

The Good News

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God's Work Is Waiting on **YOU!**

God's work is seriously in need of more qualified ministers! Hundreds are being brought yearly into the truth—scattered brethren need to be visited, comforted, anointed when they're sick. Perhaps YOU have not recognized your own responsibility to your brethren!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

“LIFT up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest” (John 4:35). In the month of January, 1958, mail from listeners almost *doubled* that of January, 1957! God's work is *leaping ahead* in power and scope as never before!

Everywhere, people are beginning to *recognize the truth*, and turn to God in repentance as a result of this work! Even *ministers* are writing in, requesting The PLAIN TRUTH and the Correspondence Course—from which they are teaching their congregations. Many letters have been received from all over the United States, from the Philippines, from Hawaii and other areas, written from whole *groups* of people who are meeting together—crying out for a MINISTER, a *teacher*, to come and help them!

Critical Need

We need to recognize the desire of human beings to fellowship with others. Frequently, we receive letters asking, “Where can I meet with brethren of like faith?” When people begin to see the truth—they immediately begin looking for a *place to meet*—for OTHER PEOPLE who are *also* in the truth. The primary commission to the Church is to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of

God—the Good News of the World Tomorrow—to this whole world as a witness! But the secondary commission is also vitally important!

That commission of *feeding the flock* is being performed as well as we are presently able to perform it—but *we may be falling far short of what WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH!* Most people can hear the broadcast at least once daily. All can receive The PLAIN TRUTH and the Good News magazines, in addition to the other booklets. All can take the Bible Correspondence Course, which is a full-time study almost in itself. These are all media by which the Church can “feed” the flock!

But it is not enough!

For those who are stronger in the faith—perhaps attendance at the Festivals and the study helps already mentioned, in addition to their own diligent *Bible study* and *prayer*, are sufficient to keep them secure in the faith of Christ, and safe from the wiles of Satan. But for the “babes” in Christ, who are just *beginning* to learn of new truth—and who, even though they are really *hungering* and *thirsting* for knowledge, are still *unaware* of the many pitfalls Satan will set for them, *it is not enough!*

For example, word came recently that about *forty* persons, who had come to

learn of the true *Sabbath* day through the radio broadcast, joined Adventist Churches in a western city! Think of it! As mere *beginners* in the faith, sincerely seeking truth, they were led by *their desire for fellowship* to “join” a denomination of this world, following the fallacies of a self-styled “prophetess” whose own writings demonstrate that she twisted and wrested God's Word.

How many times this may happen when we *do not* hear word of it we have no way of knowing.

This is our responsibility. God works through human instruments. He is saving and including in *His Kingdom* those whom *we* can be responsible for guiding in the *right paths*. Many will not be in the first resurrection because WE ARE NOT REAPING THE HARVEST GOD IS SUPPLYING!

You probably already *know* that God lays it on every child of His to “PRAY YE therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth labourers into His harvest” (Luke 10:2). Are you really *diligent* in your prayers?

A False Assumption

I want to dispel and quench once and for all a false assumption many of you have had. Many have believed there is only ONE WAY for a layman to qualify

for the ministry at this time. That is to come to Ambassador College—as a regular student—and, if qualified upon graduation and perhaps four full years here, be ordained into the ministry.

There is not one single scripture in the entire Bible that says any such thing!

We have received *applications* to enter College from men who have been successful in *business*—men with homes, a family, furniture, a good job, who want to *uproot* themselves—sell most of their earthly goods, and come with their families and personal possessions to Pasadena so they can enter college! They *aspire to help in the work*. And because they have falsely ASSUMED the ONLY way to "help in the work" is to somehow GET OUT TO PASADENA, they foolishly decide to leave their successful business, and subject themselves to financial disaster, after which they no longer even have tithes to support the work.

NEVER have those of us in the ministry said you *must* go to Ambassador College before you can be ordained! NOWHERE in the BIBLE can even the barest *principle* be construed as to say such a thing!

It may be God is calling you for a specific duty to perform NOW! "But I'll NEVER LEARN TO PREACH," some begin to reason, "if I can't get to Ambassador College to take the speech courses and the Bible courses!" And therein lies the big MISTAKE many have been making! Let's see what it is!

The Function of God's Ministers

God calls His ministry, and in every case He calls them for a specific *function*! The *offices*, or the *ranks* within the ministry only denote the particular KIND OF SERVICE the man has been chosen, of GOD, to perform! And so Peter and Paul were ordained as APOSTLES! It is NOT a "high and exalted" office to simply DECORATE and *adorn* the man!

But notice the *function* of an Apostle! They were the spiritual *leaders* of the Church under Christ, who is its HEAD! Christ had directly trained the original disciples (Matthias had been among the 120 from the beginning, and was selected to take the place of Judas Iscariot) and revealed THEY were to be the very beginning, the *foundation* of the Church.

Paul was inspired of God to write, "And [you] are built upon the foundation of the APOSTLES and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone" (Eph. 2:20).

We know the Apostles were always PREACHERS! Peter *preached* to the people on the Day of Pentecost in A.D. 31, and his sermon is recorded in Acts 2. Other public messages of Peter are re-

corded in Acts as well.

Paul was a preacher. He said, ". . . I have *preached* to you the Gospel of God . . ." (II Cor. 11:7). He told Timothy that he had been "APPOINTED a PREACHER, and an *apostle*, and a teacher of the Gentiles" (II Tim. 1:11). In the first letter to Timothy, Paul had said, "Whereunto I am *ordained* a *preacher*, and an *apostle*" (I Tim. 2:7).

There are many statements about Paul's *preaching* recorded in his own writings, as well as those recorded by Luke in the book of Acts.

Notice, however, that in every case those who were PREACHERS had either a *special gift* (and remember, God gives Spiritual Gifts according to our natural several abilities) for public speaking, or else they had a good deal of TRAINING to do so!

Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit, and, after having been with Christ almost day and night for 3½ years, was amply qualified to PREACH! Paul had been brought up at the feet of Gamaliel, one of the greatest Rabbinical teachers of that day (Acts 22:3). Paul had been studying for years towards becoming a Rabbi. Could it have been this mark of distinction that caused the Jews in the many synagogues to *ask* Paul to *speak* to them whenever he walked in?

In *addition* to his wide background—having associated with some of the *leading orators* of his period, Paul got personal, individual TRAINING, first from *Christ Himself* (Gal. 1:12 and 16-18 with I Cor. 9:1 and 15:8) and later, after conversion, he was ". . . with them [the Apostles] coming in and going out at Jerusalem" (Acts 9:28).

Paul's ordination, together with the circumstances surrounding it, was thoroughly explained in a previous article on *How God Calls His Ministers*.

Evangelists

It is also a part of God's plan to place men who are gifted in public speaking in the office of *Evangelist*. "And He [God] gave . . . some *evangelists*; and some, pastors and teachers" (Eph. 4:11).

These men, after being *taught* and *instructed* in the Way of God, went about PREACHING to believers as well as unbelievers.

Philip and Stephen were both among the original seven Deacons chosen in Jerusalem. Yet *both* of them, because of their natural gifts *as well as* their strong MOTIVATION and SPIRITUAL ZEAL, qualified for the office of *Evangelist*!

Stephen's career as an inspired speaker of God's Word was cut short by his murder at the hands of the Jews. But Philip went to Samaria, where he "preached Christ unto them" (Acts 8:5), and is distinctly named as an *Evangelist* later—even though he had

originally been appointed as a Deacon (Acts 21:8).

Later, the Apostle Paul began to take young men with him to TRAIN in the ministry. We find Paul traveling with a "company" of men (Acts 13:13; 21:8) during his various journeys in God's work.

Paul's Three-Point Plan

The Apostle Paul had real ZEAL in wanting to accomplish the work God had given him to do. He tirelessly, through much tribulation and many trials from enemies, preached the Gospel all over the northern Mediterranean regions.

". . . I strived to preach the Gospel . . ." he said to the Romans (Rom. 15:20). He told the Corinthians that Christ had *sent* him to "preach the Gospel!" (I Cor. 1:17). In this he "laboured more abundantly than they all" (I Cor. 15:10). Paul felt the real *mission* of preaching the truth of God. "Yea, woe is me, if I preach NOT the Gospel!" he said to the Church at Corinth (I Cor. 9:16).

But Paul did not do all the *preaching* by *himself*!

Paul had a plan.

The first part of Paul's plan was his own personal evangelism to proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom of God!

The *second* part of the plan was vitally important, too!

When Paul and Silas went through the area of southern Galatia, to the cities of Lystra and Derbe, he found a certain disciple, named Timothy.

After training under Paul, Timothy became an Evangelist! (II Tim. 4:5). Timothy was able to PREACH! "I charge thee before God," said Paul to Timothy, "PREACH THE WORD; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine" (II Tim. 4:1-2).

But Timothy was not the *only* young man to be called into the work of God as an Evangelist! Titus, who was a Greek, was an Evangelist in charge of the Churches on Crete, a Greek colony. God always works in this manner.

Now notice an amazing pattern evident in Paul's work!

In Acts the 20th chapter, we see Paul has been in Ephesus, where the great uproar was caused by the pagan worshippers of Diana of the Ephesians. Then, Paul went to Macedonia to the Churches already established in Philippi and Thessalonica—and then into Greece proper (Acts 20:1-2).

He stayed there about three months, and decided to return to Asia (to the Churches of Asia, principally the large congregation at Ephesus). But, instead of taking the immediate *sea route* from
(Please continue on page 10)

Should We USE the OLD TESTAMENT?

Jesus commanded: "Man SHALL live by EVERY Word of God." How can we prove that He included the Old Testament in that command?—that He meant ALL the Bible?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

DID YOU ever observe people going to Sunday School or Church on a Sunday morning? And did you ever notice what a large portion of them—if they carry any Scriptures with them at all—have merely a NEW Testament?

A young man who had been a student in a Bible college for a couple years once came to me and confessed: "I'm all mixed up—frustrated! After all my Bible study, I suddenly woke up to realize that I'm not *sure* that the Jesus of Nazareth, who lived 1900 years ago, really *was* the CHRIST!

"I've heard you say over the air that we must PROVE all things—even what we have thought that we believed. Suddenly I woke up," he confessed, "to realize that I never actually PROVED that Jesus was the promised Messiah! That realization FLOORS me. I'm totally FRUSTRATED.

"Tell me," he said earnestly, "HOW can I prove it?—HOW can I KNOW? How can I BE SURE?"

Was this YOUR Experience, Too?

That young man had never studied the OLD Testament of his Bible very much. I opened his Bible to certain OLD Testament Scriptures, and OUT OF THEM he found *positive, satisfying* PROOF that Jesus was the Messiah—the SAVIOR of the world! I'm going to show you brethren, now, a part of what I opened up to him in His Bible.

Many have gained the idea that Christians should never read the Old Testament at all! Many seem to believe THAT part of the Bible was DONE AWAY—that it was only for the Jewish people of long ago—that its message is DEAD today!

So Let's EXAMINE this question!

Certainly our Church—the TRUE Church of God—is a NEW Testament Church! It certainly is under the NEW, not the Old Testament or COVENANT. But there's a great difference between the Old Covenant that set Israel up as a NATION and those SCRIPTURES we call by the name "Old Testament."

The OLD COVENANT—meaning the AGREEMENT between God and Israel, made at Mt. Sinai—is replaced by the

preaching of the NEW! But most certainly the NEW Testament Scriptures show very plainly that those SCRIPTURES we call "The Old Testament" are NOT done away, for we read in I Peter 1:25, "THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURETH FOREVER!"

Do you know, brethren, that for about SIX years after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the founding of the NEW Testament Church, that this New Testament Church had and used ONLY the Old Testament Scriptures?

Christ preached the Gospel of the Kingdom—the same Gospel He commanded every minister to preach under the NEW Testament dispensation, yet do you know He preached *altogether out of the Old Testament Scriptures?*

Church Built on Old Testament Scriptures

I wonder if you fully realize that the Church was BUILT upon the writings of the Old Testament PROPHETS, as well as on the APOSTLES? Notice Ephesians 2:19-20; "Now therefore ye . . . are built upon the FOUNDATION of the Apostles and PROPHETS, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone."

Notice Jesus' own example: While Jesus was sent from God as the Messenger of the NEW COVENANT—yet HE PREACHED THAT MESSAGE OUT OF THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES. He said, as recorded in John 5:39: "SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES; for IN THEM ye think ye have eternal life; and THEY are they which TESTIFY OF ME."

Yes, they TESTIFY OF CHRIST. And do you know, brethren, you could not PROVE Jesus of Nazareth was the CHRIST, the MESSIAH, the Son of God—your SAVIOR and mine—WITHOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES?

If we are definitely to establish and PROVE, beyond doubt, that Jesus is the Messiah—the Savior, we must prove it by bringing Him through the door of the Old Testament Scriptures—the prophecies PROVING Him to be the divine Son of the living God! For, as He said, THEY TESTIFY OF HIM!

Notice further what Jesus preached during His earthly ministry. John 5:46-

47: "For had ye BELIEVED Moses, ye would have believed me: for HE WROTE OF ME. But if ye BELIEVE NOT HIS WRITINGS, how shall ye believe my words?"

Moses wrote the first five Books of the Old Testament—the part which has often been referred to as "the Law." And Jesus said, "IF ye believe not his writings, HOW SHALL YE BELIEVE MY WORDS?"

And if we today cannot know and BELIEVE the things Moses wrote to be true, HOW CAN WE BELIEVE CHRIST'S WORDS? They are as much a PART of Holy Scripture as those New Testament books quoting our Lord!

We Must Believe ALL the Prophets

Another time, AFTER His resurrection, we find this example of Jesus' preaching recorded in Luke 24:25-27: "Then He said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe ALL that the prophets have spoken."

How did Philip of Bethsaida know that Jesus was the Christ? Read John 1:45. "Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, we have found Him, of whom Moses in the Law, and the Prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

What ARE some of these Old Testament prophecies which PROVE that Jesus of Nazareth was the Son of God, the MESSIAH?

First, Isaiah 7:14: "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Now notice, a VIRGIN was to bear a son. The son was to be of a human VIRGIN, to have a human mother, but *not* a human father. And the name of this son, to be born as a baby, to grow up to manhood, was to be "IMMANUEL," which, when translated, means, "GOD with us." And the fulfillment of that prophecy is recorded in the New Testament, in Matt. 1:20-23. "But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she shall

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bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

And now, let's read right on. Matt. 2:1-4: "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born."

Now *WHY?*—how would the chief priests and the scribes know where Christ should be born? *Because it was written in a prophecy of their Scriptures!* Continue, Verses 5-6:

"And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel." Notice! This prophecy was quoted from Micah 5:2: "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."

So the Old Testament Scriptures added another detail—the MESSIAH who

was to be the future RULER OF ISRAEL. not only was to be born of a virgin—He was to be born and first appear in the little city of BETHLEHEM of Judaea.

But now let us see how the wonderful 53rd chapter of Isaiah foretold His FIRST coming.

Foretold in Old Testament

Here is what Isaiah 53:1-5, 8, 12 reads:

"Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed . . . He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken . . ."

"Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."

HERE we see it foretold that the Messiah was to be BORN, and to GROW UP from a child—that He was to be despised and rejected, NOT hailed as a mighty King and Deliverer! If the Jews of 1900 years ago had only known and understood the Scriptures—and had their HEARTS been honest and their MINDS open—they would have recognized and accepted their Messiah and the Savior! But they were then following the religious traditions of THEIR time, just as nearly *all* the other churches are doing today. The Jews did NOT understand their Scriptures, just as Christendom does NOT understand the Bible today!

This wonderful 53rd chapter of Isaiah tells us the Messiah was to come in human flesh, to grow up, to bear our afflictions and *our sicknesses*. Yes, HE was to be WOUNDED and to suffer for our physical, as well as spiritual transgressions, so that by His stripes—His BODY broken for us—we are to be *healed* when sick! *Many of us* do not fully grasp *that* truth, even today!

And did you know, brethren, that *EVERY ONE* of the original evangelists

who preached Christ and the GOSPEL OF CHRIST—which is the GOSPEL Christ preached, the NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM—EVERY ONE of them whose preaching is recorded in the NEW TESTAMENT, preached CHRIST and the GOSPEL out of the OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES?

Yes, *that* is the way the true FAITH ONCE DELIVERED was originally preached, in all its purity and truth! And that is what *we* do today!

New Testament PROOF!

Notice how PETER used the Old Testament in preaching the Gospel of CHRIST, when delivering the first inspired sermon the day the NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH was really established: "But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said, unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams" (Acts 2:14-17).

After concluding Joel's prophecy of the coming of the *other* Comforter, the HOLY SPIRIT, Peter continues in verse 25: "For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved."

Through the remainder of his sermon on that day of Pentecost, Peter continued to preach Christ from the Old Testament—and 3000 precious souls were CONVERTED through Old Testament preaching that day!

Later, Philip was sent by the angel of the Lord to preach to the eunuch from Ethiopia, returning home in his chariot from Jerusalem. When Philip met him, the eunuch was reading this in the Old Testament book of Isaiah: "And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from earth. And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of him-

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God Blesses His People!

Here is some more news about the growth of our local churches, and the great BLESSINGS God is continuing to shower upon His children.

by Roderick C. Meredith

THIS CHURCH continues to bear the "fruit" of Christ's body—the true Church of God. The message Jesus Christ preached is now going around the world with increasing power—and miracles and blessings are following in the lives of those who yield and obey.

People are being HEALED. Lives are being completely CHANGED. And the true gospel is going forth as a mighty "witness" to more and more nations around the world.

It is important that all of us realize the tremendous meaning of the job we in God's Church have to do, and to recognize that Christ is using and empowering us as His body to do the exact work which He said His Church would be doing at the time of the end!

A Letter from a Member in the London Church

As the work of God's Church continues to reach more and more nations, we will have local congregations in many different cities throughout the world. As we told you in a previous issue, our first overseas church is the one in London, England. It is now very ably pastored by Mr. Gerald Waterhouse, and many enthusiastic reports have come to us about his dynamic, zealous and faithful ministry to the people in England.

To give you an insight into the growth and zeal of our London brethren, I would like to quote sections of a letter one of our London members wrote to me personally. He is Alfred Symonds, and he lives near the city of Reading—about forty miles from central London. He is so zealous that he comes and also brings four children in to church services each Sabbath on the train. In spite of the time and expense of this journey each week, he is most grateful and thankful for the London church and all the other blessings he has experienced through knowing the truth.

He writes: "Just this last year has been the greatest year of my life. I am lost for words by which I am able to express my deep thanks to the Eternal for ever calling me. Truly we have been blessed. The Plain Truth and the Good News we eagerly await each month, and the message broadcast each Monday evening either by Mr. Armstrong or Garner Ted Armstrong is certainly a

great source of inspiration and encouragement.

"We look forward each Sabbath to our trip to London where we assemble with the rest of God's Church and oh! what we have learnt through the very able ministry of Mr. Gerald Waterhouse. Surely this man—yea this minister of God—has never spared himself with his ministry to the people in the London Church."

Letter Shows Thankfulness

Brethren, I would like to interrupt the letter at this point and ask you to notice the THANKFULNESS expressed by this member of our London church! Are YOU this grateful for the blessings God has provided in your particular situation?

Mr. Symonds continues in his letter to me: "I am not out to praise a man because of his personality. Our worship and allegiance and love is all for the Great Eternal God. We in this house really fear Him and through the sermons and teachings of Mr. Waterhouse we are really striving to serve God, to overcome that old self, and to be zealous. He (Mr. Waterhouse) has most certainly 'cried aloud and spared not.'

"Often I have felt like the Word has said we are—filthy as dust and unrighteous. But by the love and grace of the Eternal, we aim to make the Kingdom and the World Tomorrow.

"No doubt you already know much about the way in which we spent the 'Feast Days.' It proved to be the biggest thrill of my lifetime so far. I was grateful yet again for the untiring and unceasing efforts put forth by the minister.

"Please believe me dear Brother I am so grateful for all things pertaining to God's True Church. I just do not know how to tell you how I feel now that we have our part of the Church here in London. I am most grateful to the Eternal, and then for the faithfulness of Mr. Armstrong, by whom you were able to come over here and start the church which we attend. We talk of the called ones in your country quite often. We pray for you and them each day, and we also pray earnestly for all the ministers. We love each one of you. May the Eternal bind us even closer together."

What do you think of that letter? Doesn't it give you an insight into the changed lives of our brethren in Lon-

don? And in what other church do the members rejoice because their ministers "Cry aloud and spare not"?

This is the "fruit" of GOD'S SPIRIT!

This letter should encourage all of you brethren here in the United States and Canada to PRAY and to pray EARNESTLY for all our brethren in the British Isles and throughout the world. Think of how many thousands will have their lives turned "right side up" and express the LOVE and THANKFULNESS exemplified in this letter when we are able to reach them more personally with God's truth!

We have a JOB to do!

Healed of Asthma

Another member of our London Church was recently healed of asthma, and sent an enthusiastic letter to our Pasadena office to tell us about it and express his thankfulness. His name is Ronald Howes, and he is a zealous member of God's Church.

He writes: "One year ago I could not get up in the mornings because of continuous asthma attacks. I tried nearly every doctor and hospital in London but they all said sorry but there is no cure for asthma.

"Through these attacks I lost many jobs and became very depressed having nothing to look forward to but these dreaded attacks which nearly choked me.

"I lay awake and would not sleep at nights. I just chanced to turn the radio dial onto Radio Luxembourg and heard (what I know now) the TRUE Word of God being proclaimed as I had never heard before. Anyway, to cut a long story short, I eventually began to read my sister's dusty old Bible and saw that it was the book of Life, but no one seemed to preach from it like you.

"I joined the church in London, and was anointed by the minister—Mr. Waterhouse.

"In about a week I was getting up with the lark, so to speak. Everyone in my family was greatly surprised and just could not make it out. Anyway, I am feeling much better than I have felt in eight long years. Thank God, He certainly DOES heal today! How do I know? Just ask my family."

Brethren, let me remind you that we NEVER have or encourage "testimony" meetings. We never have public "healing" services or advertise these things in

order to impress the outside world. Rather, when any of our ministers pray for a sick person, he does it privately, humbly—ALONE with God. Afterward, we NEVER brag and boast and *publicly advertise* any supernatural healings in the manner so many so-called "faith healers" do today.

We have NOTHING WHATEVER to do with their methods or, for that matter, with most of their doctrines and beliefs. As a rule, these men are DISOBEDIENT to the *law* and *rule* of Almighty God.

But, on the other hand, we DO believe that it is right to follow the example of the apostle Paul who did mention *to the brethren* how GOD had *blessed* others through His ministry (Acts 14:27).

So, *we hope you will realize the great DIFFERENCE between our reports of God's healing and those reported by lawless "faith healers" who brag and boast publicly about supposed healings!*

Healing Strengthens Faith

Often, one of the greatest blessings that comes through a miraculous healing is the increased *love* and *faith* of the individual concerned.

Our minister in Corpus Christi and San Antonio, Texas, Mr. Burk McNair, recently wrote us about a case that illustrates this fact. He said that Mrs. E. A. Laney, of the Corpus Christi church, recently had the flesh torn from the bone of her hand by a washing machine wringer. It was torn *so much* that a doctor took 28 stitches to sew it in place.

The doctor insisted on giving Mrs. Laney a shot. She refused and later the flesh turned almost black. The doctor became very concerned and tried again to administer a shot. Again she refused.

Now her hand is *completely well* through GOD'S intervention, and the incident greatly strengthened Mrs. Laney's faith—and it should *help* all of us!

However, this incident does show that there are things a doctor SHOULD do—such as taking the necessary stitches in this case, and then leaving the *healing* up to God.

Mr. Jon Hill, pastor of the churches in Dallas and Houston, Texas, writes about a member who was recently healed of the results of rheumatic fever. After being anointed, an electrocardiograph revealed that this lady had a normal heart function for the first time in four years!

In another case under Mr. Hill's jurisdiction, a woman member was healed of a uterine tumor. After receiving an anointed cloth, she waited for some time and was checked by her doctor. He found no trace of it left!

Yes, Christ continues to HEAL through His Church! Every one of you brethren should realize that you are *commanded* by God to call the elders when you are

sick (James 5:14). So you must learn to BELIEVE God's promise to heal, do *your part* by ceasing your disobedience to physical laws, and trust *Him* to intervene.

If all of us will spend *much more time* in fervent *prayer* and *Bible study*, we will see many more healings occur every day. The tremendous POWER demonstrated through Christ's miracles is available *to all of us today*. As Christ's body, we must *in faith* receive and USE that power in His service for good!

Church Growth

Since we last reported to you on the size and condition of all our local churches, some real *growth* has taken place!

Our Pasadena congregation has increased over 100 members in the past several months, and about 700 people are now in regular attendance! Also, the personal visitation program we told you about has been of real benefit to the headquarters church. The newer members now feel much more a part of the body, and a spirit of unity is now manifest in this church more than ever.

In addition to the visitation by the ministers and senior students, an outstanding contribution to this program has been made by Mr. Don Billingsley—one of the Deacons in the Pasadena church. He has spent countless evenings going with the ministers and advanced men on visits to our local members, and many other times he has gone alone or with his wife.

His *zeal* and *faithfulness* in helping carry forward this visitation program should be an *example* to all you Deacons and Elders in the local congregations! Perhaps you can, if possible, offer to help your local minister help visit the local members where he deems it advisable.

Show your willingness to *help* and *co-operate* in any possible way. Remember, we BELONG to Jesus Christ—who has bought and paid for us. SO STUDY your Bible and the Correspondence Course a lot more so you will be prepared to effectively answer the members' questions and give wise counsel. Do *your part*, then ask God to use you through His POWER.

Just as I was writing, Mr. Dick Armstrong came in and informed me that the Fresno church had an all-time record attendance of 93 this past Sabbath! This church has grown consistently since our evangelistic campaign there about a year and a half ago. But the attendance is variable because some of the members who live at quite a distance come only occasionally. Normally, there are between 60 and 90 in attendance there at the present time.

Our other local church ministered from Pasadena headquarters, the San Diego congregation, continues its steady

growth. There are now about 75 adults in regular attendance there, plus many children. Recent visitors at the Pasadena and San Diego churches were Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Meeker, from Overland Park, Kansas, parents of Mr. George Meeker.

Extra Help Needed

The letters of interested people in the Chicago area have mounted to such numbers that our minister there, Mr. Dean Blackwell, has found it almost impossible to visit all those whose letters have been forwarded to him. With 50,000 watt Radio Station WLS broadcasting locally, the Chicago Church is destined to grow BIG.

Consequently, Mr. George Meeker and Mr. Cecil Battles have been sent to assist in visiting the many prospective members in that area. Mr. Meeker, as you will remember, was formerly in charge of our London office and helped pastor the church there. While waiting to return to that position with Mr. Battles to assist him, he will spend a few months in Chicago to help reap the tremendous *spiritual harvest* which God is granting us in that city.

Latest reports indicate that the Chicago church will soon pass the 100 mark in regular attendance! One potential problem there is the increased racial tension in that city as more and more thousands of Negroes move in every month. So far our brethren have not experienced any great amount of persecution because of this situation. But let us all PRAY that God will preserve the love and harmony among the brethren there—as *He always has*—and protect them from undue persecution as a result of the racial situation.

Our congregations are all constantly growing, but unless there is some special or unusual growth we will not report the attendance figures to you but about once or twice a year. Perhaps the most important NEED in the Church right now is more dedicated, qualified ministers and elders to help raise up and pastor *new* congregations all over the United States, Canada and Britain.

It is the responsibility of *every one of you* to PRAY EARNESTLY that God will send more men to Ambassador College whom He will call into the ministry, and to *inspire* and *guide* all the present students to put forth their utmost in preparing to serve in God's work. Also, all of you local elders and deacons should keep *growing* so that God may use you more and more in the future.

And ALL of you brethren should *yield yourselves* more completely and fervently into God's hands as *living sacrifices*. Many more men and women are *needed* to fulfill the offices of Elder, Deacon and Deaconess.

(Please continue on page 9)

WHO May Attend Our Schools?

A policy has had to be set regarding who may attend our Imperial Grade and High Schools and Ambassador College. You need to understand this policy.

by Herman L. Hoeb

GOD FORBIDS us to do as we please. He commands us to obey Him. To keep us in obedience God set Jesus Christ to be the Head of this Church to direct it.

Jesus reveals His will through the Bible. And His will clarifies the question of who may attend our schools. It is time we fully understand what *God's* will is in this important matter.

A Threefold Educational System

Every year hundreds are being added to the Church. We do not decide who should come to a knowledge of the truth. The calling is of God. God chooses those whom He wants. We are here merely to minister to those whom God has called.

Part of our ministry is to "feed the flock"—and this includes teaching our children and young people. To train them has necessitated the establishment of Imperial Grade and High Schools wherever possible.

The establishment of our schools is part of God's three-fold educational program revealed in the Bible. God communicated this plan of education through Moses. Here it is:

First: Parents are to instruct and to train their children in the *way of God*. To insure education in the home, God made the marriage contract UNBREAKABLE except by death. Notice the Bible exposition of this first principle in God's educational program: "*Ye shall teach . . . your children, speaking of [God's WAY and His LAW] when thou sittest down, and when thou risest up*" (Deut. 11:19). This same command is repeated by Paul in Ephesians 6:4.

Second: Ministers and teachers whom God has called are to instruct parents and children. One of the functions of the Old Testament priests was to "*teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the Lord hath spoken . . .*" (Lev. 10:11). II Chronicles 15:3 speaks of the *teaching* priests. And Proverbs 5:13 tells of those who say: "I have not obeyed the voice of my *teachers*, nor inclined mine ear to them that *instructed* me!"

The Bible is the foundation of all instruction. It is the guide book to every field of essential knowledge. Not all this knowledge can be imparted from the pulpit. Some of it must come through schools (*compare this with*

I Chronicles 25:8). THAT IS THE REASON FOR IMPERIAL GRADE AND HIGH SCHOOLS.

Third: Special skills are to be taught by those trained in each particular field of occupation. This is *not* a function of the Church. Notice Exodus 35:34, 35: "He [God] has also given him Oholiab the son of Ahisamak, belonging to the clan of Dan ability TO TRAIN OTHERS endowing them with skill in every skillful craft in engraving, in decorating, in handling violet, purple, and scarlet yarn, in working with fine linen, in weaving, and in all sorts of *trades and arts*" (Moffatt rendering). This man did not belong to the tribe of Levi—his function was not part of the Levitical ministry.

This is God's plan for education. It is a perfect balance between the home, the Church and the schools. The world does not follow this procedure today.

What About Public Schools?

The governments of this world have set up their own public school systems. Few people are conscious of the fact that public schools commenced in Israelite countries, not in Gentile lands. And they were commenced for the basic purpose of enabling people to read and write so that they could understand the Bible in their own homes! You will find this rather surprising information in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

Public School instruction is one of the blessings of Israel. It did not originate with the Gentiles. The Gentiles have received this blessing from Israel. Last summer Dr. Meredith and I had the privilege of visiting numerous American Schools in Gentile lands—schools endowed with American money for foreign students! In Latin America, too, the Americans, the British and the French have established academies for the training of natives.

If the governments in Israel were under God's Government there would be no need for our own private schools. But Israelites long ago cast aside the Government of God. They have cast out of their schools any knowledge of God. Because of this, it has become necessary to establish our own private schools where possible, and as financial means permit.

Not more than *one out of every eight parents* in God's Church is located in

those areas where our schools are presently established. There is a definite reason for this. This is the age when we are prophesied to be scattered. Those whom God is now calling are scattered throughout the nations, not united in one locality. It would be wonderful if all of you could have fellowship every Sabbath at a local Church. But this is not possible in this age. And neither is it possible—especially for financial reasons—for everyone to have his children in our own schools.

Our broadcasts and magazines take the place of Sabbath sermons for many of you. In the same manner for many of you who are scattered, *the public schools have to take the place of our schools* when it comes to teaching "reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic." But your spiritual instruction comes from the Church of God.

God requires you to attend the public schools under these circumstances. You must submit to the human authorities in power.

Some brethren foolishly have moved to localities where our schools are established even though they were unable to find work there. This must never be. God forbids it. A father *must* be able to support his children! We have had to forbid couples with children to move to areas where our schools are located until the father has been assured of a job. This is not our human decision—it is the decision of Jesus Christ rendered through Paul: "This we *commanded* you that *if any would not work, NEITHER SHOULD HE EAT*" (II Thes. 3:10).

Until work is located, none of you should ever move to another area—and especially so in this period of recession.

Yet Other Problems

But finances and work are not the only problems.

Another problem often encountered is that of a family split over religion. Sometimes a husband or a wife is converted, but the mate is not converted. Often the converted mate would like to see the children in our schools. Sometimes the unconverted mate objects, sometimes not. If this is your problem, *you need to contact a minister before you make any move*. Our schools cannot function without the cooperation of both parents. And if parents do not

co-operate, we cannot properly teach the youngsters. This is a problem that must be discussed with the ministry before any permission can be given to enter Imperial Grade or High Schools.

Another developing situation is the matter of racial integration in schools. God has called into His Church numerous Latin Americans, Orientals, and Negroes, as well as many Israelites and other Whites. The calling is of God.

As Head of the Church, *Jesus Christ* commanded Peter to "make no distinction" spiritually, IN MATTERS OF CHURCH WORSHIP, with Gentiles in the Church (Acts 11:12). This was a difficult matter for Peter to learn (Gal. 2:12). And it seems that some brethren today *have not yet learned* this lesson! Brethren, let's clean our hearts!

Notice the example in the New Testament Church: "Now in the Church at Antioch were prophets and teachers, both Barnabas and Simeon, *who was called Niger* [the Greek word for 'Negro']" (Acts 13:1). Simeon was a Negro in the Church at Antioch. God puts no difference between men and women, or between races in matters of spiritual fellowship, BUT GOD DOES NOT WANT THE DIFFERENT RACES TO MIX SOCIALLY OR TO INTERMARRY.

Social mixing begins in school!

Many cannot discern the difference between social and spiritual fellowship. One reason is that many of you have come from denominations where social fellowship was falsely labeled "spiritual" fellowship. Social fellowship among children and young people involves playing together, parties in the home, hiking and dating. In school, these social contacts, which ultimately lead to marriage, are commenced.

Is This the Way You Look at It?

Some have not fully understood what the Bible says about our mixing interracially in the schools. From time to time we hear the following view aired:

"We are all in the Church. We believe God forbids us to have social fellowship with the world. We also know that we who are of another race than Israelites are not to have strictly social fellowship with our spiritual brethren. We also realize that social fellowship is an inevitable part of school training and that therefore we cannot all send our children to the same schools. In some cases our children are left without friends to play with. Sometimes it seems that God may not be quite fair."

Let us understand this matter of social fellowship thoroughly. *God does not forbid our children social fellowship with other children in public schools.* Neither does He forbid us all social fellowship with the unconverted. Notice what Paul wrote in I Cor. 5:9

"I wrote unto you," said Paul, "in an epistle not to company with fornicators: yet [I do] not [mean] altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. . . . For what have I to do with judging them that are without? do ye not judge them that are within?"

In other words, Paul declares we may have *limited social fellowship* with sinners in the world or else we could not live in the world. *Our children may have fellowship with other children in public or private schools*—so long as they learn where to draw the line. We are not to "run with them to the same excess of riot" (I Peter 4:4). We are not to date the unconverted, as Mr. Meredith has previously explained in the article "Who Should Young People Date?"

But God still permits our children to have friends and playmates. It is our parental duty to teach our children where to draw the line. Our children may play or take a hike with those who are unconverted, but they are not to be a party to their evil deeds.

The vast majority of our white children have no other fellowship than that with other children in public schools. So also does God permit the children of Negro and Latin American brethren to share in fellowship with unconverted young people of their respective races.

I am sure many of you have not previously understood this point fully. You may have prevented your children from developing into normal, healthy youngsters. You need to allow your children this limited fellowship.

"To the Jew First"

God directs affairs here in this world, though the world may not be conscious of it. God called Abraham *out of this world.* God told him to leave his family and friends. Abraham had to be the *first* to give up fellowship with the world. Because Abraham became the first to give up this world, his children naturally became the first to receive God's blessings. It is not because of the righteousness of Abraham's children that we share these blessings, but because God is faithful in keeping His promise to Abraham to bless his children. "To the Jew *first*," said Paul often.

Because Abraham was the first to be willing to give up fellowship with the world, *God has made it possible for his fleshly children to be the first to enjoy a fuller social fellowship with one another in the Church*—limited though it may be. That is why God has guided His Church to commence its Grade and High Schools for the children of racial Israelites *first*.

This is the pattern of the Bible!

Many Gentiles not of the White race already have spiritual fellowship in the Church. They may have to wait a little longer for the establishment of schools, but steps are already being taken in that direction. During the last Feast of Tabernacles, several of us had a conference with Negro young people of College age. Together we mapped out a tentative program for their training in the fields of teaching and public speaking. I have before me a letter from one of these young people giving more details about certain Negro Colleges—Houston-Tillotson College and Paul Quinn College—where this training might be available.

As God directs the development of a competent teaching staff and as finances permit, we shall find, in the not too distant future, that the children of our Negro brethren may also enjoy social fellowship with one another in school. This work, remember, is not the work of men, but of God. And as God makes it possible it will be done!

Regarding AMBASSADOR COLLEGE, all of you know that the purpose for which it was founded is to provide a trained ministry for the Church of God to assist Mr. Armstrong in this world-wide work. We carefully screen applicants for the College—because not all young people are potential candidates for the ministry. The College is not for the purpose of giving all our young people a higher education. Dozens of applications have not been accepted because the candidates—though they may have outstanding aptitudes for other jobs—have not demonstrated their aptitude for the ministry.

Since a vital part of the ministry is shouldered by a minister's wife, Ambassador College has to be co-educational. Social fellowship is inevitable. Social fellowship, therefore, necessitates separation of the races. God has always sent His word *from Israel to the Gentiles* (John 4:22). God sent Paul, a Jew, to the Gentiles. For the few brethren of other races whom God may call to a part into the ministry *for their own people*, a special program of training is under consideration.

God Separated the Races

Moses was inspired to write: "Remember the days of old"—just prior to the building of the Tower of Babel—"when the Most High gave the nations THEIR INHERITANCE, when He SEPARATED the children of men. He set the borders of the peoples" (Deut. 32:7-8).

God made us what we are. He made the races for a great purpose which few understand.

Many White Americans have mistakenly made non-Whites feel that they were inferior because they were not integrated into the White community.

This is a false concept. It is possible to be separate and yet not be inferior. "Separation" does not mean "inferiority."

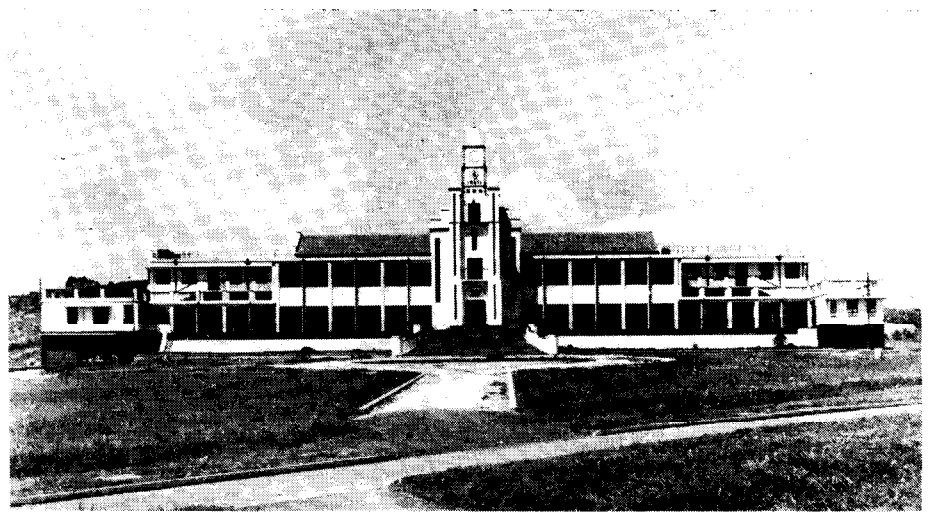
The division of the human family began with the three sons of Noah. In Genesis 10 you will find the human family subdivided into three main groups, the children of Japheth, Ham and Shem. These three subdivisions of the human family are divided into the four primary races of the Old World and one in the New World, making five in all. Before the modern theory of evolution perverted the study of anthropology in the present century, it was common knowledge that the Old World—Europe, Asia and Africa—was divided into the White, Yellow, Brown and Black races, and that the New World—America—was originally inhabited by the copper-skinned American Indian.

The human family today is made up of the strains of Noah and of his wife, and of their three daughters-in-law. This accounts for the fact that *more than one racial strain* has come from *each* of the sons of Noah. Consult the articles in the April and July, 1957, PLAIN TRUTH. The principle of God's law (Lev. 19:19) forbids intermarriage between the three primary divisions of Shem, Ham and Japheth *in accordance with their racial subdivisions*. Thus converted Israelites (who are Semitic) may intermarry with converted Semitic Germans, West Slavs, Armenians and Syrians (who are all sons of Shem), and with non-Semitic Whites such as Russians (who are from Meshech, Tubal and Madai—the sons of Japheth) and Greeks (who are of Javan, the son of Japheth) and Italians (who are of Javan and of the Tyrians from Sidon, the son of Canaan). These are all of the White racial stock (though they may have come from different sons of Noah) and are permitted to attend Ambassador College and the present Imperial Grade and High Schools.

Our Negroid brethren are of course Hamitic, and may intermarry freely among themselves.

Our Latin-American Young People

Another problem arises with our Latin American brethren. Some of their youngsters have been *severely mistreated* by fellow students and by teachers in public schools because they have usually been accustomed to hearing Spanish rather than English at home. Both White and Negro children in public schools have taken advantage of the children of our Latin American brethren. Our Latin American community has a special handicap in the United States due to having another *language*. In certain instances we have had to advise Spanish-speaking parents to take their children out of public schools and put



The Arya Girls' School in Kampala, Uganda. This school for African girls is supported by British investors. It is another illustration that the Public Educational System is a blessing from Israel bestowed on Gentile lands.

them in APPROVED private schools.

Our Latin-American brethren understand in general, why their children are not to intermarry with Israelites. Their racial origin should be studied by everyone, for it is more diverse than that of our Negro brethren. The basic Latin-American racial stock is Japhetic.

For 450 years the native Indian population of Latin America has been ruled over by Spanish-speaking people. The Spanish people who came to the New World were in ancient times the sons of Tarshish, the grandson of Japheth. But for centuries before the Roman Empire rose to power, the Canaanites from Carthage in North Africa dominated and migrated to the Spanish peninsula. Later, much of Spain was conquered (from 711 A.D. to 1492 A.D.) by Arabs and by the descendants of the Carthaginians who bore the name of "Moors"—meaning "Amorites."

The Spanish-speaking people were thus the olive-skinned European product of a dual racial culture when they arrived in America. A few exceptions are the blond Spaniards of Chaldean extraction who entered Spain after 400 A.D.

When the Spanish came to the New World they completely eclipsed the culture of the copper-skinned Indians, who were descendants of Tiras, the son of Japheth. As the centuries have passed, the overwhelming bulk of Latin-American people have become *mestizos*—meaning "mixed." The ruling classes are still partly Spanish in some areas, but *almost everyone*, in one degree or another, *is partly Indian*, though he may call himself "Spanish."

Latin-American peoples have become a mixed community, therefore, that is bound not merely by racial ties with the Indian, but bound also by language ties. *It is the unity of their language that is gradually "melting down" the*

people of Spanish-speaking Latin America into a non-White Spanish-Indian community. This Latin-American community is becoming predominantly Indian. It therefore constitutes a *separate racial group* in social matters.

Because our Latin American brethren are not basically of the same race as Israelites, they will have to solve the problem of schooling for their children *in the same manner as do most of our Israelite brethren* who are not attending our schools—by finding the public school (or sometimes a private school) which best provides the educational needs of their children and which will tolerate the practice of God's WAY.

Remember, brethren, no matter what our race OUR SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP IS WITH ONE ANOTHER. And remember, too, to pray especially for the *seven out of eight* of our brethren—White, Negro, and Latin American—whose children have no opportunity now to attend our schools. They can have only *limited* social fellowship with other young friends and playmates of their respective races.

This, then, is the policy which God ordains for the administration of His Schools.

God Blesses His Work

(Continued from page 6)

We have the entire WORLD to reach with God's message! Each one of us has his part—and that part may *increase and grow* as events move swiftly along.

Let us REJOICE—month by month—over the increase and blessings God has granted. But let us take renewed ZEL in the realization that our "little flock"—*the body of Jesus Christ*—has a tremendous globe-girdling *mission* which we have only begun to perform!

Should Use Old Testament

(Continued from page 4)

self, or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus."

And yet, some people today still say, "You can't do that—you can't preach CHRIST out of the Old Testament." But the Spirit-led PHILIP did it—JESUS Himself did it—PETER did it—yes, ALL the first-century evangelists of the true, original PURE Church of God did it! And we in God's true Church do it today!

Now consider Paul. How did HE preach? In the very last chapter of Acts, we read of Paul, after he had gone to Rome: "And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening" (Acts 28:23).

A very large portion of the New Testament is simply the Old Testament quoted. The New is BASED on the Old. The New Testament GOSPEL is based on the PROMISES God made to Abraham—for if we are Christ's, then we are Abraham's children and HEIRS according to the PROMISES (Gal. 3:29). Without the Book of Genesis, how could you

God's Work Waiting on YOU

(Continued from page 2)

Greece, he decided to return through Macedonia.

And so we see Paul in Greece (probably at Corinth) starting to swing NORTH, through Macedonia, and so down into Asia from Philippi.

"And there accompanied him into Asia Sopater of Berea; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and TIMOTHEUS; and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus" (Acts 20:4).

What an assembly!

Here were men from BEREa, where Paul had raised up a Church (Acts 17:12), from THESSALONICA, where a Church was established (Acts 17:4), from DERBE, where a local congregation also existed (Acts 14:6,7 & 23), and from ASIA, where all seven Churches John addressed in Revelation were located!

Do you see the importance of this?

TIMOTHEUS was an EVANGELIST! He was taken with Paul in his travels for a time of training—being personally with Paul almost day and night for YEARS

establish the PROMISES you hope to inherit THROUGH CHRIST?

Yes, brethren, your hope of ETERNAL LIFE rests upon the Book of GENESIS!

Notice, too, the writings of Peter: "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (II Peter 1:19-21).

And Paul's instruction to the New Testament Church in Romans 15:4: "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."

And how shall we have UNDERSTANDING of salvation? Paul wrote Timothy: "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Tim. 3:15-17).

And so, brethren, let us say with DAVID: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

on his perilous journeys! And Timothy is mentioned FIFTH in this line-up of men whom Paul had with him during these important trips to the Churches!

Who Were These Men?

Why did Paul have so many men from various local Church areas with him? What did they do? Let's see!

Sopater was a man of Berea. Some believe he may be the same as the Sosipater named in Romans 16:21, but whether this is true or not, he was at least a Christian who was intimately associated with Paul in his travels.

Aristarchus and Gaius are called "men of Macedonia [they came from Thessalonica], Paul's companions in travel" (Acts 19:29), and are specifically mentioned as having come to Ephesus—across the sea, on a different continent—with Paul. Aristarchus was with Paul later in ROME, and was called a fellow prisoner of Paul at the time of the writing of Colossians (Col. 4:10). Secundus, also from Thessalonica, is mentioned but once, as traveling with Paul toward Asia.

Gaius, who came from Derbe, is mentioned as being with Paul in Corinth at the writing of the book of Romans

(Rom. 16:23). Timothy was from Asia—as has already been mentioned—and was Paul's closest and most dependable helper (Phil. 2:19-20). Tychicus and Trophimus are both mentioned several times in Paul's Epistles. Tychicus was used as a messenger to deliver the Epistles of Colossians (Col. 4:7 and 8) and of Ephesians (Eph. 6:21-22) from Rome, and may have been the scribe who wrote the letters at Paul's dictation.

And so the second part of Paul's plan is clearly evident. He took with him certain qualified men for personal, intimate, individual training in the ministry. These men undoubtedly had Spiritual gifts added according to their natural abilities, as is evident in Timothy's case—and Paul could use them in a vitally important part of the work of God.

Notice! These men would go from PAUL to the local churches, sometimes delivering letters, and exhorting, establishing and strengthening the Churches.

For example, Trophimus is pictured as being at Miletum, afflicted with sickness, just after Paul's second apprehension and imprisonment at Rome (II Tim. 4:20). Miletum is a small city about 50 miles south of Ephesus. Trophimus was from Asia. Paul had previously been two whole years at Ephesus, at the school of Tyrannus, teaching (Acts 19:9-10). And yet, a good distance south of Ephesus, here is Trophimus ill. What was he doing there? He was an Ephesian (Acts 21:29)! Undoubtedly, he was traveling about in that area of Asia, working with the brethren, when taken sick. Paul had to leave him behind prior to being apprehended and thrown into prison again in Rome.

These young men evidently were Evangelists! There are many more who are mentioned, such as Apollos, who was a naturally gifted speaker, called "an ELOQUENT man" (Acts 18:24). But Apollos was also "mighty in the Scriptures!"

Everywhere, you see these men PREACHING the word of God, delivering Epistles, strengthening the brethren, establishing Churches (I Thes. 3:2), ordaining Elders (I Tim. 3:1-7 with Titus 1:5), doing the work of evangelism!

The Third Point of Paul's Plan

God used Paul to supply most of the details concerning Church government. Jesus Christ showed the authority given His ministers in "binding and loosing," but it remained for God to inspire Paul to reveal the various offices and their functions in carrying out God's work.

Already, we see Paul was carrying on extensive personal evangelism. Also, he was following Christ's example of training young men as future ministers by giving them personal, intensive experience in the ministry, then ordaining

them and sending them out.

But the third part of Paul's pattern of work is also vitally important!

Paul and Barnabas were chased out of Iconium, and fled to Lystra and Derbe (Acts 14:1-6). At Lystra the people had to be prevented from worshipping the two Apostles as a result of a miraculous healing. After going to Derbe, they immediately returned to the area from which they were driven out—for a very important purpose!

"They returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to *continue* in the faith, and that we must through *much tribulation* enter into the Kingdom of God. And when they had ORDAINED THEM ELDERS IN EVERY CHURCH, and had *prayed with fasting*, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed" (Acts 14:21-23).

This was just prior to the Jerusalem conference. Paul had to leave the area of southern Galatia for a time—and it was not good to leave without first establishing *government* in the Church—ordaining able men as ELDERS to watch over the flocks.

Make no mistake!

Paul *did not* impulsively ordain men who had not been TRIED and TESTED! He wrote to Timothy that he *must not* lay hands on a "novice" or one newly come to the faith! (I Tim. 3:6; 5:22). Don't forget that *many* Jews, who had been given qualities of *leadership*, had been converted *long before*, in Jerusalem (see Acts 2).

There were Jewish men from Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, all areas where Paul was very active in raising up churches. Undoubtedly there were many converted Christians in these areas even before Paul arrived. In this way, God had sown the seeds of His Church even *years before*.

Since it was *never* permissible to ordain a man who had not been AMPLY QUALIFIED, who had not been *sound* in the faith—*tried and tested*—we know Paul could not have ordained Elders within only a few weeks after their conversion.

Elders in Every Church

Acts the 17th chapter gives the account of Paul's preaching at Thessalonica. It was here that Aristarchus and Secundus were probably converted. Again, it is very likely that some had been converted about 19 years *earlier*, and had been living as Christians since that time. Paul reasoned with the Jews and many of the Greeks *three Sabbath days* (Acts 17:2), and as a result "some of THEM"—some of the Jews—"believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a GREAT MULTI-

TUDE" (Verse 4).

Paul left by night, going to Berea, then to Athens and later to Corinth. Only a *very few months* had passed when Paul wrote to the Church that had been raised up at Thessalonica, the first of his letters to be included in Scripture.

He had sent Timothy back to Thessalonica *from Athens* (I Thes. 3:2)—Timothy the *Evangelist* and already an ordained minister of God—to "ESTABLISH" this Church!

In the letter itself Paul gives commands that are to be carried out by some who were in *authority*.

In closing the letter, Paul said, "And we beseech you brethren, to KNOW THEM which labour *among you* [not Paul, and others who were *far away* most of the time—but those "among" the Thessalonians—who were *right there*] and are OVER YOU in the Lord [a Spiritual office], and admonish you; and to esteem them very highly in love *for their work's sake!*" (I Thes. 5:12-13).

Those who were addressed more particularly in the letter were given charge that the Epistle be read to "all the holy brethren" (I Thes. 5:27).

How plain! Here must have been local ELDERS—either ordained by Paul or by Timothy, who was sent back to Thessalonica to establish the Church—Elders who could utilize the instructions from God's Apostle and Evangelists in exhorting the flock, praying for the sick, comforting the *weak*, explaining and expounding the intent of the Scriptures.

This was the vital THIRD PART of Paul's plan!

He *could not* have trusted just "anyone" to take over these newly begotten "babes" in Christ! He needed thoroughly consecrated spiritual Elders to place as overseers of the flock.

Were Mistakes Made?

Paul, a few years later, called a brief ministerial meeting at Miletus, south of Ephesus, when he was on his way to Jerusalem for the Day of Pentecost, in the Spring of 56 A.D. Paul was later captured, left in prison at Caesarea for two years, and then taken to Rome in the fall of 58 A.D.

Apparently, his haste in wanting to be in Jerusalem prohibited a short overland journey from Miletus to Ephesus, so he called the ELDERS of the Ephesus area to him.

These men were trained under Paul's personal direction during his three-year stay in the region of Ephesus (Acts 20:31). They had been ordained as Elders in God's Church. They had qualified. God had revealed through Paul the iron-clad regulations that must be adhered to in choosing Spiritual leaders of the flock. But notice what Paul predicted of them!

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves," he said, after reminding them of his past efforts in diligently preaching the Gospel, "and to all the flock, over which the Holy Spirit hath made you *overseers*, to *feed* the Church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood. *For I know this.*" admitted Paul, "that after my departing shall *grievous wolves* enter in among you, NOT SPARING THE FLOCK.

"Also of YOUR OWN SELVES *shall men arise* [some of these very ordained ELDERS], speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them" (Acts 20:28-30).

It happened!

Many years later, Christ's message to the Ephesus Church through John was this: "Remember therefore from whence thou art *fallen*" (Rev. 2:5).

Yes, Paul knew even as he ordained some, that they might yield to human vanity and greed, and ultimately turn sour.

Mr. Armstrong has also had some similar experiences. Ycars ago, he realized the need of ordaining *Elders*, in some instances, to help oversee the flocks that were being gathered together in Oregon. According to the needs of the work—according to all the evidences in the lives of the men concerned, the "fruits" of their sincerity and faithfulness—Mr. Armstrong was led, like Paul, to ordain Elders! Later, when tests came, some of these very men turned their backs on God's work—and became more interested in their own selfish pursuits! Some God struck down—others were scattered, until today none remain faithful.

MISTAKES WERE MADE! BUT WHO MADE THE MISTAKES?

PAUL, FOR ORDAINING ELDERS AS GOD HAD COMMANDED?—MR. ARMSTRONG, FOR ORDAINING ELDERS AS GOD DIRECTED? OR THE ONES WHO HAD BEEN ORDAINED, AND GIVEN THE SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITY OF OVERSEEING GOD'S OWN CHOSEN PEOPLE, AND WHO THEN TURNED AWAY FROM GOD?

Once Elders were ordained, the responsibility was THEIRS! NO HUMAN BEING CAN FORESEE THE END FROM THE BEGINNING! Even *God* does not foreordain WHETHER or not YOU will "turn sour!" Yes, mistakes were made—not by God's Apostles—but by those unfaithful ones who TURNED AWAY, following their own lusts and selfish interests!

Desperate Need Today

God's Church is growing by leaps and bounds! But it is seriously lacking the qualified ELDERS it needs to ably care for the flock! Many of the ministers are "spread out" over an area hundreds

of miles across, so to speak, and, as so many of you brethren well know, are literally having to "live behind the wheel of a car" to minister to the needs of the flock of God.

WHY SHOULD THIS BE SO?

It is GOD'S INTENTION that some QUALIFY as local ELDERS to help share this tremendous LOAD! If this pattern were followed, the college trained, ordained ministers who have had *personal, individual* training from Mr. Armstrong, and who have been gifted to PREACH, could much more effectively minister to the needs of the people—being assisted by able Elders who could labor among the brethren in their own local area. Instead of driving 50 or 100 miles at night to anoint a sick person—the sick one could call his own *local Elder* who would live close by.

Consider An Amazing Fact

Did you ever read a single scripture in the Bible that tells us we must have a preaching service every Sabbath?

Can you find ONE SINGLE SCRIPTURE laying down rules for having a HYMN, then a SERMON from one who is qualified to PREACH? And yet—because many of the brethren have not seen their own responsibility—some have begun to ASSUME they are *excluded* from being a direct help in TEACHING the flock, because they're not qualified to PREACH!

God's ministers have never said we must have a *preaching service* each Sabbath! Some of the smaller Churches are still conducted as *Bible Studies*, as Question-and-Answer sessions, instead of a regular "Church Service."

It is vital for your Christian growth that you hear PREACHING! Make no mistake about that! But it is not possible for MOST of the Church to hear personal preaching each Sabbath! Because God's Church is mostly a *scattered* Church, many must study privately, following the lessons of the *Correspondence Course*, and listening to the broadcast.

Let's look into the actual QUALIFICATIONS for ELDERS, and see the astounding truth!

Do YOU Qualify?

God reveals it is a GOOD THING for a man to earnestly desire to be of *service* in His Church. "This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop [Elder], he desireth a good *work*."

"A bishop [Elder] then must be BLAMELESS, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, APT [able] TO TEACH; not given to wine, no striker [or quarrelsome person], not greedy of filthy lucre, but patient, not a brawler, not covetous, one that *ruleth* WELL his own house, having his children in subjection

with all gravity" (I Tim. 3:1-4).

Read these qualifications again!

Amazing though it may seem to you—*there is not one single scriptural qualification in the entire Bible that says an ELDER must PREACH!*

He must be ABLE TO TEACH the scriptures—able to TEACH others how to live a godly and Christian life—able to HELP others by being hospitable, being patient with their problems, being willing to anoint and pray for the sick—but he is not obligated to PREACH!

NOWHERE, in all the examples of Church gatherings, of qualifications set down in scripture for Elders, is there the slightest indication that Elders had to stand and *preach* each Sabbath—or that they ever did!

Rather, the APOSTLES and EVANGELISTS did the inspired SPEAKING!

The Elders were ordained as spiritual overseers of the flock. They were to "take care" of the Church of God!

Many of you men who probably COULD HAVE BEEN QUALIFYING have not been doing so—because you were laboring under the false assumption that you could never be used in God's work unless you first spent a full four years at Ambassador College! This is not necessarily so at all!

Now read the other qualifications for Elders, in the remaining two verses (6 and 7) of I Timothy 3 and in Titus the 1st chapter! An Elder must *hold fast* the faithful word—and be able by SOUND DOCTRINE to exhort and convict the gainsayers!

He must be able to STAND AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF CHRIST—to GIVE AN ANSWER FOR THE HOPE THAT IS IN HIM—to explain and expound thoroughly the basic doctrines, the meaning of prophecy and the times in which we live, the great PLAN of God and what it means! He must be a man of FAITH—able to *pray* in absolute ASSURANCE for the sick, anointing them with oil and KNOWING they will be healed!

He must be an UNSELFISH man! His time will totally belong to God! He will be willing to ADDICT himself to the ministry—laboring night and day among the saints—*giving* of himself in humility and patience that others can receive help.

HOW NOT TO QUALIFY

The quickest way to DISQUALIFY yourself for ever being of service to your brethren is to do the following:

Decide an "Elder" is a pretty "high" office—and one that will get you a lot of "respect." Let everyone KNOW of your intentions to "get" this office for yourself! Be outspoken and vociferous—express "your opinions" loudly; every chance you get. Jump in and be quick to answer a matter with your mouth

so you can display "leadership." Have all the answers—never be willing to say, "I don't know!" Don't receive correction—let everyone know how self-justified and righteous you are. Display your superior "spirituality" by a lot of spiritual-sounding words. Always "talk it up" BIG—impress people!

Is that enough?

This is the EXACT OPPOSITE WAY FROM THE BIBLE! And yet, it is the HUMAN way!

Men tend to believe it is OTHER MEN they must impress and please!

LISTEN!

If you begin to try to impress Mr. Armstrong, or your local Pastor, you are starting down the sure and quick road to a box canyon of uselessness! There is no quicker way to insure YOU'LL NEVER QUALIFY than to begin to *exalt yourself*.

GOD Will Choose

This is GOD'S CHURCH!

God will select and ordain, through His apostles and evangelists, the Elders when they are qualified to serve in that capacity. Do your qualifying on your knees! Do your work toward becoming of service to your brethren by HUMBING yourself. Be willing to be the LEAST of men. ABASE the self—DEFLATE the ego—GIVE your life to Christ!

Don't be the least bit concerned about whether or not anyone "notices" you—and your deeds! Do whatever you do heartily, AS UNTO THE LORD, and not as before men!

God works through His human instruments in His Church. He will reveal to *them* the need—and the individuals who will fill that need.

Brethren, this is a great NECESSITY for God's work!

It is a SHAME on the true Church of God for this time that we have NOT ONE SINGLE LOCAL ELDER IN THE HEADQUARTERS CHURCH!

MANY CHURCHES DO NOT EVEN HAVE A DEACON!

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT? Can you be STIRRED TO ACTION? Are you going to begin to *abase* yourselves—studying with renewed ZEAL so you KNOW the truth of God and can EXPLAIN it to others?

May God help some—who have the potential, to WAKE UP TO THE CALL OF CHRIST—the *Head of this Church*—so that the work of God is not HINDERED any more!

Study that article on *How God Calls His Ministers* from the September, 1957 "Good News." If you need a copy, we still have some extras left. And PRAY about it. PRAY that God will WAKE UP some who are drowsy, sleepy—spiritually lethargic!

God's work waits on YOU!