this arrangement I continued as pastor of the members who formerly were the Oregon Conference, but now were joined with Salem. BUT NEITHER I NOR ANY OF THE EUGENE MEMBERS ever joined the Salem Church — or Stanberry. I received no salary or compensation of any kind from them. On my part it was a VOLUNTARY GIVING of time and effort and cooperation, with no remuneration of any kind.

Later — it was either 1945 or 1947 — probably the latter — the former Oregon Conference members had a division. I had ordained two elders and two deacons in their local church near Jefferson, which I pastored. Half of them, including one elder, a Mr. Davidson, and Mr. Henion, refused to meet with them further, though I urged them to remain with the Salem people.

Meanwhile, about half of all the brethren in the Willamette

Valley had remained with Stanberry. They asked me urgently to unite them with the half of the Salem people who had refused to remain with the Dugger group. For a while I refused. But it left only a small membership still with the Dugger division, and I finally agreed to organize them and serve as their pastor — although the Stanberry brethren kept their membership and sent tithes to Stanberry, while the Henion family and others, including the Coles, counted their membership with the parent church of the Worldwide Church of God — and Mr. C. Wayne Cole is still with us in the very important capacity of director of ministerial services.

I continued to pastor the Stanberry-based group in the Willamette Valley until probably in 1942, when I spent some months in Hollywood starting the DAILY radio broadcasting and speaking Sunday afternoons to a packed house at the Biltmore theater. I had GIVEN them my time and services freely, at my own and Eugene church expense. I sought none of their members and none came with us — though as brethren we still had love one for the other.

Incorporation becomes necessary

And I did not start out by incorporating *myself* pretending to be a church. We, in the growing Church of God — then Eugene-based — finally had grown to a size where incorporation became a necessity. IN NO WAY is Garner Ted doing as his father did, and any claim that he is, is a point-blank lie resorted to, to DECEIVE God's people and present the (See SECOND CHURCH, page 9)

ANSWERING SMEAR STORIES

By Herbert W. Armstrong
Since 1972 God's Church and Work have come in for some unfavorable publicity in the public press.

Jesus said, "If they have persecuted me, they will persecute you." I counted this cost almost 52 years ago, when I gave my life, for whatever it was worth (which was less than nothing in my estimation as I gave it), to the wonderful Christ who had bought me (and you) with His life's blood. I was willing to suffer whatever He allowed.

And I have tried not to answer back. You have not heard or read a word from me in self-defense since this ugly publicity began appearing in 1972. Prior to that there had been persecutions, oppositions and some limited public comment of an unfavorable nature.

But recently more defamatory stories have appeared in the pub-

lic press, some of a nature I simply cannot let go unanswered.

One, which went out over the wires to many newspapers and news magazines, called Mr. Stanley Rader the "heir apparent," and another speaks of speculation that he will be the next pastor general of the Church. This latter, in a national magazine, quotes my son Garner Ted as saying that Mr. Rader "has already succeeded my father as head of the Church."

I want to say, 1) that Mr. Rader is a most valuable assistant to me in many ways — even beyond the capacity of words to describe — as a personal assistant and adviser, as administrator in areas delegated to him, as financial adviser to the Church and Work and as legal counsel teamed with Mr. Ralph Helge. There have been dozens of lawsuits filed against the college, the Church and often including myself, in trumped-up cases seeking to get money. Mr. Rader and Mr. Helge have won every suit — like a shield against

unjust attacks upon God's Work — and few if any of our brethren have known of this INVALUABLE service to God's Work.

2) Mr. Rader has worked tirelessly, much more than eight hours a day, in the service of the Work. He has suffered slander, defamation from within the Church (mostly emanating from Garner Ted), yet has remained loyal. He has broken off all past social relationships in Beverly Hills [Calif.] and similar areas to devote himself wholly and exclusively to God's Work, as my assistant. He never takes credit for accomplishment, but always gives full credit to me as Christ's apostle.

3) Mr. Rader is not even ordained, nor do I now, or have I in the past contemplated ordaining him — yet my son has represented to the public press that he has already become head of the Work. All that is ridiculous, aimed at harming God's Work.

Yesterday I received a letter from Mr. Rader, at the moment

in New York, saying his health is not up to par, and all this stress and strain is wearing on him, and he feels that probably he should resign. He wants to talk it over with me on his return this weekend. If his health permits, I shall plead with him to stay with me, for I NEED HIM AS MY ASSISTANT! He is of inestimable value to the Work. His fruits have been good — actually superb.

But the HEAD of this Church is the living JESUS CHRIST! Sometimes I have to wonder if some of our brethren forget that JESUS CHRIST IS ALIVE! This is NOT the work of MEN — not a worldly carnal operation or institution! I have had great difficulty in persuading some, even in high places in the Work (no longer with us), to realize that truth!

And on the human level Christ is using me, His apostle, as human leader of the Work. And, these past six months, Christ has through me moved

swiftly, dynamically, resolutely and WITH AUTHORITY, to turn God's Church, the Work and the college around — putting every phase of it BACK ON GOD'S TRACK.

I think that the leadership of Christ's apostle has amply demonstrated for all to see, who is the human leader in God's Work under Christ. Mr. Rader makes no pretensions of anything like that, and what my son has been saying in the public press, I regretfully say to you, is his personal spite, antagonism and effort at self-justification.

This year's Feast of Tabernacles was revealing PROOF TO ALL that God's Church has turned the corner — Christ's blessing is once again upon us — the Work is now surging forward with renewed vitality and power!

Let us PRAISE THE GREAT MAJESTIC GOD! He is a miracle and wonder worker. Jesus Christ is IN this Church, directing and empowering — AND BLESSING it! Keep praying!

SEVEN PROOFS of THE TRUE CHURCH

(Continued from page 1)
Kingdom of God as an ethereal something (or nothing) "set up in men's hearts."

But none of those square with the teaching of Christ and of Paul about what IS the Kingdom of God.

The prophet Daniel knew

The prophet Daniel, who lived 600 years before Christ, knew that the Kingdom of God was a real kingdom — a government ruling over literal PEOPLE on the earth.

Jesus Christ brought additional knowledge about it, which the prophet Daniel might not have known. Still, Daniel knew there was going to be a real, literal Kingdom of God on the earth.

Daniel was one of four extraordinary, intelligent and brilliant Jewish lads in the Judean captivity. These four men were stationed in the palace of King Nebuchadnezzar of the Chaldean Empire, in training for special responsibilities in the Babylonian government. Daniel was a prophet who had been given special understanding in visions and dreams (Daniel 1:17).

Nebuchadnezzar was the first real world ruler. He had conquered a vast empire, including the nation Judah. This king had a dream so impressive it troubled him — moved him to tremendous concern. He demanded that his magicians, astrologers and sorcerers tell him both what he had dreamed and what it meant. They

"People today, like this Chaldean king, seem not to think of God as a RULER — as the Supreme One who GOVERNS — as the Head of GOVERNMENT."

could not. They were baffled. Then Daniel was brought before the king.

Daniel disclaimed any more human ability to interpret dreams than the Chaldean magicians. "BUT," he said, "there is a GOD in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days . . ." (Daniel 2:28).

First, God's purpose was to reveal to this world-ruling human king that there is a GOD in heaven — that GOD IS SUPREME RULER over all nations, governments and kings — that GOD RULES THE UNIVERSE! Even though, during the past 6,000 years, God has allowed nations generally to be left altogether to their own devices. But God was giving Nebuchadnezzar a special opportunity to accept GOD rule.

This Chaldean king knew only about the many pagan demon gods. He knew nothing of the true living ALMIGHTY God. Like people and rulers, even today, he did not know that GOD is the living, REAL, active, RULING and GOVERNING PERSONAGE who actually and literally governs not only what is on earth, but the UNIVERSE ENTIRELY!

The whole purpose of this DREAM was to reveal GOD'S GOVERNMENT — the fact that GOD RULES — the truth of THE

KINGDOM OF GOD — the very thing that is the one and only true GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST! And, secondly, to reveal — preserved in writing for us TODAY — what is to happen "in the latter days" — probably within the next two decades — THIS LAST HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY!

For US, today!

This is no dry, dull, dead writing for a people of 2,500 years ago.

" . . . God's purpose was to reveal to this world-ruling human king that there is a GOD in heaven — that GOD IS SUPREME RULER over all nations, governments and kings . . ."

This is LIVING, TREMENDOUS, BIG NEWS for OUR DAY! It is advance news for us, NOW. News before it happens — of the most colossal event of all earth's history certain to occur in your lifetime — during the very next few years!

This is THE TRUE GOSPEL! It is the very Gospel Christ preached! It is intended for you and me TODAY! It is vital that you UNDERSTAND!

Read, in your own Bible, verses 28 through 35. In his dream, this king had seen a stupendous statue — larger than any image or statue ever built by man — so tremendous it was terrifying, even in a dream. Its head was of fine gold, its breast and arms of silver, the belly and thighs of brass, legs of solid iron, feet and toes a mixture of iron and clay.

as the MOST HIGH Ruler over all. People today, like this Chaldean king, seem not to think of God as a RULER — as the Supreme One who GOVERNS — as the Head of GOVERNMENT. The Eternal was revealing Himself through Daniel to Nebuchadnezzar — and through the Bible to you and to me TODAY — as a SOVEREIGN, ALL POWERFUL, GOVERNING GOD who is to be obeyed!

This knowledge is another PROOF of the modern identity of God's one true Church!

" . . . Thou," continued Daniel to this human emperor, "art this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another KINGDOM inferior to thee, and another third KINGDOM of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth" (verses 38-39).

What IS a kingdom?

Notice! This is speaking of KINGDOMS. It is referring to kingdoms that bear rule over the people on earth. It is speaking of GOVERNMENTS! It is not speaking of ethereal sentiments "set up in the hearts of men." It is not speaking of churches. It is speaking of the kind of GOVERNMENTS that bear RULE and AUTHORITY over nations of PEOPLE here on earth. It is literal. It is specific. There is no misunderstanding, here, as to what is meant by the word "KINGDOM."

There is no misunderstanding the interpretation. GOD gives His own interpretation through the prophet Daniel. The great metallic image represented national and international GOVERNMENTS — real, literal KINGDOMS.

It represented a succession of world-ruling governments. First was the head of gold. That represented Nebuchadnezzar and his kingdom — the Chaldean Empire. After him — later in time sequence — was to come a second, then a third KINGDOM, "which shall bear rule over all the earth" — world empire!

Then, verse 40, the legs of iron represent a fourth world empire. It was to be strong, even as iron is strong — stronger militarily than its predecessors. Yet, as silver is less valuable than gold, brass than silver, iron than brass, though each metal was harder and stronger, the succession would deteriorate morally and spiritually. The two legs meant the fourth empire would be divided.

After the Chaldean Empire came the still larger Persian Empire, then the Greco-Macedonian and fourth, the Roman Empire. It was divided, with capitals at Rome and Constantinople.

Now — verse 44! Read it! Get your Bible. See it with your own eyes in your own Bible. Here, in PLAIN LANGUAGE, is God's explanation of what the KINGDOM OF GOD IS:

"And in the days of these

kings . . ." It is here speaking of the 10 toes, part of iron and part of brittle clay. This, by connecting the prophecy with Daniel 7 and Revelation 13 and 17, is referring to the new UNITED STATES OF EUROPE, which is now forming, out of the European Common Market, before your very eyes! Revelation 17:12 makes plain the detail that it shall be a union of 10 KINGS OR KINGDOMS that (Revelation 17:8) shall re-

surrect the medieval "HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE."

So, mark carefully the time element! "In the days of these kings" — in the days of these 10 nations or groups of nations that shall, IN OUR TIME, resurrect briefly the Roman Empire — notice what shall happen:

" . . . shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed . . . but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever!"

Yes, in OUR TIME!

Now here we have described FOUR universal world empires — the only four that ever existed! Revelation 17 shows that after the fall of the original Roman Empire there would be SEVEN revivals that would be ruled over by a gentile CHURCH — the "daughter" of ancient BABYLON — a church claiming to be Christian, but actually named by God "MYSTERY BABYLON the Great" — or, more plainly, BABYLONIAN MYSTERIES!

Six of those have come and gone. The seventh is now forming — the last, final, brief resurrection of the "Holy Roman Empire" by 10 European groups or nations. These are the 10 toes of iron and clay mixed.

In their days — and they shall last but a very short space, possibly no more than two to 3½ years — shall the GOD OF HEAVEN SET UP A KINGDOM.

This, then, shall be THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

Compare with Revelation 17.

Here is pictured a church. Not a

" . . . during the past 6,000 years, God has allowed nations generally to be left altogether to their own devices. But God was giving Nebuchadnezzar a special opportunity to accept GOD rule."

small church — a GREAT church. She rules over "many waters" (verse 1), which are described in verse 15 as different nations speaking different languages. She posed as the Church of GOD — which scripture says (Ephesians 5:23; Revelation 19:7; Matthew 25:1-10, etc.) is the affianced "bride" of CHRIST, to be spiritually MARRIED to Him at His second COMING.

But she has committed fornication. How? By having direct political union with HUMAN

GOVERNMENTS of THIS WORLD! She "sat on" (Revelation 17:3) all seven of these resurrections of the Roman Empire — called the "Holy Roman Empire." She RULED OVER the human kingdoms — as a common-law and unmarried "wife" ruling her paramour "husband" — a totally unnatural and ungodly relationship.

She is, therefore, to "sit on" this last "head of the Beast" — this final resurrection of the Roman Empire. It will be a union of church and state. It is to endure but a very short time. It is to FIGHT AGAINST CHRIST at HIS SECOND COMING! That will be its END.

We see it in process of rising now. Therefore we are CLOSE to the coming of Christ! We are now very near the END of this world!

When Christ comes, He is coming as KING of kings, ruling the whole earth (Revelation 19:11-16); and HIS KINGDOM — the KINGDOM OF GOD — said Daniel, is to CONSUME all these worldly kingdoms.

Revelation 11:15 states it in these words, ". . . The kingdoms of this world are become THE KINGDOMS OF OUR LORD, AND OF HIS CHRIST; and He shall reign for ever and ever!"

This is THE KINGDOM OF GOD. It is the END of present governments — the governments that rule Russia, China, Japan, Italy, Germany — yes, and even the United States and the British nations. They then shall become the kingdoms — the GOVERNMENTS of the Lord JESUS CHRIST, then KING of kings over the entire earth.

This makes completely PLAIN the fact that the KINGDOM OF GOD is a literal GOVERNMENT. Even as the Chaldean Empire was a KINGDOM — even as the Roman Empire was a KINGDOM — so the KINGDOM OF GOD is a government. It is to take over the GOVERNMENT of the NATIONS of the world.

Jesus Christ was BORN to be a KING — A RULER!

When He stood, on trial for His life, before Pilate, "Pilate therefore said unto Him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world. . ."

But Jesus also said to Pilate: ". . . My kingdom is not of this world. . ." (John 18:37, 36). His kingdom is of THE WORLD TOMORROW!

Have you not read what the angel proclaimed to Mary, the mother of Jesus, prior to His birth? Jesus told Pilate He was born to become a KING. The angel of God said to Mary: ". . . thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call His name JESUS. He shall be (See SEVEN PROOFS, page 5)

SEVEN PROOFS

(Continued from page 4)

great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the THRONE of his father David, and he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his Kingdom there shall be NO END" (Luke 1:31-33).

These scriptures tell you PLAINLY that GOD is supreme RULER. They tell you in plainest language that Jesus was born to be a KING — that He is going to RULE ALL NATIONS OF THE EARTH — that His Kingdom shall rule eternally.

But all this is only part of the fantastic, amazing, actually SHOCKING TRUTH about the KINGDOM OF GOD.

The KINGDOM OF GOD will rule over the peoples and nations of the earth. Yet these mortal peoples and nations will NOT be the Kingdom, not even in the Kingdom of God. They shall be merely RULED OVER BY IT!

We still have to learn OF WHAT or OF WHOM it is composed. Can YOU, as an individual, ever become a part of this Kingdom?

Can be entered

In Jesus' day, the religious

water and of the Spirit" can enter into it!

He said, "... Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh IS FLESH; and that which is born of the Spirit IS SPIRIT" (John 3:5-6).

Notice further! In the resurrection chapter of the Bible we read, "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption" (1 Corinthians 15:50). The Kingdom of God is something not human, of flesh and blood, can enter or inherit!

In hearts of Pharisees?

Let's take a good look at this. First realize, if it does say that, it is contradicted by all the other scriptures I am giving you in this article. If the Bible does contradict itself, you can't believe it anyway — so then it still would prove nothing.

First, to whom is Jesus speaking? Read it!

"And when He was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The

kingdom of God is not coming, but is already here, and the Son of Man is sitting on the throne of David, and he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his Kingdom there shall be NO END" (Luke 1:31-33).

This is the Moffatt translation of the same verse: "He answered them, 'The Reign of God is not coming as you hope to catch sight of it; no one will say, "Here it is" or "There it is," for the Reign of GOD IS NOW IN YOUR MIDST.'"

The Revised Standard translation renders it "The Kingdom of God is in the midst of you." All these translations render it present tense.

Jesus was not talking about a church soon to be organized. He was not talking about sentiments in the mind or heart. He was talking about His REIGN, as the Messiah! The Pharisees were not asking Him about a church. They knew nothing of any New Testament church soon to be started. They were not asking about a pretty sentiment. They knew, from the prophecies of Daniel, Isaiah, Jeremiah and others, that their Messiah was to come.

The two fateful alternatives

This world trouble began in 1914, with World War I. There was a recess from 1918 until 1939. We are in a second recess now — although we have been in what we call "COLD WAR." But now at last we have nuclear energy. We have hydrogen bombs stockpiled in such power

is the Kingdom of God; or, that the Kingdom is merely a meaningless, frothy and ethereal sentiment "set up in our hearts"? It's about time you come to know who are the false prophets, and who is speaking the true Word of God faithfully!

PROOF NO. 6

WHAT AND WHY THE CHURCH?

When we come to the question, WHAT and WHY is the

"In Jesus' day, the religious leaders knew He was a teacher sent from God with GOD'S TRUTH. They branded Him a false prophet, heretic and seditious. Yet they knew His was the voice of GOD!"

Church, it is equally astonishing that the one original true Church of God, still extant after 1,900 years of persecution, opposition, martyrdom, remains UNIQUE in having the answer.

The real PURPOSE and function of the Church is as little understood as the knowledge of who and what God is, what and why is MAN, what was the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the government of God and His supreme creative achievement — Holy righteous CHARACTER.

Isn't it incongruous? Man invents numerous religions for the worship of God — yet doesn't know WHO or WHAT God is? Man does not know what HE is! Or WHY! Seven hundred million join "Christian" churches who do not know the purpose or function of the church!

True, indeed it is, that the whole world has been DECEIVED!

Church error No. 1

The first and most widespread false belief in this world's churches is the assumption that this is God's world — that God is desperately trying to get everybody "saved," while Satan is trying to keep everybody "lost." Satan is surely winning that battle — if it were true!

But 1) God is NOT trying to "get everybody saved" spiritually, NOW! And 2) those uncalled are NOT "lost" — just not judged — YET!

We need first to understand the world out from which God's Church has been called to be a separate, holy people.

Let me restate it briefly. The first man Adam was given two MUSTS: 1) to reject Satan's way of "GET" and 2) to give himself to God's way of "GIVE" — the way of God's law — outflowing LOVE, thus developing the holy, righteous CHARACTER to qualify to restore the government of God on earth.

But Adam rejected God's way. He rejected God as the source of basic knowledge and as the God to be worshipped and obeyed.

BUT let it now be emphasized that when God sentenced man, on Adam's choice, to 6,000 years being cut off from God, the Eternal retained the prerogative of

specially calling to Him those He chose for special service. And, ALWAYS — in every case — those specially called were called for a mission PREPARATORY TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

Understand this! Everyone God called was chosen for a special mission PREPARING FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

God is no respecter of persons. He called no "favorites" merely to bestow upon them His gift of eternal salvation. Each has been called for use preparing for the

KINGDOM OF GOD.

BUT, understand also this: That special mission or service to which each "called-out one" has been chosen was GOD'S MEANS of developing in him the holy, righteous CHARACTER to QUALIFY him to reign and rule with and under Christ in God's KINGDOM — in THE WORLD TOMORROW!

Only the prophets in ancient Old Testament Israel were called in this sense. The Holy Spirit was never made available to others in Old Testament Israel. The purpose for the special calling of that nation has been covered in Proof No. 4.

Man's spiritual creation begins with Christ and the Church

Remember, God creates in DUAL stages. The first stage of man's creation was the physical stage. It began with Adam. The second phase of man's creation is the spiritual phase and begins with Christ.

As a group or nation, Israel was called under the physical stage of man's creation. The SPIRITUAL stage began through Christ with righteous Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and the prophets in Israel. But as a group calling, the Church of God begins the spiritual phase.

The Church was called for a very special PURPOSE, in preparation for the KINGDOM — a purpose not fully realized from the first century until the present generation.

Adam's creation NOT COMPLETE

The first Adam, formed altogether from the dust of the ground, was given a spirit to empower the human brain with intellect. This was explained fully in Proof No. 3. But he was incomplete — he was created to need also a second Spirit — the Holy Spirit of God. Old Testament Israel was not given God's Holy Spirit.

Man, possessing only the one "human" spirit, is, truly, "not all there" — yet he is unaware of the fact. He is a natural-born carnal person. He has only the physical, carnal mind.

And what says God of the carnal mind? It is hostile against God and not subject to the law of God, "... neither indeed can be" (Romans 8:7). Also as Jeremiah explained, this natural (See SEVEN PROOFS, page 10)

leaders knew He was a teacher sent from God with GOD'S TRUTH. They branded Him a false prophet, heretic and seditious. Yet they knew His was the voice of God!

One of them, a Pharisee named Nicodemus, occupying an office of authority over the Jews, came secretly by night to see Jesus.

"Rabbi," said this Pharisee, "we know that thou art a teacher come from God" (John 3:2). Yes, we Pharisees, he said, know that! He did not say, "I know it." He said, "We know" — we Pharisees! They knew He spoke the TRUTH — yet they not only rejected it, they crucified Him!

But Jesus hewed straight to the line! He told Nicodemus about THE KINGDOM OF GOD. He told him some things you need to UNDERSTAND!

Notice! "Jesus answered and said unto him. Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). Yes, notice! The Kingdom of God is something that CAN BE seen, but only by those who have been "born again." It is something others cannot see! Request our free booklet *Just What Do You Mean — Born Again?*

But what about the CHURCH? Can carnal people SEE A CHURCH? Of course! But they cannot see the Kingdom of God! So SAID JESUS! Then, if you believe Jesus, the CHURCH cannot be the Kingdom of God!

Notice further: "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (verse 5). The Kingdom of God is something that can be entered into — BUT, only those "born of

kingdom of God cometh not with observation: neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:20-21).

He was speaking to the unconverted, carnal, hypocritical, lying Pharisees. Notice, "He answered them, and said..." It was the Pharisees who asked Him the question. Were they in the CHURCH? No, never! If one thinks the Kingdom is the CHURCH — and the Kingdom was "within" the Pharisees — was THE CHURCH within the Pharisees? Such an assumption is rather ridiculous, now, isn't it?

Notice again, precisely WHAT JESUS SAID. Remember the CHURCH had not yet been set up. Jesus did not say, "the Kingdom of God shall be set up in your hearts." He said none of the things people interpret into this verse. He said to the Pharisees "the Kingdom of God IS" — present tense is, NOW! Whatever He was saying the Kingdom of God is, He made it present tense, not future.

Luke wrote these words, originally, in the Greek language. The Greek words he wrote were translated into the English words "within you." But, if you have a Bible with the marginal references, you will notice that this is alternately rendered "in the midst of you" or "among you." The context indicates that this indeed is the better translation. If your Bible is a Moffatt translation, you will notice that the translation recognized that Jesus

and volume that they could blast all human life off this planet several times over. There are two other destructive weapons today in existence; either of which could erase humanity from the earth.

Today world-famous scientists say only a super world government can prevent world cosmicide. Yet MEN cannot and will not get together to form such a world-ruling government.

It's time we face the hard, cold, realistic FACT: humanity has two alternatives: either there is an almighty, all-powerful God who is about to step in and set up THE KINGDOM OF GOD to rule all nations with supernatural and supranatural FORCE to bring us PEACE — or else all human life would be obliterated (Matthew 24:22).

If the deceived religionists, who think the CHURCH is the Kingdom of God, were right, and there is not going to be any supernatural and all-powerful WORLD GOVERNMENT, which is the Kingdom of God, then humanity is utterly without HOPE. All human life is in danger of extinction.

But notice what Jesus Christ said!

Can you BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST?

Where is your trust — in the Word of God or in paganism, empty, deceiving teachings falsely labeled "Christianity" — inherited as "Christian tradition" — which says the CHURCH

"The Church was called for a very special PURPOSE, in preparation for the KINGDOM — a purpose not fully realized from the first century until the present generation."

"And this Gospel shall be preached..."

Matthew 24:14

Sermon Summaries from Ministers of the Worldwide Church of God

Depression: Its Causes and Cure

Depression — low spirits, blue moods, gloominess, dejection, sadness, discouragement, despair, feelings of inadequacy, a generally negative outlook on life — afflicts just about everyone once in a while, at least.

I am not a doctor, psychologist or psychiatrist. I will not deal with these problems in a technical way, but I do want to discuss them as a minister of Jesus Christ, who helps people through their trials. I'm going to use layman's terminology and speak from my experiences. Also I'm going to use material from the classes I have taken and the reading I have done on the subject.

Depression is a symptom, a warning sign, given by the body or mind to tell you that something going on inside needs attention. Depression itself is not the problem but a symptom and warning of a problem — a warning to investigate and find and attend to whatever is the real problem.

Eight causes of depression

I'd like to discuss eight basic causes of depression; some are simple and some complex.

1) Poor eating and sleeping habits. The body needs fuel and time to repair itself each day. When its basic needs are not met, it doesn't function efficiently, and sometimes a listless depression results. This commonly happens to students pressed for time, busied by social activities; exams, and the same also happens to elderly folks and people living alone, because "it's no fun cooking for only one." Poverty may also prevent an adequate diet and thus cause depression.

2) Reaction to drugs, toxic depression. Most medications and drugs can have bad side effects of one kind or another, even common medications taken for colds. People need to be cautious and heed competent medical advice rather than attempt to doctor themselves up with all sorts of remedies from the corner drugstore.

Some people have basic imbalances in their body chemistry and suffer reactions to certain foods. For example, we've all heard of hypoglycemia.

3) Significant changes in bodily functions. These can open the way for depression. Included are such normal bodily changes as menopause, postnatal recuperation, even the normal menstrual cycle.

4) Repressed anger. There is a right time and use for anger but there is also a wrong and destructive use. God warns not to let the sun go down on your anger (Ephesians 4:26). In other words don't keep anger bottled up inside, carry grudges or let it build into hatred and eat away till it begins to tear you up.

5) Grief or loss. This is probably one of the largest causes of depression. An interesting study was done in which Americans were asked to list the personal tragedies they most dread. Here are their answers — 10 leading causes of grief and consequently depression: Loss of a child, death of a spouse, a jail sentence, an unfaithful mate, major financial difficulties, business failure, being fired, a miscarriage, divorce, marital separation. All these are high anxiety situations.

6) Self-pity and self-guilt. I don't mean just momentary disappointment after bungling some minor situation or task. I'm talking about being immersed in self-pity over an extended period of time. This kind of self-pity really comes from a negative self-image and a negative or cynical outlook toward the world and life. If everything now is perceived as rotten and evil, despondency often ensues, and the future too seems bleak and discouraging. Of course, the Bible teaches us the opposite, that our future is bright, wonderful, busy, fantastic and assured — if our hope is in God and His plan!

7) Sin. When someone is consistently doing something he knows is wrong, a conscious depression is bound to result. Of course, one needs to be careful and ask himself if his standards are realistic. No one attains

total perfection in this life. All humans sin, and all need to repent constantly and remain in an attitude of repentance (1 John 1:7-10). But if one doesn't resist sin and in weakness slips into major sins continually, then discouragement and depression are apt to follow.

8) Living in a depressing environment, like a slum, or in chronic unemployment, poverty, loneliness. We are all strangers and sojourners on the earth, looking to a better Kingdom from heaven and to the time when God establishes His government on earth. We can all have hope of a better future. But there are also things one can do here and now to overcome the depressing effects of his surroundings and situation in life.

Elijah's despondency

How then do we face depression and overcome it? Let's examine and learn from a remarkable example found in 1 Kings, chapters 18 and 19. This is the story of Elijah. Elijah became despondent — despondent, the Bible says, unto death. In other words, he became suicidal.

Now to bring the story into focus, let's notice the events reported in chapter 18, which set the stage for Elijah's subsequent despondency. Elijah had just gone through a spiritual "high." Elijah took on the entire priesthood of Baal, and he decisively won the confrontation because God intervened for him, even sending fire from heaven to light the altar and burn up the sacrifice, confirming that Elijah was God's true servant. Afterwards, Elijah had the prophets of Baal destroyed (1 Kings 18:40).

Here is not only a major miracle by God, but the complete destruction of Baal worship at this time — the wiping out of a major religious effort that had been destructive to God. Talk about success; this was total victory!

Elijah was so "high;" it says in verse 46: "And the hand of the Lord was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel." He had run 20 miles ahead of the horses! Here we have one of those major, once-in-a-lifetime accomplishments and at the same time total physical and emotional exhaustion.

With that in mind, we find in 1 Kings 19:1-2, "And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time."

When he heard this threat by the queen, Elijah ran for his life and came to Beersheba. He left his servant there and went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came down under a juniper tree. Then he asked God that he might die. He said, "... It is enough; now O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers" (verse 4).

Elijah had built himself up for his confrontation with the false prophets. It must have taken everything out of him — a tremendous physical and emotional exhaustion. And as if that wasn't enough, he had run 20 miles into the city. He was totally fatigued. Now, what did he do at that critical moment? He listened to the one negative voice instead of all the positive voices. The negative voice was that of Jezebel, a woman who said, "I'm going to kill you." He temporarily forgot about God's help and power, zeroed in on the one problem he was having and forgot the rest. As a result, he got depressed and despondent.

Now I want you to notice how God handled Elijah, because I believe that here we have the perfect method for handling this type of depression.

This sermon was given by Steve Martin, area coordinator for the southwestern United States.

Elijah slept, then ate a meal miraculously provided by the angel to sustain him 40 days. This part is clearly miraculous. Incidentally none of us should try fasting like that! God was summoning him to come and meet Him (1 Kings 19). (Here we learn that in the average, normal depression case one might at least apply the principle of taking care of the basic needs of rest and proper diet.)

"And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?" (verse 9). Simply, God asks Elijah, "What's the cause of your problems?"

"And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away" (verse 10). We see that Elijah is zeroing in on the one negative aspect of his life. He has temporarily overlooked and forgotten all the good.

Notice that God listens to him. God hears him out. He doesn't say, "Now, Elijah, my people don't get despondent. People with my Holy Spirit don't ever have depression. You shouldn't be depressed. Therefore, don't be depressed," and walk away. No, God listened to what the man had to say. He let him get it all out.

And then God, in verse 11, said: "... Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord, and, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire..." God is showing that He controls the power of the wind and the earthquake and the fire.

But after the fire, verses 12-13, "... A still small voice. And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out; and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here Elijah?" I think the still small voice is representative of understanding, compassion, empathy, kindness. Even though God has the power of the universe, He still spoke to Elijah kindly, gently, with understanding. So we have seen the three parts of God's program to help him through his depression.

The first step: God gave him food, drink and rest. The second step: He let him talk it all out. The third step: He gave him empathy; He gave him understanding. He let him know that He was concerned.

And then the next step, God said, "... Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria" (verse 15). In other words, God told him, "Go, get back to work. Surround yourself with activities again. Don't allow yourself to just sit and feel sorry for yourself. Get busy again!"

I believe that in those four steps is a very good way of helping people deal with depression. It's applicable for anybody whether a family member, a friend, whoever it may be.

Elijah gently corrected

Notice that nowhere do you find God "chewing him out." God did not even contradict his untrue statement when he said, "... I only, am left..." You'll find a little later that God corrected him and said that Elijah wasn't alone; there were 7,000 others, too. But He didn't hit him with correction when he wasn't ready for it. He waited.

(See DEPRESSION, page 7)

FORUM

WITH STANLEY R. RADER

This issue's "Forum" is a result of an employee meeting Nov. 22 in which Stanley R. Rader, general counsel to Herbert W. Armstrong, fielded questions concerning many aspects of the Work and its activities. "Forum" will feature these sessions whenever they occur by running excerpted transcripts of discussions, questions and answers that we feel reflect the interest of our readership about developments within the Work.

Mr. Rader, a couple of questions in regard to the news media and religion at the present time — what's happened to the Peoples Temple. I've been noticing writings in the press now of people getting involved in checking up on so-called sects. In conjunction with this there's going to be a demonstration at so-called Faith Temple in Los Angeles [Calif.]. I don't know if you are familiar with them but they are the ones who own Channel 52, and they are fighting the State Attorney General's office in respect to tax. I guess they (the government) want to investigate books of any nonprofit organization as to whether or not there is a hint of any wrong doing. I'm wondering how this is involving the Church, and how do we foresee this involving the Church in the near future?

We don't feel there is a direct connection between the problems of this movement that has been in the papers the past few days or any other reprehensible organization. If you read between the lines, you will see that the news media treat certain organizations as cults rather than sects as a rule. When they use the word *sect* they generally mean *cult*. It's some fringe marginal group or one that has such way-out ideas that any responsible member of the community might have some reasonable questions as to their sociality or value to society. Therefore, they might become legitimate targets of interest for those who tend to involve themselves in the activities of any organization hostile to that which the overwhelming majority of the people in this country stand for. If a group uses intimidation of one kind or another, coercion and the like, to bring people into their group or to keep them there against their will, that type of thing tends to leak out. No one, in the entire history of this Work, has ever linked us with any organization of that sort. I have done my best over the years to make it plain that we are a respectable institution in every sense of the word, with a particular belief that we have a duty in the form of a commission to promulgate worldwide. Our college institution is

not some organization calling itself a college, but it is one with a faculty, a curriculum and a student body. We have managed, since the middle '50s when I became involved, to separate ourselves quite nicely from these other groups and would never have been treated that way anywhere. If we have had problems it has been as Mr. [Herbert] Armstrong said here, because of the operations of a few individuals, as differentiated from an aberration of the institution itself. Does that answer the question? Naturally, we are always subjected to routine inquiries of a normal nature because although our rights are many as a Church, there are also duties. So we fulfill those duties and in the process we also manage to protect and broaden our basic underlying rights.

As mentioned in Mr. Armstrong's letter [see page 3], could you comment further on your present health?

Oh, it's good, it's not really very bad. It's just that I have been working very hard over a long period of time, and I have been told it would be better that I didn't work that hard.

I had always assumed, like most of us when we are young, that we are immortal, and I have always acted as though I were. Then when I met Mr. Armstrong I naturally assumed I was operating from that day forward under a special type of umbrella of protection. I had all kinds of shields against bad health, airplane accidents and what have you. Seeing all the places he and I have gone and all the things we have done I guess that umbrella or shield has been pretty good at that. But it isn't good to work 15 or 16 hours every day and be on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And my blood pressure finally has been affected. I was told it would be better if I could cut down these activities quite substantially to something more normal. At the time I wrote the letter to Mr. Armstrong I was also feeling, like I mentioned in one of my sermons, a bit like the fellow in the jack story, a little bit more resentful than usual. I told Mr. Armstrong that you get to the point where you are being kicked around and you want to do one or two

things, you want to kick back hard, and that's not so pleasant to the person who is going to get hit with that kick, or you want to say, "Well, why don't we let somebody else take the beating for a while," and go away quietly. Being in that mood and also being concerned that I had been advised for some considerable time to take it easy, I wrote Mr. Armstrong another one of my letters that probably shouldn't have been sent, but was. We talked at great length over the weekend, and we both promised we wouldn't work so hard. So he worked another 15 hours yesterday, and I did the same thing. It's not that we are trying to set ourselves up as martyrs, but it just seems that it's the nature of the job, and there is just no end to it. You know you are not doing the right thing by working that hard but there just doesn't for the moment seem to be any way of easing off. Maybe with the trip coming up I'll find it a bit easier to relax, and when I get back I'll see if my blood pressure has gone down.

Could you give an update on the New York trip and the foundation?

Yes, but I always hate to preempt Mr. Armstrong, and he has just written a beautiful comprehensive letter to the entirety of the Church. I would suggest that you wait to get that letter. It will cover all of your questions much better than I could do.

There was an article in the [Pasadena] "Star News" that Mr. Armstrong might have to appear in this Bagley case, and I wondered if there has been a change on that or if we are going to appeal to a higher court?

This is another area where there is evidence the Church tries to do the right thing by everyone. Mr. Armstrong and I feel we don't want to have to testify in such a trial because what we would say would only further make apparent to the entirety of the world all of the reasons why Mr. Garner, Ted Armstrong has been forced out of the Church. So we are going to fight the matter as vigorously as we can so that we don't have to. We are doing what we can to mitigate the situation in what I consider to be just Christian charity. We are actually spending Church energy, Church funds, to keep ourselves from going into court and telling everyone what the defense in that case wants us to say, which is the full story about Garner Ted Armstrong, which we don't feel needs to be aired any further. Mr. [Ralph] Helge and I are working on the case and will continue to work on the case, and I would say that we would probably prevail in the long run.

I understand that there are current plans to do a pilot series on TV that will incorporate "The Plain Truth." Is that true?

That was mentioned in services a couple of weeks ago when I spoke here in Pasadena. Also there are some

excerpts from that in the *Pastor's Report* for the benefit of the ministers. What we are intending to do is to have another television show or program, in addition to Mr. Armstrong's weekly television programs, that will bring *The Plain Truth* to television just as *People* magazine is bringing its magazine to television. *20/20* is an ABC [American Broadcasting Co.] program, *60 Minutes* is really a magazine of the air. We have had this idea for some considerable time, in fact when *Quest* was first started, several syndicators of renown and one of the networks wanted to know if we would be willing to engage in such an effort for *Quest* — to take *Quest* immediately to the television medium. We decided against that because if the television program didn't work it would have deleterious effect of almost an instant character on the magazine. They would both wipe one another out quickly. But *The Plain Truth* is a powerful vehicle. It is the best religious magazine in the world and could be made even better as time goes on. It has no competition; there is no other magazine published in the religious field quite like it. And with all of our efforts in the print medium it is natural to try to bring it to television, because there are simply people who do not read as much as they watch television. You have to use your resources as I've characterized them: spiritual, human, physical and financial, in such a way as to maximize their use. You must use each medium in a particular way to reach that audience you might otherwise not reach. We are kidding ourselves if we think that with *The Plain Truth* we are reaching all of those millions of people who are glued every day to a television set. But if we can bring *The Plain Truth* to them in a provocative, interesting, enlightening and entertaining fashion, 60 minutes or 30 minutes depending on the format that we find most effective, we can integrate our entire television and media

effort and push the Work forward to a higher plateau. We will be covering that during the ministerial conference. We hope that our pilot will be ready and if it is good and everyone at the conference in January likes it and Mr. Armstrong likes it, then we will share it maybe in pilot form with the Church members in the area as we move forward. It will be something if it works for the 1979-80 television season. And we would be talking about program time somewhere around October.

What are some of the things you are planning to accomplish on your trip to the Middle East, and also will Mr. Armstrong be planning a trip in the near future?

I am going there a little ahead of Mr. Armstrong to be sure that all the arrangements are in order. As we have said this will commemorate 10 years of close associations with various institutions and people in Israel, and will commemorate the beginning of a new 10-year program. Our newest archaeological project there is the project that is going to uncover the City of David, and we are working in a tripartite arrangement this time. Hebrew University, a South African foundation and Ambassador or the Church will share in the cost over the next decade and the methodology again will be supplied by the Hebrew University at Jerusalem and the Israel Exploration Society.

They also want to honor Mr. Armstrong for his contributions of the past and anticipation of the future and then Mr. Armstrong will meet with Mr. [Menachem] Begin at a timely opportunity, then hopefully the peace treaty will have just been signed. Mr. Armstrong will see Begin almost immediately after Begin's return from Oslo [Norway]. He goes to Oslo on the 10th of December to get the Nobel Peace Prize. We are supposed to see Begin on the 17th, so he will be back only a few days. [To be concluded next issue.]

HAVE A QUESTION FOR "FORUM"?

Due to the success of Stanley Rader's headquarters personnel meetings and resulting "Forum" column and a number of enthusiastic comments received concerning them, Mr. Rader would like to open the column to questions from Church members.

Questions of interest to the general membership of the Church will be answered. In some cases questions may be altered slightly to be combined with other questions of a similar nature. Questions should be accompanied by a *Good News* mailing label (names will not appear in print) and addressed to:

Stanley R. Rader
"Forum"
300 W. Green St.
Pasadena, Calif. 91123

Depression

(Continued from page 6)

God gently corrected Elijah. Elijah had listened to only one small negative voice from Jezebel. He had forgotten his friends. He had forgotten there were 7,000 others. And you find that God did not severely correct him but reminded him gently that what he had to say was not true.

So I think we have a very good plan for helping people with depression.

To solve the problem of depression, you need to ask yourself or whoever it is that's going through the problem: "What is it that you are doing or thinking that is causing your depression?" What is the cause? Depression itself is just a symptom. When you understand that, then you can begin to deal with it.

Now if indeed it's a physical thing — if it's because of a diet, then change your diet. If it's a postnatal depression, then just recognize what it is. It surely can help you get through it when you recognize it. If it is a

significant change in life, then recognize that it is a cause of depression; at least knowing that can help you understand how to get through it.

Since depression is only a symptom, what can you do so that you can change that which is causing the depression? Depression is in a way emotional pain, just the same as we have physical pain. If you put your hand on a hot stove, it will hurt you, and you ought to be very grateful that it does hurt. Because of that hurt, you'll take your hand off the hot stove and not receive further hurt. God has placed into our fingers nerve endings that convey pain sensations so that whenever we touch things that are wrong for us, we immediately know about it. That's the reason for the pain.

Depression is like an emotional pain. What we need to do is find out the cause of that depression. Once we find out, then we need to change that cause. Once we change it, then the depression will go away.

There are usually reasons for depression. Unfortunately most people don't attend to those reasons. Most people don't concentrate or look at or study what those causes are. They just feel blue; they feel down. But

they can look at those reasons; they can understand those reasons. And if indeed they will understand and correct those reasons, then they have the means to turn off depression. Just as surely as they have created the depression, it can also go away, because they can let it go.

Proverbs 24:16 tells us, "For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again . . ." We might tend to think it's the unjust, the unrighteous, that become despondent, that fall, trip, stumble. Most of us probably feel that depression is sin. It's bad. Now it's certainly hurtful to you, and it can be caused by sin, but there are other causes for it. It's the just man who analyzes it, understands it, picks himself up and rises up again.

Life is full of troubles. It is a training ground in which we must learn to act and think like God so we will be ready to receive everlasting life and handle it rightly. Learning to cope with and overcome depression is part of what God wants us to master. The future is always bright and hopeful when we consider what God is planning and offering us!

Toronto teen tops in talent

By Dennis R. Robertson

PASADENA — Talent finalists from around the United States and Canada vied for top honors Sunday, Nov. 26, as the annual 1978 Youth Opportunities United (YOU) National Talent Contest Finals got under way in Pasadena.

Michelle Briden of Don Mills, Ont., sang her way to first place performing a piece she had written and composed entitled "Teach Me to Sing."

"I wrote the song in September, sang it at the Festival in Toronto and won. I couldn't believe it," she said.

Even after the 18-year-old secured the victory in the regional contest, she still had no hopes of winning in Pasadena.

"My brother told me I have a voice like a vibrating wire," she said. "So when I saw the others practicing and realized how fantastic they were, I didn't think I had a chance. I was totally shocked when they called my name."

Michelle won \$500, which she plans to use to attend Ambassador College next year.

The second-place winner was Glenda Nirschl of Merriam, Kan., who performed Charles T. Griffes' "Scherzo" as a piano solo. Third place went to guitarist Sherri Means

of Seattle, Wash., playing her own arrangement of "Romance" and "Malaguena."

Twelve finalists got the chance to travel to headquarters after they won their district and regional talent competitions. The regional contests were held in October at the various Festival sites in the United States and Canada.

The contestants performed before a capacity audience at Ambassador Auditorium, which included the five contest judges. Headed by Donald E. Gibbons, a state chairman for California's Music Teachers Association, each of the judges are respected musicians, composers or faculty members with years of experience in their field.

Though the performance began at 7 p.m., the judging took place earlier Sunday afternoon with only the judges present. This was done for two reasons: to keep the competition as fair as possible, giving the judges plenty of time to make their decision, and to keep the length of the evening performance to approximately two hours. The winners were selected by 5 p.m., but no one knew who had won, including the contestants, until after the evening show.

Special guest performers in the show were the 1976 and 1977 national winners, Jennifer Stokes and Robert Taylor, plus 1978 talent winner from



FROM MINNESOTA TO OLD MEXICO — Youths from around the United States and representatives from Canada and Mexico perform at YOU's National Talent Contest Finals. From top left, clockwise, flutist Cindy Ritchie of Elizabethton, Tenn.; drummer Bill Anthony of Wichita, Kan.; dancers Daniel Garcia and Gloria Marqn of Guadalajara, Mexico; and singer Phil Bauer of Minneapolis, Minn. [Photos by Roland Rees]

Mexico, Gloria Marqn. Her partner in the winning dance team, Jacobo Garcia, unable to appear, was replaced by his brother, Daniel.

According to Ron Dick, associate director of YOU and one of the originators of the contest, which was begun in 1975, the talent competition

was organized on a national basis to stimulate creative achievement among the young people of the Church and to provide a goal for them to shoot for.

"Youths in the Church often miss out on athletic activities or other high school functions because they ob-

serve God's Sabbath," Mr. Dick said. "Talent shows, band concerts and sports activities are often held on Friday night, and these youths, many with exceptional talent, might let their abilities go to waste unless they have positive alternatives. This is one alternative."

YOU WINNER PROFILES

The 12 YOU contestants whose biographical sketches appear here vied for top honors during the 1978 YOU National Talent Contest in the Ambassador Auditorium in Pasadena Nov. 26. These contestants represented the winners from the YOU semifinals, held at this year's U.S. and Canadian Feast sites.

Three of the 12 placed, with first prize going to Michelle Briden of Don Mills, Ont., second place to Glenda Nirschl of Merriam, Kan., and third place to Sherri Means of Bridgeport, Wash. See accompanying article this page.

Originally interested in poetry, Canadian **Michelle Briden** turned her talents to songwriting and singing this past September. Her efforts paid off big this month when her self-composed "Teach Me to Sing" moved the judges to award the 18-year-old first place in the Youth Opportunities United (YOU) National Talent Contest and the \$500 cash prize that goes along with it.

This year marked the fourth time Michelle has entered the YOU competition. It also marked the first time Canada was represented at the national finals in Pasadena, thus giving Michelle the opportunity to compete beyond the annual regional contests at the Feast of Tabernacles. In past years Michelle danced and performed dramatic readings.

A grade-13 student at Victoria Park Secondary School, Michelle is majoring in English and lists among her interests art, reading and track. She is now hard at work composing a rock opera entitled *A Man Called Noah*. Michelle attends the Toronto (Ont.) West church and is the daughter of Al and Yvonne Briden.

The old adage, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again," proved to be sound advice for 17-year-old **Glenda Nirschl** of Merriam, Kan.

After 10 years of playing the piano and three years of competing in the YOU competition, Glenda took her rendition of Charles T. Griffes' "Scherzo" to a second-place finish in this year's finals. A \$300 prize accompanied the award.

For two years Glenda competed locally against her sister Donna, who also plays the piano. Donna finished third in the national finals here two years ago. Last year Glenda moved a bit closer with a fourth-place finish in the national contest, and this year gained a trip to Pasadena after winning the semifinal competition at Lake of the Ozarks, Mo.

A senior at Shawnee Mission North High School, Glenda is also in her third year of studies at the University of Missouri at Kansas City Conservatory of Music. College is definitely in her future plans, she says, and she also has a long-range goal of being a concert pianist.

Glenda loves to travel and enjoys photography and all kinds of sports. She is a cheerleader for the church basketball team and participates in the

YOU track program.

Glenda is the daughter of James and Marilyn Nirschl and attends the Kansas City (Kan.) North church.

After seven years of playing guitar, 16-year-old **Sherri Means** of Bridgeport, Wash., decided this year was as good a time as any to enter her first musical competition. It proved to

be a wise decision, for at this year's YOU national contest she captured third place and a \$200 cash prize for her own arrangement of "Romance" and "Malaguena." She earned the trip to the finals by winning the regional competition at the Seattle Feast site.

A junior at Bridgeport High School, Sherri teaches guitar pri-

vately for beginners. Even so, she says she would someday like to take lessons herself from a top-notch professional for "something to fall back on later on in life."

Sherri enjoys sports—"especially water and snow sports"—and has her eyes on a career in architectural design. She hopes to attend Ambassador College, which she calls "the friendliest place I've ever seen."

Sherri attends the Tonasket, Wash., church with her parents, Richard and Diane Means.

After winning the regional competition at Big Sandy, Tex., **Bill Anthony**, 18, brought his drum set to Pasadena to perform his self-composed "Drummers Extraordinaire."

From Wichita, Kan., Bill started playing the drums in the first grade.

This is his second year in the YOU competition and his first trip to the finals. Bill also plays bass and the trumpet and is a member of a progressive rock band, Ultrasonic Express.

Bill is active in his YOU chapter in both basketball and track and has qualified for National YOU Track and Field Finals in the shot put and the discus the last two years. He also enjoys water skiing and motocross racing.

Bill is the son of Lloyd and Eileen Anthony and attends the Wichita church.

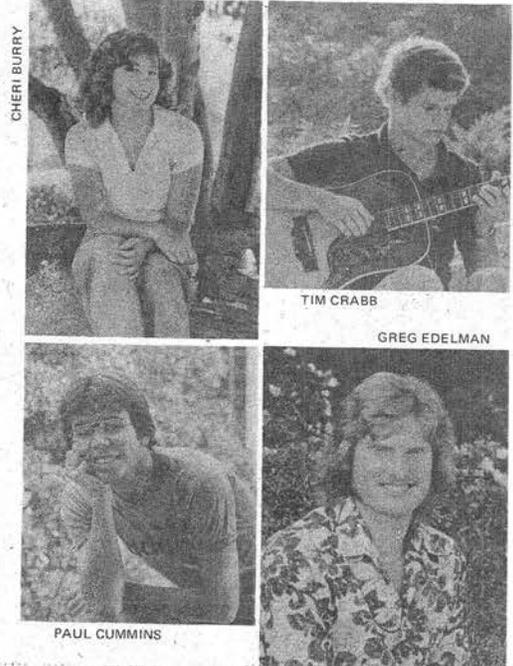
In his second year of competition, 18-year-old **Brent Baker** of Charleston, W. Va., won the Saratoga Springs, N.Y., Festival competition with his rendition of Rachmaninoff's "Prelude in C Minor."

A freshman at West Virginia State



FIRST/ MICHELLE BRIDEN

THIRD/ SHERRI MEANS



CHERI BURRY

TIM CRABB

PAUL CUMMINS

GREG EDELMAN

SECOND CHURCH?

(Continued from page 3)

REPREENSIBLE things Garner Ted is now doing in a good light. It is Satan who tries to make us believe that wrong is right.

But now *what about* the seven churches of Revelation 2 and 3? I have always said, and still affirm, that these seven messages to the seven churches are picturing in advance the seven **CONDITIONS** to be found in the **ONE CONTINUING TRUE CHURCH** — but with the Ephesian condition dominant during the first era or years of time, the Smyrna condition becoming dominant in the next period of time, and so on with the Laodicean condition outstanding in the same true Church at about the time of the great tribulation and climaxing with Christ's second coming.

To expound that fully requires more space than I have here. It will be covered later.

But the crux of the whole matter is simply **THIS**: Where, in all this effort at persuading God's people to follow Garner Ted Armstrong, a man **DIS-FELLOWSHIPED**, who did, and is continuing now from without, to sow the seeds of discord

among brethren — in all their arguments, **WHERE IS GOD? WHERE IS JESUS CHRIST, living HEAD of the Church?**

One thing I can say definitely and with authority, **GOD and our Head, JESUS CHRIST, have NOT left God's one and only TRUE CHURCH.**

These dissidents are **LOOKING AT MEN!** They are leaving **GOD** out of their thinking. For **44 YEARS** the living **JESUS CHRIST** HAS BEEN **HEADING, LEADING, GUIDING AND BLESSING GOD'S ONE AND ONLY TRUE CHURCH!**

HE has NOT forsaken it. HE is not in ANY effort to pull members out from **GOD'S Church, where CHRIST is working. HE** is NOT following Garner Ted Armstrong, who resorted to a conspiracy to water down God's **TRUTH** — to **SECULARIZE** God's Church and college — to literally **PUT GOD AND CHRIST OUT OF THE COLLEGE AND CHURCH!** HE is not! Will YOU?

Some were leaving Jesus when here in the human flesh (John 6:66). "... many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him." Would you have been one of them?

Letters TO THE EDITOR

Wonderful truth told beautifully

I have just finished reading your book and want to say thank you for putting these wonderful truths into such simple, yet beautiful, understanding. Truly, God has inspired you and will inspire you in your future books to be written.

Mrs. Paul Meister
Tecumseh, Neb.

☆☆☆

I studied your book at least a chapter a day after the Feast. What a revelation just to see how much new understanding God has given us through you in the last few years. You have put it all together so plain and simple and started up the desire in me to yield to God more for the power to fulfill our potential. Please continue to lead us and inspire us.

Ronald E. Curry
Arlington, Va.

☆☆☆

I've almost finished reading your book, and I have to tell you that it staggers the imagination. I never heard such wonderful truths outside of God's true Church.

Georgia Holloway
Sweetwater, Tenn.

☆☆☆

I have your book and I find it everything you said it was and more. You are truly the man God has called and chosen to reveal His truth. I don't know of and have never known of, any man to be able to write and

know the things this man writes and knows.

La Verne C. West
New Orleans, La.

☆☆☆

I'm so glad you wrote the book. I just finished reading the chapter on "Why The Church." We (especially myself) need reminding of the three points; one, that we in the Church are called to back you and the ministry in announcing God's Kingdom; two, that we need the instruction of the Church to grow to perfection; and three, that with whatever gifts we have we should build up the Church (the people in the Church).

Ronald Olson
Lakewood, Calif.

☆☆☆

Thank you so very much for giving us a copy of *The Incredible Human Potential*. I began reading it at the Feast and have started the second go-through. This is a book that will be helpful to so many millions now and in the age soon to come. Thank you for writing it. You have presented the truth of the good news of God in a fascinating manner. I have found many inspirational passages in the book. There is a new light and truth in your words which had not yet crossed my mind.

Daniel Vanriper
Bastrop, Tex.

☆☆☆

Your book is everything you promised it would be. No better gift in this end-time human world could be given, for you have summed up the Holy Bible's revealing of truth in language easily understood.

Sandra A. Escobar
Cleveland, Tex.

I would like to thank you for the precious truth revealed in your book. I just want to say that after reading this book, I had to ask myself, what have I been doing these past 10 years in the Church? I felt like it was all finally put together beautifully and made me stop and think that maybe these 10 years in the Church have been wasted, that I hadn't really been using all the potential I've been given. I plan to try to really rededicate myself to God and to use all my talents.

Mrs. Albert W. Moore
San Mateo, Calif.

☆☆☆

It's simply a fantastic book. It has given me a renewed feeling of dignity and value. I'm more excited than ever about our mission on earth, and I can feel the importance and value of every human life. We appreciate your hard work and dedication. You set a fine example for the rest of us.

Mrs. K. Bell
Chichester, N.H.

☆☆☆

I find it difficult to put this book down and am now beginning the 10th chapter. It gives even greater understanding of the Bible. It is a most appreciated and needed gift.

Helen A. Reed
Houston, Tex.

☆☆☆

Just a note to say thank you for the wonderful book. It was the best Feast gift we could have ever received. This was our fourth Feast, and it was the most inspiring Feast yet.

Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Hall
Galveston, Ky.

College, Brent plans to major in business administration and move on to a career in business after graduation. A pianist for 10 years, he says he has entertained thoughts of a music career, but thinks it would be "too hard a life."

Brent also plays trumpet and enjoys such sports as soccer, fencing, bicycling and motorcycling. He is the regular accompanist for his church choir.

Brent attends the Charleston church with his parents, Gary and Jeanette Baker.

Although he has written 10 original songs in the past year and a half, it was a performance of "The Impossible Dream" that earned 17-year-old Phil Bauer first place at the Wisconsin Dells, Wis., regional competition.

Phil, a senior at Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis, Minn., began

singing in the ninth grade and took up voice lessons a year later. He also plays guitar and hopes to start a band in the near future. He is scheduled to be interviewed on the University of Minnesota campus radio station, KBEM. Recordings of five of Phil's original compositions will be played during the program.

Phil enjoys spending some of his spare time drawing and cartooning. After graduation he is considering attending barber school to prepare for a career as a hair stylist. However, music is still tops on his list.

Phil is the son of Fred and Ruby Bauer and attends the Minneapolis South church.

The youngest participant in the talent finals, 14-year-old Cheri Burry of Brighton, Mich., is quick to point out that her 15th birthday arrives Dec. 18.

But age is no factor when considering Cheri's piano-playing ability. Her interpretation of Debussy's "Claire de Lune" won the regional competition at the Norfolk, Va., Feast site.

A freshman at Brighton High School, Cheri has been playing piano for 10 years. This was her first year of participation in the YOU talent competition.

Cheri likes all kinds of music ("especially disco") and participates in cheerleading, track and softball. Cheri has been named to an all-star softball team the past two summers.

Cheri and her parents, Jerry and Noreen Burry, attend the Ann Arbor, Mich., church.

One can be sure that 17-year-old Carol Bricker of Sun Valley, Calif., was more than appreciative of the opportunity to participate in this

year's talent competition.

When she was a young child, Carol had a hearing problem so severe she was nearly deaf. But she didn't let that stop her and, after five years of playing the violin, earned a spot in the finals with her performances of Brahms' "Hungarian Dance No. 5" and "Perpetual Motion" at the Fresno, Calif., Festival site.

A senior at Polytechnic High School, Carol is active in extracurricular activities. She is a member of the school's orchestra and has been recommended for concertmistress. She is also a member of her school's gymnastics team.

Carol is active in her YOU chapter, where she has been captain of the cheerleading squad the last three years.

Carol attends the Glendale, Calif., church and is the daughter of Bob and Rita Bricker.

Musical talent runs in the family of Tim Crabb, 18, guitarist and winner of the regional competition in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Tim's brother, Tom, is an accomplished bass player and performs with the band from Pasadena that tours Festival sites each fall. Tom was present the night Tim did a stirring rendition of "Malaguena" at the national finals.

A senior at Hillsboro High School in Tampa, Fla., Tim found the trip to Pasadena an educational experience. "I found that besides the competition, whether you win or lose, you learn a lot from other people's talents and abilities."

Aside from music, Tim enjoys distance running and racquet sports, especially tennis and Ping-Pong. He would like to seek a career in sound engineering and studio work, so music seems destined to find a place in his future.

Tim is the son of Nancy Baldner and attends the Tampa church.

Music definitely figures in the future plans of 18-year-old Paul Cummins of Quebec City, Que., winner of the semifinal competition at the Sherbrooke, Que., Feast site.

Paul, who played "Warsaw Concerto" by Addinsell, is a second-year preuniversity student majoring in the social sciences at the St. Laurence campus in Quebec. He hopes to begin studies at the Quebec Conservatory of

Music.

He regularly performs special music at church services and also does introductory numbers for concerts presented by the Montreal (Que.) church chorale.

Paul says he someday would like to live in the United States, especially in Southern California. "I'd like to go to school here at Ambassador," he says, "because I think it would open a lot of doors for me."

Paul attends the Quebec City church.

By all indications, San Diego's (Calif.) Greg Edelman, 17, is headed for big things in his pursuit of a singing career. Greg gained a spot in the national talent finals after winning the Tucson, Ariz., competition with his performance of "MacArthur Park."

Last year, Greg's high school music instructor arranged for him to enter a contest in Reno, Nev., for students 17 to 20 years of age. Greg's performance of a vocal ensemble brought him a first-place finish in a field of 89 entries.

Greg plays trumpet and "a little bit of drums," and is lead singer for an eight-piece disco band in the San Diego area. He is a senior at Escondido High School.

Next summer, Greg plans to attend a camp for singers conducted by entertainer John Davidson. Following that, in July, he is scheduled to tour Europe for four weeks with The Notables, a jazz choir.

In her fourth year of YOU talent competition, 17-year-old Cindy Ritchie captured first place at the Savannah, Ga., regional contest with her rendition of Handel's "Sonata V" for the flute.

Cindy is a junior at Elizabethton High School in Tennessee, where she is active in band and dancing. Cindy enjoys sports, especially basketball, volleyball and softball.

Although she entertains thoughts of majoring in drama in college, she says she would like to attend at least one year at Ambassador. "I love it here," she said of the college. "It just shocked me how nice and friendly everyone is."

Cindy is active in the YOU chapter in Kingsport, Tenn., where she attends church services with her parents, George and Chris Ritchie.



CAROL BRICKER



BRENT BAKER



BILL ANTHONY

TEXT BY
TOM DELAMATER

PHOTOS BY
ROLAND REES

CINDY RITCHIE

SEVEN PROOFS of THE TRUE CHURCH

(Continued from page 5)

carnal mind is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9). Hundreds of years of Old Testament Israelitish experience proved this! They were given God's revealed knowledge, hidden from other nations, yet they rebelled and sinned even above other nations!

The world into which Jesus came

It was in such a world — and to such a people (Judah) that Jesus

"... what was the FOUNDATION of the Church? It is referred to as a 'building,' and a solid building must be built on a solid foundation."

came. "He came unto his own, and his own received him not" (John 1:11).

First, before teaching or preaching His Gospel of the Kingdom, Jesus had to QUALIFY to restore the GOVERNMENT OF GOD and establish the KINGDOM OF GOD. In the most titanic battle ever fought for the greatest stakes in the universe, Jesus overcame Satan, rejected Satan's "GET" way, proved 100 percent obedient and loyal to God (Matthew 4:1-11).

He called and chose the disciples He trained to be His apostles.

Then He said, "... Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell [the grave] shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee [His chief apostle] the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:18-19). Plainly Jesus was speaking to one man, His chief apostle, when He spoke of binding and loosing — not to the Church.

For 3½ years Jesus taught His apostles-to-be about the Kingdom of God.

Church members must qualify

The first Adam, in order to qualify to restore the GOVERNMENT OF GOD on earth, had to overcome Satan — Satan's way ("GET") — and prove obedient to God. Adam failed.

Christ, the second Adam, had to qualify by overcoming Satan and proving loyalty to God and God's way. He QUALIFIED!

Each one in the Church must also qualify in order to sit on CHRIST'S THRONE with Him! "And he that overcometh [Satan], and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron" (Revelation 2:26-27). Again, "To him that overcometh [Satan] will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcome [Satan], and am set down with my Father in his throne" (Revelation 3:21).

I have shown that the whole world, except those specially called by God, is CUT OFF from God — cut off from access to Him who has eternal life to give. Jesus

CONFIRMED THAT plainly and definitely. He said, "NO MAN CAN come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him" (John 6:44). NO SCRIPTURE CAN OR DOES NULLIFY THAT! All others are CUT OFF from God. No one of them CAN COME to Christ!

The Church of God founded

Jesus was crucified, resurrected after three days and three nights in the tomb (another incidental proof of the one true Church); and after 40 days as-

ended to the right hand of God in heaven.

Then, on the day of the Feast of Firstfruits (Pentecost) A.D. 31, God sent the Holy Spirit in an amazing display, founding His Church!

The number of disciples who still believed after Jesus' 3½ years of preaching was a mere 120 (Acts 1:15).

"... They were all of one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:1-3).

I have purposely emphasized certain words in this scripture, because it was a ONE-ONLY incident. It never occurred before. It never has since. Modern "Pentecostal" meetings and "tongues speaking" are emphatically not the same thing at all.

Notice carefully! First, they were all of one accord — something often not true today. Secondly, the Holy Spirit came suddenly — they did not "work it up" by emotionally shouting, as is usual in such meetings today. Thirdly, the Holy Spirit came with a sound — they heard it, like a blast of a rushing mighty wind. No such thing occurs today. Fourthly, the Holy Spirit is here twice called "it," not

abroad. Word spread rapidly of this once-only amazing experience — hearing and seeing the Holy Spirit. "The multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them [the 120] speak in his own language" (Acts 2:5-6).

Study this again carefully. The Mede among these devout Jews who came running in heard them — the 120 — speaking the language of the Medes. And he understood what they were saying! The one Mede heard and understood 120 Galileans speaking the language of the Medes! But the Parthian heard them — the same 120 — speaking his Parthian language! And so on! It was not a "jibberish" — unintelligible — as "tongues people" speak in their meetings today! And it needed no interpreter. I well remember experiences in such meetings, where in service after service the same man rose to interpret — and although the "jibberish" of different ones was entirely different, the "interpretation" had been memorized, and in every case was the same! I saw that kind of experience drive sincere people hungry for God's truth away in disgust!

Let me add here that God's Holy Spirit is the Spirit of a SOUND MIND (I Timothy 1:7).

The one and only original Church of God was founded that day of Pentecost, A.D. 31. They were all of SOUND mind — like-minded — of ONE accord.

God ADDS to His Church

The multitude, who came running in, were all amazed — in wonderment doubting and asking, "What does this mean?"

Then God's chief apostle, Peter, stood up to explain — to deliver to these thousands the first inspired sermon by an apostle.

These devout Jews were "pricked in their heart" by Peter's sermon and asked, "What shall we do?"

Peter gave no 20th-century "altar call" — pleaded with none to talk them into conversion — but answered their question, saying, "... repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). It was the power of

doctrine through His apostle, and they continued together with one accord in "... the apostles' doctrine and fellowship ..."

Now WHO added members to the Church? Not apostolic or evangelical salesmanship — but "... the LORD added to the church daily such as should be saved [were to be saved]" (Acts 2:47).

Apostles preached; Church backed them

But what was the FOUNDATION of the Church? It is referred to as a "building," and a solid building must be built on a solid foundation.

Of course Jesus Christ is the foundational Rock. But the Church is built on the FOUNDATION of the apostles (New Testament) and prophets (Old Testament), Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone (Ephesians 2:20). Jesus taught the apostles. The CHURCH followed the apostles' doctrine.

"... the whole world, except those specially called by God, is CUT OFF from God — cut off from access to Him who has eternal life to give."

Lay members were not free to set, change or decide doctrinal TRUTH — but only to receive and believe it.

A day or two after the Church was founded, Peter and John went up to the temple. At the Beautiful Gate entrance was a crippled beggar, lame from birth, Peter, being asked for alms, took the cripple by the right hand, lifting him up, saying, "... In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk" (Acts 3:1-6). "And he, leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple ..." (verse 8).

The beggar was known to all. This miracle drew a huge crowd. Peter, explaining, preached to them about the resurrection of Jesus. He proclaimed the good news of the Kingdom, saying the heaven had received Jesus until the time of restoration of the GOVERNMENT OF GOD (Acts 3:20-21).

As Peter spoke, the priests, the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them and

mediately for moral support and encouragement to "... their own company ..." (Acts 4:23), the Church.

The Church "... lifted up their voice to God with one accord ..." (verse 24). And when they (the Church) had prayed, God answered by shaking the place where they were assembled, filling them with His Spirit, courage and power.

Another incident: The apostles had continued preaching, healing the sick and performing miracles. God added to the Church, but also the persecution grew. Peter again had been imprisoned. Steven had been stoned to death. In Acts 8:1 "... there was a great persecution against the church ... and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles."

By the following Passover, persecution had mounted. "... About that time, Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex

certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also: (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison ... intending after Passover to bring him forth to the people. Peter therefore was kept in prison ..." (Acts 12:1-5).

Why members called

Now came another example of how the Church stood back of the apostles. Remember, the word *apostle* means "one sent forth." Jesus had given the great commission to Peter and the apostles. The other members of the Church were not sent forth with the Gospel. They were called:

1) to support and encourage the apostles in getting out the Gospel message, as GOD'S MEANS of,

2) developing in them God's holy, righteous CHARACTER, qualifying them for places as kings and priests in the KINGDOM!

So here came another incident showing how the Church supported the apostles. Continue, verse 5 of Acts 12, "... but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him" — Peter. The brethren stood loyally 100 percent back of God's apostles.

What happened, when the Church so unceasingly prayed? "... The same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands" (verses 6-7), and Peter followed the angel on (See SEVEN PROOFS, page 11)

"He proclaimed the good news of the Kingdom, saying the heaven had received Jesus until the time of restoration of the GOVERNMENT OF GOD by the KINGDOM OF GOD."

"he," not a Ghost or Personage. Fifth, they saw the Holy Spirit. It appeared as divided tongues like fire. This was actually seen, sitting on each of the 120. No such thing is ever repeated in so-called "Pentecostal" meetings today!

Now, further, do they today speak with the same kind of tongues? Here again the REAL Pentecost experience is not in any sense duplicated today. Read on:

... There were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now, when this was noised

the Holy Spirit that had struck straight in their hearts. GOD HAD CALLED THEM!

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41).

"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine ..." (verse 42).

Note here this important point! They did not appoint among themselves a "doctrinal committee" to decide intellectually where they could believe God's apostle. GOD gave them the true

threw them into prison for the night.

Next morning, Peter and John were brought before the rulers, elders, scribes, the High Priest and his family. Peter spoke briefly but boldly to them. They then threatened the apostles, forbidding them to preach any further about Christ and His Kingdom.

Naturally Peter and John, though now inspired by the Holy Spirit, were human, and naturally somewhat shaken up and frightened.

Being released, they went im-

SEVEN PROOFS

(Continued from page 10)

out of the prison. Peter fled on to Caesarea.

The GREAT COMMISSION to apostles

Jesus gave His GREAT COMMISSION to the apostles — those sent forth with the message. The lay brethren were added to the Church to support the apostles.

Notice the GREAT COMMISSION as recorded by Matthew: "Now the eleven disciples [Judas had left them] went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them . . . And Jesus came and said to them [not the whole Church]. All authority in heaven and on earth is given to me. GO, THEREFORE, and make disciples of all nations . . ." Notice, make disciples OF, or within all nations. A disciple is a student — one learning, being taught. . . . baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . ." Notice here, this does not and cannot refute Jesus' own statement that "NO MAN CAN come to me, except the Father which sent me draw him." The GREAT COMMISSION was not a commission to try to persuade ALL in those nations to come to Christ. Jesus said plainly "make disciples OF [within] all nations." He referred to those whom God had called — and they were, comparatively, exceeding FEW by proportion to the whole population. Then Jesus continued, . . . teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Matthew 28:16-20, Revised Standard Version).

The apostles were NOT sent forth on a soul-saving crusade, but to TEACH those whom God

is baptized shall be saved . . ." Yet only those God called would be able to believe — for Jesus meant believe what was SAID — believe the GOOD NEWS!

However, this is quoted from the 1611 King James Version, but nearly all other translations omit it, saying Mark did not write these words — beginning verse 9 — but that they were added by some later editor trying to make it harmonize with Matthew 28:18-19.

But the great commission was given to the apostles — not the Church as a whole — although as cited above, the Church completely, prayerfully, wholeheartedly backed up and supported the apostles. That was their part in the great commission.

Now, PURPOSE of Church

Now let's get our bearings and understand the PURPOSE of the Church — its function.

Remember, the Church was called out of a world CUT OFF from God — a world, as Jesus said, in which "NO MAN CAN come to me, except the Father draw him." The Church was the "called-out ones" — called out from the world. "Wherefore come out from among them [of the world] and be ye separate, saith the Lord . . ." (II Corinthians 6:17).

REMEMBER, too, that from Adam God had called out of this world only those He chose to use in a mission PREPARING FOR THE KINGDOM!

The archangel Lucifer and his angels had been disqualified — changed into Satan and demons. Adam had chosen Satan's way of "GET" and rejected God as source of basic knowledge, as God and ruler and as Savior. According to Adam's decision God cut the WORLD OFF from access to Him. BUT, since God cut them off

rected from the dead after three days and three nights in the tomb, making the resurrection to IMMORTAL LIFE possible for those who are God's; 6) to ascend to the throne of God in heaven, there, as the HIGH PRIEST of the Church and IT'S LIVING HEAD, to direct the Church and intercede for it with God. And 7) having received the Kingdom from God, to COME AGAIN as the KING of kings and LORD of lords, in supreme almighty POWER and GLORY, to set up and rule THE KINGDOM OF GOD! Jesus ANNOUNCED the fact of

College to provide training for the supportive functions behind the apostle, in the GREAT COMMISSION.

Remember, the Church is still in the six millenniums of this PRESENT EVIL WORLD. We are "called-out ones" — called to be SEPARATE!

Just as the angels on earth (pre-Adamic) needed the GOVERNMENT OF GOD to synchronize the various functions into a team unit, so was this necessary in God's Church.

The operation of the GREAT

of Eli's sin, removed his son from all authority and dis-fellow-shipped him from the Church.

The son had represented that no one dared "take it over his head," by going to Christ's apostle — that ALL authority in a then great worldwide Work of God stopped with him! — that he had SHUT OFF all authority above himself.

But even Christ's apostle has no authority to SHUT OFF all authority above him. In God's government, the one in lesser authority is still under the authority of those over him. Authority does

"The apostles were NOT sent forth on a soul-saving crusade, but to TEACH those whom God had called and made willing to listen."

the coming Kingdom, which, by His overcoming Satan, had made it ASSURED!

He specially called and trained His apostles, started the Church with them and the 120, and then ADDED to the Church such as He needed to back up the apostles' ministry to the WHOLE WORLD.

To those He called, upon complete repentance and faith, He gave the gift of the Holy Spirit. THUS THEY BECAME PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE (II Peter 1:4).

The PURPOSE and FUNCTION of the Church was:

1) to back up with loyal support the apostles, as their part in the GREAT COMMISSION — and as GOD'S MEANS OF,

2) overcoming Satan, developing God's holy, righteous CHARACTER within them through the Holy Spirit, thus qualifying them also, to sit with Christ in His throne in Jerusalem, with power for ruling the whole earth. (Revelation 3:21, 2:26-27). This latter promise applies to those CALLED OUT OF THE PRESENT WORLD — not to those who shall be called (as ALL will) during the millennium!

✓ CHURCH a spiritual organism yet well ORGANIZED

At this point a bit of personal experience will help to UNDERSTAND.

Jesus had called his apostles and taught them in PERSON. Jesus Christ is the WORD OF GOD, in person. The Bible is the Word of God IN WRITING!

As the personal Word of God taught the original apostles, so He called and taught His modern-day apostle by the WRITTEN WORD OF GOD — the SAME TEACHING — the SAME TRUTH!

After calling, giving His apostle the initial teaching, having him ordained, God added the 19 members that started His Church of this Philadelphia era. Then, as one "SENT FORTH" with the Gospel message, Christ had opened before His apostle the means of MASS COMMUNICATION of the printed word, radio and later television.

With such vast mass communication facilities, one apostle could reach many times more people with the Gospel message than the original 12, plus the apostle Paul and others sent to gentile nations. I soon saw the need, as God's Word sets forth for the CHURCH, of evangelists, pastors, other elders and teachers — as well as people trained in ADMINISTRATIVE responsibilities.

So God raised up Ambassador

COMMISSION, especially in this 20th century, requires, as the New Testament clearly states, organization.

So God set HIS GOVERNMENT in His Church. And God's government is authority from the TOP down. God the Father is in supreme authority over all. Next in authority under Him is Jesus Christ, living Head of the Church. On the human and earthly level, next in authority under Christ is His chosen apostle. God organized ancient Israel, under Moses, with captains over thousands next under Moses, then under them captains over hundreds, over fifties, etc., as God led Moses to choose.

I will here inject an incident in point. Christ had led His apostle to appoint the apostle's son next under him, because he was the best qualified, in the office of executive vice president. Perhaps it was a mistake to use such a modern business title. Nevertheless the son, like David's sons, Absalom and Adonijah, began to simply take over. He innovated policies he was not authorized to set. He wanted to secularize the college, the magazine, *The Plain Truth* and even the Church. He wanted this world's accreditation for the college. He demoted or shanghaied away the top-ranking ministers who had been trained under and were loyal to Christ's apostle.

Meanwhile the apostle, as "one sent forth" with Christ's Gospel message, was going into all the world — and away from headquarters up to 300 out of the 365 days in the year. As the son departed from the ways of his father and of God (as did the sons of Eli and of King David) the son SHUT OFF ALL AUTHORITY ABOVE HIM. He threatened with loss of their positions in the Work any under him who in any manner contacted or revealed to his father how he was departing from God's ways, watering down doctrines and teachings — first in the college, then starting also in the Church. Cowed with fear, those who knew how the son was destroying the Work of the living God, kept silent.

Finally, four leaders under him took courage and came to God's apostle, saying, "God forgive us for keeping silent so long, but we were afraid for our jobs. But now we have to report to you that your son is systematically destroying all that Christ has built through His apostle and building something for himself. Like a spoiled child, he wants his own way."

God's apostle, to be not guilty

not END, at any point, under God the Father.

The end of this incident in point is that all in God's Church now know that the door to Christ's apostle is always open to ALL under him!

God's Church is NOT a worldly ORGANIZATION — it is a SPIRITUAL ORGANIZATION, called out of this world and its ways by Christ. Yet it is WELL ORGANIZED — must be to function. The Church consists of the begotten children of God — the DIVINE FAMILY TO BE!

The HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

Actually the Church is, on the human level, the BEGOTTEN FAMILY OF GOD. To the gentile converts at Ephesus, God inspired Paul to write, "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God" (Ephesians 2:19). In other words, of the begotten FAMILY OF GOD. Continue:

"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles [New Testament] and the prophets [Old Testament], Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone, in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy TEMPLE in the Lord" (verses 20-21). So God reveals here that the Church is:

1) the HOUSEHOLD or begotten FAMILY OF God; 2) a building — a HOLY TEMPLE — fitly joined together — that is, well organized (and, of course, on GOD'S pattern).

As a building — the HOLY TEMPLE to which Christ will come — it is built on a FIRM FOUNDATION, the apostles, chosen by Christ, and the prophets. MUCH of the New Testament is simply quotations, or citations, from the writings of the prophets of the Old Testament. The things written in the Old Testament were, . . . written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (I Corinthians 10:11).

Again the apostle Paul instructed Timothy, . . . from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures [the only Scriptures Timothy could have known from a child were those written by Old Testament prophets], which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (II Timothy 3:15). The writings of the Old Testament prophets are part of the FOUNDATION of the Church of God!

And of course Jesus Christ is (See SEVEN PROOFS, page 12)

"Jesus gave His GREAT COMMISSION to the apostles — those sent forth with the message. The lay brethren were added to the Church to support the apostles."

had called and made willing to listen. That is what God's apostle does to this day. Today we are able to utilize modern methods of MASS COMMUNICATION — radio, television, the printing press. We TEACH — the good news of the coming KINGDOM — to those whom God calls and makes willing to listen. In this way we TEACH and PROCLAIM the true GOSPEL MESSAGE to many MILLIONS, worldwide. Our magazine, *The Plain Truth*, has more than THREE MILLION subscribers, and estimates are that each copy is read by at least three people — actually reaching nine or 10 MILLION people! And we teach all who willingly listen to observe all that God commanded His apostles!

Now notice Mark's account of the GREAT COMMISSION: . . . Afterward He appeared unto the eleven . . . and he said unto them, GO YE into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:14, 15). Naturally Jesus did not mean every human being on earth — but all they might reach who would hear. "He that believeth

before they were born, God does not hold them responsible — they have not been judged — the responsibility is GOD'S — not theirs — for that which has been hidden from their minds.

But now the time had come when the "second Adam" — Jesus Christ — had overcome Satan and QUALIFIED to restore the GOVERNMENT OF GOD to earth and establish the KINGDOM OF GOD — which is the divine FAMILY OF GOD, ruling the world — and ultimately the UNIVERSE!

Jesus DID NOT come on a soul-saving crusade. Those uncalled and unsaved were NOT "lost." JUST NOT JUDGED — YET! They shall be in the millennium and Great White Throne resurrection and judgment.

Jesus came 1) to overcome Satan and QUALIFY to establish the KINGDOM OF GOD; 2) to call and teach His future apostles; 3) to proclaim the GOOD NEWS of the coming Kingdom of God; 4) to pay the penalty of the sins of the world by His death on the cross with His shed blood, thus reconciling those called to contact with God the Father; 5) to be resur-

SEVEN PROOFS of THE TRUE CHURCH

(Continued from page 11)
the chief cornerstone — the very HEAD of the Church.

The TEMPLE to which Christ will come

There has been much perplexity and discussion as to when the temple will be built to which Christ shall come.

Malachi's prophecy speaks of Christ's second coming to His temple (Malachi 3:1-6).

In Haggai's prophecy it is referred to prophetically. Zerubbabel had been sent as governor of a colony to build the second temple 70 years after destruction of

his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church" (Ephesians 5:25-32).

The Church is made up of the BODY of Christ. More on that a little later. But the BODY presented to Christ will not be a dismembered body, with an arm, a leg or other parts being separated! It is ONE Church — fitly framed together — not dismembered into many parts following many different men seeking to draw away disciples after them.

less — can reach more people by far than all of the first century apostles combined.

But this use of modern facilities in our day necessitates a considerable organization of people in various administrative capacities, beside evangelists, pastors and assistants, elders, deacons and deaconesses in local churches worldwide.

In Jesus' parable of the talents (Matthew 25), He pictured Himself as giving talents to various ones left here on earth while Jesus was in heaven.

"And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to

The apostle Paul had to correct the Corinthian church because they were following individual men: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing . . ." — and WHERE did the Church receive that one SAME THING they were all to believe? From THE APOSTLES! And the apostles received it from CHRIST. And Jesus Christ received it from God the Father! Continue, ". . . that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind . . . same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10).

The apostle reproved them, saying, ". . . there are contentions among you" (verse 11).

"Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ" (verse 12). CHRIST IS NOT divided (verse 13).

The 'loner' Christian

What about the "loner" Christian, who says, "I will serve Christ in my own way"? What about the one who leaves God's Church — either to have his own private relation with Christ — to GET his own salvation — without GIVING his part of the Church effort in sending the true Gospel into ALL THE WORLD?

Or, what about the one who follows a MAN, because of that man's personality, charisma or attractiveness, or some other group?

Stop and THINK!

Is Christ going to marry a number of differing groups, not in complete harmony with each other — yet all "professing CHRIST"?

Jesus said, "He that is not with me . . ." (and since He is the Head of God's one and only Church, He plainly meant with Him where HE is working — in God's one Church). Repeat, "He that is not with me [where He works] is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad" (Matthew 12:30).

Jesus Christ is going to marry

of the Church — or follows a man or some other group — is surely NOT BUILDING ON THE ONE SURE FOUNDATION of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone.

Again, "Unless GOD build the house, they labor in vain that build it . . ." (Psalm 127:1).

The Church is the HOUSEHOLD OF GOD and a BUILDING — the glorious TEMPLE to which Christ shall come!

How well organized?

Notice again how well organized is the one true Church — for getting the GREAT COMMISSION to the whole world:

"In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord" (Ephesians 2:21). Again, "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted [pressed together, knit or drawn together, consolidated] by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part . . ." (Ephesians 4:16).

"And He [Christ] gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, TILL we all come in the UNITY of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man; unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11-13).

The True Church of God has these offices, as the living Christ put them in His Church.

A TITHE-paying Church

God's continuing original Church is also a tithe-paying Church.

The Church receives that ONE SAME THING they all are commanded to believe! As stated before — even as the Church beginning A.D. 31 did — from the APOSTLES who received the doctrines and teachings FROM CHRIST!

The Church of God under Peter, Paul and the first-century apostles was a TITHE-PAYING Church, beside GIVING offerings!

Tithing started BEFORE Moses and the Old Testament Israel. It started with Abraham, who, after the slaughter of the kings, gave the tithe of all to Melchizedek, priest of the Most High God (actually the one who became Christ). Write for the free reprint article, "The Mystery of Melchizedek Solved."

Tithing to God — PAYING a 10th of one's "increase" — became a law in Old Testament Israel. After both Israel and Judah had gone into captivity and slavery, the prophet Malachi, writing about 450 B.C., as one of the prophets who with the apostles, and Christ, form the FOUNDATION of the Church, wrote, PROPHETICALLY concerning our time today: "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In TITHES AND OFFERINGS! Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation" (Malachi 3:8-9). Both the

(See SEVEN PROOFS, page 13)

"Is Christ going to marry a number of differing groups, not in complete harmony with each other — yet all 'professing CHRIST'?"

Solomon's temple. He built the temple to which Jesus came, though it had been enlarged and embellished by the Roman Herod. But speaking of this temple, as a type and forerunner of the temple to which Christ shall come at His second coming, it is written, "The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts; and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts" (Haggai 2:9).

It is inconceivable that the Israelis, in the present international turmoil over their possession of old Jerusalem, could ever demolish the Arab Moslem Dome of the Rock — now standing on the site of Solomon's temple — and build a new one there of greater splendor and glory than Solomon's! However, as the second temple Zerubbabel was building was a typical forerunner of the temple to which Christ shall come, even so Zerubbabel was the typical forerunner of one Christ would use in building the far more glorious temple to which Christ shall come in His GLORY!

In Zechariah 4:9, "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it . . ." And as Zerubbabel's hands did finish that second temple, so shall the one Christ uses in building the temple to which He shall come in His GLORY!

And the Church of God of the present day shall be ". . . a building fitly framed together [and] growth unto an holy temple in the Lord" (Ephesians 2:21).

Church the Bride of Christ

The one and only true Church, a spiritual organism well organized by Christ, is the affianced Bride of Christ — to MARRY Christ, after His coming and after the resurrection and change of the Church into immortality.

In Ephesians 5 this is shown by analogy. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish . . . for we are members of His BODY, of his flesh, and of

This coming marriage is again referred to in II Corinthians 11:2: "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."

The new-covenant MARRIAGE will take place at Christ's coming in GLORY: "And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunders, saying, ALLELUIA: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb [Christ] is come, and his wife hath made herself ready" (Revelation 19:6-7).

It is enlightening at this point to remember Jesus came as "the messenger of the covenant" (Malachi 3:1). He came as the Messenger of the NEW covenant.

The old covenant was a CONTRACT entered into between the children of Israel and the Word (who was to become Christ) — the God of the Old Testament. It was a MARRIAGE covenant. God "proposed" and Israel "accepted" (Exodus 19:6, 8). That "marriage covenant" also set up the kingdom of Israel as one of earth's nations.

The new covenant also will be a MARRIAGE covenant marrying the Church, then changed to spirit immortality, to Christ. But that covenant also will set up the KINGDOM OF GOD, ruling all nations with the GOVERNMENT of GOD.

The old covenant was made with a carnal-minded people on their PROMISE to obey. The new covenant will be made with a Spirit-begotten and Spirit-born people who have ALREADY PROVED THEIR OBEDIENCE!

Modern facilities for mass communication today

The Church members, as a whole, are not called to "GO FORTH" with the Gospel message — but to back up, help, support the apostle in carrying the message into all the world.

I mentioned that one apostle today, with modern facilities for mass communication — the printing press, radio, television, even the telephone by which one may reach another in any part of the world in a matter of minutes or

another one; to every man according to his several ability . . ." (verse 15). These "talents" — pieces of money — symbolized spiritual gifts and measure of the Holy Spirit, given each. He gave according to the natural ability of each.

The 12th chapter of I Corinthians reveals that there are various offices of administration in the Church — and that God gives various spiritual gifts for those various functions. THE SAME PRINCIPLE holds, since God is consistent and never changes. He gives, through the Holy Spirit, special abilities, according to one's own natural abilities.

I have often talked about the fallacy of "fitting the square peg into the round hole" to illustrate human failure because so many are NOT doing what by natural ability they are fitted best to do.

"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:4). All these various special talents, abilities or aptitudes, though several, are all given by the same Holy Spirit.

"And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God that worketh all in all" (verses

"The old covenant was made with a carnal-minded people on their PROMISE to obey. The new covenant will be made with a Spirit-begotten and Spirit-born people who have ALREADY PROVED THEIR OBEDIENCE!"

5-6). It is GOD working in us.

"But all these worketh that one and selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. For as the body is ONE, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are ONE BODY: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into ONE BODY . . ." (verses 11-13).

"But now are they many members, yet BUT ONE BODY" (verse 20).

What about those who follow a MAN, outside that ONE BODY? God says we are not to follow a MAN. Paul said that ". . . of your own selves shall men arise . . . to draw away disciples after them" (Acts 20:30).

THE ONE AND ONLY TRUE CHURCH — not a number of scattered groups or scattered individuals.

God's law and way of life may be summed up in the one word "LOVE" — which is outflowing — the way of "GIVE" — while Satan's way is that of "GET." The one who tries to GET his salvation apart from the one Church Christ is going to marry is on the "GET" way. Those loyally in the Church are GIVING of their prayers, loyalty, encouragement and support behind Christ's chosen apostle in GIVING the GOOD NEWS to the world — its ONLY HOPE!

In other words, he that seeks to GET his own salvation without GIVING his part in the team effort

SEVEN PROOFS

(Continued from page 12)

kingdom of Israel and the kingdom of Judah had long before been taken out of their land as slaves. A comparatively small contingent was sent back to Jerusalem, 70 years after Judah's captivity, by King Cyrus of Persia under governorship of Zerubbabel to build the second temple. Some of these Jews were still in Judea when Malachi wrote — but the two nations, as a whole composing ancient Israel, were not there. THIS WAS NOT MOSAIC LAW — this was PROPHECY for OUR DAY!

Malachi continued, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and PROVE ME NOW HEREWITH, saith the Eternal, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (verse 10).

That is NOT "Old Testament stuff" as God's true Church KNOWS — and because it has

our knowledge, observes these festivals or knows their tremendous MEANING!

It has been stated before that as the physical creation of man began with the physical Adam, so the SPIRITUAL creation of man begins with the Spiritual Christ.

The first of these annual festivals is the Passover, observed on the eve of the 14th day of the first month of the sacred year. This is the year's most solemn service, on the anniversary, as a memorial, of the death of Christ, to reconcile those called to God.

This is immediately followed by the next seven days — the Festival of Unleavened Bread. All leaven must be put out of members' houses, and nothing leavened may be eaten. Leaven is a symbol of sin. It emphatically reminds God's called-out ones daily for seven days through the stomach that we must put sin out of our lives. Also it is a memorial, on the anniversary of Israel's exodus out of Egypt. Egypt also is

Festival No. 4 is the Feast of Trumpets, on the first day of the seventh month of the sacred calendar. The Feast of Trumpets pictures and reminds the Church yearly of the SECOND COMING of CHRIST to reign over all the earth.

Largest convention on earth

The fifth festival is the Day of Atonement, called in Jewish Judaism *Rosh Hashana* — a solemn fast day. No food may be eaten from sunset to sunset. It pictures to God's people the making of man AT-ONE-MENT with God. The world, cut off from God these 6,000 years, has been deceived and led by the god of this world, Satan. Jesus Christ QUALIFIED to replace the former Lucifer on the THRONE of the earth. When He comes as KING of kings, Satan shall be deposed, bound, shut up (Revelation 20:3) for 1,000 years. Without Satan, who has "worked in the people of the world" (Ephesians 2:2), humanity at last may be made AT ONE with the true Creator God!

The sixth festival is the Feast of

called to repentance and ETERNAL LIFE.

Final fate of the incorrigible

There shall then be one more resurrection — of those who were called to salvation, but rejected it

"Those called into God's Church are now being judged. Others are not — YET!"

— the incorrigible wicked. They will be resurrected MORTAL to realize their fatal decision. They will be "cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death" (Revelation 20:14-15). This "lake of fire" is pictured by Peter in his second letter:

"This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: that ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets [Old Testament], and of the commandment of us the apostles [New Testament] of our Lord and Saviour: knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

"For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the Word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

"But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, and the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" (II Peter 3:1-10).

Malachi adds, of that final destruction of the willful rebellious into unconscious (Ecclesiastes 9:5) annihilation:

"For behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all

tification, because a small number of professing Christian sects use the name. Yet the one and only original Church founded A.D. 31 by Jesus Christ most certainly will have the true NAME! God names things and people

what they are. This is a basic principle. The "church in the wilderness" — the Old Testament Church (or congregation) was named the "congregation of Israel" because it was composed of the physically born children of Israel. The two-letter word of denotes ownership or origin.

The New Testament Church organized by Christ is called, 12 TIMES in the New Testament, "the CHURCH of GOD," some times with a modifying word or phrase, as, "the Church of God, which is at Corinth," or the "Churches of God in Judea." Today it is known as the Worldwide Church of God.

The English word *church* is translated from the Greek *ekklesia*, and the Greek word used in the original writing of the New Testament means, simply, a group, an assembly, etc., without specific reference to a church. At Ephesus, for example, the city council — political — was called an *ekklesia*, with no religious connotation at all.

The ONLY FACTOR that makes the word *church* sacred is when called the Church of GOD — in other words, the group, congregation, assembly or church that BELONGS TO GOD. It is GOD'S name connected with it that lends sanctity to the name.

For example, the name "Roman Catholic Church" means a "universal" (catholic) church of Rome. The "Lutheran Church" is that group or body of people following or established by Luther. The "Methodist Church" means (in its name) a group or body of people following a certain method. The "Baptist Church" by name means a group or combination of groups who believe in baptizing and follow John the baptist. The name "Congregational Church" simply implies a group of people who believe the lay people ought to have the authority. The name "Presbyterian Church" means an associated group who believe the "presbytery" or officiating clergy have the authority.

The name "Church of God" means that group of "called-out ones," called out from this world, who look to GOD as the authority — and government from God through Christ, through (on the human level) apostles chosen by Christ — NOT elected by the people!

So there is VITAL MEANING to the name of the true Church. And the name is IMPORTANT!

In Jesus' last prayer to God before being crucified, He prayed, "I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world . . . And now . . . I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be ONE, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name . . ." (John 17:6, 11-12). (To be concluded next issue.)

"The ONLY FACTOR that makes the word church sacred is when called the Church of GOD — in other words, the group, congregation, assembly or church that BELONGS TO GOD. It is GOD'S name connected with it that lends sanctity to the name."

TITHED, it has had God's blessing and prosperity.

Speaking of tithes, Jesus said, " . . . these ought ye to have done . . ." (Matthew 23:23). Hebrews 7:4-12 binds tithing in the New Testament. I Corinthians 9:1-14 definitely upholds the principle of tithing and GIVING.

Knowledge of God's master plan

Of all the religions — and of all the denominations and sects in "Christianity," God's true Church alone has understanding of the master plan of God for His spiritual creation of man. This is forcibly reminded every year in the Church by the seven annual Holy Days and festivals Christ instituted in the Church.

Small as the Church is in numbers — Jesus spoke of it as the "little flock" and said that as they had persecuted Him so would they His Church — nevertheless the Church's great annual autumnal Feast of Tabernacles is the LARGEST church conclave, convention or festival held on earth!

As God made the weekly Sabbath FOR MAN (Mark 2:27) when man was made — so He gave His Church seven annual Sabbaths and seven annual festivals — when He first established the Church. In Acts 7:38, you will find the Old Testament congregation of Israel called "the church in the wilderness." It was composed of the human-born children of Israel — the Church of the New Testament is composed of the begotten children of God. As the Old Testament church was called the congregation of Israel, so the New Testament Church is called the Church of God.

To the Church — both Old Testament under Moses and New Testament under Christ — God gave these annual occasions to emphatically remind His people, annually, of His master plan.

No other church or religion, to

symbolic of sin — and Israel was taken out by God with miracles — as He delivered His people today from the bondage of sin. There are two annual Holy Days in this Festival — the first and the last of the seven.

The third annual festival is the Feast of FIRSTFRUITS, called in the New Testament of the Bible "Pentecost," because this is the one set-apart time of year when the Church COUNTS to calculate the proper day. It is 50 days, counted beginning on the "morrow after the weekly Sabbath," which occurs during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. "Pentecost" is simply the Greek "fifty-count." This pictures the coming and infilling of the Holy Spirit, begetting the "firstfruits" — those relative first few called to spiritual salvation. The Holy Spirit came on the very 50th day — the first time the Holy Spirit was given to a group, which formed the Church of God. This annual festive occasion reminds God's people yearly that they are merely the first to be called to spiritual salvation — that the world, except the few called, is CUT OFF from God — neither "saved," nor "lost" — just not yet called! Therefore not yet judged.

Another incidental proof of the identity of the one true Church is the knowledge that with the foundation of the Church of God "the time is come that JUDGMENT must begin at the house of God." Those called into God's Church are now being judged. Others are not — YET!

These annual festivals are built around the annual harvest seasons in Jerusalem. The first three portray the early grain harvest, typical of the first early spiritual harvest in the conversion of man. The last four correspond to the final great autumnal harvest. They all come in the seventh sacred month.

Tabernacles — a seven-day festival, with the first day the sixth annual Holy Day. This is followed by an eighth day, a one-day Holy Day — making in all an eight-day festival.

This pictures the millennial reign of the KINGDOM of GOD, ruling all nations for 1,000 years. During this millennium, ALL living will be called to repentance and faith and eternal salvation through the reigning CHRIST — with no Satan to overcome. More of the details of this time will be given under PROOF No. 7, to follow.

The seventh and final Holy Day begins at sunset just as the Feast of Tabernacles is ending. As stated earlier, small though the Worldwide Church of God be in numbers, this is the largest convention or conclave held annually on earth — with Festival sites all over the world.

When the billions shall be called

The final eighth day (the seventh festival), brings to mind again every year what is in God's

" . . . of all the denominations and sects in 'Christianity' God's true Church, alone, has understanding of the master plan of God for His spiritual creation of man."

master plan for the BILLIONS of people who have lived and died since Adam — CUT OFF from God — UNJUDGED — neither "lost" nor yet "saved."

They will be resurrected after the millennium in a special resurrection (Revelation 20:11-13). This is also described in Ezekiel's prophecy of the "valley of dry bones" (Ezekiel 37). All previously uncalled will be resurrected MORTAL, and with the 7,000 years of humanity past, will face up with what their experience in sin really proved. All then will be

the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch . . . for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts" (Malachi 4:1-3).

The NAME of the true Church

The NAME of God's true Church is important — but not alone the exclusive proof of iden-

LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

The new congregation in FLORENCE, S.C., came into being Sept. 30, opening services with the hymn, "How Excellent Is Thy Name," led by Jim Peoples, the church's pastor. Mr. Peoples also delivered the inaugural sermon to the about 120 brethren attending. Charles B. Edwards.

A week earlier, Sept. 23, was the inaugural meeting of the new church in FRANKSTON, Australia, near Melbourne. Rod Dean, pastor of Melbourne South as well as Frankston, said the two churches would work closely together until Frankston was able to stand on her own two feet early next year. Rod Puts gave the sermonette, his first, followed by the sermon by Mr. Dean. Nearly 100 people attended the service, with about 70 expected to attend regularly. Leon J. Lyell.

The six fortnightly meetings in Cheltenham, England, sponsored in part by members of the nearby GLOUCESTER church, have come to an end, having attracted about 50 people, some who wish to learn more about the Church. Follow-up Bible studies have been arranged. Much of the money for the campaign series came from articles made by Church members and sold in Birmingham by Elizabeth Nicholls. Edward Karas.

The combined churches of KLAMATH FALLS and MEDFORD, Ore., observed the Feast of Trumpets at the fairgrounds in Grants Pass, Ore., with services being conducted by Stuart Segall and Fred Davis. The ministers also ordained Mr. and Mrs. George Newton as deacon and deaconess for the Klamath Falls church and Mr. and Mrs. Ted Burgie as deacon and deaconess for the Medford church. Roy M. Manley.

Members of the EXETER, England, church made their first visit to the Franklin Homes for mongoloid and backward children Oct. 28, planning to return on a fortnightly basis to visit with the children. Francis Cann.

A 17-mile canoe trip down the Alafia River east of Tampa was on tap for members of the ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., church Oct. 29. The brethren had a pleasurable autumn day, swimming, eating, and diving from the numerous ropes suspended from the overhanging trees. Lavene L. Vorel.

Brethren from four churches gathered Nov. 5 at the Northridge, Calif., home of Sallee Toms to bid farewell to Bill Quillen and his wife Lois. The Quillens are moving to Missoula, Mont., where Mr. Quillen will be regional pastor for eight churches in Montana and Idaho. He has been pastor of the GLENDALE, Calif., church for several years, which at one time included brethren who now attend the Reseda, Los Angeles and Pasadena churches.

After enjoying the barbecued leg-of-lamb dinner, most of the group adjourned to the Reseda Masonic Lodge, where other brethren from the combined church areas were in the process of celebrating a belated wedding reception given by Mildred McFarlane of Reseda for her son Gene and his new bride, the former Elaine Woods of Glendale. They were married in Las Vegas, Nev., in October. Sallee Toms.

About 60 ATHENS, Ga., members attended the first in a series of classes Nov. 11 on a survey of the Old Testament, taught by pastor Jim Franks. The first 16 classes will run through June and cover the first five books of the Old Testament. Darla Wilson.

CLUB MEETINGS

The KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., church organized its first Spokesman Club Oct. 7, having previously combined with the Medford Spokesmen. Officers are George Newton, president; Roy Man-



CLUB DIRECTOR — Don Traynor, director of the Philadelphia, Pa., Spokesman Club, explains the club format at a meeting Nov. 5. (See "Club Meetings," this page.)

ley, vice president; Dwayne Gates, secretary; Samuel Gates, treasurer; and Harold Feathers, sergeant at arms. Local elder Don Russell is the club's director under minister Fred Davis. Roy M. Manley.

The Ladies' Club of the HAMILTON, Bermuda, church sponsored a pre-YOU party the afternoon of Nov. 12 at the Southampton Glebe School. Eleven club members and 24 young people attended, enjoying all sorts of games and refreshments. Prizes, ribbons and party baskets filled with nuts, mints and raisins were presented to all the young people at the end of the day for their enthusiastic participation. Sandra Outerbridge.

The RICHMOND, Va., Ladies' Club netted more than \$350 at a one-day charity bazaar Oct. 27 at a shopping mall in

Richmond. Weeks prior to the bazaar the women met in informal workshops at club members' homes to work on the handmade items — Barbie Doll clothes, bookmarks, place mats, stuffed animals, a quilt and many other crafts. Baked goods and many plants were also sold at the bazaar, which was directed by Piper Ely. Kathy Giese.

Members of the PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Spokesman Club, Women's Club and the YOU chapter met Nov. 5 at the Treadway Motor Lodge for the first of their monthly joint meetings, a family activity. The clubs' regular meetings are scheduled throughout the month.

Don Traynor, assistant to pastor Carlos Perkins and director of the Spokesman Club, explained the club format, stressing the potential the club offers in developing character essential for success in both private and occupational life.

The Women's Club, presided over by Ruth Perkins, focused on Ecclesiastes 9:10 as a means of attaining the club's objective, which is to praise God through club activities.

Cheryl Sarfert, guest speaker and a former Ambassador College student, addressed the YOU members on the subject of appreciation. Members also viewed a movie on evolution, followed by a discussion led by Mr. Perkins contrasting biblical creation to man's theory of evolution. Tom Wagner.

SENIOR ACTIVITIES

During the Fall Festival in the LAKE OF THE OZARKS, Mo., 259 senior citizens of the Church met at the Fountain restaurant to enjoy a fried-chicken dinner and hear guest speaker Dean Blackwell.

Mr. Blackwell exhorted the senior citizens to be active in Outreach and to be a stable influence in encouraging others. "Senior citizens are appreciated for their ability to draw from life experiences and teach others," said Mr. Blackwell, adding that they can also follow the example of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, who doesn't believe in retiring.

Jess McClain, director of the Springfield, Mo., 60-Plus Club, awarded \$20 each to Elsie Tallius of the Rolla, Mo., church, the most longtime member present; Nora Wananaker, 92, of the Iowa City, Iowa, church, the oldest woman present; and Dr. H.J. Rogers, 89, of the Springfield, Mo., church, the oldest man present. Polly Rose.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Cub Scout Pack No. 332 of the

MILWAUKEE, Wis., church held its annual family night blue-gold potluck dinner Sept. 25, with guest speaker Mike Hamisko, pastor of the church, speaking on commitment and following through. The club's special project for the evening was drawing posters reflecting their feelings about pollution. Leslie Bitts was awarded first prize. Badges were awarded to the following cubs who fulfilled the requirements for a specific category: Mike Roth, Steve Roth, Pat O'Halloran, Mike Kazmer, Leslie Bitts, Randy Kohler, Cole Simchick, Don Parker, Tony Parker, Nathan Kitts, Chuck Schultz, Mark Vavra and Kenny Mentell, who also received the "Arrow of Light" award, which is the highest award a cub scout can receive. Dianne Thompson.

The MUFRESBORO, Tenn., YOU chapter played host to a Saturday-night cookout and wiener roast at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Whaley Nov. 4, with a hayride preceding the affair. Some 60 adults, teens and youngsters enjoyed the ride on the flatbed wagons to the hot, blazing fire that warmed things up as the sun went down. Everett Corbin.

SPORTS

Volleyball and softball tournaments at the Feast of Tabernacles in FRESNO, Calif., were directed by Dan Orban, pastor of the Bakersfield, Calif., church. Eddie Garcia coordinated the volleyball action and Greg Guy the softball. Winning the coed volleyball tournament was Bakersfield, followed by Santa Barbara, Calif., in second place. Visalia, Calif., won first place in the women's volleyball tournament, with Santa Barbara placing second. The men's softball tournament was also won by a team from the Bakersfield church, and the Salt Lake City, Utah, team placed second. Luanna K. Guy.

In action in ATHENS, Ga., on Nov. 5, the Athens, Ga., volleyball team trounced the Atlanta and Chattanooga teams to win the district title in double elimination play-offs. Triessa Howington of the Athens team was most valuable-player award for the district. Named to the all-district team were Kim Wicks and Jan

'LOCAL CHURCH NEWS' DEADLINES

Reports for "Local Church News" must be postmarked no later than 14 days after the date of the event reported on and be no longer than 250 words. Reports lacking the date of the event cannot be published.

Article series on religion describes Church beliefs

ST. CLEMENT, Channel Islands — When Bob Boraker, pastor of the church here, saw a series of articles on religious groups in the Jersey Evening Post, he called the journalist writing the series, Roy McLoughlin. Did he want to know about the Worldwide Church of God? He was interested.

Members of the Church here on Jersey, the largest of the Channel Islands, meet once a month in Caldwell Hall with Mr. Boraker, who is stationed in Bricket Wood, England. Including the children the congregation numbers about 20.

Mr. and Mrs. McLoughlin attended two Sabbath services, asking questions each time, and interviewed Roy Fox, a deacon in the church here.

The article, entitled "The Worldwide Church, and a belief in the 'plain truth,'" appeared in the June 13 edition of the Post. The article refers to the growth of Herbert W. Armstrong's radio ministry in the early '30s into its present form



W.L. Bailey of Sterling, Okla., displays the prizes he won for his creation exhibited at the arts-and-crafts show at the Feast of Tabernacles in Big Sandy, Tex. Mr. Bailey mounted a wagon wheel to a plow disc, both more than 50 years old, and welded on the wheel numerous bits and pieces of antique farm tools, plow parts, wagon and buggy parts, and Model T and Model A parts that he has saved for many years. His creation was awarded first in its class, first in the art show and most unusual exhibit at the Festival.

Coffer of Chattanooga; Dee Dee Shinliver and Tracy Waino of Atlanta; and Debbie Camp, Susan Culpener, Triessa Howington and Cindy Norris of Athens. The Chattanooga team received the sportsmanship award. Darla Wilson.

District 63 of the Great Lakes region held its volleyball tournament in KALAMAZOO, Mich., Nov. 5. Winning the championship was the Kalamazoo team, followed by Michigan City and Fort Wayne, Ind. The all-tournament team consisted of Norma Carl of Fort Wayne; Amy Albertson and Trava Huddleston of Michigan City; and Patty Smith, Sonya Olsen and Robin Brubaker of Kalamazoo. Alternate was Rhonda Hellman. Patty Smith was the officials' choice for most valuable player, and the Michigan City team won the sportsmanship award.

Prior to the Kalamazoo tournament, the YOU members of District 63 sponsored a volleyball exhibition by members of the Western Michigan University varsity volleyball team and their coach, Rob Buck. Mr. Buck, who has trained some current Olympic volleyball players and has studied the sport in the Soviet Union, began the evening by showing a film, Olympics '76, which included an 18-minute high-point summary of the 1976 competition in Montreal, Que. Then the WMU team demonstrated some of their techniques and drills and answered questions from the audience. Mark Kissell.



ORDINATIONS — Bert Wyland, left, a deacon in the Portland (Ore.) West church, was ordained local elder during services on the Feast of Trumpets. The following Sabbath, Oct. 7, right photo, from left, Chris Anderson, Ruth Oliver, Ruth Nichols, AnneMarie Marson, Jan Gresham and Glen McCormick, all members of the Portland West church, were ordained deacons and deaconesses. (Photos by Elroy Farah)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHS

BORDEN, Randy and Susan, of Santa Ynez, Calif., girl, Caroline Selina, Oct. 1, 8:52 a.m., 7 pounds 10 1/2 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

BROWN, Randall and Wendy (Ditmer), of Lewistown, Pa., boy, Zachary Quentin, Nov. 13, 8:55 p.m., 6 pounds, first child.

DUNLAP, Richard and Anna (Helmuth), of Springfield, Ore., boy, Christopher Wayne, Nov. 13, 1:15 a.m., 8 pounds 8 ounces, first child.

EDSALL, Robert and Alona (Templeman), of Kirksville, Mo., boy, Nathan Robert, Oct. 18, 2:08 a.m., 7 pounds 3 ounces, first child.

FIELD, Frank and Pauline (Curtis) of Auckland, New Zealand, girl, Carolyn Louise, Oct. 25, 9 a.m., 8 pounds 3 ounces, now 1 boy, 2 girls.

FORD, Mike and Carol (Rittenbach), of Jackson, Miss., girl, Tara Leigh, Nov. 6, 11:39 p.m., 8 pounds 5 ounces, first child.

GIORDANO, Bill and Pat, of Arlington Heights, Ill., girl, Cynthia Lynn, Nov. 6, 9:47 a.m., 6 pounds 11 ounces, first child.

GLATZ, Dana and Sandra, of Helena, Mont., boy, Emil Deane, Oct. 14, 1 a.m., 7 pounds 12 ounces, now 2 boys.

HOOK, Stephen and Julie (Looney), of Baltimore, Md., boy, Wesley Stephen, Nov. 1, 7:58 a.m., 9 pounds 9 ounces, first child.

INFANTE, Donald and Cathy, of Midland, Mich., girl, Teresa Ann, Oct. 15, 11 p.m., 8 pounds 2 ounces, now 2 girls.

JONES, Bill and Judy (Simmons), of Modesto, Calif., boy, Jonathan David, Oct. 21, 1:38 a.m., 7 pounds 6 1/2 ounces, first child.

LEISURE, Everett and Merna (Livingood), of Pasadena, Calif., girl, Peggy Leann, Nov. 6, 12:28 p.m., 8 pounds 6 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

LE ROUX, Peter and Marlene (Sias), of Worcester, Republic of South Africa, twin boy and girl, Etienne Simon and Alva Regina, Oct. 3, 4:15 and 4:30 a.m., 2.88 and 2.46 kilograms, now 2 boys, 1 girl.

MEDINA, James and Bonnie (Guehas), of Medford, Ore., girl, Pauline Carol, Nov. 12, 7:25 a.m., 5 pounds, first child.

ORR, Ralph and Denise (Masterson), of Youngstown, Ohio, boy, Benjamin Kindrick, Nov. 23, 2:24 a.m., 7 pounds 15 ounces, first child.

PEMBERTON, Gerald and Teresa (Rohs), of Big Sandy, Tex., girl, Angela Denise, Oct. 10, 7:35 a.m., 8 pounds 8 ounces, first child.

RAND, Richard and Florence (Morse), of Columbia, Mo., boy, Michael James, Nov. 4, 3:37 a.m., 9 pounds 14 ounces, now 2 boys, 2 girls.

RILEY, C.W. and Martha, of Tulsa, Okla., boy, Mark William, Oct. 1, 12:09 p.m., 9 pounds 3 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

SILCOX, David and Nancy (Thornton), of Brackett Wood, England, boy, David Richard, Sept. 10, 10 a.m., 9 pounds, now 2 boys.

SOLLEVED, Arnold and Adeline (Storochak), of Winnipeg, Man., girl, Kimberley Anne, Nov. 10, 2:17 p.m., 6 pounds 2 ounces, now 2 boys, 2 girls.

STIDHAM, Randy and Bobbi (Rinehart), of Salem, Ore., girl, Erin Jeanette, Sept. 5, 11:37 a.m., 7 pounds 8 ounces, now 2 girls.

TAYLOR, Edgar and Thelma (Gainer), of Houston, Tex., boy, Jonathan Joseph, Nov. 2, 2:32 a.m., 8 pounds, now 8 boys, 3 girls.

THURMAN, Edgar and Lula (Armer), of Fort Smith, Ark., boy, Shawn Lee, Nov. 3, 5:28 a.m., 8 pounds 6 ounces, now 2 boys.

TOSOFF, Bryon and Charlotte (Walkers), of Surrey, B.C., boy, Kevin Christopher, Oct. 11, 2:20 a.m., 8 pounds 4 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

TREYBIG, David and Teddi (Goodrich), of Portsmouth, Ohio, boy, David Jared, Nov. 10, 12:53 p.m., 7 pounds 10 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

VANDEMBERG, Evert and Wilma, of Lathrop, Alta., girl, Tracey Lew, Oct. 11, 1:40 p.m., 8 pounds 3 ounces, now 2 girls.

WATKINS, Michael and Virginia (Read), of Sacramento, Calif., girl, Teresa Michelle, Oct. 25, 10:12 a.m., 8 pounds 13 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

WILKE, Wilmer and Brenda (Davis), of Ottawa, Ont., boy, Mark Steven, Oct. 30, 3:40 p.m., 8 pounds 11 ounces, now 2 boys, 1 girl.

ENGAGEMENTS

John and Val Atkins of Melbourne, Australia, are happy to announce the engagement of their elder daughter, Lynn to Doug Parsons, also of Melbourne.

WEDDINGS

Mary L. Sheehan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Sheehan of Berthoud, Colo., and Lester L. Thomas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Thomas of Colorado Springs, Colo., were united in marriage at Longmont, Colo., Sept. 22. Ed Denker from Colorado Springs officiated. The couple resides at Berthoud.



MR. AND MRS. GARY EADS

Elizabeth Wright, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Wright, Walnut, Ill., and Gary Eads, son of Ruth Eads, Albany, Ill., were married Oct. 28. Jens Ernest, pastor of the Peoria, Ill., church, performed the ceremony. Angie Ort was maid of honor, and Paul Eads was best man.



MR. AND MRS. W. RICHARDSON

Elizabeth Burzan of the Canberra, Australia, church, and Warwick Richardson of the Sydney (West) church, in Australia, were united in marriage Sept. 3. The garden ceremony was performed by Don Abraham. The couple will make their home at 5 Tramway Street, West Ryde, Sydney, Australia, 2114.



MR. AND MRS. BILL BUTLER

Donna Eddy, employee of the Festival Office in Big Sandy, Tex., and Bill Butler, employed by the Mail Processing Center in Pasadena, were married Oct. 4 on the former Big Sandy campus. Dean Blackwell, pastor of the Abilene, Midland and San Angelo, Tex., churches, performed the ceremony.



MR. AND MRS. D. STEVENSON

Sherry Elaine Fertig, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Duane Fertig of Wheatland, Wyo., and Donald Trent Stevenson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Uel Stevenson of Minot, N.D., were united in marriage Oct. 8 in Wheatland. Ben Whitehead of Rawlins, Wyo., performed the ceremony. Wayne Chapman and Darel Fertig were best men. Laurie Fertig and Malinda Green were maids of honor. The couple now reside in Silet, La.

ANNIVERSARIES

To Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gerstner on Nov. 30: God made a perfect match and gave us "perfect" parents. Happy anniversary from the people who love you most. Glen, Gail, Dale, Farney and companies.



MR. AND MRS. NORMAN SMITH

In honor of their 25th wedding anniversary Oct. 1, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Smith were presented an engraved silver serving tray and two silver goblets by the Chico, Calif., brethren.

Mail your announcements to: Announcements, The Good News, Box 111, Pasadena, Calif., 91123, U.S.A.

Obituaries

ATLANTA, Ga. — William C. Wilkinson, 55, a local elder in the church here, died unexpectedly Oct. 12 of a heart attack. Mr. Wilkinson is survived by his wife June of Atlanta; two sons, Joe of Austin, Tex., and Mark of Florence, Ala.; and one grandson, Kiel.

BARTOW, Fla. — Ike P. Newman, 65, died unexpectedly at his home Oct. 24. He has been a member of God's Church since 1976 and attended at Lakeland, Fla. Richard Ames, Lakeland pastor, officiated.

Mr. Newman is survived by his wife Glennie, one son, one stepson and nine grandchildren.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Debra Farnsworth, 16, died Nov. 6 in an automobile accident. Fred Kellers, pastor of



DEBRA FARNSWORTH

the Little Rock and Russellville, Ark., churches, officiated at graveside services Nov. 8. She was a junior at Bryant High School.

Debra is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Dale Farnsworth; one brother, Andy of Benton, Ark.; her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Glen T. Farnsworth and Clara Kitchens, all of Benton; and her great-grandmother, Annie Farnsworth, also of Benton.

MORWELL, Australia — Jeen Broekstra, 57, died of a heart attack Oct. 20, suffered while walking along the beach in Warnambool, Australia, during the Feast of Tabernacles. Mr. Broekstra, a deacon, served faithfully for many years in the church here.

After living through the occupation of Holland during World War II and surviving in the underground movement in Norway, Mr. Broekstra and his wife emigrated to Australia, where they were founding members of the Church in Gippsland, Australia.

NANUET, N.Y. — Betty Ann Hendrick died after a long battle with cancer Oct. 24. She was a longtime member and attended the church here.

Mrs. Hendrick is survived by her husband, two daughters and a son. Her family wishes to thank all for the prayers and cards that brightened her last days.

NORWOOD, Ohio — Thomas G. Crabtree, 77, a member of the Cincinnati (Ohio) East church, died Nov. 17 of cancer. Baptized in 1970, Mr. Crabtree was a retired Norwood Elementary School woodworking instructor. During his years in the Church, he constructed lecterns featuring photographic reproductions of the Ambassador seal for the Cincinnati East and North congregations.

Mr. Crabtree is survived by his wife Libby (also a Church member); his son, Thomas R. Crabtree; and two grandchildren, Thomas and David.

ORANGE, Tex. — Neals Saunders, 58, died of cancer Nov. 7. He has been a member of the Worldwide Church of God since 1969.

Mr. Saunders is survived by his wife Kathleen. Mrs. Saunders may be written at 2217 W. Coronado St., Orange, Tex., 77630.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. — William M. Rodgers, 82, died Oct. 8 after a long illness. He has been attending the San Antonio church for about three years.

Mr. Rodgers is survived by his wife Marion, a daughter and three grandchildren. His wife and one grandchild, Robbin Evans, are members of the church here.

Members, youths recognized

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — Eleanor Finger, a member of the Milwaukee South church, has been named Wisconsin Volunteer of the Year for her work at Mount Carmel Nursing Home here as part of the Nursing Home Companionship Project of the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation (AICF). The award was presented by the Wisconsin Association of Nursing Homes Oct. 3 in Stevens Point, Wis. Mrs. Finger was also named a runner-up in the American Hospital Care Association's National Volunteer of the Year program.



ALAN JONES

According to a letter prepared by the nursing home, Mrs. Finger is considered a "special lady" who has been instrumental in bringing to the residents not only entertainment, in the form of performances by AICF members and the Milwaukee church choir, but also a highly regarded clothing-and-mending program operated by Mrs. Finger and her staff of AICF volunteers. In addition, the Mount Carmel report cites Mrs. Finger's care for the critically ill and her collecting of gaily colored items to be used to decorate these patients' rooms.

As a direct result of Mrs. Finger's devotion to the Nursing Home Companionship Project, other AICF members became involved and helped develop a men's club, an art class and hairstyling and letter-writing services.

The letter concludes by stating that Mrs. Finger has been a faithful volunteer who has helped whenever she could, always being polite, gracious and kind and expecting no recognition or reward beyond "the satisfaction in knowing that she has been able to provide help . . ."

BIG SANDY, Tex. — Alan Robert Jones, 16-year-old senior at Big Sandy High School, was chosen to appear in *Who's Who Among American High School Students* in 1978.

Alan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Jones of Gladewater, Tex., was selected for outstanding achievements in athletics, church work and extracurricular activities.

He participated in varsity football in the 10th grade but dropped it in his junior year because it conflicted with the Sabbath. He is on the Youth Opportunities United (YOU) basketball team (received the Most Valuable Offensive Player award for 1977), is a member of the YOU track team and an active YOU participant. He plans a career as a building contractor.

Alan attends church in Big Sandy with his mother, brothers and sister.



RACHEL BEST

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand — Rachel Best, 12, won first prize, free airline tickets to anywhere in New Zealand, in a contest for young people commemorating an historic aerial crossing from Sydney, Australia to Christchurch. The contest

was announced on national television here, and the best entries were displayed at the airfield.

In September, 1928, Charles Kingsford-Smith with a crew of three made the first aerial crossing from Sydney to Christchurch (1,322 miles) in 14 hours, 25 minutes. The 50th anniversary of the flight was marked by an air pageant, a reenactment of the trans-Tasman flight.

For two weeks of the school holidays Rachel researched at the library, wrote a poem about the flight (with the help of her brother, Peter) and drew a map marking the route of the Southern Cross, Mr. Smith's aircraft. She wrote to the wife of the wireless operator on that original flight for information to give her project an added personal touch.

The originality of Rachel's entry submitted on an 18-foot scroll won her the prize.

TORONTO, Ont. — A plaque commemorating 26 years of attendance at the Feast of Tabernacles was presented to Steven Mudko, 76-year-old member of the London, Ont., church at the Feast site here Oct. 21.

"I just see what a great miracle God has made," Mr. Mudko said, remembering the early beginnings of the Church in Canada.

He and his wife, living in Tucson, Ariz., at the time, came into contact with the radio broadcast from Wheeling, W. Va. They knew about Sabbath-keeping through the Seventh-Day Adventist church. Six months later, Herbert W. Armstrong spoke on keeping the Sabbath, so they began to tithe.

In 1953 Mr. Mudko counseled for baptism with Mr. Armstrong, and began to receive *The Plain Truth*. At that time, the PT was four pages of black-and-white print without pictures.

Mr. Mudko soon moved to Ontario, where no church existed for several years. He attended the Feast of Tabernacles each year at Big Sandy, Tex., and kept the other feast days at home. He has since attended the Toronto, Kitchener and London, Ont., churches.

NEWS OF PEOPLE, PLACES & EVENTS IN THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

PASADENA — Herbert W. Armstrong and his assistant, Stanley Rader, are scheduled to depart for a two-week trip to the Middle East, Dec. 10 or 11.

"We expect it to be a very important occasion because it will commemorate the end of 10 years of association in one project after another, and the beginning of a new decade," said Mr. Rader.

It was on Dec. 1, 1968, that Mr. Armstrong first met with the then president of Israel, Dr. Zalman Shazar, and agreed that the Work would commence what has turned out to be a 10-year association.

Mr. Armstrong and his party had hoped to squeeze Egypt into the trip according to Mr. Rader, but found it impossible. Plans now call for the entire trip to be spent in Israel.

Four members of *The World Tomorrow* television crew will be on hand to film the trip for use in Mr. Armstrong's television and film programming.

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PASADENA — Since the Feast of Tabernacles nearly 20,000 copies of Herbert W. Armstrong's book *The Incredible Human Potential* have been requested by the co-workers and members, according to Richard Rice, director of the Work's Mail Processing Center.

Co-worker response to an offer of one free book per household has been exceptional, he said. In just two weeks, 27 percent of all co-workers have requested the book.

☆☆☆

PASADENA — According to treasurer Stanley Rader, he "had the chance for the first time to 'plug,' as they say, Herbert W. Armstrong's book [*The Incredible Human Potential*] on someone else's television program."

Mr. Rader was interviewed recently by Michael Jackson, a talk-show host on a Los Angeles, Calif., public television channel, KCET, for airing Tuesday, Dec. 26 (6:30 p.m.) and Wednesday, Dec. 27 (12 noon).

"It was interesting because I now see that for the first time there is much more interest in what we believe and what we are saying and what we are doing about what we believe," said Mr. Rader.

During the program, host Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Rader, "Just what is man? What is man's purpose?" Mr. Rader's reply was, "I'm not going to be able to answer that in the little bit of time that we have left, but it just so happens one of the books that I gave you tells the whole story."

Mr. Rader held up *The Incredible Human Potential* and said, "It has the answer to everything that you intended to ask in the question, and even that which perhaps you hadn't thought about."

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PASADENA — Treasurer Stanley Rader was the guest speaker at the Nov. 8 meeting of the Sabbatical Minister's Club here.

The meeting was attended by about 30 of the sabbatical ministers and their wives. One of the main purposes of the club is to help the ministry become acquainted with many of the men fulfilling key roles at headquarters.

Mr. Rader began his 35-minute address by reminding the ministers of the heavy responsibility of the ministry and concluded by saying a common characteristic of successful people is energy.

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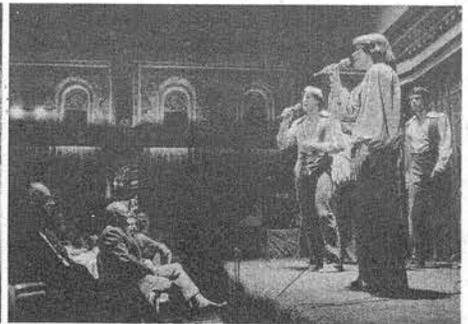
PASADENA — Seminars aimed at helping Church members and the public to understand the problems of alcoholism will be held in a number of cities in the coming year according to Dale Hampton, director of the alcoholism section of the Work's Human Potential Center.

According to Mr. Hampton, seminars will be conducted in the Dallas and Fort Worth, Tex., areas Jan. 20, 21; Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 27, 28; Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 17, 18; Washington, D.C., Feb. 24, 25; St. Louis or Kansas City, Mo., March 17, 18; Cincinnati, Ohio, March 24, 25; Sacramento, Calif., or Seattle, Wash., April 21, 22; Pasadena, April 28, 29; Denver, Colo., May 19, 20; Milwaukee, Wis., or Minneapolis, Minn., May 26, 27, or June 13; Sacramento or Seattle, June 9 or 10.

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PASADENA — Good things are still happening with *The Plain Truth* newsstand program, according to Roger Lippross, director of Publishing Services.

"We have been evaluating the *PT*



AMBASSADOR ENTERTAINMENT — Jennifer Stokes, left, and other members of the Young Ambassadors singing group, right, perform at the Queen's Breakfast Nov. 21, in the Pasadena Huntington-Sheraton Hotel, an annual event sponsored by the Pasadena Junior Chamber of Commerce to honor each year's Rose Parade queen and court. The group provided entertainment for 686 Pasadena civic and business leaders. (Photos by Scott Ashley)

outlets that we pay for on the basis of their real worth to us as far as the cost per response goes," said Mr. Lippross. "For example, the money saved by just using the shops and newsstands that want our magazine and give us free space will allow us to print an extra 350,000 magazines per year, and at the same time give us greater distribution."

Mr. Lippross also said that now that the Work is known by the distributors and the business community, they are coming to us offering their services for free. "They see that the public wants our magazine which in turn gives them more business by bringing the public into their shops and newsstands," he said.

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PASADENA — About 94,000 people have been added to the Work's mailing list as a result of recent airings of TV spot commercials for *The Modern Romans* booklet, according to Richard Rice, director of the Mail Processing Center here.

Of that number, 15,169 have already become *Plain Truth* subscribers and 2,556 have begun to take the Correspondence Course.

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CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Over 50 east-central-region ministers and their wives met for three days of meetings, Nov. 14 to 16, with C. Wayne Cole, director of Church Administration, and Burk McNair, Charlotte, N.C., area coordinator, in an isolated mountainous area near Boone, N.C.

Mr. Cole said he and his wife Doris thoroughly enjoyed being able to spend time with the ministers and their families in such a casual and

relaxing atmosphere.

Following the meetings the Coles were guests in the home of the McNairs. On Sabbath, Nov. 18, Mr. Cole spoke to the Charlotte congregation before returning to Pasadena.

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PASADENA — Elizabeth Helen Meredith and Stanley William Martin were united in marriage Nov. 21. The bride was given away by her father, Dr. Roderick C. Meredith, dean of faculty of Ambassador College. Dr. Meredith also performed the

ceremony in the Ambassador College Recital Hall.

The bride was attended by Carolyn Egbert, her maid of honor, and Desi Trevino and Michelle Rasmussen, bridesmaids. The groom's best man was Bobby Boyce. Stan McNeil and Joe Brown were groomsmen. The bride's brother, Michael Meredith, and Fred Whitlark served as ushers. A reception followed the candlelight ceremony.

The couple now resides at 3220 Altura, No. 207, La Crescenta, Calif., 91214.

A letter to Mr. Armstrong

Herbert W. Armstrong requested that the following letter be printed here in the interest of our members.

Dear Mr. Armstrong,
I want to encourage you, at a time so many of our people are seemingly leaving God's Church, that the good solid truth of where God's real Church is, and who are God's real ministers, and who is God's apostle in this end time, will eventually win out.

When I hear of "this one" leaving or "that one" leaving, I ask myself, Where to? Who else is God's apostle? Where else is God's Church, doing God's Work?

Please never blame yourself for this in your grief over your son. I heard him when he still "spoke for" Herbert W. Armstrong — as he'd say at the end of each broadcast. You had written the *Proof of the Bible, Does God Exist, 1975 in Prophecy, Revelation Unveiled at Last*, the Sabbath booklet, etc. . . . Garner Ted was your (and God's) instrument.

I was miraculously called and responded.

You had a job to do overseas. It meant leaving responsibility in the hands of one you believed (by the "fruits" at the time) would do right. A lot of people came into the Church after that time of 1972 on. They heard a "new slant" on things. They

never knew you that well — some never heard you at all on radio. They never got their roots into firm ground, so to speak. So now they read about the "split" between you and GTA and read "slanted" news copy. They get confused, and some tend to stick with the voice they first heard — GTA.

As the old saying goes, it will all come out in the wash. God is more than fair in judging all of us, for what we had to begin with. This error (in leaving) will be apparent to them, when tribulation begins. At least, let's hope so.

I never joined this Church because of numbers of people, in fact I never "joined" to begin with. But thankfully, with God's help, I am where I am today. And thanks to you and your loyal ministers, this Work will somehow get done — and done well. We just have to keep vision — anticipating a more and more effective witness to this dying society. The "two witnesses," whoever they will be, will be doing a pretty fair share, I imagine. I plan to be right there, as I am today, and hopefully, a bit more converted as time goes by. Let us all hang in there! Keep giving us what we need, and God will continually guide you and your ministers as always. (We never entered a popularity contest, anyway, did we?)

With much respect, in Christian love, Chuck Gilbeth (Tucson, Ariz., church, November, 1978).



PASADENA WEDDING — Ambassador College dean of faculty Dr. Roderick Meredith prepares to take his daughter Elizabeth down the aisle, left, at her Nov. 21 wedding in the Ambassador College Recital Hall. Right: She and her husband, Stanley Martin, celebrate with a bite of wedding cake after the ceremony. (See "Update," this page.) (Photos by Scott Ashley)

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