



The

# Good News

*International Magazine of The Church of God*

VOL. XIII, NUMBER 4

MORE AMBASSADOR BEAUTY

APRIL, 1974



## More About Our Cover...

The new contemporary sculptured fountain was installed early this year in the formal Italian sunken garden in front of fabulous Ambassador Hall, on the campus of Ambassador College in Pasadena.

Many ideas, designs, forms and shapes of fountains were viewed and considered before letting the contract for the production of this massive work of art. The fountains of Rome, London, Paris and New York were viewed. But in the end the design submitted by sculptor George Hall was chosen. It is entirely different from any that had been seen. It provides a tremendous and exciting play of water, causing it to come ALIVE with motion, with the sound of rippling, splashing, falling water. It forms, together with the pergola behind it, a spectacular back-drop for the elongated pool down the center of the breath-taking sunken garden. The pool is urched by a series of water jets.

This entire sunken garden is one of the outstanding examples of the magnificent landscaping that characterizes all three of the Ambassador Colleges. This fine photo—courtesy of THE ENVOY—gives you a foretaste of the many lovely color photos of both campuses coming in this year's ENVOY. Send in your subscription NOW!

Ambassador College Photo

## What our READERS SAY...

### Good News Comments

"The full-color cover on *The GOOD NEWS* was beautiful. It is thrilling to watch the improvements, not only in editorial content, but illustrations as well."

Mr. Richard L. W., Mississippi

"I don't like the paper you are printing *The GOOD NEWS* on now—it is very hard on the eyes. I have also heard other members complain about it too—the softer paper is much easier to read."

Member, Colorado

• You will notice that there are TWO KINDS of paper used in this magazine. The beginning FOUR pages and the ending FOUR pages are printed on a high-gloss paper. This is so the finest quality can be obtained for the color

cover picture and other COLOR pictures on these pages. All the other pages—sixteen—are on a DULL-coated paper. This paper is easy to read without a glare—yet also produces quality photos. This compromise of two different papers is used to obtain the best QUALITY with the LEAST INCONVENIENCE to the reader. Reading *The GOOD NEWS*—or many of our booklets—under an indirect light will reduce what glare there is, and is also the best light by which to read.

### New Bible Studies—Churches

"I would like to say that my family and the others who attend Sabbath services every week here in the newly established Odessa Church cannot begin to tell you how much the new church means to us." Mr. John H. M., Texas

# The Good News

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

VOL. XIII

NO. 4

Published monthly at Pasadena, California  
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change in your address. Please inclose both old  
and new address. IMPORTANT!

# Inspiring *Growth* in God's Church and Colleges!

*An additional ONE THOUSAND scattered brethren are now able to assemble regularly for the first time. Swift PROGRESS is being made in College Building Program!*

by Roderick C. Meredith

**"F**OR IT IS *GOD* which worketh in you both to will and to DO of his good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13).

Let us realize, brethren, that just as God literally WORKS in us to develop His spiritual *nature* and *character*, so He most certainly WORKS in us in fulfilling the Great Commission given to His Church. For it is the Living CHRIST who *blesses* and *directs* in building the much-needed facilities at His colleges and elsewhere for fulfilling the job to be done.

It is *Christ* who *calls* and *converts* all of us in the first place. It is *Christ* who brings students to the Ambassador Colleges. It is *Christ* who *moves upon* and *inspires* you members and Co-Workers to realize this is His Work, and causes you to send in His tithes—besides gen-

erous offerings—that buildings may be built, students may be trained, and that *ministers* may be prepared to feed you and the ever-expanding Church of God everywhere.

It is *Christ* who *INSPIRES* Mr. Armstrong and His other leading servants in planning the much-needed office facilities, campus facilities and other buildings needed to effectively DO the very Work of God which He is now accomplishing through *human instruments*.

For this is *Christ's Work—not ours!*

## Building Progress on the Pasadena Campus

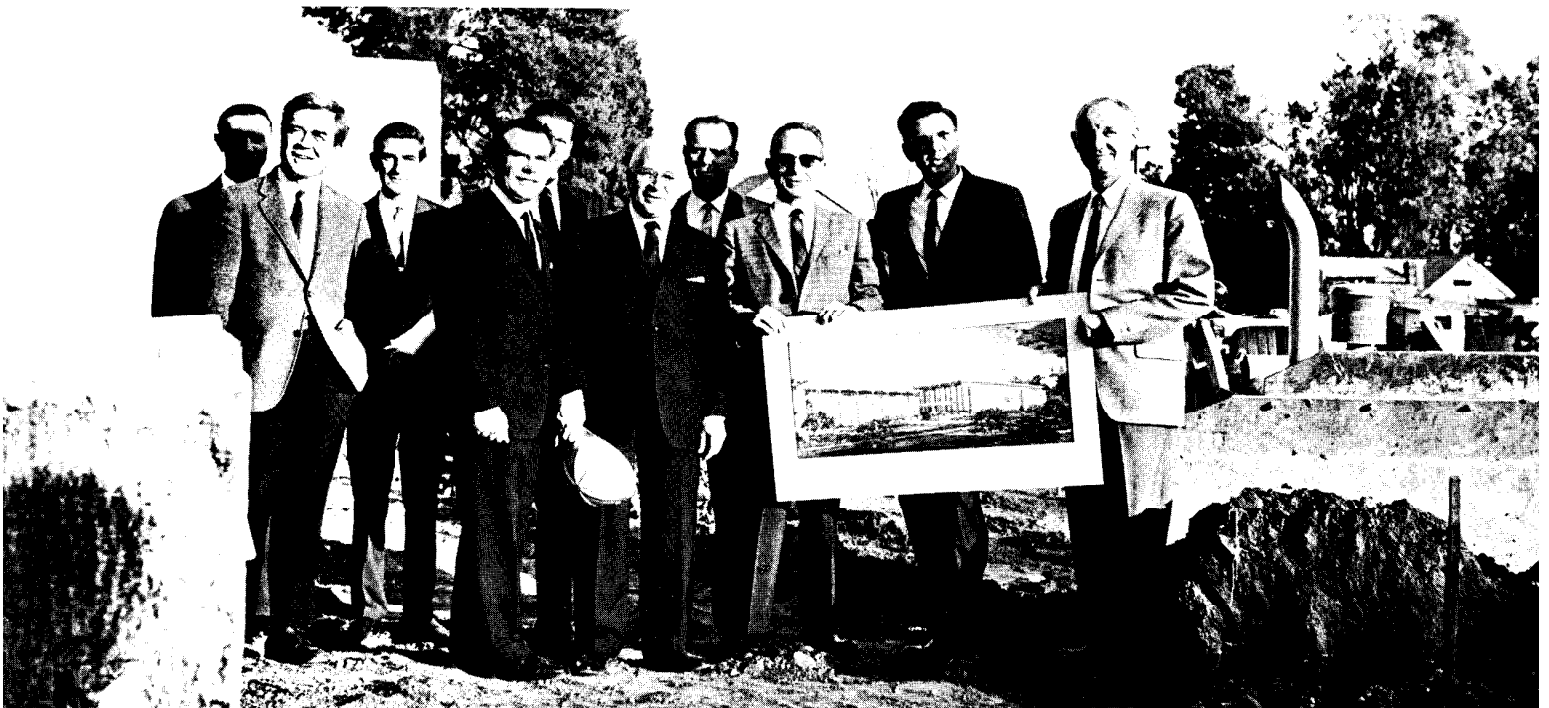
Recently, Mayor Oakley of Pasadena and other officials joined Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong here on our campus for the ground-breaking ceremony of our

ultramodern physical education plant. Donning a construction worker's "hard hat," Mr. Armstrong dug up a shovel-ful of dirt—thus "breaking ground" with a history-making flourish that marked a milestone for Ambassador College. With his effort, the FIRST MAJOR CONSTRUCTION ever undertaken by Ambassador College in Pasadena was officially inaugurated!

As the entire Student Body looked on, reporters for the Pasadena *Star News* and the Los Angeles *Times* scurried about making notes, taking pictures and recording this civic event. Next day, the Pasadena *Star News*—our major newspaper here—devoted fully *one-half* of its third page to write up the projected expansion program of Ambassador College here in Pasadena. An artist's conception of the new gym-

Recent gymnasium ground-breaking ceremony. Pasadena's Mayor Oakley and other officials join Mr. Armstrong and top men in God's Work.

Ambassador College Photo





New gymnasium construction progresses rapidly.

Ambassador College Photo

nasium was shown in the paper, photographed with the contractors and various members of the administrative staff of the college.

Even as this ground-breaking ceremony was taking place, construction was *already beginning!*

The roar of huge trucks and caterpillars echoes from the lower building site where the new gymnasium construction is in progress. Within a matter of only a *few hours*, two or three homes and smaller out-buildings were wrecked, and the grounds were being cleared and re-landscaped for the new physical education plant.

Meanwhile, plans and architects' drawings are being made in preparation for the already-designated construction of our next priority need, the new *dining hall* to house the growing Student Body which is already *jammed* into the inadequate dining facilities of Mayfair. Next to be built is the beautiful "house of God"—the college Assembly Hall which will become the meeting place for the *Headquarters Church of God on earth*.

In addition to rapid progress on the new physical education plant, our new Press Building to house the giant presses destined to print *The PLAIN TRUTH* as well as *The GOOD NEWS*

is approaching completion. One entire building has been torn down by the construction crew. Another smaller building is being constructed as the center of three-quarters of the electrical power on campus. The floor has been thoroughly waterproofed to keep any and all water from reaching the equipment to be installed later.

A new concrete floor is being laid on top of the old one in the large building which will house the giant press. Throughout the concrete on this new floor is an interlocking mesh of heavy-gauged steel—making the floor strong enough to be a testing area for a giant steam locomotive!

Other smaller projects are under way on campus here in Pasadena as *swift progress is made*—day by day—in providing much-needed facilities that *Christ's Work* may go out to all the world with increasing **POWER!**

#### Mr. Ted Armstrong Visits Foreign Offices and British Campus

Accenting the *world-wide* scope of God's Work, Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong—accompanied by Mr. Ronald Kelly—recently visited our European offices and the British campus. From a stop-over in Texas—where they joined

Mr. Herbert Armstrong and others in laying definite plans for the location of the new Big Sandy campus site—Mr. Ted Armstrong and Mr. Kelly continued on to New York and then to Copenhagen, Denmark.

After spending a day in Copenhagen, the men journeyed on to Duesseldorf, Germany—where our German office is located. They spent a full day there visiting the office and conferring with Mr. Frank Schnee, Office Manager. Then on to Geneva, Switzerland, where they visited our Geneva office and our men there. After that, quick one day stop-overs were made in Madrid, Spain, and in Paris, France, to gain personal insight into conditions in these capital cities destined to increase in importance as the "Beast" power continues to rise in Europe.

Arriving in London Monday night, they spent five *busy days* on the British campus—conducting assemblies, forums and classes—and preaching to the London Church on the Sabbath. They both arrived back here in Pasadena Sunday night with much news from the overseas Work.

As a result of his visit in Duesseldorf, Mr. Ted Armstrong decided to send Mr. and Mrs. Gunar Freibergs over there *immediately* to help alleviate

some of the mounting pressure of work from the shoulders of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schnee in the Duesseldorf Office. Mr. and Mrs. Freibergs had been in Pasadena only a few months. They had come for advanced training and experience at God's Headquarters after Mr. Freibergs' graduation from Ambassador College in Bricket Wood. But now, as this article is being written, they should already be well-settled at their home or flat in Duesseldorf and *servi*ng in the office there. Things certainly move fast, but God's Work *must go forward!*

### Leaders' Conference—and Our First Philippine Church Wedding!

Directed by Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong, the first conference of our leading representatives of God's Church in the Philippines was conducted from January 31 to February 7. Everyone came to Manila where they were to meet with Mr. Pedro S. Ortiguero, our Philippine Local Elder, and all things went smoothly and the conference was a successful and happy one.

Mr. Ortiguero reports: "The conference was a leaders' conference. Five of our outstanding leaders in God's Church in the Philippines conferred in a hotel room with the writer. The whole office staff in Manila attended, alternately. News of God's Church and Work around the world, lectures on Church government, discipline and policy were given, together with the dis-

cussion of detailed questions on doctrines—the 100 years after the Millennium, the questions of fasting and cooking rice on the Sabbath day, marriage problems, funeral problems, worldliness and other topics. The leaders were instructed on church management and system, just as the agenda covered during the Ministerial Conference in Pasadena this year.

"There was a church picnic for the church leaders, sightseeing, and dinner in the home of the writer for all the leaders and office staff and all members in Manila. The leaders returned to their congregations happy and strengthened!"

Also, Mr. Ortiguero has reported to us on the first Philippine Church wedding to take place in this era of God's Church: "On February 12, Mr. Benjamin Ortiguero [Mr. Ortiguero's elder son] and Miss Teresita Ricardo became husband and wife in the presence of Almighty God and 36 witnesses. The marriage ceremony was conducted entirely in the Ilocano dialect by the writer and in his home. Both the bridegroom and the bride were baptized into God's Church just one year ago on February 24, 1963, by Mr. Gerald Waterhouse.

"After the wedding a lunch was served for all and there was an abundance of food—Filipino dishes prepared by the family members of the bridegroom. After the lunch the couple together with several others drove to the Municipal Hall before the Justice

of the Peace for signatures on the marriage contract. After this, the couple prepared for their wedding trip to last for about 10 days in the beautiful mountain city of Baguio and the home town of the bride near the northern tip of Luzon Island. Then on to the home town of the bridegroom and back to work and housekeeping in Manila."

In reading this, all of us should certainly REJOICE for the growth of God's Work in the Philippines, and even in these personal matters such as this wedding. For even though the Work and the Church of God are small as yet in numbers there, God is *providing* not only the spiritual blessings but even the physical mates needed to be complete, happy and *balanced* human beings in the service of our God!

Let us *remember* our Philippine brethren—and the Work of God there—in our thankful and earnest prayers.

### Over ONE THOUSAND Scattered Brethren Now Able to Assemble!

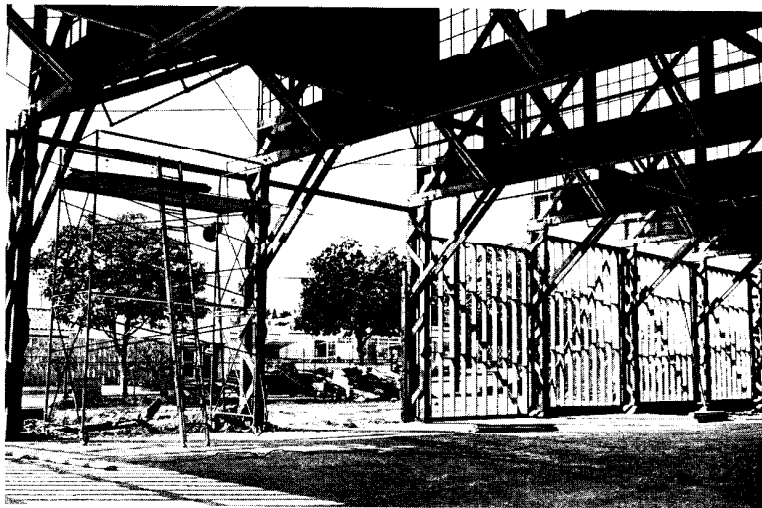
As a result of starting the new Bible studies and churches decided upon during the Ministerial Conferences, a tremendous BLESSING has come to over one thousand scattered brethren. Now, for the first time, they will be able to assemble *regularly* in a nearby church or Bible study!

Although some may have been able to drive long distances and attend one of our churches every month or two, this *regular* spiritual "meat" will be of

New concrete floor for new Press Building.  
Ambassador College Photo



Interior of new Press Building takes shape!  
Ambassador College Photo



inestimable value and encouragement to these brethren. Already, many thankful reports have come in to Pasadena Headquarters as a result of these new meeting places made possible through Jesus Christ—AND through your faithful support of the *Ambassador Colleges* in producing the trained ministers and servants *so vitally needed* to carry on the burgeoning ministry of God's Church.

Our new Bible study in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, started off with 106 in attendance! Conducted by Mr. Dean Blackwell with the assistance of Mr. Hal Baird and other ministers and elders, an inspiring meeting was held for these brethren—many of whom had *never before* assembled in a regular Sabbath service or Bible study with God's people!

The new Bible study in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, started off with 60 in attendance and good prospects for future growth. It will be conducted on an alternating basis by Messrs. Dean Blackwell and Bryce Clark—both of them District Superintendents in adjacent church areas.

The first Bible study in Kearney, Nebraska, was conducted on March 15 with 55 in attendance. Mr. Clark mentioned that *many more* will probably begin to attend as soon as they are able to be visited by God's ministers.

Way up in Bismarck, North Dakota, the first Bible study was held on February 23 with a total of 134 in attendance! This is certainly *encouraging* since North Dakota seems such a remote area. Yet, many of our radio stations reach into this area and God is calling *many brethren* there to join us as future kings and priests with Christ!

The new Bible studies in Wheeling, West Virginia, and Columbus, Ohio, both started off with *very fine attendances*. There were 93 and 152 brethren in each of these areas, respectively, and Mr. Raymond Cole and Mr. McDowell report that much future growth is expected!

With Mr. Tony Hammer presiding, the new Bible study in Austin, Texas, got off to a fine start with 56 in attendance. And in Roswell, New Mexico, Mr. Dave Albert began the new

study there with a total of 61 in attendance.

The new Church of God in Danville, Illinois, started with only about 62 present for the first services, but has already grown *rapidly* so that the latest attendance figures received show *exactly one hundred* brethren now attending in Danville!

The attendance figures at the relatively new Bible studies in Spokane, Washington, and Grand Junction, Colorado, show a solid increase with 129 and 76 brethren in attendance at these studies, respectively. Up in Canada, the Toronto Bible study hit an all-time high recently with 150 in attendance!

At Lexington, Kentucky, there was a very high first Sabbath attendance of 201. This was a fine beginning for a new Church of God there.

And . . . we have just received the *very encouraging* attendance figures for two more *new* Bible studies. The Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Bible study began March 1 with 142 present. One week later, the new Bible study at Ashville, North Carolina, had a beginning RECORD attendance for a Bible study with 164 present!

Another new Bible study at Richland Center, Wisconsin, began with 120!

Add all of these *new* areas together—with their attendance figures—and you come up with *well over ONE THOUSAND* brethren who have recently been enabled to meet together *regularly* in a church or Bible study for the *very first time!* When we think back on how many of us felt when we were unable to meet with God's people, let

us realize deeply the tremendous BLESSING this opportunity is for these *hundreds* of our formerly "scattered" brethren!

### Substantial GROWTH in Established Churches and Studies

As fast as our ministers can visit them, it seems, many *hundreds* of additional brethren and prospective members are being enabled to attend God's local churches and studies throughout the United States and Canada.

A recent attendance record in New York City showed 594 brethren in the New York Church on February 15! Mr. Cole said the church is *outgrowing* its hall, and an additional church, perhaps in northern New Jersey, may have to be raised up to alleviate the situation. But these are the kind of "growing pains" which we enjoy hearing about!

Mr. Jimmy Friddle reports that 697 brethren showed up for a combined Seattle-Tacoma Church service recently! This is certainly indicative of the *tremendous* growth in that area—in addition to the new Spokane Bible study.

Back east, Mr. Arthur Mokarow reports record attendances on February 22 of 316 in Detroit and 149 in Toledo! So it looks like the Detroit Church is rapidly heading for the 500 mark in attendance as are literally *dozens* of God's other local churches in the United States!

This inspiring growth in church attendance not only represents a *blessing* but a tremendous CHALLENGE to *all* of  
(Please continue on page 21)

Smiling and happy faces of Kearney, Nebraska, Bible study congregation.

Ambassador College Photo



# Did CHRIST Institute Church ORGANIZATION?

*As a member of the Church of God, do you have any obligation to an ORGANIZATION? Is church attendance, tithing, Holy Day observance and attendance at God's Feasts REQUIRED of you?*

by Garner Ted Armstrong

"I'VE NEVER been much for goin' to Church!" one hears exclaimed from time to time.

"I don't belong to any 'church'—they're nothin' but a social club!" you may have heard another say.

If you're like most members of God's True Church today—you are pretty much disgusted with organized "churchianity" of *this world!*

Maybe you used to be a *member* of one of the denominations. Perhaps you were not—perhaps you were *suspicious* of all this "church-going" and remained aloof.

Perhaps you saw certain flaws in the minister of a false church, or didn't like the way the *people* claimed to believe one thing, and actually practiced another.

## Religious Independents

We live in a basically "PROTESTANT" country. We are the kind of *people*, who, by our *very natures*, REBEL against strict authority!

We are *naturally* suspicious of really strict and stern GOVERNMENT.

As a result of our basically *protest-ant*, our "protest-ant" background, many of us are *totally unfamiliar* with any real CHURCH GOVERNMENT!

Today—many are "religious independents." They feel "above" the "church-going" crowd around them—disdaining and spurning church attendance. Many of you brethren of God's Church have *clearly seen* the error of the worldly churches, and have been faithful to God's commands to "COME OUT OF HER, my people . . ." (Rev. 18:4).

You have now *come out* (we prayer-

fully *hope* you really have!) of this organized *confusion* of the modern "Christian" world.

But herein lies a great DANGER!

Here is a pitfall!

It could rob you of *your salvation* unless you truly *recognize* it, and make sure YOU are not trapped by it.

If, brethren, any of you have carried this suspicion of ORGANIZATION, this hostility toward GOVERNMENT, this resentment of RULE, this aloof, superior, *suspicious* attitude toward CHURCH—ATTENDANCE, TITHING, BEING SUBSERVIENT TO AN ORGANIZED, ESTABLISHED, CHURCH—then you possess a frightfully *dangerous* attitude! You have an attitude that *could*, literally, rob you of your crown!

## Self-Sufficient?

Perhaps this *basic* attitude—this basically "protestant" attitude is one which has actually HELPED bring you *out* of today's false religions, into the glorious LIGHT of God's True Church!

But this brings us to a vitally important principle!

COULD IT BE THAT A FEW OF YOU HAVE THIS SAME ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD'S CHURCH?

Maybe, unknowingly, you have carried this suspicion of *organization*, this reluctance to *attend* regular church services, this resentment and hostility toward a regular, established, organized BODY—a false "CHURCH"—right on over into the ONE AND ONLY TRUE CHURCH—the one Jesus BUILT!

Brethren, some of you have!

"You shall know them *by their*

*fruits!*" said Jesus (Matt. 7:16).

This is the *Bible* equivalent of the old saying "actions speak *louder than words.*" If you, *by your actions*, show you are a "religious independent," *suspicious* of any *government* or *organization* within God's TRUE Church, then it is plain YOU are one possessing this dangerous attitude.

From time to time, on the summer baptizing tours Mr. Armstrong sends out from Ambassador College, this attitude of *self-sufficiency* is encountered.

Some reason this way. They realized God demands they be baptized (Acts 2:38). They *know*, and have proved carefully to themselves that baptism is REQUIRED for them.

*But*, their real *contact* with God's Church has always been ONLY VIA THE RADIO OR THE PRINTING press. They have never before had any *personal, individual* contact with God's own servants, or those who are doing the Work of God for this age.

Somehow, they would like to be baptized.

They want to "get right" with God.

*Then*, after they are baptized by our teams they seem to want the men sent out to baptize them to leave. They expect their former contact with God's Church to *remain the same as before*. They have been hearing Mr. Armstrong or me *personally*. It is OUR voices they are used to hearing.

Therefore, when they are told there is a *local Church* near them they are somehow RELUCTANT to attend!

These cases are, thank God, few and far between, but *they have occurred*.

Do you see, brethren?

Because many have falsely assumed

this is merely "Mr. Armstrong's work," the single-handed work of a MAN whom *they* regard as *himself* being a "religious independent," they want to associate themselves with that man! They want to regard themselves as "believing like Mr. Armstrong docs," or being a Co-Worker with Mr. Armstrong! But THEY DO NOT WANT TO COME UNDER THE ORGANIZATION, THE GOVERNMENT, THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHURCH OF GOD AND ITS MINISTERS.

Some years ago, my brother, Mr. Richard D. Armstrong, wrote a similar article to this one. He entitled it "YOU ARE NOT AN ARMSTRONGITE!"

Perhaps the *reason* my brother (who, before his death, was one of God's top Evangelists, Director of the Foreign Work, and Associate Editor of *The PLAIN TRUTH and GOOD NEWS*) and I have *especially* noticed this tendency in some of you brethren is this:

Many people simply ASSUME, since our names happen to be ARMSTRONG, that we are only "going along" with "Dad's religion."

NOTHING could be further from the truth!

Mr. Armstrong and I are merely TWO of the MANY true ministers of the Almighty God, through whom He is carrying out HIS, not our, WORK!

We are ministers in a highly organized, bona-fide, registered, recognized, official, CHURCH! That Church is the TRUE CHURCH OF GOD founded by Jesus. It is NOT "Mr. Armstrong's Church." It is NOT the church of some new "method" of government, called the "Methodist" Church. It is not a church emphasizing the second "advent" of Christ and so adopting the name "Adventist." It is not the church of John the Baptist, not a church of any man, woman, or group of men and women!

It is THE CHURCH OF GOD!

### You Are a Member of a CHURCH!

If you have *really* repented, and have been baptized according to God's commands, then you are a member of a Church!

That Church is ORGANIZED. It has many ministers, local congregations and its members are *responsible* for certain

DIVINELY imposed OBLIGATIONS!

Among those *obligations* which God makes plain THROUGH His Church are *attendance regularly*, tithing, and complete and total submission to GOD's government He has placed in His Church.

Jesus said, ". . . I will build my Church" (Matt. 16:18). *He*, Jesus Christ Himself, is the HEAD of that Church (Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22; 5:23).

There is only ONE True Church of which Jesus is the Head—THIS Church!

"There is *one body* [the very body of Christ—the Church] and one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling. One Lord, one faith [body of belief—system of doctrine—God's own TRUTH] one baptism . . ." (Eph. 4:4-5).

Yes, if you have been truly repentant, and have been duly baptized by God's own chosen servants, God has *put you into* His own TRUE CHURCH.

"By ONE SPIRIT are we all baptized into *one body* . . ." (I Cor. 12:13).

Peter said only when we REPENT and are baptized can we *receive* of God's Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). Paul was inspired to write, "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His" (Rom. 8:9).

It is only through receiving of HIS SPIRIT—the spiritual *begettal* to potential God-life that YOU BECOME A CHRISTIAN!

*And notice it—if you have received His Spirit, you have AUTOMATICALLY BECOME A LITERAL, RESPONSIBLE MEMBER OF AN ORGANIZED, VISIBLE BODY—A CHURCH!*

### Is ORGANIZATION of the Devil?

Today, we are living in a world of "organized *confusion*!" It is in chaos, disagreement, darkness, *confusion*. But it is ORGANIZED.

The governments of this world, their military arms, their police forces, their educational systems, their complex, intricate business and social strata are *highly organized*.

Satan is the god of *this world* (II Cor. 4:4). *He* is the author of *its* systems, its governments, its religions (Rev. 12:9).

Satan has a KINGDOM (Matt. 12:26). It is called "BABYLON THE GREAT!" (Rev. 17:5).

But Satan's kingdom is a *mixture* of good AND evil. The Devil is the arch-counterfeiter! He cleverly MIXES truth and error, bad and good, right and wrong, to *allow* the human mind to *see the good*, but to be deluded, to be blinded to the bad!

Some suppose all CITIES to be EVIL—of Babylon, of *this world*. And—true enough—all of THIS WORLD'S CITIES ARE EVIL! But GOD HIMSELF IS LIVING IN A CITY! He is going to bring the WHOLE COMPLEX, HIGHLY DEVELOPED, BEAUTIFUL CITY TO THIS EARTH! (Rev. 21:2).

Maybe you have supposed all connected with the *military* is inherently EVIL. But God is an organizer of ARMIES, believe it or not! (Rev. 19:14). Jesus showed when His Kingdom comes to this earth, *then* will His servants FIGHT (John 18:36 with Rev. 19:11-16).

The WRONG thing about military organizations is their goal! *They* are organized for the purpose of KILLING, of destroying, of going to war.

Actually, there is no *earthly* system *closer* to the real Government of God than that of the military. Soldiers are taught absolute, unquestioning obedience to their superior officers—and failure to comply brings severe penalties!

No, brethren—*organization, departmentalization, order, SYSTEM*, are OF GOD, not of the Devil.

"For God is not the author of *confusion*, but of PEACE, as in all churches of the saints" (I Cor. 14:33).

The word inspired by the Holy Spirit in this scripture for "peace" comes from the Greek word "eirene" which, according to the Exhaustive Concordance, and the Greek-English Dictionary, means "*unity, concord, HARMONY!*"

Yes, God is the Author of Government, of harmony, organization, system, ORDER.

### God's Government Works!

God governs His Church—not any man! Jesus Christ the Son is its Living Head. Below Christ are Apostles, Prophets (though not occupying an ad-  
*(Please continue on page 15)*



# What Can a Widow Do In God's Church?

*How can widows serve in the Church? What is the special class mentioned in 1 Timothy 5? And what about the support of widows—whose responsibility is it? You will be surprised to see how much the Bible has to say about these important questions!*

by Ronald Kelly

**I**N GOD'S CHURCH today there are *hundreds* of widows. Some are younger widows who have recently lost their husbands. They may have small children at home. There are other widows who have lived alone for many years now. But, whether young or old, widows have a wonderful opportunity to *serve*.

Have you, as a widow, ever wondered *what you could do* to better SERVE in the Church of God? Have you felt, because you are a woman, there is not much for you to do? YOU need to realize what a *vital* important part you can play in the church and how you can better qualify to be of *more service* in the coming Kingdom of God!

All the rest of the members of God's Church need to learn their definite RESPONSIBILITY toward the widows, as well.

## Widows in the Bible

God has inspired His servants to write about several *specific* examples of widows. These examples even *name* the widow in some cases. Notice how *Anna* served God in Luke 2:36. "And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was *of a great age*, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; And she was a WIDOW of about fourscore and four years [eighty-four], which departed not from the temple, but *served God* with *fastings* and *prayers* night and day."

Anna, well up in years, has become an example of how to serve God. This

is an example of a *very old lady*. With all her *heart* and *might* she wanted to SERVE God.

She was not able to go out into the cold and rain to serve the brethren in times of sickness or need. She probably could *no longer* knit or sew for those who needed clothing. The *greatest service* she could render God's Church and His people was PRAYER and FASTING! She did *not* feel left out or incapable of serving. And by *fasting* often, along with her *prayers*, she became an EXAMPLE for all generations to come.

Many widows begin to *feel* they cannot serve effectively because they *do not have large incomes* and cannot send in large amounts in tithes and offerings. But have you ever stopped to think that by your PRAYERS God *can* and *will* provide *Co-Workers* who can send in *large* amounts in tithes and offerings? Ask God *specifically* to provide tithe-payers who are able to send in one hundred dollars or even one thousand dollars a month. Mr. Armstrong really means it when he asks you to *pray* for the NEEDS of the Work, as well as to contribute what you are able.

## The Widow's Mite

Another example God gives us in His Word is the poor widow Mark writes about in Mark 12:41. Here is a *prime example* of ATTITUDE and service: "And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came *a certain poor widow*, and

she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That *this poor widow hath cast more* in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all *they* did cast in of their *abundance*; but *she of her want* did cast in *all that she had*, even all her living."

This widow had her heart so much in God's Work that she was willing to *sacrifice* and *go without* so she could be a part of the very WORK OF GOD. A widow is not capable, generally, of paying large tithes and giving offerings. But when a widow *does* give of her need, it is pleasing to God and *there will be blessings* and reward for this kind of serving, humble attitude.

*Never* underestimate the POWER and the MIGHT which God has. He is able to take the smallest offering and accomplish the greatest possible amount of work through it. As Mr. Armstrong has written in Co-Worker letters, when one dollar is contributed to the Work of God, it reaches many hundreds of people when it is used to purchase radio time. So, although your offerings may be small, a *tremendous amount* is being accomplished through those offerings.

## Tabitha's Example

Another fine example of a widow's *service* is found in Acts 9:36 "Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was *full of good works and almsdeeds* which she did. And it came to pass in those

days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber. And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and *all the widows* stood by him weeping, and *showing the coats and garments which Dorcas made*, while she was with them. But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And *she opened her eyes*: and when she saw Peter, SHE SAT UP!"

Here was a *zealous widow* who was so *loved* BECAUSE OF HER SERVICE that God saw fit to even *resurrect her* from the dead! This was a witness to all around, and *many believed because of it*. But God chose a particular *widow* to serve as this witness because she was so well-known and *well-loved* by many people.

Dorcas was able to spend her time serving the brethren. She made garments and coats and saw to it that the brethren of the church were well-clothed when there was a need.

Dorcas was not as old as Anna, whom we read about earlier. She was probably agile enough to spend *much of her time* sewing and making clothing and *caring for others*. Because of her tremendous *zeal* and her *attitude*, she also has been mentioned *by name* in God's inspired Word. It is the example *all* of the widows in God's Church today should follow!

There is something for widows to do! Widows should *begin* NOW to see the opportunities that surround them. If a widow is physically able, she can be as Dorcas who made clothing, cooked, and cared for the sick. A widow can always give her "widow's mite" to the Work of God, even though her tithe and offering is generally only a small amount of what others are able to give. A widow who is well up in years and *not* able to *physically* contribute much, can spend much time in *fasting* and PRAYER for others AND FOR THE WORK OF GOD! Through

these services, a widow not only qualifies for the Kingdom of God, but lives the remaining years of her life on the earth in *true happiness*, realizing she is doing a *service*.

### Some Widows to Teach

Women must realize it is not their responsibility to hold offices of authority in God's Church. God inspired Timothy to write, "But I suffer [permit] not a woman to teach, nor to usurp [have] authority over the man, but to be in silence" (I Tim. 2:12). A woman *cannot hold the office of teacher over adult men*, or in the church. But notice, in Titus 2:4, how a woman *can* have part in teaching: "That they [the older women] may *teach the young women* to be sober, *to love their husbands*, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, *keepers at home*, good, *obedient to their own husbands*, that the word of God be not blasphemed."

You widows or older women have a *responsibility* to TEACH the younger, teen-age girls as well as the newly married young wives in the church. This is not the kind of teaching that is done from the pulpit as a minister. But this *is* the kind of personal *instruction, encouragement, inspiration*, and EXAMPLE that a widow can give *right in her own home* or as she visits with the young women in the church.

An older woman has lived many years and experienced all the things that a young girl has yet to look forward to. This is of great value. God inspired His servant Paul to instruct the older women not to neglect this *important part* of qualifying for the Kingdom of God—to be able to *teach the younger women* not to make mistakes and *how to be happy!*

### A Special Class of Widows

If a widow could meet certain *qualifications*, the Apostle Paul actually had a *special class* of widows who traveled with him—or with others in the ministry—to help serve as they traveled. Their job was taking care of the cooking, washing, ironing, and other routine duties which would allow Paul and the other ministers to be *free to devote time serving in the ministry*.

Notice the qualifications for serving in this special enrollment in I Timothy 5:9. "Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore [sixty] years old, having been the wife of one man, *Well reported of for good works*; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have *diligently followed every good work*."

Not every widow in the church could serve in this special enrollment; she had to, first of all, be sixty years of age. All her children would be grown and perhaps married or away from home at this time. Also, an elderly widow such as this would present no kind of evil appearance as she traveled in a small group to serve the brethren of the church.

But *notice the other qualifications!* She had to be a DEDICATED and SINCERE woman. She couldn't be the kind who showed concern only for *herself* and *her* past life. She needed to be the type who *enjoyed* having company and *servicing* in the home. She had to have a *sincere desire* to DILIGENTLY FOLLOW all the *laws of God!*

In the Church of God today, we do not have this special roll of widows to travel with the ministry. But *this does not mean* there is no need for this special service widows can perform. Most of God's ministers are married and have their own families. Their wives often travel with them as they visit the brethren and there has been no urgent need for this type of service from widows.

But this *service* does not have to be restricted to the ministry alone. Widows over sixty who have these qualifications can be of great service in *each local congregation* to the brethren. We may not have a special class of widows which we recognize or call by a particular title, but *any widow* can render her services to help the brethren. In fact, EVERY widow ought to try to live up to the standards and requirements of this *special class of widows*.

### What About the Younger Widows?

There are times when a younger woman with small children will be

widowed as a result of death or an accident. Naturally, for many months or for a few years, a young widow goes through a period of adjustment without a man to be head of the family. There are times when this young woman will *have to go to work* to provide for herself and her children. There are literally *thousands* of women in this world who have had to do just this—and even apart from God's law have been *successful* in rearing their children and providing a proper living for them.

However, there are times when a young widow realizes the need for the children to have a father, and in some cases, it is not wrong for these young widows to want to *marry*. The Apostle Paul said in I Timothy 5:14, "I will therefore that the *younger women marry*, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. For some are already turned aside after Satan."

A young widow in God's Church—who is *thoroughly converted*—will put this in God's hands! Far too often, a woman will simply "seek a husband." Sometimes, she will pay no attention to the *advice of God's ministers* and consequently will find herself in a very unhappy marriage.

Every young widow *should do all within her power* to make provisions for herself and her children. If she is being diligent and faithful to the Word of God, *God will supply all her needs*. If by *patient and constant PRAYER*, and if it is God's will, He will supply the proper head of the family to be a stepfather and husband.

In every case, a young widow needs to be constantly aware of the temptations that surround her and not to, as Paul said, "turn aside after Satan."

Remember the attitude and problems some young widows might have in I Timothy 5:13, "And withal *they learn to be idle*, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but *tattlers* also and *busybodies*, speaking things which they ought not." This, brethren, is the common tendency—this is what is likely to happen—when young widows are not diligently *trying to meet their responsibilities*, both to their family and to God.

The goal of a young widow should

not be marriage—it should be to meet the responsibilities which have now been laid upon her and to *qualify herself for the Kingdom of God*. Her goal is the same as the goal of any Christian—to be born again! Her responsibilities very likely will require her to be out working and earning a living to support her children, if there are no visible means of support otherwise available.

#### Our Responsibility to the Widows

So far, we have seen how a widow can serve and help in the church. We have read many scriptures on how a widow can better *qualify* to enter God's Kingdom and be *happier* here and now as she serves in God's Church. But what about the rest of us in God's Church? What about some of *us* who might have mothers or grandmothers who are widows and also who are members of God's Church? What can we do if a widow has need?

The very heart and core of a Christian life is summed up in James 1:27. "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, TO VISIT THE FATHERLESS AND WIDOWS IN THEIR AFFLICTION, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

Yes, each member of God's Church has a *particular responsibility toward the widow*—as well as the widows having their responsibility to serve and help the other brethren when it is possible. The whole reason for living a Christian life is *to be of service!* Jesus Christ said that if we wanted to be great in the Kingdom of God, we must *be a servant*.

In the sixth chapter of Acts, the early New Testament Church was faced with a situation that resulted in the selection of *Deacons* for God's Church. Notice it beginning in Verse 1, "And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, BECAUSE THEIR WIDOWS WERE NEGLECTED IN THE DAILY MINISTRATION. Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren,

look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, *whom we may appoint over this business*. But we will give ourselves *continually to prayer*, and to the *ministry of the word*."

Then, seven men were selected to fulfill *the office of Deacon* in order to allow the ministers to have time to take care of the spiritual duties they would have in serving God's people. In the very beginning years of the church *the need to help serve widows* was pointed out. And because of the need to serve widows, the office of Deacon was actually inspired.

#### Looking Ahead Is Wise

Many of you reading this article are now married. We trust every converted member of God's Church will read this article to learn. Even though we don't like to think of it, we must *all realize* that it is possible that sometime in the future *our wives will be widowed* and left without financial support. What is your obligation to your wife and family? In the Bible, God says a righteous man will lay up for his children and his grandchildren. God shows that *saving for the future* is a right principle. He also gives us the example in Proverbs of the ant who goes out in the summer and *works diligently to lay up ahead* for the coming winter. *This is an example for us!*

Many have wondered about *life insurance*. About two years ago, Dr. Herman L. Hoeh wrote an article for *The GOOD NEWS* magazine on this very subject. All of you should be certain you have read that article. It is a wise man who will spend only a few dollars a year to provide for urgent needs and family support should his life be taken. Far too often we do not think of these things and our families can suffer greatly should an accident occur in our lives.

#### If You Have a Relative That Is a Widow

Do you know that if you have a relative *in God's Church* who is a *widow* and has no means of support, you have a direct obligation to her according to the Scriptures? Notice it once again in I Timothy 5:4, "But if any widow have *children* or nephews

[this should be translated *grandchildren*], let them [*the children and grandchildren*] learn first to shew piety [or kindness] at home, and to requite [offer support for] their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God."

Yes, if a widow in God's Church has children or grandchildren *who are also in the church*, those children have a DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY to provide for the support of that widow if there is no other way for her to be supported. And notice again in Verse 16, "If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and LET NOT THE CHURCH BE CHARGED; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed [or who have no other means of support]." And again in Verse 8, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is WORSE THAN AN INFIDEL."

Some members of God's Church have neglected this. Some have not realized before this *direct responsibility* placed on every member of God's Church if he has a mother, mother-in-law, or grandmother who is converted. In other words, a widow who has relatives in the Church of God is *not eligible* for third-tithe support from the church. If this situation exists with any of you, you should begin as quickly as possible to relieve this obligation from the church and begin TO SUPPORT YOUR WIDOWS so you will receive God's blessing for being completely obedient to all of His laws.

#### Plan for the Future

Today's present society offers many provisions for the care of widows. First and foremost, every family ought to consider this need while all members of the family are still living. As mentioned before, *life insurance* is a possible answer. *Savings* and investment in properties for future need is another solution. However, for those who are *already widowed* and have not been able to have these savings set aside, there are means of support offered by our government.

Most working people have paid into the SOCIAL SECURITY plan. Social Security is a payroll deduction plan

where every employee must pay a certain amount of each check for his retirement in old age or toward support of his widow should he die. The employer has contributed to this fund as well. In case of need or old age, every family is left with a small income on which they can get by. In most cases, Social Security is *required*, and many of you have been paying benefits for many years. Many widows in God's Church are supported today by Social Security.

Another means of support for widows and elderly people is the OLD AGE PENSION. This is a tax-supported plan set up by the United States Government. All of us pay taxes. We are to render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and this we gladly do for the privileges of living in our country. If a widow is left *without support* or a person reaches old age and has no means of income, our *tax dollars* can support them in part by the Old Age Pension plan.

If neither Social Security or Old Age Pension can be received, there are generally *County and City Welfare Agencies* which offer support to elderly people and to widows. This is also a tax-supported plan and members of God's Church have every right to be supported through this means if it is necessary.

#### The Tithing System

In addition to what the government of each country sets up to support those in need, God has seen fit in His law to establish a *special fund* to provide for the support of fatherless children, widows, strangers and the Levites who have need.

God has always financed and supported HIS WORK by a system called *tithing!* This is God's way to do things. A tithe is one-tenth of a person's income. First of all, one-tenth of every wage-earner's income is *not really his at all*—BUT IT IS GOD'S. This tithe is *clearly demonstrated* in the Bible to be used *only* for the WORK OF THE MINISTRY and the publishing of the Gospel around the world. It can be used for no other purpose! If it is held back we are robbing God! (Mal. 3:8-12).

In addition to this tithe for the work of the ministry, God has liberally provided a plan *for our vacation* every

year. It is set up on the *same tithing principle*. Notice it in Deuteronomy 14:22, "Thou shalt truly *tithe* all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year. And *thou shalt eat* before the Lord thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou MAYEST LEARN TO FEAR THE LORD THY GOD ALWAYS."

This tithe is to aid you in *travel expense* and *meals* for the annual Feast Days held every year—*especially* the *Feast of Tabernacles*. However, did you notice that this tithe is *not* for the work of the ministry—rather it is for *every individual* to eat and to enjoy. Yet, to insure attendance at these Festivals and to be sure all of God's people are properly taught—God instituted this "SECULAR TITHE" as an *absolute law!*

#### The Third Tithe

On this same *tithing principle*, God has established the means whereby *widows* and others in need can have provision. Notice it in Deuteronomy 14:28, "At the end of three years thou shalt bring forth all the *tithe* of thine increase the *same year* [the third year], and shalt lay it up within thy gates: And the Levite, (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the WIDOW, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the Lord thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest."

Here, then, is the "THIRD TITHE." This tithe is not taken every year as are the first and second tithes. This tithe is to be taken only in the *third* and *sixth* year of a seven-year cycle.

In other words, the third-tithe year for every member of God's Church who is a wage-earner and has an increase is to be paid only *two years out of every seven years*—the third and sixth years. These years are generally counted from the time of one's baptism. So, the third and sixth years after an individual is baptized are his third-tithe years. The tithe of that year is given to God's Church for the support of the  
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# IS THE BIBLE *A Protestant Book?*

*Did God entrust the Protestant reformers with the New Testament text? Did He now allow Protestant scholars to discover the original unadulterated words of the Apostles? Are PROTESTANTS the guardians of the New Testament?*

by Paul Kroll

**P**ROTESTANTS CLAIM that: "The guardianship of the Greek New Testament passed from the Greek Church to those who were MORE FAITHFUL to its teachings, namely, to evangelical Protestants.

"Consistently Christian textual criticism, therefore, is truly Protestant. In the Protestant Reformation, God summoned men to return to the holy scriptures" (Edward Hills, *The King James Version Defended!*, pp. 19, 21).

Is this belief true?

Are Protestant theologians now responsible for the true text? Have Protestant scholars, by means of textual criticism, the ability to find the actual words written by the Apostles? Should we as God's people rely on THEIR FINDINGS as to which text or translation to use?

## The Scholars Search

Biblical scholars have long sought to unearth the actual text—the "real words" written by the Apostles. Critics have labored to reconstruct the true text of the Bible under the assumption that the Apostles' original words had been perverted in the centuries after their deaths.

"The task of textual criticism . . . is to try to extract the actual words written by the Apostles and the Evangelists from the great mass of divergent manuscripts in which their works have been preserved" (*Handbook to the Textual Criticism of the New Testa-*

Copies of Tyndale's English New Testament burned. The place was London, England. It was called: "A burnt offering most pleasing to Almighty God."



ment, by Frederick Kenyon, p. 6).

Men—*apart from* God's guidance—have sought to find the true text of your Bible. Guided by their own *human reason* they have rummaged through bits and scraps of musty manuscripts. In the rubbish heaps of decaying paper and papyrus—scholars have spent *untold hours* hovering over reams of manuscripts—in order to reconstruct the original documents the Apostles wrote.

But this has been an *impossible* task!

"It is a task at once hopeful and hopeless. Hopeful because in so great a crowd of manuscripts . . . the truth must, *it would seem*, somewhere be on record; HOPELESS, because the discernment of it REQUIRES A SUPERHUMAN DEGREE of knowledge and judgment and because means *do not exist* for demonstrating it conclusively" (*Handbook to the Textual Criticism of the New Testament*, by Frederick Kenyon, p. 6).

Men have failed because they have been relying on *human effort*, when it requires *superhuman* understanding. Scholars have relied on decaying heaps of paper as the *cornerstone* of their theories. But the cornerstone—the basis of proof—*is not there!!* It requires the inspiration, the direction, the revelation of God Almighty!

### Why Scholars Went Astray

Science, technology, education—all have become the "gods of this world"! People rely on them for the answers. *It would seem* that they SHOULD HAVE the answers.

But they do not!

It is not enough to be educated; it is not enough to have knowledge. What these men needed the most that they *lacked*. Because they LACKED SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING, they couldn't grasp the spiritual principles on which the preservation of the Bible is based.

Because they lacked this basis—they *could not interpret* the facts correctly

"A man who is unspiritual refuses what belongs to the Spirit of God; it is folly to him; HE CANNOT GRASP IT, because it needs to be judged in the light of the Spirit. A man gifted with the spirit can judge the *worth of everything*" (I Cor. 2:14, *New English Bible*).

### Scholars Admit Ignorance

Biblical scholars and critics themselves *have admitted* that THEY DO NOT KNOW! In dealing with this problem—they must resort to *opinions, conjectures and theories*.

"During the last thirty years, moreover, the conviction has been growing among New Testament scholars that New Testament textual criticism is *not an objective science*, governed by clearly defined rules or principles, but rather an art, in which the deciding factor is the subjective insight, or 'common sense,' of the critic" (*The King James Version Defended!*, Edward F. Hills, p. 13).

These *textual critics admit* that they are forced—in the last analysis—to rely on conjecture and opinion.

"The methods of textual criticism may broadly be described as two in number—the comparison of doctrinal evidence, and conjecture . . . where the former [evidence] is wanting, the latter [conjecture] will have to try to take its place" (*Handbook to the Textual Criticism of the New Testament*, Frederick Kenyon, p. 7).

### How Can You KNOW?

Brethren, how can we know if we have the true text—the actual words written by those who God inspired?

Must we rely on the theories, conjectures and hypotheses of critics who admit that *they do not know*? Where can we *begin*?

We begin our understanding by *testing the Bible!*

"Do not quench the Spirit, do not despise prophesying, but TEST *everything*; hold fast what is good" (I Thess. 5:19-21, Revised Standard Version).

But how do we test the Bible to see if it is God's Word? Brethren, we should have *already done this*—and should be doing it *now!* For example, how do we know the Sabbath is to be kept? Is it only because the Bible *tells us* to observe it? No! We know the Sabbath is to be kept by *keeping it*. The more we keep the Sabbath, the more we come to understand that it *must be kept*.

We also test the Bible by seeing if

its *promises* are really fulfilled. Psalm 103:3 and James 5:14 show that God is our Healer—and we are to come to His ministers for anointing. If we have been ill—and *have been HEALED*—we have tested God's Word!

Another way we test His Word is by seeing the prophecies recorded in that book coming to pass.

### Bible Is Basis of Knowledge

Here we have our "jumping off place" in proving how God has preserved the Bible for us correctly. We first prove that the Bible is a *living book*—backed up by a *living God!!* Then we can turn to that book as the BASIS for an understanding of how and through whom God preserved His Word!

We begin to respect with great awe the God who created—and now *actively controls* this universe. We come to understand He *means what He says*—and SAYS WHAT HE MEANS! This "fear of the Lord is the *beginning of knowledge*" (Prov. 1:7).

God reveals, "ALL SCRIPTURE is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (II Tim. 3:16).

Since the Bible is divinely inspired—it means that God must have also PROVIDENTIALLY PRESERVED both the Old and New Testament text. *Inspiration* is meaningless unless there is also a providential *preservation*. Otherwise what is inspired would be lost!

Brethren, the amazing truth is we *do not rely* on the testimony of any Protestant church—or Catholic, for that matter, concerning the preservation of the Bible! We *do not depend* on the ideas and theories of critics.

We *appeal* to the SCRIPTURES WRITTEN in that Word to discover *who is responsible* for preserving the Bible. We then use the Bible—having *already proven and tested* its inspiration and therefore its divine preservation—to come to understand *how* God preserved His Holy Word!

It is *impossible* to discern this knowledge through *physical means* ALONE! It takes the spiritual mind of God as personified through the Bible—to give

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## Submit To Church Organization

(Continued from page 8)

ministrative rank), Evangelists, Pastors and Elders. The Apostles realized the need for *real organization* in God's Work!

When widows were being neglected, and *confusion* ensued, they ordained *Deacons* to *organize a system* for taking care of these physical needs (Acts 6:1-7).

Later, God inspired Paul to write of the divinely ordained offices in His true Church: "And HE [God, not any man] gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers . . ." (Eph. 4:11).

### Christ Was Organized

But why? God answers, "For the *perfecting* of the saints, for the *work* of the ministry, for the *edifying* of the body of Christ, TILL we all come in the UNITY [THE SYSTEMATIZATION, ORDER, ORGANIZATION, HARMONIZATION] of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect [COMPLETELY ORGANIZED] man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ . . ." (Eph. 4:12-13).

Jesus was the most *orderly* man who ever lived. He did things in ORDER, His life was carefully ORGANIZED, Jesus did things EXACTLY ON TIME. He was responsible for the meticulous, careful, exact fulfillment of literally DOZENS of all-important prophecies, on which hinged His very office and Messiahship!

The one great sign, the great PROOF He left of His DIVINITY was the *exact time schedule*, the way He and the Father had ORGANIZED the EXACT time of His time in the tomb and His resurrection!

Had there been the slightest confusion, the slightest variance from this promised sign (Matt. 12:40), YOU WOULD HAVE NO SAVIOUR!

When Jesus fed the four and the five thousand, He said, "MAKE THE MEN SIT DOWN" (John 6:10). Jesus wanted perfect *order*. Notice Luke's account of the same event, "For they were about five thousand men. And He said

to His disciples. 'Make them sit down by fifties in a company'" (Luke 9:14).

Jesus was orderly, systematic, organized!

He has inspired His true ministers to clearly see the great need for smoother and better ORGANIZATION within His own Church! Without it, God's Work would not continue—it would be in chaos, confusion.

With it, God's Work is leaping ahead year by year to become the greatest Work in radio this world has ever seen!

### Why Organization Is Needed

*Think* for a moment, brethren!

We have just observed the Days of Unleavened Bread. Pentecost is coming soon. In these Festivals we have multitudes of problems in making everything function smoothly. But especially at the Feast of Tabernacles do we meet many myriad organizational problems.

Let me give you just a LITTLE bit of an *insight* into what is BEHIND a successful Feast of Tabernacles—or any successful Festival.

Last year, with the Feast having been held at *three* locations in the United States, there were literally HUNDREDS of details to look after, things to organize, systematize, get in order.

For example, months and months in advance, many of you were making reservations for the booths. This took organization.

Crews of men had to see to the *parking* problems, carefully diagramming, laying out road systems, parking lanes, one-way streets, and traffic control. Every eventuality had to be considered, talked over, and written about.

Whole crews were working toward providing song books, chairs, getting the big buildings in each place readied. In Squaw Valley, *the first year*, we had to have an architect draw up plans, and a lumber company *build* a big stage for the sermons, one strong enough to hold an organ and grand piano, and the whole high-school choir!

There were meal tickets to be designed, printed and sold. Central registration to be taken care of, with complete plans of each building, each motel, each camping area, each numbered and carefully catalogued. Each person had to

be located as near as possible according to his own choice, and according to his needs, and yet according to the over-all considerations of space availability, cost, size of room, nearness of facilities to the valley, and so on. All this took GREAT ORGANIZATION, it took PLANNING, it took myriads of HOURS OF TIME!

Many ministers' meetings were called. A complete speaking schedule, which minister would go where, and when he would speak, had to be talked over, mulled about, prayed over, and approved. These were then printed, and mailed to all ministers.

Complete counseling teams, sections A and B had to be selected, checked and approved, with a printed sheet then distributed. Ministers to be available for anointings at certain hours had to be scheduled, roving teams of men to help those on the grounds, in Booth City, in the camping area, or in the areas at Squaw Valley and Jekyll Island had to be assigned.

*Letters* had to be drafted and written, then sent out to the *whole* membership.

Menus had to be carefully put together, checked and approved. Then tons of food had to be ordered, and provisions made for storing it properly, having just enough always on hand, and yet preventing spoilage!

Busses had to either be purchased, leased or rented. Schedules had to be carefully set up, involving many hours of careful planning, talking and checking.

Dozens and dozens of personal questions had to be answered in advance by letter. Questions about housing, about extra bedding, about staying near a friend, about food, about temperature, altitudes, extra second tithe, and a host of others.

Students were working on acts, singing, individual variety performances, working hard to put together an enjoyable "fun show" for the members.

Men were laboring on the Big Sandy, Texas tabernacle grounds to clear brush, provide a nice area for a barbecue for hundreds of our older single people, the widows and widowers, the "eligibles" in God's Church!

Mr. Jackson was organizing special events, including spiritual meetings,

recreational activities for the colored brethren in God's Church.

Specially picked men from Pasadena, arriving days and days well in advance of the Feast in all *three places* had to look into the electrical systems, sewage and drainage systems, parking systems, availability of conference and mothers' rooms, checking the public address systems, getting plenty of key personnel placed in just the right areas, to *help* direct God's people smoothly, orderly, so they could have a more enjoyable Feast!

And there were many, many more complex activities which I have not mentioned!

Brethren, all this took THOUGHT! It took PLANNING, and it took careful ORGANIZATION.

### God Blesses His Work

God has truly BLESSED His Work by sending more and more truly CAPABLE men and women, truly dedicated and consecrated to His service, who are carrying vital responsibilities in His Church.

He has *blessed* His Work with humble, hard-working, *volunteer* laborers, *who are not being paid* for their services to others during the Feasts, to make it more and more enjoyable for YOU!

Yes, this is truly a great blessing!

But wait! Something is wrong! Something is still LACKING!

WHY are some of you people, claiming to be the very men and women of God, REBELLIOUS TOWARD AUTHORITY! Why do some BALK at any direction? Why are so many STIFF-NECKED toward local Pastors, Deacons, servers, traffic directors, and ushers?

BECAUSE SOME ARE YET CARNAL—THEY ARE REBELLIOUS, STIFF-NECKED, UNCONVERTED!

If this means YOU—then it is time to HEED!

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; PROVE your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is *in* you, except ye be reprobates?" (II Cor. 13:5).

But God is leading His servants more and more to realize these harmful attitudes must be weeded out!

Look at a huge "mechanical brain."

A great computer. Here is indeed an electronic marvel. The machine is to *perform a certain task*.

But a small, tiny tube becomes defective. It cannot perform its task, it is *disorganized*, operating *sporadically*.

Will the operator of the machine simply allow the machine to operate at less than ONE PER CENT efficiency, because of one small tube? Certainly not!

No—he would replace that defective, unco-operative tube IMMEDIATELY!

He would get a NEW one, or else *repair that one*, so the machine could operate smoothly, orderly, efficiently!

You may have an eight-cylinder automobile. But if only ONE cylinder is not functioning, your car is thrown completely out of harmony. It sputters and smokes, running on about  $\frac{1}{3}$  power, at less speed, and much greater gasoline consumption. What do you do? Just LEAVE IT THAT WAY?

Of course not! You change it—or you get it repaired!

It is the *same* in GOD'S ORGANIZATION!

We have a vitally important JOB to do. It entails our church attendance, our faithful tithing, our attendance at annual Festivals.

It means we are REQUIRED, OBLIGATED, to *co-operate*, to *obey*. When God's own ORDAINED APOSTLE calls upon you to send in for meal tickets, THEN DO IT!

When a traffic director at any Sabbath service or Festival says, "Go *this way*," then DO it! When an announcement says DO NOT drive your cars from the camp area to services—then DO NOT DO IT!

When an announcement during Pentecost services this year comes asking for volunteer help, then HELP!

When Mr. Armstrong asks you to send in your second tithe for the Festival of Tabernacles in advance, to insure proper registration, then SEND it!

The Apostle Paul said the PROOF of real Christianity is OBEDIENCE!

"For to this end also did I write, that I might know the *proof* of you, *whether ye be obedient in all things*!" (II Cor. 2:9).

Yes, brethren, *if* you really ARE a member of God's own Church—YOU HAVE STERN OBLIGATIONS!

God issues orders! He gives commands! God EXPECTS ABSOLUTE, UNQUESTIONING OBEDIENCE!

Is that unreasonable? Is it not the very ESSENCE of your Bible?

In the book of Genesis, God "COMMANDED the man, saying . . ." (Gen. 2:16), and in the book of Revelation, He inspired John to write, "Blessed are they that DO HIS COMMANDMENTS . . ." (Rev. 22:14).

Abraham is the father of the faithful because he OBEYED God unquestioningly! (Gen. 26:5).

### Our Awesome Responsibility

Brethren, listen!

In *every* worldly government, every society, every club, lodge, group, every church, every university, *every group of men*, GROWTH was always synonymous with DECAY!

Getting *bigger* meant getting more LAX, *lessening* controls, government, real principles, basic truths.

Nations grow fat and lazy, lacking purpose and drive. Churches get big and unwieldy, and resort to HUMAN government!

WE CANNOT—and WE WILL NOT let this happen in the very Church of God!

The BIGGER we grow, the *better organized*, the *more systematized*, the more simplified, the more streamlined and EFFICIENT we must become!

We must become more OBEDIENT! More RESPONSIVE! We must have that *utter spontaneity*, that quickness to help, to obey, to follow directions that comes from a truly converted, humble mind!

We must LOVE one another, and RESPECT offices God is using, no matter how slight or small they may seem to be! God says they are important!

Let's make this Pentecost—1964—the most organized, efficient and enjoyable Festival ever. Brethren—all of us need to co-operate *one hundred per cent*!—in everything.

We have the AWESOME responsibility of UNITEDLY, with ORDER and ORGANIZATION—performing God's own commission to His people in this age—and *we have got to get it done!* It is REQUIRED of us! *Will we do it?*



# Is The Bible A Protestant Book?

(Continued from page 14)

us the *basis* for all this understanding.

The physical facts of history *do not form* the basic proof concerning the preservation of the Old or New Testament text. We *appeal to and use physical* knowledge only *after* we discover what God reveals in His authoritative Word.

## Bible Supernaturally Preserved

Christ *promised His* disciples (and that includes *us*) that He would supernaturally preserve His Word. "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, ONE JOT OR ONE TITTLE shall in *no wise pass* from the law, till all be fulfilled" (Matt. 5:18).

Christ *restated* these words again in Matthew 24:35, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but *my words SHALL NOT PASS away.*" God has promised—and He cannot lie (Tit. 1:2)—to preserve His Word for us today.

God even records *an example* of His ability to preserve His Word for us today. Turn to Jeremiah 36. In Verse 2, Jeremiah is told to take a roll of the book and write in certain prophecies concerning Israel and Judah. Baruch read all the words "in the ears of *all the people*" (Verse 10). In Verse 15 we find he read it before *all the princes*. Finally in Verse 21 the scroll was read in the ears of the *king*.

Now notice what happened. "And it came to pass, that when Jehudi had read three or four leaves, he cut it with the penknife, and *cast it INTO THE FIRE* that was on the hearth, until all the *roll was consumed* in the fire that was on the hearth" (Verse 23).

Here then is the *first recorded attempt* TO DESTROY GOD'S HOLY WORD! Was He able to restore and preserve those words?

"Then took Jeremiah another roll, and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah; who wrote therein from the mouth of Jeremiah ALL THE WORDS of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had *burned* in the fire: and there were ADDED BESIDES unto them many like words" (Jer. 36:32).

God was able—in *spite of men*—to totally preserve His Word!

## Who Preserved Old Testament?

Who was responsible for preserving the Old Testament Scriptures? Was it the Catholic Church, Protestant denominations, secular heathen scholars?

None of these were!

It was left to the *Jews!*

"What advantage then hath the Jew? . . . Much every way: chiefly, because that *unto them* were committed the ORACLES OF GOD" (Rom. 3:1).

The *physical church* in the wilderness—which became ancient Israel and Judah—with finally only Judah left (II Kings 17:18) *had the AUTHORITY FROM GOD* to copy and preserve His Old Testament.

The Jews were responsible for the preservation, copying and transmission of God's Word—the Old Testament. But it was not left up to each *individual* Jew. The *leaders* of the Jewish community were given the responsibility for the transmission of the Old Testament.

In Jesus' day only a portion of the tribe of Judah was left in Palestine. Those in authority—to be responsible for preserving His Word—were *clearly pointed out* by Christ.

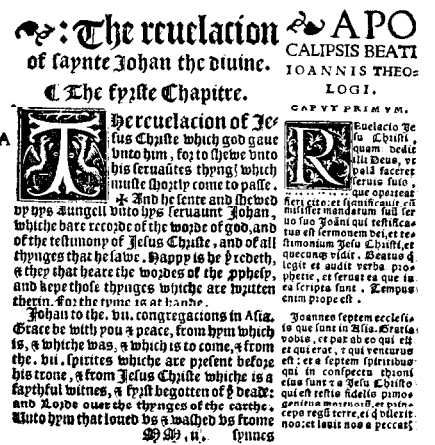
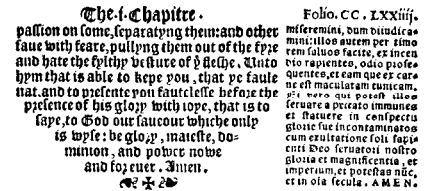
## Pharisees in Moses' Seat

"Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, Saying, *The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:* All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, THAT OBSERVE AND DO; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not" (Matt. 23: 1-3).

The important point to note is—that they *did "say"!!* That is, they taught from the very book they did not obey!

In Acts 15 we have the first recorded Ministerial Conference of the Church of God. Turn to Verse 19. James says, "Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.

"For MOSES [the Old Testament, especially the law] hath *in every city*



Ambassador College Photo  
A page from Tyndale's New Testament. An original copy is in the Ambassador College Library at Pasadena. The first English translation directly from the Greek. Tyndale was strangled to death for his efforts.

them that PREACH HIM, *being read in the synagogues* every Sabbath day!"

The Jews were preserving—even orally the Old Testament. James, as the leader of God's Church told the converts in TOTAL FAITH, that they could rely on what the Jews preserved.

How could anything be clearer! They did teach and orally read God's Word (Acts 15:21; Luke 4:16, 17). Even though they were hypocrites and did not obey those words—nevertheless they were in authority. Christ said so!

They were religiously careful and meticulous in preserving that Word.

## Carefully Preserved

Joseph Angus, in his *Bible Handbook*, states on page 27, "Some words [of the Old Testament] have odd marks over them not understood, perhaps originating in an accidental splutter of the pen, but *faithfully repeated in every copy.*"

"The books have notes appended, stating such points as the NUMBER OF WORDS and the middle word.

"In addition to what appears in our Bibles, there are huge collections of Massoretic notes, dealing with such matters as *how OFTEN each letter* of the Hebrew alphabet occurs in the Old



Desiderius Erasmus. One of the first to publish and make available the New Testament in Greek.

Testament, and how many verses contain all the letters of the alphabet.

"All this fills us with amazement, and with thankfulness for the *microscopic accuracy* with which these men did their work of preserving the sacred text."

#### God Controlled Preservation

God revealed in Matthew 23:1-3 that He DOES NOT necessarily use converted people to do His will. We saw previously, that God had given the leaders of the *Jewish community* the task of preserving His Word.

They were *hypocrites!* They were *proud!* They were *murderers!* THEY WERE TOTALLY UNCONVERTED! Yet, as we clearly saw, they were given the responsibility of preserving the Scriptures!

That is why you need the faith of God—TO KNOW that He has the power to control the preservation of the Holy Bible. The scholars lack this faith. Hence, they make wrong assumptions.

The Jews preserved the Old Testament. It made *no difference* whether they believed what they preserved (Rom. 3:1-4). God made them preserve His word in spite of themselves.

But the Jews rejected Christ. He became a stumbling block to them (I Cor. 1:23). No longer could they be used to preserve Scriptures which *openly discussed* the person and doctrine of Christ. *From that moment* on they

COULD NOT BE USED to preserve any further additions to the Holy Scriptures.

The task must pass to another people. When we see the BIBLE PROOFS AND PRINCIPLES clearly revealed concerning the Old Testament—we can apply those *same principles* to the preservation of the *New Testament*, which generally lies *outside* the limits of Biblical history.

To whom then was the New Testament given for preservation and transmission?

#### Greeks Preserve New Testament

Romans 1:16 reveals the answer. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ . . . to the Jew first, and *also to the Greek.*"

God raised up the Apostle Paul to go to the Greeks. They received the New Testament oracles—and became responsible for their preservation and transmission.

We saw the principle in Romans 1:16 that God was going to use the Greek-speaking world to *preserve and copy* the New Testament Canon. The leading Apostles and officials of His New Testament Church WROTE and under divine inspiration were led to COMPILE THE CANON. The Greeks had *nothing to do* with these two great functions. The *apostolic era of the Church of God* completed these two great acts.

But the Greeks were given the responsibility to *copy and transmit* the New Testament Canon.

The truth of Romans 1:16 *dovetails* with many interesting historical developments that took place in the first century A.D.

Where was the Apostle John when he wrote the book of Revelation? He was on the island of Patmos (Rev. 1:9). Where was this island? In the *Greek-speaking world!*

Where were the churches to which the Apostle Paul wrote most of his epistles? In Asia Minor—the *Greek-speaking world!* (I Pet. 1:1). The "Ephesian Era" of God's Church was located here.

#### Preserved in Greek World by Orthodox Church

The point is that the *original copies*

of the manuscripts were in the *Greek-speaking world* to begin with. They were NOT in Latin-speaking Italy! They were originally *written in Greek.*

God *does not* carry out His Work in a clandestine, secretive manner. He does it in a *public way!* As the Apostle Paul told Festus, "I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing *was not done in a corner*" (Acts 26:26).

The Ephesian Era of God's True Church gradually left its first love. It began to dabble in worldly politicking. It continued in the world—as *part of the world*—under Polycarp and Polycrates.

*In this area* of the world the Truth of God longest remained. Here is the record preserved by Eusebius:

"For neither could Anicetus [the bishop of Rome] persuade Polycarp not to observe it [*the Passover*], because he had always observed it with *John the disciple* of our Lord, and THE REST OF THE APOSTLES with whom he associated; and neither did Polycarp persuade Anicetus to observe, who said that he was bound to *MAINTAIN THE PRACTICE OF THE PRESBYTERS BEFORE HIM*" (Ecc. Hist., Eusebius, bk. 5, chap. 24).

This was around 150 A.D. Polycarp of Greek Asia Minor was still preserving the Truth! He was a disciple of the Apostle John.

Fifty years later, Polycrates—a *disciple of Polycarp*—had further troubles with Rome. But he still maintained the practice of the Passover. Rome had no authority except the *traditions of men* who came before them.

Just as did the Jews, the vast segment of the *organized, visible body* in the Greek world began to drift further and further from the Truth. Only an *insignificant minority* remained faithful. But just as the Jews preserved the true text of the Old Testament so the Greeks still preserved the true New Testament text even though they did not obey it!

This worldly Greek church passed under the jurisdiction of Constantine. But it REFUSED TO SUBMIT to the authority of the Bishop of Rome. It exists today as the Greek Orthodox

Church. It is in *no shape or manner* related to the Church of God—but it is STILL PRESERVING AND REPRODUCING the Greek New Testament with accuracy!

Is it significant that we call both Jews and Greeks who preserved the Bible in the original languages "Orthodox"? Did you know that it means "one who thinks straight or correctly" about the text?

### True Manuscripts Rejected

It may come as a shock for you to know that *scholars have rejected ninety-five per cent* of all extant Greek manuscripts of the Bible. These are the VERY MANUSCRIPTS which have been preserved by the Greek-speaking world—those to whom God gave the responsibility for copying and preserving His Word. Instead, modern Protestant translators and critics turn to the CORRUPTED five per cent of manuscripts found in *Egypt and the Latin-speaking world!*

These Byzantine manuscripts have been rejected due to the false ideas and theories of men. Here is how uninspired critics reason:

"It is necessary to begin [in order to find the true text] by examining the extant manuscripts to see . . . which are the oldest and therefore probably nearer to the truth" (Frederick Kenyon, *The Text of the Greek Bible*, p. 13).

### Critics' False Assumptions

The erroneous reasoning is that the oldest one is the best—an idea based on the FALSE ASSUMPTION that *errors would automatically creep into the text.*

"The task of the textual critic is, in brief, to counteract the errors of the copyist—and THESE ERRORS ARE MANY" (Frederick Kenyon, *Handbook to the Textual Criticism of the New Testament*, p. 7).

Scholars foolishly applied the principles of criticizing secular literature to the Bible.

"Lachmann, who was one of the first classical scholars of his day, applied to the text of the New Testament the SAME CRITICAL PRINCIPLES as he applied to the texts of *classical authors*, ignoring the mass of *later manuscripts*,

and relying wholly upon the more ancient" (Frederick Kenyon, *The Text of the Greek Bible*, p. 162).

To continue: "The manuscripts of the New Testament fall into two great classes, those which support what is known as the Textus Receptus, and those which *depart from it.* The Textus Receptus is familiar to us in the Authorized Version [King James]; and is supported by a VAST NUMERICAL MAJORITY OF MANUSCRIPTS. On the other hand, there is a type of text which often *departs very markedly* from the Textus Receptus . . . the remarkable feature about it is that it includes the *earliest testimony* . . . and CONSEQUENTLY its weight is greater" (Frederick Kenyon, *Handbook to the Textual Criticism of the New Testament*, p. 59).

The King James Version is then based on this vast numerical majority of Greek manuscripts God had preserved and which have been rejected by men. And why? Because men have assumed the *older manuscripts* are the better.

### Are Older Ones More Correct?

But these critics *overlooked* one very

*simple principle.* If a book wears out through use—what does one do? He *destroys* the worn out copy and buys a *new one!*

*This is exactly what both the Jews and Greeks did with old manuscripts!*

"Even the strange disappearance of more ancient manuscripts has been ascribed to the same difficulty . . . when too much worn for use *they were DESTROYED*, lest they should suffer any profanation" (Joseph Angus, *Bible Handbook*, p. 25).

The Greeks did the same:

"The monks of the Byzantine Period followed the JEWISH PRACTICE OF DESTROYING their sacred books, when they finally had become tattered and unsightly from constant use, and replaced them with fresh copies" (Edward F. Hills, *The King James Version Defended*, p. 42).

This makes good common sense. But scholars have been too near the tree to see the forest. The oldest in years are not necessarily the most correct. Upon whom did God bestow the responsibility of copying His manuscripts? That is the crux question!! It is quite clear that IT WAS THE GREEKS in the

Avignon, France. A Waldensian bookseller burned with two Bibles around his neck. The crime? He sold Bibles!





John Wyclif. First to translate the Latin Vulgate into English.

Greek-speaking world who had this responsibility.

### Constantinople Falls

It was not until 1453, with the fall of Constantinople to the Turks, that the Byzantine texts and manuscripts were brought to Europe.

Erasmus—a humanist scholar—who was *neither doctrinally Protestant nor Catholic*, was the editor of the first printed Greek New Testament (1516). It was based on the newly discovered Byzantine manuscripts. Immediately, other editions were printed in Greek—these were all based on the Byzantine manuscripts and agreed very closely. “Their variations from one another are so minute that they may truthfully be said to *possess ONE SINGLE TEXT*” (Edward F. Hills, *The King James Version Defended*, p. 120).

Finally, in 1611, the *standard STATE translation* was made from these manuscripts and editions—it became called the *King James Version!*

But it is important to remember that to this day God is *still having* the GREEK MANUSCRIPTS copied and preserved in the Greek-speaking world!

But this is only part of the story.

### Bible Burnings Begin

John Wyclif made the first translation into English around 1380. Luther did the same in German between 1522-

1534. Tyndale translated the true Greek texts into English around 1525.

It was at this time that BIBLE BURNINGS WERE BEGUN in England. The first such event occurred in 1527 at St. Paul’s Cross, London. Tyndale’s second edition was burned in 1530. Later there were wholesale burnings of the translations of Wyclif, Tyndale, Coverdale and others.

The historian Gilbert Burnet wrote in his *The History of the Reformation*: “The bishops were MUCH OFFENDED at the translations of the New Testament by Tyndale, Joyce, and others; and *proceeded severely* against those who read them” (Vol. 3, p. 98).

“When the CLERGY CONDEMNED Tyndale’s translation of the New Testament, they declared they intended to set out a true translation of it; which many thought was never truly designed by them, BUT ONLY PRETENDED, that they might restrain the curiosity.

“There was a paper drawn up . . . the contents of which were, ‘That the king called together many . . . to examine some books [the Bible] lately set out in the English tongue, *they had agreed to condemn them . . .* they were of the opinion . . . that the KING DID WELL not to set it [the Bible] out at that time in the English tongue.’

“So by this all the hopes of a translation of the scriptures vanished” (Vol. 1, p. 324-5).

This was the attitude of the *English clergy* at the time. These were the men who were *nominal Catholics* before 1533-4 and became *nominal Protestants* in November of the latter year!

There was no rejoicing! There was no great happiness that the people could have God’s Word. Where was the attitude of David? “I REJOICE at thy word, as one that finds great spoil!” (Ps. 119:162).

### Catholic Bible Corrupt

But now another question arises which must be answered. Catholics claim that *they preserved* the true text and were the guardians of Holy Writ throughout the centuries.

THIS IS A LIE!

As we have seen, God preserved the New Testament in the *Greek-speaking world!* The Latin world merely had a

multiplicity of *corrupted* Latin versions.

“Looking now finally at the Old Latin version as a whole . . . it belongs to and is a principal member of, that class of authorities which is distinguished by the *DOLDEST AND MOST STRIKING DEPARTURES* from the Received Text” (Frederick Kenyon, *Handbook to the Textual Criticism of the New Testament*, p. 216).

The “scriptures” which Rome claims to have been preserving are the *most corrupt*. Clearly, she has not been, *is not now*, and never will be the true depository of faith.

### Revision Ordered

Pope Damasus ordered a revision of this Old Latin Bible around 370 A.D.

The scholar Jerome was handed the task. His revision became the Vulgate which has been the text of the Catholic Church ever since. But it is NOT THE TEXT of the King James Version—and *was not* the one preserved by God.

Jerome himself used manuscripts of the Alexandrian type—preserved and copied in *Egypt*. Again, he *did not use* the official text which God had preserved.

There was much opposition to his translation. Not until the Council of Trent (1546) did it become the standard version of the Catholic Church.

But that is not all.

Here is what Jerome wrote to Pope Damasus around 382 A.D.

“You urge me to revise the Old Latin version, and, as it were, to sit in judgment on the copies of the scriptures . . . if we are to pin our faith to the *Latin texts*, it is for our opponents to tell us which; for there are ALMOST AS MANY FORMS OF THE TEXT as there are copies” (Jerome, *Preface to Vulgate Version*, Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, vol. 6).

Jerome attested to the corruptness of the Latin forms. But notice further what Jerome reveals:

“If we are to glean the truth from a comparison of many, why not go back to the original Greek and *correct the mistakes* introduced by *inaccurate translators*, and the *blundering alterations* of confident but ignorant critics, and further, all that has BEEN INSERTED OR CHANGED by copyists more asleep than

awake" (Jerome, *Vulgate Preface*, Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, vol. 6).

But there is yet more:

"During all this time the original text of the Vulgate *became greatly CORRUPTED*. Again and again it was 'revised' back to the favorite rendering of the Old Latin Text" (Henry Thiesen, *Introduction to the New Testament*, p. 60).

There you have it!

The texts that the Catholic Church preserved were the *most corrupt*. They *did not follow* the true readings of the divinely preserved Greek manuscripts. Its revision was dependent on *Egyptian manuscripts*—again corrupt. The revised Vulgate also became corrupted.

### In Spite of Men

Again, how clear that God has preserved His Word in spite of the evil desires of the wicked! God's Word would have perished long ago—if He would have allowed it.

But God's purpose stands! In our hands we have this priceless book that reveals God's purpose and His laws to us. Let us not despise those words.

"Ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God . . . let us . . . serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire" (Heb. 12:22-29).

## What Can Widows Do?

(Continued from page 12)

fatherless, the widow and the stranger. This, of course, is in addition to his regular *first tithe* which is given for the work of the ministry, and the *second tithe*, which is to be used for the annual Festivals.

If God's people *will be faithful* in supplying this third tithe in the appropriate year, we will not have to worry about the support of widows *who have need*. However, if some in God's Church *feel* it is not important to save back this third tithe and to contribute it for this support, there will not be sufficient funds for the church to provide where there is a genuine need. Brethren, if you have not faithfully saved your

third tithe, you *must BEGIN TO DO SO* in your third and sixth years *if you ever expect to receive God's blessings* and ultimately enter His Kingdom!

Remember the promise in Malachi 3 is that God will "open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Mal. 3:10). But it is only by being faithful to God's law that God can bless us richly. And our blessings then go to contribute to and help support the widows, fatherless and those who have a need and are eligible for it under the boundaries of God's law.

### To Sum It Up

Widows play a very active and im-

portant part in the Church of God. The Bible specifically gives many illustrations in the lives of widows. These examples show that there is much for a widow to do in God's Church. She is to be a teacher of the younger women and an example for them to follow. She is to serve and help physically in the Church wherever possible. And she is to direct her time to fasting and prayer so the entire Work of God can surge ahead as a result of the prayers of its members.

Through these means, a widow can and should feel she has a definite place in God's Church and in the soon-coming Kingdom of God. She, too, will reign and rule with Jesus Christ!

## Inspiring Church-College Growth

(Continued from page 6)

you brethren! For it vividly points out the crying *NEED* for more ministers, assistants and Local Elders throughout the churches and Bible studies *EVERYWHERE* around the world!

When you hear about the plans for our *third* Ambassador College near Big Sandy, Texas, and of the *building programs* and other growth on our other two campuses, realize *deeply* how *NEEDED* are the products of God's colleges. *PRAY* for the Ambassador Colleges! *PRAY* for the students—the instructors—the ministers—and for those conducting the *Building Program*!

Ask God's *blessing* and *guidance* and *inspiration* to be upon these activities which make possible the future *SERVICE* of so many hundreds of young people. They are training for the very *Work* of Jesus Christ!

*Obey* Jesus' command: "PRAY ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matt. 9:38).

### God's Church GROWS in West Texas!

After many years of patient waiting, the brethren in West Texas have recently been blessed with churches of their own! God finally rewarded their earnest prayers by starting two new churches—the *Amarillo* and *Odessa* Churches of God!

Last June, in answer to the growing

needs of the brethren in the Texas Panhandle, Mr. Roger Foster came down from Wichita to begin a monthly Bible study in Amarillo. At every meeting about 100 to 112 brethren attended, and more were baptized at a picnic in August. Later that same month, plans began to take shape for regular *churches* to be founded in West Texas. Mr. Kenneth Swisher, District Superintendent, came "out West" expecting to meet about 60 people for a Bible study and picnic. But to his surprise and joy *three times* that number—about 180—came from far and near! Mr. Swisher exhorted them to pray earnestly for a local church and assured them that when they really qualified for one, God would provide it.

By late summer, therefore, the decision came from Pasadena Headquarters that Mr. David Albert—at the time on a nation-wide baptizing tour—would be sent to West Texas to found these new churches. The first opportunity for the area brethren to meet together—just before the Feast of Tabernacles—was at the Feast of Trumpets. The combined attendance for the area was 224 for the Feast of Trumpets! Brethren came from Oklahoma and New Mexico as well as Texas, and expressed their gratitude for the services and the forthcoming local churches.

After the Feast, the first regular

*Sabbath services* were held. As stated above, Mr. David Albert was designated to be the new pastor of the churches to be started in West Texas. Mr. Albert was Vice President of the Student Body of Ambassador College in his senior year, and, after graduation, led a nationwide baptizing tour before marrying the former Miss Carol Judy. After marriage and a brief honeymoon, they headed straight for West Texas and began visiting, conducted the Holy Day services mentioned above, and after the Feast were there to take charge of the regular services for God's people in West Texas.

### Mr. David Albert's Report

Now let's hear the rest of the story in Mr. Albert's own words: "Once back [from the Feast], we had our first Sabbath services on October 12. Our first attendance in Amarillo still stands as the record—202! It was swollen by the ranks of the *Ambassador College Chorale* who sang joyfully at our first meeting. We were all thrilled to have them with us as we were just beginning. The enthusiasm and happiness they infused in the brethren gave us a real send-off. We only wish we could have them back again!

"The attendance at Odessa was 128 for our first Sabbath service. This figure has risen to nearly 160 on some occasions, with about 125 being the average attendance in both churches. Though not very large in comparison to some of God's Churches in larger cities, we have been blessed with a good, strong *start* in Amarillo and Odessa, and we expect *much growth* in the future!

"But recently came the most important area developments since the churches were established—*Spokesman Clubs!* As I write this, we have just finished our first regular meeting in Amarillo last night. In both clubs, we started with a good nucleus of nearly two dozen enthusiastic men. As usual, none were polished speakers yet but all the men are striving to fulfill the high purpose of the club—developing the *whole* personality, having true Christian fellowship, learning God's government in action, and growing in leadership and service.

"To those of you who already have

the blessing of a church in your area, we know you will rejoice *with us* and realize how much each of these blessings mean. And to those of you who do not as yet have a local church, we hope that this report will be a source of inspiration and encouragement. Knowing what it is like to be without one, we will continue to pray with you that God will send more laborers into His harvest (Matt. 9:38), and that you, too, will be blessed with a minister and church in *your* area soon!"

### Bringing God's HEADQUARTERS Close to the Field Churches

As Superintendent of Ministers in the United States, one of my personal jobs is to watch over this growth and progress which God is making possible in the churches and Bible studies throughout America. Working closely with Mr. Ted Armstrong, Mr. Albert Portune and others, I regularly read and study the ministerial reports from all over the nation, write the ministers about their plans and problems, and try to give them *guidance* and preserve the wonderful spiritual UNITY which Christ has made possible in this era of His Church.

With this in mind, some of us here on the administrative team at God's Headquarters will be flying out to visit the field churches from time to time. We hope to bring the members into *closer personal contact* and *acquaintance* with events and developments at God's Headquarters and in the *over-all* Work

of God around the earth, to develop an intimate working relationship with all of God's local ministers, and in every way to preserve and—if possible—even *increase* the UNITY which Christ has given us in His Church.

My wife and I have already made the first two of these "field church visits"—first to the Denver-Pueblo Church area, and more recently to the Dallas-Houston Church area.

Last Thanksgiving, we flew back to Denver where we were met at the airport by Mr. and Mrs. Burk McNair—the local pastor and his wife. After driving in from the airport and eating a quick snack in place of dinner, we immediately drove to the church meeting place to conduct the Wednesday night Bible study. There was a very enthusiastic crowd, and I was able to bring the brethren there much news from Headquarters in a personal way. Afterward, continuing till about midnight, I was able to help Mr. McNair solve some very difficult marriage and divorce problems which had been pending for some time.

Next day, Thanksgiving, we journeyed up to the church property near Lyons, Colorado, and were able to look over the entire property including a fine mountain home and out-buildings. We tried to get definite information on the salability of this property and make a personal report on this to Mr. Armstrong and our Business Manager upon returning.

That evening, we had a belated dinner and were joined by Mr. Bill Quil-

They waited a long time! Brethren meet for services at Amarillo, Texas.

Ambassador College Photo



len, the Local Elder, and his charming wife. We became very much better acquainted with them, and were also able to invite Mr. Quillen to stay in our home during his visit to Pasadena for the Ministerial Conferences.

Friday morning, we were able to visit a local real estate man and make a tentative listing for the sale of the church property. Immediately afterward, we began our journey south to Pueblo to conduct the Friday night Bible study there that evening. As in Denver, after the Pueblo study we were also kept up to nearly midnight discussing some very serious spiritual and marriage problems with certain church members.

But I would like to point out that having an Evangelist there from *Headquarters* was certainly a tremendous help in *each of these situations*.

Next morning, we conducted the Sabbath services in Pueblo, then jumped in the car and hurried north again to Denver to conduct the afternoon services there. We were greeted by an all-time record Denver church attendance of 351 smiling and enthusiastic brethren!

Once again, after the Denver services we were so busy with the brethren and their problems that we had no time to eat. We had to proceed directly to the meeting place for the Saturday night Denver Spokesman Club, where we conducted and evaluated the meeting.

Getting in bed for the third time in a row after midnight, we slept a little late the next morning, but were on the road by 10:00 a.m. south and east to La Junta, Colorado, for a combined Spokesman Club meeting with the two Denver clubs and the Liberal, Kansas club participating. This gave me an opportunity to see Mr. Roger Foster—pastor of the Wichita and Liberal Churches, and Mr. Ray Jantzen, Local Elder in Liberal, and to evaluate some of the leading men in both areas in their speeches and table topics comments.

After an enthusiastic meeting with a great deal of warm, personal visiting and fellowship afterward, we arrived home once again very late and got to bed some time around midnight. We caught a plane the next morning back to Pasadena and the busy routine of

classes to teach, articles to write, students to counsel, and administrative ministerial details from all over the nation to handle.

After this busy trip, my wife and I were certainly *tired*—but nevertheless *very happy* with the feeling that the trip to the Denver area had been *worthwhile* in many ways.

#### Visit to the Dallas-Houston Area

Then, just recently, we flew back to the Dallas-Houston church area where we were met by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Prince and Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Battles at the Dallas airport. Eating and visiting with them, discussing the growth, potentials and problems in the area, we were able to get a personal feeling regarding the situation in this major church area before services began the next morning.

Sabbath morning, I was privileged to speak to a record crowd in Dallas with 507 brethren in attendance! Following a brief but enthusiastic visiting period after services, we jumped in the car with Mr. and Mrs. Prince, local pastor of the area, and made the long drive to Houston for the afternoon services beginning there at 3:30 p.m.

In Houston also, we were greeted with a record attendance of 408 brethren! With the services beginning and ending late, we had time for only a brief snack following the services before attending the church social that night and becoming much better acquainted with the brethren in Houston.

Getting to bed about 1:00 a.m. following the church social we slept a little later the next morning but were able to talk with Mr. and Mrs. Prince about the area problems in Houston, and later that afternoon to spend time in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Martin, our Local Elder and his wife in the Houston area. Then, that evening, we attended a combined meeting of the Houston Spokesman Clubs and were able to hear many of the leading men in the area speak and comment, and therefore get much better acquainted with them.

Catching the plane the next morning for Pasadena and classes that very afternoon, we again had the feeling of being "tired but happy"—realizing that

we had a much *closer contact* with the brethren in the Dallas and Houston churches. We hoped that they, too, felt much closer to God's Headquarters and had received enough extra spark, encouragement and correction to make our visit completely worthwhile.

#### Pray for God's POWER and UNITY in His Work!

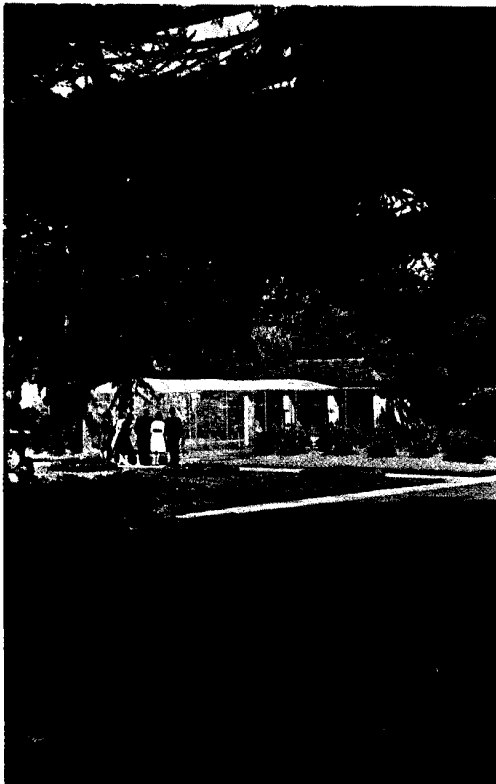
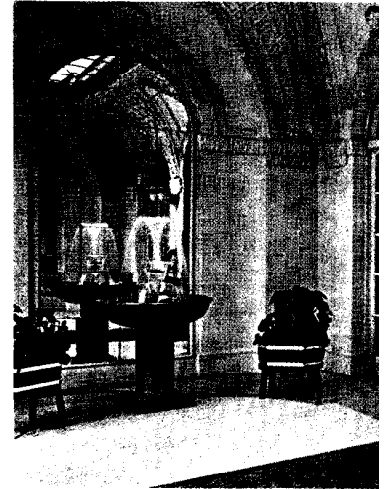
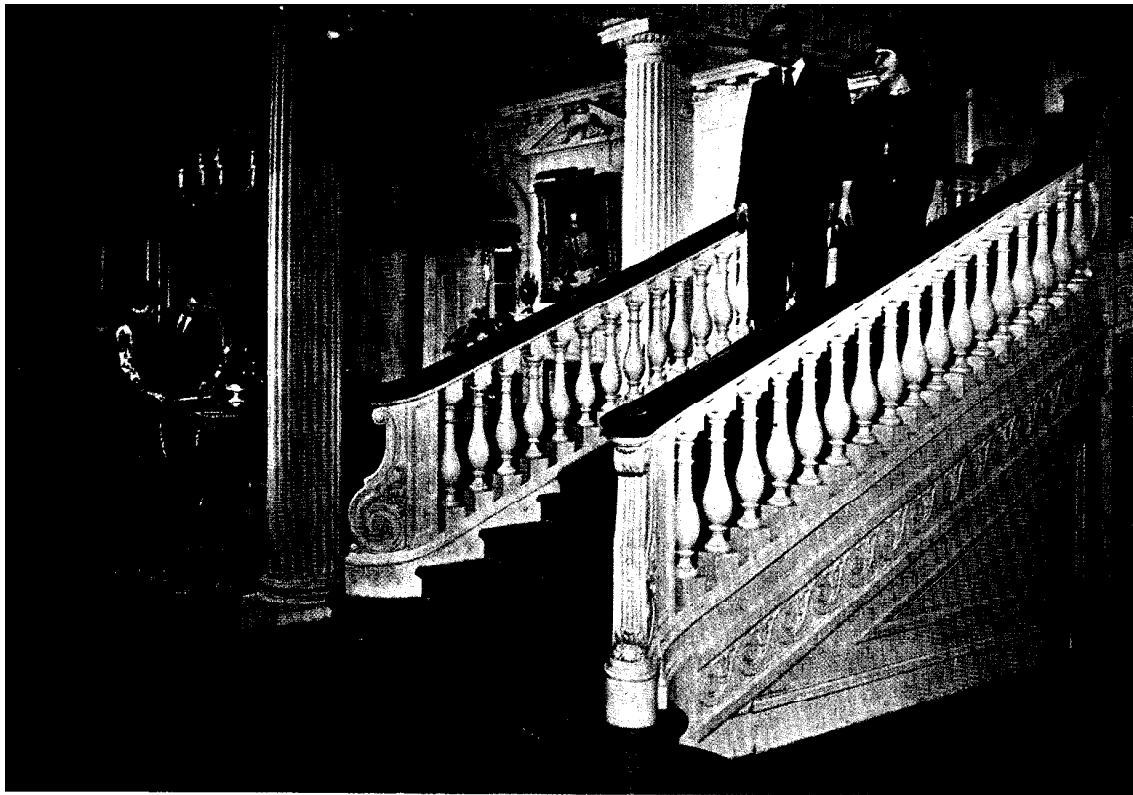
In the future, Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong, Mr. Albert J. Portune, Mr. David Jon Hill—Managing Editor of *The GOOD NEWS*—and some of our other leading Evangelists and Pastors from Headquarters may be making these flying "field church visits" for the purposes outlined above.

Perhaps my brief summarization of the purpose of these trips and what is involved may help all of you to *understand* and *look forward* to these visits. PRAY with all your hearts that God may help all of us to *love each other* more deeply than ever and continue *working together*, in harmony, as the "team" which God has chosen to do His Work in this age—the very *Body* of Jesus Christ.

Earnestly BESEECH God to send MORE LABORERS into His harvest that these new monthly and bi-monthly Bible studies may be turned into full-fledged churches meeting regularly *every Sabbath!* Ask our great God to *move* and *inspire* the young men and women in the Ambassador Colleges to completely GIVE themselves into His hands to use! Ask God to *move* and *prevail* on more older men of ability in all the local churches to *completely surrender themselves* into His hands to use as Deacons, Local Elders and dedicated LEADERS in each local area feeding the flock of God!

PRAY for God's direct *blessing* on the Building Program—and do *your part*—that the much-needed *facilities* for TRAINING the ministers and other personnel in God's Work may be built with speed and precision! Remember that we are STILL *very much in the "austerity year"!*

As a united "team," we must tighten our belts and DRIVE HARD and SACRIFICE that the commission Christ has given this era of His Church may truly be "*well done*" to His honor and glory!



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