



# The Good News

*International Magazine of The Church of God*

VOL. XII, NUMBER 4

*Festival at Pasadena*

APRIL, 1963

# Letters to the Editor

## Healed of Ulcers

"My husband is on shiftwork and hears your programme. He had ulcers so bad four doctors have urged him to have his stomach taken completely out. But God in His goodness has seen fit to heal my husband; a week ago he returned to work—no operation, no pain, and eating good meals. This is a miracle."

Woman, Canada

## Powerful Sermons Preached

"The sermons by Mr. Ha' Baird and Mr. Bob Steep are really powerful. My 21-year-old daughter (not converted as yet) had this comment after a sermon on home conditions. 'It made me feel terrible because I am not obeying my husband—and I'm not even married yet!!!'"

Woman, Kentucky

• *With that attitude—it won't be long now.*

## Tithes Early

"My baby will be due around the last of this October so I will have to give up my baby-sitting. My third tithe starts this April. I didn't want to be left out of helping a tiny bit at least, so I started my third tithe in January."

Woman, Missouri

• *Doing even more than is required is exactly what Christ said was necessary.*

## Eyes and Back Healed

"The day I received your healing cloth I was so blind I couldn't see, so I placed your healing cloth over my

eyes and prayed. When I ended my prayer, I dropped off to sleep. When I awakened I could see clearly; I took the cloth from my eyes and placed it on my back. My back bothered me all the time. Since I placed your healing cloth on it, it hasn't hurt. I went to church and I could see well enough to read the Bible."

Woman, Missouri

## Learns Too Late

"Please send me the following: 'How to Have a Happy Marriage,' 'How to Solve Family Arguments,' BUT especially 'Divorce and Remarriage.' I'm living with my third wife and I need to learn how to get along with women."

Man, Georgia

• *Better to learn how to get along with God first.*

## Sins Revealed

"In a recent check-up our ten-year-old son, Roland, was found to have a touch of pernicious anemia. Our oldest son got a bad-looking boil on his chin that was infecting the lymph glands and we were told how dangcrous it was. I knew something was wrong, and we'd better stop and see what it was. I prayed for guidance and to be shown what was going wrong. The broadcast for nearly two weeks, of which we heard at least two diferent ones everyday, showed us one sin we were committing in each broadcast. That's a lot of correcting, but I stand corrected and the Eternal has sure filled my spiritual cup to running over. I recognize that cvil for

*(Please continue on page 6)*

## The WORLD TOMORROW Now on Yankee Network

by John Edward Portune

On April 11, news was received at the Pasadena, Headquarters of The WORLD TOMORROW, of the latest leap in radio coverage—the *seven station YANKEE NETWORK!*

For the first time in the history of God's Church, the radio door of New England is open. Now the vital voice of God's true Gospel is finally more than the faint whisper of a far-off Mexican radio station to the people of New England.

At the moment programming is only once a week on Sunday—yet ONE MIL-

LION new homes are being reached!

This CBS affiliated network was opened to us through its one 50,000 watt station WNAC, Boston. The WORLD TOMORROW has been carried by it for several months now.

Five of the six new stations, spotted in *Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Maine* opened prime evening spots near 8:30 p.m. The sixth offers the well-frequented Sunday morning spot of 10:30 a.m.

Pray that this step forward is the *real beginning* of the end of the famine of the Word—so long-lived in New England.

## The Good News

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

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change in your address. Please inclose both old  
and new address. IMPORTANT!

# God's LOVE Poured Out in Passover Season!

*Over fifteen thousand observed the most JOYOUS Spring Festival ever! And two ELDERS were ordained—plus two full ministers later!*

by Roderick C. Meredith

“**R**EJOICE in the Lord alway, and again I say, *rejoice*” (Phil. 4:4).

Paul's instruction was gladly *obeyed* this Passover in what most felt was the most JOYOUS and *inspiring* Spring Festival ever! It seemed that God's Holy Spirit was just *poured out* in all the meeting places of His people in an unusual way.

As one member of the Church wrote us after the Festival: “It seems to me, as an individual, that as the end draws nearer God is allowing His true ministers to preach in a more powerful way than ever before. He is really impressing upon His Church the importance of the times we are living in and getting His people to study, pray, and fast so we can come closer to what our Father expects of us.”

This is an indication of the *impact* of the Festival of Unleavened Bread upon those who faithfully assembled *where Christ placed HIS name*.

## Two Local Elders Ordained During the Festival

Highlighting the Feast of Unleavened Bread at Portland, Mr. Norman Smith—Evangelist from Pasadena—was joined by Mr. Dale Hampton and other elders

Mr. John Bald, Preaching Elder



in ordaining Mr. Carl O'Beirn as a Local Elder in God's Church! Mr. O'Beirn is a graduate of Ambassador College. He is a long-time Church member with a wife and four lovely children. He has labored faithfully and well in the Portland area assisting Mr. Dale Hampton in the ministry, and now joins the ranks of the elders in God's Church.

Congratulations, Mr. and Mrs. O'Beirn!

On the final Holy Day, in New York, Mr. Carlton Smith and I had the privilege of ordaining Mr. Guy Engelbart as a Local Elder also! Mr. Engelbart is a graduate of Ambassador College and has now labored in the New York area for nearly two years assisting Mr. Carlton Smith in many ministerial responsibilities. Both he and his charming wife, Penny, have been a source of inspiration and joy to many in the New York-Philadelphia area, and now Mr. Engelbart is clothed with additional ministerial authority as he too becomes an Elder in God's Church.

## Then—Mr. Armstrong Ordains Two Full Ministers!

In a happy surprise ceremony in Chicago, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong—passing through on the train on his way to

Mr. Carl O'Beirn, Local Elder



New York and England—was joined by Mr. Dean Blackwell and other local ministers in ordaining Mr. Harold L. Jackson and Mr. John Bald as *Preaching Elders* in God's Church! With this ordination, Mr. Jackson becomes the *first* full minister among the Negroes in God's Church in this era! He and his dedicated wife have been in God's Church for *many* years—and have set a long example of growth and service in feeding God's flock.

May God continue to *inspire* and *direct* Mr. Jackson in training other Negro elders and feeding those of His people called into God's Church at this time!

Mr. John Bald has also been in the service of Christ for many years—entering college nearly nine years ago. Although younger than average when he first graduated, Mr. Bald has matured and grown tremendously in every way in serving God's people in the Chicago area. Both he and his wife, Nancy, have earned the love and respect of all the brethren whom they have served—and Mr. Bald has increasingly developed as a *powerful* speaker and minister of Jesus Christ.

Congratulations, John and Nancy!

Mr. Guy Engelbart, Local Elder





Mr. and Mrs. Harold Jackson. Mr. Jackson is the first of our Colored brethren to become a full Preaching Elder.

May God continue to *bless* and *use* you increasingly in His service!

### The Headquarters Festival of Unleavened Bread

Headed by Mr. Herbert Armstrong and Dr. Herman Hoeh, *fourteen* elders fed the brethren of God's Church in the Southern California area during the Feast of Unleavened Bread in Pasadena. There were *seven* days of preaching services, and *seven* elders who spoke during the services at the beautiful Pasadena Civic Auditorium.

This year, with 2600 in attendance, our people nearly *filled* the Civic Auditorium during the inspiring preaching services which will long be remembered by those in attendance!

Mr. Armstrong gave especially moving sermons on the importance of becoming like God and keeping our minds on the tremendous spiritual goal ahead of us. Dr. Hoeh gave unusually interesting and helpful sermons—one bringing out important historical events which took place at the time of the original Exodus.

Mr. Charles Dorothy, Mr. Leroy Neff and Mr. Dibar Apartian also gave important and moving sermons—joined by other elders from the Pasadena area. After the Feast, everyone remarked that this year was the "best ever"!

### The Feast at Our Huge Tabernacle in Texas

Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong and Mr. Albert J. Portune headed the list of the ministers who directed the Festival and spoke during the Days of Unleavened Bread at Big Sandy, Texas,

this year. A total of 1,020 converted adult members partook of the bread and wine in the Passover service, and approximately 2500 were present during the Feast!

Mr. Richard Rice—Local Elder at Gladewater—sends in the following inspiring report on the Festival there:

"Never before have I experienced a Spring Festival such as we have had this year," commented many brethren as they assembled before God at the Tabernacle near Big Sandy, Texas. 'It has been the most inspiring, uplifting and edifying Passover I have ever attended.'

"This attitude doesn't speak for a few scattered brethren only attending for the first time, but was the heartfelt and sincere feeling of everyone present.

"Indeed God blessed and inspired these meetings in every way possible. The weather was perfect with blue, sunny skies and mild temperatures prevailing all eight days. A deep sense of genuine brotherly love and respect seemed to permeate the Tabernacle grounds as the brethren fellowshiped with each other and renewed old acquaintances. And God spoke with boldness, power and sobering frankness through His human instruments as He has never done before.

"Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong and Mr. Albert J. Portune were here from the Headquarters Church for the eight days to conduct services. Seven other ministers and local elders were also avail-

able to aid in counseling and in speaking. Messrs. Kenneth Swisher, Cecil Battles and Richard Rice were present for the entirety of the Festival, while Messrs. David Antion, Richard Prince, Tony Hammer and Kelly Barfield arrived after the first Holy Day.

"One thousand twenty brethren from several states partook of the bread and wine on Passover night. This number exceeded the amount anticipated so that additional wine had to be poured and blessed.

### The "Night To Be Remembered"

"The following evening was truly a 'Night To Be Remembered.' After a brief explanation of this Feast—its history and its purpose—by Mr. Armstrong, the brethren joyfully marched from the new Tabernacle to the dining hall to partake of the delectable and sumptuous meal prepared for the occasion. Everyone displayed an expression of real joy and happiness as he feasted and conversed with his neighbor.

"It was apparent to all that God inspired every message that was preached. Many brethren sat with open-mouthed amazement and awe as the wonderful truths of God were unveiled before their eyes. 'Electrifying' would be an appropriate term to describe the effectiveness of the messages given. Certainly the presence of God was here. Topics discussed included basic responsibilities of a Christian, keys to overcoming

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Nearly filling the Pasadena Civic Auditorium to capacity, the Headquarters congregation was very thankful for these fine surroundings. Here the brethren listen as Mr. Leon Ettinger conducts the Ambassador College Chorus.



# The PLAIN TRUTH IN FRENCH

*Five thousand Frenchmen will soon receive the Truth of God's own end-time Gospel message in their own language. It's The PLAIN TRUTH in any language that God has commissioned His servants to proclaim and PUBLISH. The French instructor at Ambassador College, the voice of "Le MONDE A VENIR"—and the Managing Editor of La PURE VERITE brings you the inside story of this step forward in God's Work!*

by Dibar Apartian

“A NEW MAGAZINE is born. But WHY? Is there need for another publication?

“It comes with a definite purpose. Its mission is the most important on earth today. There is not now, and never has been, any publication like it. None has served its all-important purpose.”

With these powerful words, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong introduced, in his Editorial, the French PLAIN TRUTH which is scheduled to appear this June. In French, The PLAIN TRUTH is “La PURE VERITE,” but it means exactly the same thing: “the pure, simple or plain truth.”

That describes the all-important purpose of The PLAIN TRUTH—appearing in English, German, and now FRENCH! It makes God's Word plain to those who have eyes to see. Regardless of the language it is written in, The PLAIN TRUTH serves as a witness to all who read it.

## Birth Pangs

Do you remember what Mr. Armstrong wrote in his “Personal from the Editor” column (February 1962 issue) regarding the birth of The PLAIN TRUTH? Do you recall how he had to borrow an old typewriter from a neighbor out in the country, then arrange to use a mimeograph belonging to the mimeograph sales officer in Eugene in order to be able to put out Vol. I, No. 1 of The PLAIN TRUTH? Its total cost was “a few stencils, and the six hundred sheets of mimeograph paper used to print about 150 copies.”

That was back in February 1934.

Today, twenty-nine years later, The PLAIN TRUTH appears as a beautifully printed 52-page magazine, with



A fine beginning!

a new heavy cover. Its circulation is over 400,000 copies.

Nearly two years ago, we all rejoiced at hearing the news that the first German version of The PLAIN TRUTH was out under the name of “Die REINE WAHRHEIT.”

Now at last—printed in our own Ambassador College Print Shop, appears a full 24-page edition “La PURE VERITE”—the French edition of The PLAIN TRUTH.

## How It All Began

Still fresh in my mind is one of the talks Mr. Dick Armstrong and I had in the fall of 1955, a few months after I had begun teaching at Ambassador College. At that time, I knew nothing about God's Work, His plan on earth, the reason for Ambassador College nor the purpose of life.

As we were finishing our dinner together in a restaurant, Mr. Dick Arm-

strong began to explain to me the reason God had founded Ambassador College. “This may sound strange to your ears,” he said to me, “but what is being done here, at Ambassador College, is the very Work of God on earth. Yes, believe it or not, the little group of people you see around you are the very people God has called to serve Him on earth. We are here to study and learn, to yield ourselves more and more to God, to grow in His grace and to preach the Gospel for a witness around the world.”

At that time these words did not mean much to me I was acquainted with many religions, and to me, this was just another one! But I respected and liked Dick Armstrong. In the short time we had come to know each other, we had become two good friends; we conversed in French and spent much time together.

“Yes, Dibar, some day you will see it all happen,” he added, “this Gospel will be preached for a witness around the world—AROUND THE WORLD, including the French-speaking people. What's more, some of us will have to do it. It will go out from here, from little Ambassador College in Pasadena, U.S.A.”

And so it was that without realizing it, I was being introduced to the very Work of God! It never occurred to me, however, that I would be useful in fulfilling Mr. Dick Armstrong's “prophecy”!

## The French Work Grows

Two years later, a few of our English booklets were translated by our department and sent to those who requested them. Shortly after, we began work on the Bible CORRESPONDENCE COURSE as certainly the best



Mr. Dibar Apartian, Managing Editor of La PURE VERITE, is shown here with his hard-working staff who helped him produce this fine magazine.

way of introducing the Bible to them—provided they can find a Bible!

From then on, things moved very fast in the French Department. On October 9, 1960, we were on the air! The WORLD TOMORROW broadcast in French—Le MONDE A VENIR! God first opened the way in Saint Jerome, Canada, a small station in the very heart of the Catholic-dominated Quebec. We were on the air only once a week, every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. God usually starts His Work on a small scale—but it *always grows like a mustard seed.*

Today, we are still on that first station in Saint Jerome, but hundreds of thousands of watts have been added to it. God's Gospel is now thundering over the entire European continent, over its two great super-power radio stations, RADIO LUXEMBOURG and EUROPE NUMBER ONE—each broadcasting with over 500,000 watts. The Gospel of the Kingdom of God is also preached in the West Indies and in Haiti—in the French language.

The fact that God's Work is going full steam ahead on every continent is a sure sign the end is near—much nearer than perhaps some of you realize. This summer, coinciding with the publication of La PURE VERITE, offices are being opened in Paris to aid carrying on more fully the French Work. Today, we have nearly *fifty* booklets printed and in circulation, in addition to The BIBLE STORY and the first 20 lessons of the Bible CORRESPONDENCE COURSE.

### Are You Doing Your Share?

"But where and how is La PURE VERITE published?" you may ask. The answer is: right here on Ambassador

Campus. At first, we had planned to type it on an IBM Executive typewriter, then to reduce the pages for offset printing. However, a few months ago, God blessed His entire Work by adding to the Printing Department an INTERTYPE—a type of linotype machine—which is already being used by God's Work in printing The GOOD NEWS, the Bible CORRESPONDENCE COURSE, The PORTFOLIO (the Ambassador College Campus paper), and now—La PURE VERITE. It will soon be used to print various booklets and even full-length books! Thus, La PURE VERITE is entirely produced on our campus. It is set to type, printed, assembled, cut, stitched—all by our own Printing Department.

Do you *realize*, brethren, what all this means? Time is *running out*. God is blessing His Work with all this modern equipment because there is LITTLE TIME LEFT to accomplish the great task that He has placed on our shoulders—every last one of us. Are you *working hard*? Are you earnestly *praying* for God's over all Work? Are you doing YOUR SHARE in whatever capacity God has called you? Are you a part, an *active, moving* part, of the small but powerful team God has called in these last times?

"While the nations gird their military forces and their NUCLEAR forces for war, destruction and chaos, La PURE VERITE comes to shout the GOOD NEWS that PEACE is COMING," Mr. Armstrong wrote in closing his first Editorial addressed to all the French-speaking people around the world. "Our deliverance from unhappiness and wretchedness is at hand.

"This is the voice IN THE WILDERNESS preparing the way."

## Letters

(Continued from page 2)

what it's purpose is now. Tell Mr. Armstrong he will never guess how deep he reached in our lives, and kept us from being destroyed. We were so unaware of it, and thanks from the bottom of my heart."

Woman, Mississippi

### Converting a Catholic

"I have a very serious problem of trying to convert a Roman Catholic girl to the true Church of God in order that we may marry. Would you please send me any booklets or advice that may make my task easier."

Man, Rhode Island

• *A serious problem is putting it mildly. You have an utterly impossible task. Read I Cor. 7:16.*

### Quick Answer to Letter

"You sent me a form to fill out requesting one of your ministers to visit me. Just as I finished answering the letter the doorbell rang and there was your minister. It was certainly a quick response. I hadn't even had time to mail the letter."

Woman, Idaho

### Inspired by God's Minister

"I must tell you of the tremendous blessing that I and two friends had when one of the ministers of the Church of God visited and counseled with us. He was Mr. Barfield (and he also brought his wonderful wife). We have never met more marvelous and sincere people. I hope we did not impose upon his generosity in that we did keep him awake the entire night answering our questions. I know you can understand how we had waited and prayed for a true minister of God to counsel with us and how literally brim full of questions we were. He unhesitatingly answered all we asked directly from the Bible; never any 'I think' or 'perhaps,' but straightforward answers on every question. He and his wife also had an amazing knowledge of the Bible and its principles. I thank God for leading me to The WORLD TOMORROW program."

Man, Tennessee

• *Ambassador Colleges are bearing fruit.*

### Healed of Everything

"You have prayed for me for an ear infection, injured leg, some kind of tumor near the intestines and some type of chest difficulty, and I have been healed of all of these."

Man, Ohio

# What is a Real CHRISTIAN SOLDIER?

*What were the teachings of the Apostles and the early New Testament Church? Was war under any circumstance permitted? How can a Christian "fight the good fight" and yet not kill?*

by L. Leroy Neff

**T**HE APOSTLE JAMES, who wrote the Epistle of James, was a *physical brother* of Christ. What did he teach about fighting?

He wrote that "the fruit of righteousness [obeying God's commandments (Ps. 119:172)] is sown in PEACE [not war] of them that MAKE PEACE" (Jas. 3:18). You do not make *peace* by *making war!*

## Cause of War Defined

This same Apostle wrote in explicit terms the *true* cause of war:

"From whence come wars and fightings among you? *come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?* Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts" (Jas. 4:1-3).

The root cause of war as stated here is *lust, greed* and *covetousness!* That is not only the cause as written by James. Since it is included in the Bible it is also the cause *as defined by Jesus Christ* who inspired James to write! Lust and greed are SIN as stated in the Ten Commandments, and the violation of this law is sin (I John 3:4). The Christian is supposed to *quit sinning* (Rom. 6:12).

James sharply rebuked the twelve tribes (nations) of Israel (Jas. 1:1) for *participating in war*. He tells them how to keep from having war. It is too bad that the modern Israelitish countries do not heed his instruction. If they did, the world would be a much better place in which to live.

## Did Peter Follow Christ?

Certain churches believe that Peter was given the keys of rulership over

the church. Did *he* follow Christ in teaching that we are not to participate in wars? Or, as his claimed successors *have practiced*, should they wage war?

"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also *suffered* for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps" (I Pet. 2:21).

This specific example given by Peter shows that we should suffer for the cause of Christ, *not cause suffering*. Peter followed Christ's example. After his conversion, he did not take up arms against others. He *learned his lesson* on the Mount of Olives the night before Christ's crucifixion.

Peter taught that we are to have compassion for others to be courteous *to have pity* on others (I Pet. 3:8). HE COMMANDED CHRISTIANS NOT TO RENDER EVIL FOR EVIL, *or railing for railing* (I Pet. 3:9-12). On the contrary, we are to *bless* those *who do evil* to us, or who rail against us. God has His eyes on the righteous and will take care of them when they follow this instruction (verse 12).

*Peter did follow Christ!* He taught that we were not to kill or harm others, just as Christ, his Master did. Those who claim to have succeeded Peter *have not* followed either Peter or Christ!

## Did John Follow Christ?

Did the Apostle John follow Christ in this teaching?

He taught that if a man *says* that he loves God and yet *hates his brother—he is a LIAR!* (I John 4:20). A person who is *even angry* with another has already committed murder in his heart (Matt. 5:22). *You cannot kill—EVER—in war, unless you have a sense of HATRED toward the enemy!*

John also taught that those who are begotten of God *overcome* the world. But how do we overcome the world? By war? No, by FAITH (I John 5:4)!

The whole theme of John's writings is *love*, both to God and neighbor. *All of his writings are contrary to hate, violence and warfare.*

## Did Paul Preach a NEW Gospel?

Did Paul *really* follow Christ in teaching against war and violence, or did he in his "Pauline theology" teach a *different* doctrine from Christ and the other apostles?

Paul wrote:

"Be ye followers of me, *even as I also am of Christ!*" (I Cor. 11:1).

This scripture shows plainly that Paul followed or "imitated" (Revised Standard Version) Christ. He also taught the *same identical Gospel that Christ did*—contrary to what many of the modern Biblical scholars claim. Let's examine his writings to *really prove* that he *did follow Christ*.

He preached a Gospel of *peace* (Rom. 10:15) and commanded us to "live in peace" (II Cor. 13:11). We are charged to follow this peace *with ALL men* (Heb. 12:14). How can you follow *peace* with all men if you are determined to destroy them in warfare?

Paul taught that we are not to take vengeance on others. That is GOD'S prerogative, *not ours!*

"Recompense to *no man* evil for evil . . . If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, *live peaceably* with all men. Dearly beloved, AVENGE NOT YOURSELVES, but rather *give place unto wrath*: for it is written, *Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord*. Therefore if thine *enemy* hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing *thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head*. Be not overcome of evil, but *overcome evil WITH GOOD!*" (Rom. 12:17-21).

This scripture is so plain and clear that there is no need for explanation.

*(Please continue on page 14)*





Closed-circuit TV provided a unique experience in England!

## Passover Season

(Continued from page 4)

ing, marital happiness, down-to-earth principles of everyday living and a host of other vital and timely subjects.

"Attendance was increased to approximately 2500 as hundreds of additional members from surrounding church areas joined us for the final three days.

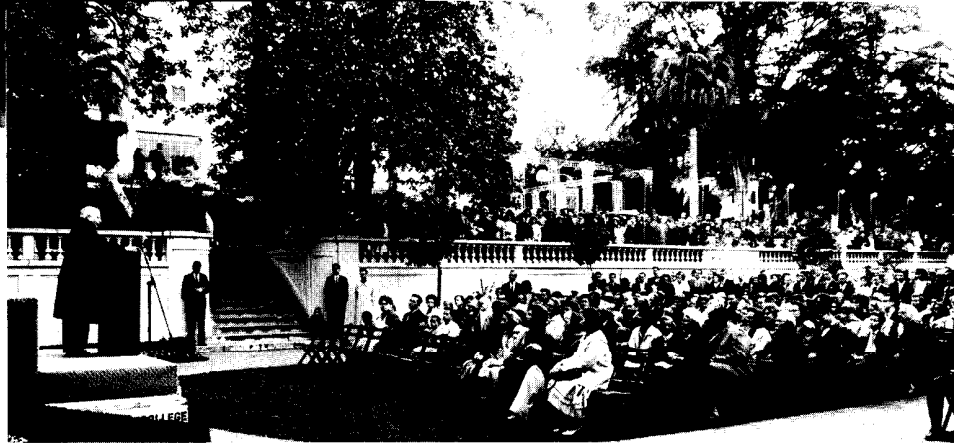
"All rejoiced that God added 23 new members to His body.

"We regret the Feast had to end so soon but are very thankful that our God and Ruler provided us with an abundance of spiritual food to digest within the next six months."

### The Feast in Great Britain

From our European Headquarters at London, Mr. Raymond McNair reports

Our English Ambassadors ate well also!



Ambassador's lovely Lower Gardens provide a beautiful setting as Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong speaks to the brethren on the "night to be much observed!"

that a wonderful Festival was held with 224 members partaking the Passover at London and 330 in attendance at the Feast. At Manchester, 76 took the Passover with 113 at the Feast. The Birmingham Church had 68 brethren partaking the Passover and 95 in attendance at the Festival. Bristol saw 25 at the Passover, 66 at the Festival with Belfast having 29 at the Passover and 61 at the Feast.

As a leading Ambassador student over there, Mr. Edward Smith reports on the Festival:

"What a tremendous JOY and PLEASURE it was for God's people to observe the recent Feast of Unleavened Bread! Annual records were again broken as FIVE CHURCHES in Britain met in what was the greatest and most enjoyable Spring Festival ever kept in this green and pleasant land.

"Eager participants from remote areas met in unity with local members, and rejoiced — as commanded — at Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester and here at Bricket Wood. With the addition of scattered members both in Britain and on the Continent of Europe, the over-all total of those keeping God's Holy Days exceeded 700 persons.

"At Ambassador College, the Festival was memorable for the improved, smoother organization, the efficient work of the team of assistant deacons and deaconesses, the much-appreciated

special music items and many of the services and, for the first time, the use of closed-circuit television! With over 340 persons jammed in the college's Music Hall at most of the meetings, it was necessary to relay each service by television to an upstairs audience!

"God certainly poured out a special blessing upon us at this time—both with physical and SPIRITUAL food. Much needed messages were delivered on prayer, the abundant life, some irrefutable PROOFS OF GOD, the battle

against human nature and the incomprehensible GLORY to be ours after the Millennium.

"Time sped along. As the last sermon ended, the last farewells were made, and the annual Sabbath drew to a close, every member resolved that nothing would interfere with his observance of even more wonderful Holy Days in future months and years."

Returning to the United States, the

Smiling Pittsburgh Brethren heard Mr. Rayn





largest Festival observance outside of Pasadena and Big Sandy was held in Chicago.

### Large Chicago Festival

Mr. David Jon Hill—visiting Pastor from Headquarters—joined Mr. Dean Blackwell and other area ministers in conducting the inspiring eight-day Festival in the "Windy City." A total of 866 brethren partook of the Passover with over 1800 in attendance at the Feast!



Our own fine Tabernacle provides ample room in Texas.



Eighteen hundred brethren crowd fine McCormick Place in Chicago.

The Holy Day preaching services in Chicago were conducted in the \$35,000,000 McCormick Place on Lake Michigan. The atmosphere was inspiring and the weather was clear and sunny *all the time*—unusual for Chicago in the spring! Both the white and colored chorales sang inspiring numbers during the Festival, and a number of

uplifting and joyous social events were enjoyed by all the brethren.

Both Mr. Hill and Mr. Blackwell gave unusually powerful sermons on the greatness of God and the meaning of His plan for humanity. They were assisted during the preaching services by Mr. Allen Manteufel, Mr. George Meeker, Mr. John Bald, Mr. Richard Plache, Mr. Les McCole, plus other elders and leading men in the area.

At the close, everyone felt that here, too, the GREATEST and *most inspiring* Passover season ever had just been completed!

### Inspiring Feast at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

A total of 550 adult members partook of God's Passover in Pittsburgh this spring, with just short of 1000 in attendance on the Holy Days to hear God's Word expounded! Mr. Raymond Cole—visiting Evangelist—led the preaching services with Mr. McDowell, area minister, and Mr. Bob Hoops assisting.

People were present from at least seven states to hear an inspiring series of sermons by Mr. Cole outlining God's plan for humanity, plus many other inspiring sermons by Mr. McDowell and Mr. Hoops.

The Feast and the physical food during the entire Festival season were joyfully received, and the scattered Negro brethren had a most delightful social occasion with a delicious chicken dinner, lots of fellowship and later a worthwhile film. Everyone in the area agreed that this was the most enjoyable Feast ever—and they are already looking forward to Pentecost!

### The Feast in New York City

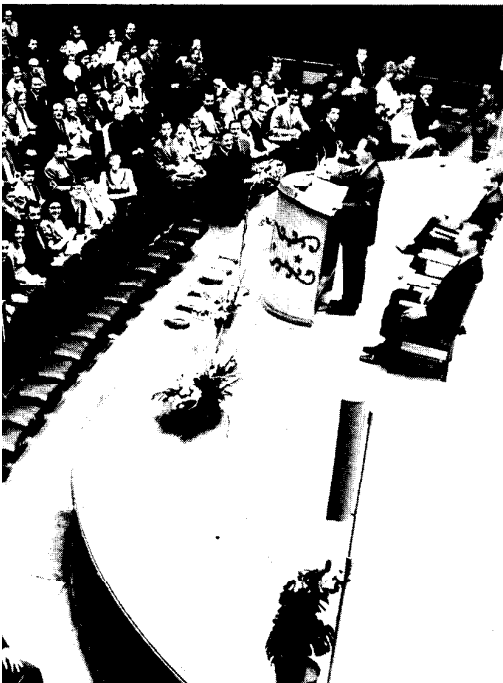
My wife and I had the pleasure of flying to New York to join Mr. Carlton Smith and Mr. Guy Engelbart in conducting the Passover and Feast in that huge area. A total of 406 adult members partook of the Passover, with *over 700* in attendance at the Feast!

God seemed to pour out His Spirit and His LOVE more than ever before in a local Festival of our experience, and the brethren in attendance drank in with enthusiasm the inspired messages on overcoming, fasting and prayer, not making excuses, and being a real LIGHT to the world around them. The

Over seven hundred attend New York.



Cole. Messrs. McDowell and Engelbart seated.





The Chicago Chorale poses here — seated, Mr. Ecker conducts, Miss Bressen accompanies.

joy and enthusiasm of everyone present was increasingly contagious as the Festival progressed, and the only real "problem" of the entire Festival was that it had to come to an end so soon!

The New York Church Chorale—under the direction of Mr. Leo Bogdan-chik sang many inspiring numbers during the services. Then, on the Sunday afternoon before the last Holy Day, they presented an entire program on the theme of Stephen Foster—his life and his music. It was beautiful and inspiring, and shows what God's people in our nation's largest city can do!

Also, several extremely moving and uplifting numbers were presented by the Negro Octet under the able direction of Mr. Raymond Mickens who, incidentally, sang several excellent solos both with the chorale and alone during the services.

Everyone was especially elated at the ordination of Mr. Guy Engelbart as a Local Elder on the morning of the final Holy Day. All-in-all, it was a Festival long to be remembered by the brethren in the New York area, and those who came in from Pennsylvania, New England, Canada and other areas.

#### Northwest Spring Festival at Portland

In the absence of Mr. Raymond Cole—who journeyed to Pittsburgh—Evangelist Norman Smith from Pasadena Headquarters was in charge of the Feast observance in the Northwest. He was assisted by Mr. Dale Hampton, Mr. Jimmy Friddle and other elders in the area.

A record number of people, 584, took the Passover—including 38 at Medford, 180 at Eugene and 366 at Portland.

Powerful sermons on the meaning of the Feast and God's plan were given by Mr. Smith, Mr. Hampton, Mr. Friddle, and Mr. Dean Wilson—who journeyed down from Vancouver during the Festival.

One of the happy events was the surprise ordination of Mr. Carl O'Beirn to the rank of Local Elder. Mr. O'Beirn was the most surprised! He had just seated himself with his family up in the balcony after leading the singing, and was then asked to return to the stage.

Mr. Basil Wolverton reports: "If there were any long faces, they were hidden somewhere behind the happy ones. True, Mr. Norman Smith did have a brush with a flu bug, but his continued presence and constant smile didn't show it. That this was the best and most spiritually profitable of the Spring Festivals in Portland was very evident."

#### Joyous Festival at Birmingham, Alabama

As evening darkened the skies of Alabama, 271 members of the Church of God quietly began to assemble at the Hollywood Country Club just outside Birmingham to observe the memorial of the death of Jesus Christ.

The following evening, the eight southeastern states were represented by the 556 who feasted together on delicious filet mignon steaks and all the trimmings. This was the first opportunity to fellowship with others of God's Church ever to be enjoyed by many of the brethren from outlying areas. This fellowship, plus the many truly inspired sermons by Mr. Leslie L. McCullough and Mr. Arthur Craig, will long stand out in the memories of these scattered brethren.

Morning and evening services were conducted on the intervening days with only a small drop in attendance which was bolstered by the arrival of Mr. Carl McNair, whose sermons added greatly to the spiritual feasting, as well as those from the Memphis Church. The week quickly slipped by with some much-needed counseling being held in the afternoons and was topped off by a talent show which delighted everyone.

The last Holy Day brought the largest attendance of nearly 600 and was a fitting climax to the first Feast season of the year.

#### Passover in Central California

The most joyous Feast ever held in Central California has just been completed in the small town of Lodi which is near Sacramento. Exactly 333 observed the Passover on Sunday evening. This is an increase of 111 over the 222 who were there last year. Everyone now is expecting 444 to be there next year!

On the night of the Feast, over 640 enjoyed the delicious potluck dinner prepared by the ladies. Many of the brethren stayed till after midnight discussing the abundant blessings God has given us—especially the growth in the churches—more than fifty per cent in the past year.

The highlight of the Feast Day was the ordination of another deacon in the Sacramento Church and also our first deaconess in Northern California. They are Mr. Sid Cloud and Mrs. Wilbur Hickman.

Beautiful weather for the most part prevailed throughout the eight-day Festival. And God's people in this area all went home feeling this was the best Feast ever!

#### The Passover in Scattered Areas

The Passover and Feast were observed in Denver, Colorado, with Dr. Clint C. Zimmerman journeying from Pasadena Headquarters to join Mr. Burk McNair in conducting the services. During the Festival, they were joined by Mr. Roger Foster and Mr. Ray Jantzen from the Wichita area to assist in the preaching.

A total of 307 observed the Passover with 540 present during the Festival of Unleavened Bread. An additional 112 observed the Passover in Wichita with 238 present on the Holy Day there.

(Please continue on page 13)

Mr. Jackson is here leading the Chicago Colored Chorale.



# The Jews *DON'T* Observe Passover!

*Why do the Jews hold THEIR Passover a day later than the Passover observed by Moses, Nehemiah and Jesus? How and when did this change come about?*

by Ernest L. Martin

**W**HY DO THE JEWS have *double* Holy Days—keep Passover one day late—then Pentecost on Sivan 6? Why do they reckon only 5723 years from creation? What is correct? Are the Jews right?

Many in God's Church have been puzzled over the Jewish interpretation behind the Holy Calendar and the Festivals. Since the Jews have been responsible for the preservation of God's Calendar, why could they not also lead us in the interpretation of the Holy Days? Why is it that God's Church does *not* follow the Jews in every point?

## The Jews Responsible for the Oracles of God

In Romans 3:2 the Apostle Paul acknowledged, under God's inspiration, that the Jews were responsible for the oracles of God. The expression "oracles of God" was a common Jewish term of the first century which designated "The Holy Scriptures"—our Old Testament (*Interpreters Commentary*, article "Oracles").

These Scriptures enumerated the seven annual Holy Days which Israel was to keep (Lev. 23). These Holy Days, with the exception of Pentecost, were to be observed on set calendar dates each year. Without an official calendar, *there could be no Holy Day observances!* Correct calendar computations must as well have been given to the custodians of the Scriptures in order that *all* the oracles of God could be kept.

So the Jews (specifically the priests) were responsible for preserving the Old Testament Scriptures—*plus the calendar*—which was necessary in correctly performing the Festivals. The certainty of this is found in the New Testament. Christ and the Apostles *always* utilized the official Jewish day, week, month and year. The early Church also ac-

knowledged the Jewish custodianship over the calendar as well as the Scriptures.

## The Differences

While the Jews had the responsibility for *preserving* the correct calendar, the *interpretation* behind the calendar days was not to be determined by them. The reason for this is plain. *Only God* retains the right to tell us what date on the calendar to keep His Festivals. No man has that right! In regard to the Passover, it is God Who tells us to observe it on the evening of Nisan 14 (Leviticus 23:5).

This is the time Christ kept it. But some of the Jews in the first century observed the evening of the 15th. Even though the *correct calendar* was utilized by the Jews, *different DATES on that calendar* were used for Passover. It will be noticed that Christ and His disciples kept the Passover on the evening *before* the crucifixion (Luke 22:13-15), but the next day, some of the Jews refused to come into the judgment hall lest they be disqualified from observing the *Pharisee* Passover which occurred on the following evening (John 18:28). This shows that Christ observed Nisan 14 (as the Old Testament commanded) but the Pharisees observed Nisan 15. The same practice of keeping Nisan 15 instead of the date commanded by God *is still done* by all Jews today.

## Why Nisan 15?

You would think that the Jews need to learn to read their own Scriptures, for they seem to be illiterate in regard to the Passover. God tells us, in the clearest of language, that the Passover is to be held on the evening of Nisan 14. Nowhere in the Bible does it state otherwise. But they keep Nisan 15. Where did such a practice come from?

The answer to this is found in the history of the Jews in the third century *before* Christ. From 301 B.C. to 198

B.C., the Palestinian Jews came under the control of Egyptians. These Gentiles imposed their philosophies and religious beliefs upon the Jews in profusion. Dr. Lanterbach, one of Judaism's greatest historians, admits that this period was one of religious *anarchy* among the Jews of Palestine (*Rabbinic Essays*, p. 200). They accepted, on a very large scale, many *outright Egyptian customs*. For example, Herodotus who visited Egypt in the fifth century before Christ, reported that the Egyptians would only drink out of pots and pans which had been scoured every day. They would religiously bathe themselves twice each day—they shunned all foreigners, especially Greeks, and would destroy any vessel or utensil which had been touched by a Greek. Such silly laws were inaugurated by the thousands by the Egyptians, said Herodotus (Book II, pp. 37-41).

Prior to the Egyptian domination of Palestine, the Jews possessed *none* of these absurd customs, but after that period of religious anarchy, the Jews began practicing, with utmost vigor, *those same EGYPTIAN laws*. See Matthew 15:2 and Mark 7:3-8. There can be no question of this.

But what about the Passover? It can be shown that prior to this Egyptian domination, the Jews always kept the Passover on Nisan 14. Notice especially Ezra 6:19-22. Here it shows Nisan 14 as Passover and Nisan 15 as the first day of Unleavened Bread (which it is), *not* as the Passover day. But, after the Egyptian period, the Jews began to observe Nisan 15 for Passover.

*Why?*

## Corruption From Egypt!

The answer again is found in Egyptian customs. The Egyptian day customarily commenced with sunrise (Wilkinson, Vol. II, p. 368). God's day, however, begins at sunset (Lev. 23:32). This is where the trouble lay with the

Passover reckoning after this period of Egyptian influence on the Jews.

While the Egyptians allowed the Jews to retain their ancient calendar, there was a change made in the beginning of the day—it became common to begin the day at sunrise. This custom was adopted, and persisted among the Jews even down to New Testament times (see *The Jewish Quarterly Review*, April, 1946). We (God's ministry) have had personal information from the Hebrew Union College admitting this fact. (The proof of this is also given in *The Expository Times*, June 1948, pp. 250, 251.)

A single diagram will explain what the new sunrise reckoning did to the Passover!

(See diagram below)

Notice how diabolically clever the above arrangement becomes when the day begins in the morning. With the 14th of Nisan supposedly beginning at sunrise, that puts what God calls the evening of Nisan 15 as still being on Nisan 14. This is where the problem arises. Even later on, when the Jews finally got back to an evening-to-evening reckoning for the day, they refused to abandon what had become the traditional way of observing Passover. The principle, "What was good for my fathers, is good enough for me," was too strong for the Jews to leave it. So, today, they are still one day out of phase with God.

### The Jews' Pentecost

The Jews' error concerning this Festival has been fully treated in our booklet on the Holy Days. What is the Jews' reason for having it on a set calendar date (always Sivan 6) instead of a set day of the week—Monday? Their general answer is that all other Holy Days are on calendar dates so they make Pentecost follow suit. The only

problem with this is that God says *differently!* It must be on a set day of the week, not a day of the month.

### The Double Holy Days of the Jews

Attention should now be called to, what have become known as, the Jewish "Second Holidays." It is today customary for many Jews to reckon the first two days of Unleavened Bread as Holyday Sabbaths. This is followed by the next annual Sabbath—the last day of Unleavened Bread—on which they tack another Sabbath, making, again, two annual Sabbaths. This is repeated with Pentecost when two days are celebrated, not one. Trumpets is the same way. So is the first day of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day. The Day of Atonement, on the other hand, is reckoned as only one day.

Where do the Jews get authority for doing such things? There is certainly nothing in the Word of God to support these additions. Perhaps it will be best to let the Jews give their own explanation:

"At the time of the Second Temple [the time of Christ], when the Sanhedrin announced the beginnings of the months on the basis of observation, the communities living far from the seat of the court could not be reached in time by its messengers [that is, they might not know when the New Year would begin]. Those communities, in doubt about the day of the New Moon and the Festivals, established the custom of celebrating an additional day for each of the major holidays. Thus they were certain to observe the Festivals at the same time as their brethren in Israel, on the days sanctified by the Sanhedrin. Whenever the Bible had prescribed one day of holy convocation and prohibition of work, they celebrated

two days except the Day of Atonement to avoid two successive days of fasting.

"The second holidays were adopted by the entire Dispersed Jews, the communities living beyond the confines of Israel. Their observance was continued by succeeding generations for more than 2000 years, and became a generally accepted law.

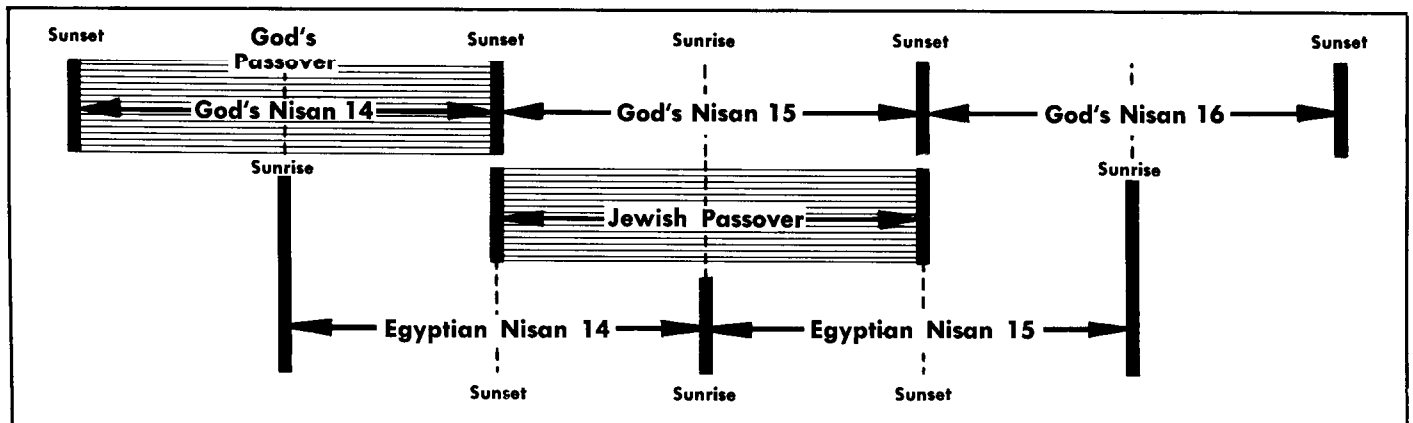
"In the land of Israel, then as well as today, the 'Second Holidays' are ordinary days" (Spier, *Comprehensive Hebrew Calendar*, p. 11).

There you have it! Because the calendar computations were not then made public for all the Jewish communities, those outside of Palestine depended upon the direction of the Palestine Sanhedrin for the beginning of years. And even though the far-flung Jews (99 times out of 100) would have known the right day for the beginning of the New Year, they nevertheless put in the safeguard of an extra day. There is no need of these "safeguards." The Jews plainly recognize that the "Second Holidays" are now non-essential. And in the nation of Israel they are not observed. Away from Israel they simply keep them for traditional reasons. They are NOT to be kept by God's Church for they represent an addition to God's law and this is prohibited (Deut. 12:32).

### The Jewish Creation Date

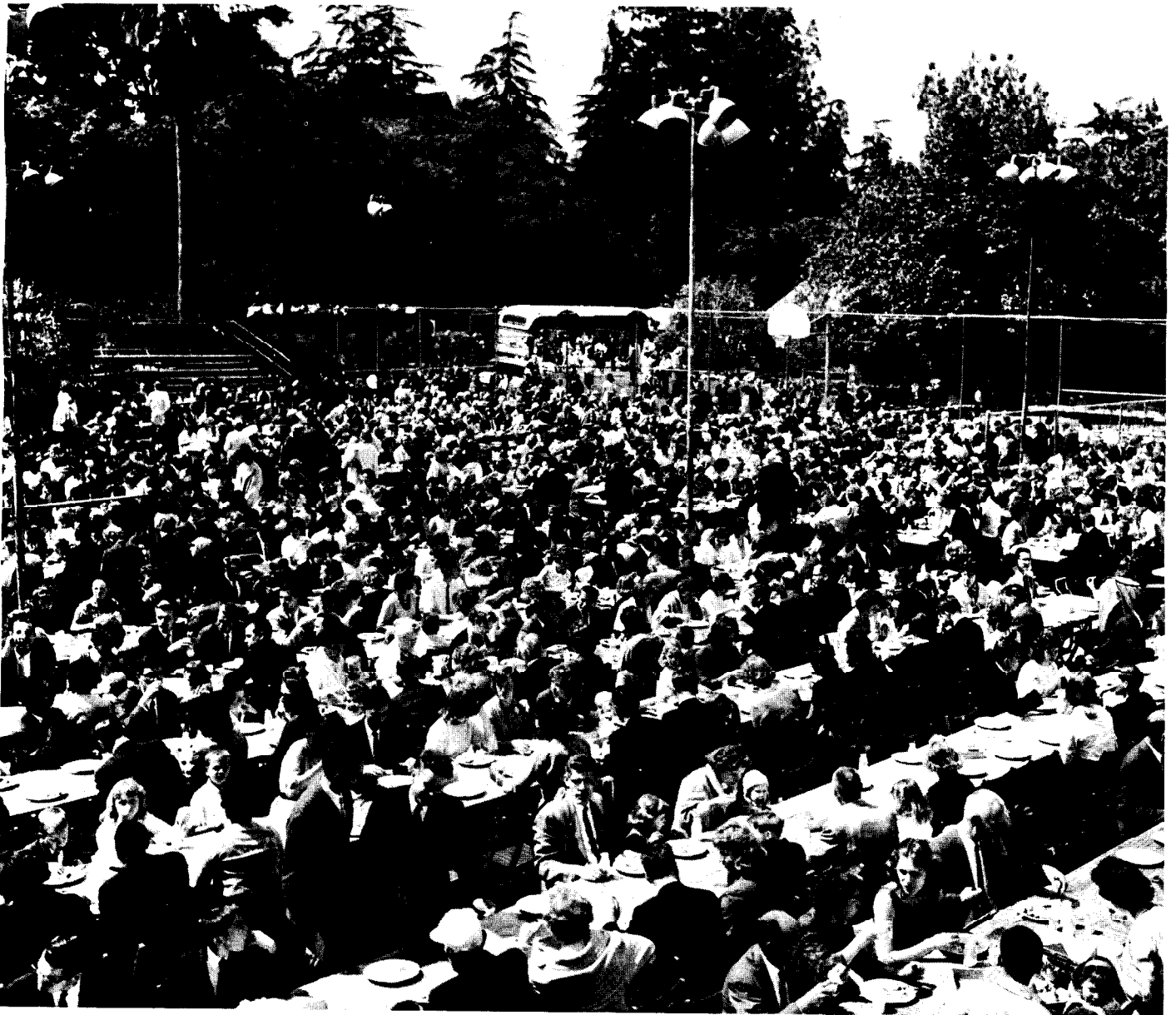
Another point of apparent difficulty relative to the Holy Calendar, is the Jewish date for creation. They say that our present year 1963 is 5723 years after creation—they say creation was 3761 B.C. This date is given in all Jewish calendars. But Bible chronology shows almost 6000 years have passed from that time. Is there a discrepancy in the Bible and the calendar on this matter? The answer is NO!

(Please continue on page 14)



Jews adopted the Egyptian system of beginning days at sunrise — instead of at sunset (as God begins His). Thus, the Jewish days actually fell one-half day behind God's days. But the Jews continued to observe the Passover from sunset. However, the sunset beginning God's Nisan 14

did not fall within the Egyptian Nisan 14 — which the Jews were using. Hence, they used the sunset that fell WITHIN the Egyptian Nisan 14, and began Passover from this time. But as the diagram reveals, this was actually the beginning of Nisan 15 — ONE DAY LATE!



The tennis courts of Ambassador College were overflowing with the record crowd feasting as God commands during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

## Passover Season

(Continued from page 10)

The theme of the Denver Festival was the POWER of God to help us in overcoming—and it is reported to be the most successful Festival ever held there.

In the Phoenix area, brethren were led in observance of the Passover and Feast by their minister, Mr. Vernon Hargrove assisted by Mr. Dave Albert, graduating senior from Ambassador College. A total of 138 partook of the Passover with 250 observing the Feast.

In Oklahoma City, a total of 231 area members partook of the Passover with 405 observing the Feast under the guidance of Mr. David Antion.

In Beeville, Texas, a total of 134 partook of the Passover with 254 at-

tending the Feast under the direction of Mr. Tony Hammer, area minister.

Mr. Richard Prince reports that 201 took the Passover in Houston with 377 in attendance on the first annual Holy Day—and the brethren journeying to Gladewater for the rest of the Festival.

In Fresno, California, a total of 138 brethren partook of the Passover under the direction of their elder, Mr. Al Dennis, and then journeyed either to Pasadena or Lodi for the Festival.

In Kansas City, 347 converted brethren partook of the Passover with over 700 in attendance at the preaching services on the Holy Days! Services were conducted by Mr. Bryce Clark, area District Superintendent.

In St. Louis, 292 brethren took the Passover with 445 in attendance at the Feast under the direction of Mr. Hal

Baird, area minister, assisted by Mr. Bob Steep.

In the Memphis area, a total of 220 brethren partook of the Passover with 267 in attendance on the Holy Day under the direction of area minister, Mr. Carl McNair.

In Indianapolis, Indiana, Mr. Carn Catherwood conducted Passover services for 198 brethren—with everyone journeying into Chicago for the Feast of Unleavened Bread services there.

And in Meridian, Mississippi, Mr. Harold Jackson—now our first full Negro minister—conducted the Passover for 58 Negro brethren with 111 in attendance for preaching services during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

### Passover in Canada

Under the direction of Mr. Dean Wilson, there were 72—or 6 times 12

—who took part in the first Passover service to be held in Canada by the Radio Church of God! The average attendance for the Feast Days was around 120. There were several who came in from the outlying areas—some as far as Saskatoon, in Saskatchewan. The Feast was enjoyed by all and everyone hated to see it come to an end.

In the preaching services, Mr. Dean Wilson—who is both the local minister and manager of our Canadian office—was assisted by Mr. Richard Pinelli, graduate of Ambassador College. The sermons on Christian living and the *meaning* of God's plan were inspiring to everyone—and the Canadian brethren are looking forward to many more enjoyable Festivals in their native land.

### The Passover in Far-flung Areas Overseas

Our dedicated Evangelist, Mr. Gerald Waterhouse, reports from Johannesburg, South Africa: "Greetings from South African brethren. Very successful Festival being observed here with 42 observing Passover and 78 keeping Feast."

This is the FIRST opportunity for our scattered brethren there in South Africa to observe the Passover under the direction of one of God's ministers. With Mr. Waterhouse in charge, it must have been an inspiring and moving occasion! Let us *rejoice* with these brethren, and pray that God's Work there may increase mightily in the months and years to come!

From Sydney, Australia, Mr. Wayne Cole reports that 139 partook of the Passover there with over 200 in attendance for services on the annual Holy Days! Many brethren came in from outlying areas, and the sermons on the *meaning* of God's plan were unusually inspiring and encouraging to all.

From Melbourne, Mr. Bill Winner reports 62 observing the Passover there with over 100 present for the Feast. Again, the sermons on the *meaning* of God's Holy Days and the way to *come out of sin* made this Festival the "best ever."

In the Philippine Islands, Mr. Pedro Ortiguero—God's elder there—reports that 497 brethren partook of the Passover in Kiara. With a total of 55 observing the Passover in other areas of the Philippines, this makes 552 adult members who took of God's Passover there! And over 750 brethren attended the Holy Day services in joyous commemoration of Israel's coming out of Egypt and our coming out of sin.

Mr. Ortiguero reports: "With the Passover and first day service in Kiara—where I was in the beginning at God's Festival—we have a joyous time, especially on the First Day of the Un-

leavened Bread. A very fat cow, a goat and many chickens were butchered for the morning, noon and afternoon meals. About 40 long tables were used and all the brethren ate together. On this first day, I spoke about the Passover and the meaning of the First Day of Unleavened Bread, with the other six days."

Some scattered areas have not reported to Headquarters yet, but just including those who have, we can see that *over 15,000* brethren in God's Church observed the Festival of Unleavened Bread this year! It was a Festival especially characterized by LOVE and JOY—the first two qualities of God's Holy Spirit! It was a season made *even happier* by the ordination of two ministers and two elders into God's ministry.

Let us all LIVE the sermons we have heard, brethren, and let us be THANKFUL for the love, joy and peace which God grants all of us in His Church in such abundance!

## Jews' Passover

(Continued from page 12)

Let us first understand what the calendar *is not!* It is *not* an instrument for measuring *historical* time! The calendar simply furnishes us with the length of any given year and the positions of the various days and months *within* that year. The computations nowhere tell us how many years have passed since creation. They just tell us how to figure each year. If we want the full number of years which have passed from creation to the present, we must go to the document which is intended to reveal that information—the Holy Bible, *not* the calendar.

The creation date which the Jews have set on their calendar year is of their *own manufacture* and has nothing to do with the calendar itself. It is an arbitrary date. It can be explained in this way.

Suppose Americans wanted to call attention to the founding-year of the Republic. This was 1776. All American calendars could be altered from A.D. dates to "Founding-Year" dates. Thus, 1963 would be reckoned on American calendars as year 188. However, the British may want to honor the Norman Invasion as their "Founding-Year," i.e. 1066. This present year on their calendar would be 898. Now, we would all have the SAME CALENDAR without any changes, but different years on them according to what nation we lived in. So it is with the Jewish year from, what they call, "creation." It is clearly

an arbitrary date chosen by them. The Bible does not support it.

### Why a Late Creation Date?

We are told that the acceptance of 3761 B.C. as the creation date by the Jews goes back no further than the 10th or 11th century (Spier, *ibid.*, p. 218). But traces of this fictitious date can be traced back to the fourth century. But why this late date? The Bible shows plainly that Adam was created just over 4000 B.C., not 3761 B.C.

The answer is simple.

The Jews in the time of Christ had a strong tradition that this present world would last for 6000 years while the Messiah would reign for the last 1000. This teaching was true for the apostles tell us about it (II Peter 3:8; Hebrews 4:1-10). But coupled with this belief, they felt that for the first 2000 years the world would be without the codified law, then would be 2000 years under the law, and finally 2000 years when the Messiah would be known and worshiped (Schurer, *History of the Jewish people*, Div. II, vol. II, p. 163). In other words, shortly after the year 4000 from *real* creation, the Messiah would appear. And *He did!*

This tradition in the first century put the Jewish rabbis on the spot, for they were saying the Messiah would come after 4000 years. Christ did come but they were also *rejecting Him*. This led them to a novel invention.

They *arbitrarily* lowered the creation date, disregarding the Bible, some 250 years. By doing this, they said that Jesus *could not* be the Messiah for He appeared *too early*. This was a plain LIE! Of course, no Messiah came at the end of *their* NEW 4000 years, but the Jews answered this by saying that the people were *too sinful* for Him to appear (Schurer, *ibid.*).

Thus, the Jewish late date for creation was invented as a counteraction to the claims of Christ. By accepting it, they completely disregarded the chronology of the Bible. This Jewish date has *nothing* to do with the accuracy of God's Calendar. We can be thankful for *that!*

We can clearly see that it is *God's Church* which is right after all—*not* the Jews!

## Christian Soldier

(Continued from page 7)

Any *honest* person can see by this *one* scripture that it is *WRONG* for a Christian to go to war and fight against others.

A reading of the "love" chapter of the Bible, I Corinthians, chapter thirteen, shows that it is *impossible* for a



person with *real Christian LOVE* to fight in carnal wars. The Apostle Paul is *consistent* with the teaching of Christ in every aspect!

Paul stated that *Christ* lives within the Christian (Gal. 2:20). It is only logical then that the person who has Christ living within him, *would DO just as Christ DID!* That would NOT include taking up arms against others.

Christ is the *same* yesterday, today, and forever! (Heb. 13:8). He *does not*, therefore, tolerate using violence in carnal warfare *now* in the lives of *today's* TRUE Christians!

### War Is a Work of the Flesh

Paul enumerated the *works of the flesh* (including hatred, wrath, strife, seditions, and murders) in Galatians 5:19-21. In making war with the nations of this world a person would be committing ALL of these WRONG "works." No man can have *these works* and call himself Christian! The Apostle to the Gentiles declares that people who do these things will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

The Apostle Paul continues in this same passage to show that true *Christians*, having Christ living within them, will have the "*fruits of the spirit.*" These include *love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness and meekness.* Such traits are DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED to any participation in warfare!

A person who is *really* seeking to do the will of God can easily see from the writings of this apostle that he did not in any instance condone fighting or warfare or being involved in this world's quarrels and fights. In fact Paul showed clearly that even though others do despitely use us, or do cause trouble and evil reproach to come upon us, *we must not return evil to ANY MAN!* (I Thes. 5:15). That *most definitely includes* an opposing soldier in another army.

### Ambassadors for Christ

Paul plainly states in many ways why *we cannot become members of ANY military organization.* One very important statement is that we are *citizens of a heavenly KINGDOM*—incorrectly translated *conversation*, from the Greek word *polituma*. As such, we *cannot* become a member in the armed forces of any *other kingdom!* (Phil. 3:20). The kingdoms of this *present* world are *against* the rule and government of Almighty God.

True Christians are *Ambassadors for Christ* (II Cor. 5:20). As *such we cannot fight for a foreign government any more than the United States Ambassa-*

*dor to Russia can fight for Communism!* But we must show proper respect and honor toward our country as Romans 13 clearly shows. *We should* salute the flag, since it is a symbol of the nation, and is showing *proper respect.* It is not idolatry to show respect to government, or the symbols of government. A later installment will explain these things more completely, and show *how* we must be in obedience to authority.

The Apostle Paul proclaims *another reason* why it is impossible to serve in the military forces of this world. *A Christian is already a soldier!* A Christian is already in a war for another government and kingdom. *But it is not a physical war!* Anyone should know that it is illegal, unlawful, and punishable by death for a person to be a member of *two different armed forces* of different nations.

### Our Warfare Is Spiritual

We are not fighting in the same way as those of this world and its governments. We do not use *physical weapons* because our weapons are ALL SPIRITUAL (Eph. 6:11-18). We are not in a warfare with the *people* of this world but with *Satan* and his legions of unclean spirits. We are also at war against entanglements and weaknesses of the flesh.

He instructed the young Evangelist Timothy to "*war a good warfare*" (I Tim. 1:18) and to endure hardness or trials as a good soldier (II Tim. 2:3-4). He also said in this same place that we are soldiers of Jesus Christ and such a person cannot become entangled by the affairs of this life. Verse 24 states that such a person should not strive but be "*gentle unto all men.*" The apostle was also engaged in this same spiritual warfare and he "*fought a good fight*" (II Tim. 4:7).

We cannot serve two masters—we cannot serve in two armed forces—else we will hate the one and love the other (Matt. 6:24).

Our principal weapon is God's Word—not the physical weapons used by this world (Heb. 4:12). No physical weapons are necessary. God is on our side and has *all power and authority* and can—and will—act on our behalf to protect and guide us. He is a consuming fire which will devour all *adversaries* (Heb. 12:29).

The Apostle Paul plainly *followed Christ!* He did not preach some new doctrine which "permitted" Christians to take up arms in *defense*—or in *offense.* When we really come to understand the *WHOLE BIBLE* on this subject, we will find that *all Scripture* is actually *in harmony* on this subject.

Since the Apostle Paul has now been proved to have *forbidden* participation in warfare, let us see if the New Testament Church followed his instruction, the instruction of Jesus Christ, and the original twelve apostles.

### Christian Church Founded Amid War and Tumult

Flavius Josephus gives us a great deal regarding the conditions in Palestine during this same period. The last section of his historical book concerns the "*Wars of the Jews.*" In one translation of his work there are about 150 pages of text concerning this period of time which concern the *seditions, uprisings, wars and rumors of wars.* The period that we are concerned with, from the time of Christ to A.D. 70 when Jerusalem was destroyed, was one of almost *continual war and tumult!*

It was under these conditions that God sent Jesus Christ to this earth. It was during this time that God started *His Church* at Jerusalem. With wars and rumors of wars going on all around them, just *what did the Christians do?* If it were proper to participate in war, here certainly was an opportune time to do so! *Palestine was under the heavy Roman dictatorship.* Injustices were rampant.

Here was ample opportunity to try to overthrow the *tyrannical, dictatorial government* which SUPPRESSED *Christianity.*

Many people in this time did continually try to throw off the Roman yoke. There was a group of people called the *Zealots* who bitterly and *sometimes violently* opposed this rule. Jesus would have received much more favor from some of His countrymen if He had joined them as their leader *to bring freedom.*

If He had done this, many would have accepted Him *then* and there as the Messiah, since many of the people were looking for the Messiah Who would free them from the disliked *Roman yoke.* But Jesus had nothing to do with violent or forceful overthrow of government.

Anyone who would like to read more about these perilous times can find ample information by reading the pertinent sections in Josephus.

Jesus did not take part in trying to eject the "foreign invader" or "the infidels." Neither He *nor any of HIS followers* did any of these things! He and His disciples very carefully stayed *completely away from* participation in *military service*, uprisings against the Romans, or even from *politics* of any kind. *Jesus let Caesar run his own corrupt government.* He let Caesar fight his own

wars and He let the Jews carry on *their own* uprisings without His assistance or approval!

*Every true follower of Jesus Christ should practice this SAME WAY OF LIFE!*

### No Christian Fought— But Many FLED!

After the Church was founded on Pentecost, 31 A.D., the Christians were right in the middle of these wars and trouble. But there is *not one shred* of evidence in the whole of the book of Acts—or the whole New Testament—that the Christians had *anything* to do with these activities. The reason is that *they really followed Christ!* They OBEYED HIM rather than man (Acts 5:29).

"And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come" (Matt. 10:22-23).

The Church was hardly founded before the prophesied persecution came, some three and one-half years later.

The first record we have of Christians following this instruction is found in the book of Acts.

"And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles" (Acts 8:1).

If there ever was a time to *fight*, here was a time to do it—to "*defend the faith.*" Here was a time to *protest* for the sanctity and privacy of the home! But God's people left the *vengeance* to God. *Instead of fighting, they fled* to other places—as Christ instructed!

The time is soon coming when *another persecution* will come against God's true Church. In that time many of God's people will again have to flee for their lives. Those who do not will be tortured or killed.

### What About Cornelius?

Some may quickly bring up the point of the *soldier*, Cornelius. The Scriptures tell of his conversion in Acts 10. What about Cornelius? He was in the Roman army of occupation and yet he was a devout, religious man. The Holy Spirit was first given among the Gentiles to him and his house.

Peter did not tell him to sever connections with military service. He did not tell him that in order to be converted he must be discharged! These are arguments that many people bring up. There is *one error* in such arguments.

The Scriptures do not record the details of *all the instruction* that Peter gave Cornelius. Since Peter was obedient to the Scriptures, he would give the *same instruction* to this soldier that John the Baptist did (Luke 3:14). He would certainly give him the *same instruction* that Paul gave regarding people in such slavery (I Cor. 7:21-23). In a later installment we will explain these particular scriptures *fully*.

### No Bible Record of "Christian Wars"

In examining the New Testament Scriptures the plain truth is inescapable! There is no mention of ANY CHRISTIAN PARTICIPATION IN WAR! *These Christians had not departed from the faith! They followed Christ!* They did not have anything to do with the destruction and bloodshed of the carnal, warring world around them. *They had COME OUT OF THIS WORLD!* (Rev. 18:4).

These early Christians knew very well from Christ's Olivet prophecy that during their time there would be wars and rumors of wars, but they also knew that they were *not to participate in them*. They knew things were going to degenerate to the point that they would finally have to *flee* for their very lives. *Jesus prophesied that!* When they saw Jerusalem surrounded by the pagan Roman armies, they were *not to fight* for their lives or freedom. They were *not to participate in war IN ANY WAY*. Instead they were to flee to the mountains for safety. Instead of defending home, honor or country, by resorting to violence, *they were commanded to flee!*

### Flee Invasion

Anyone who *follows Christ*, and who *refuses* to have any part in killing organizations is inevitably asked what he would do in case of invasion by foreign enemies of our beloved country. In the first place, *if all* of the people of our country WERE OBEYING and *trusting* in God, *it would never happen!* Since our nations are not obeying God, we know from prophecy that we will be invaded in a few years and *our country WILL GO into terrible slavery!* When that time comes, God has promised that those of His Church who have been watching and praying diligently will be *able to escape*. God will provide a *way of escape* for His people.

The world might not consider fleeing from the enemy the *honorable way*—*but it IS the way God has instructed His people to follow* when His remnant Church goes to a place of safety (Rev. 12:14).

At the time immediately before the

final siege of Jerusalem the New Testament Church followed the instructions Christ gave them. *They did not participate in the war, they fled* for their lives.

Here are the instructions Jesus gave about this same flight:

"And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judea *flee to the mountains*; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto" (Luke 21:20-21).

That is *exactly* what they did do. Eusebius, a historian and famous Catholic Church writer of the fourth century tells us:

"On the other hand, the people of the church in Jerusalem were commanded by an oracle given by revelation before the war to those in the city who were worthy of it to *depart* and dwell in one of the cities of Perea which they called Pella. To it those who believed on Christ *migrated* from Jerusalem, that when holy men had altogether *deserted* the royal capital of the Jews and the whole land of Judea, the judgment of God might at last overtake them for all their crimes against Christ and His apostles, and all that generation of the wicked be utterly blotted out from among men" (*Ecclesiastical History*, Book III, Vol. 4).

We have now seen many *divinely inspired scriptures* and facts to prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that *Jesus taught us NOT to take part in the military services*—not to harm others in *any way!*

The original apostles in their writings *continued in the faith* and gave this same teaching. Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, continued to preach in his strong and unwavering letters this same truth. The Christian Church, even during the time of severe persecution, and of wars and rumors of wars, did "*keep the faith*" and did not permit such perilous times to cause them to *disobey* God by participating in these bloody uprisings and wars. They fled in the time of persecution, and when the final destruction came on Jerusalem they had already fled for their lives, obeying the instructions of their Master.

*They kept the faith! They did not waver!* But, did succeeding generations of the Church follow this same shining example? The Bible and secular history have the answer. It is *amazing and surprising* when the story is fully told.

The next installment will unfold a *new era* in the Church. The stage will be set for startling changes to come! Just what were those changes and how do they affect us today? We shall see!

(To be continued)