

The

Good News

International Magazine of The Church of God



OCTOBER-NOVEMBER, 1966



More About Our Cover...

Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong is contemplating Petra's auditorium in this cover picture. Read Mr. Norman Smith's article, *WE FLED PETRA*, beginning on page 5, for the important thoughts that were coursing through both their minds — thoughts you brethren need to share!

(Letters to the Editor on page 14)

Mr. Garner T. Armstrong,
Executive Director,
Ambassador College,
P. O. Box 111,
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA, U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

As you may know, during the recent visit of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Armstrong to Australia, it was my pleasure to have associated with your folks and accompany them to Adelaide, Melbourne and Brisbane. I spent a good deal of time discussing your radio and future media planning in Australia with Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Wayne Cole and I am sure this has been most beneficial to all concerned.

I was aware that on leaving Australia, Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong were to meet up with you in the Holy Land and I rightly figured you would be preparing and recording a number of broadcasts for "The World Tomorrow" programme from that area.

You may recall copies of all your scripts come to me for checking prior to broadcast in Australia; I read all of them, not only to check and protect your organisation, but also because I find the subject matter of great personal interest.

May I say how absorbing I found your scripts on the Middle East and The Holy Land in particular.

Twenty-five years ago (during 1940/1941) I was a soldier fighting in World War II Campaigns in Libya, Syria and Greece, and, of course, travelled and crisscrossed over Egypt and many parts of the Holy Land.

Your well-written scripts have brought back some vivid memories to me, not the least being how we soldiers also were got at and cheated by the local population and how we were given incorrect and misleading information on the past history and situations relative to the Holy Land — as it was then, so it is now.

Do you know, Mr. Armstrong, to my knowledge, you are the first authoritative person who (pardon the expression) has had the "guts" to tell the World what a farce it is to be led along by the local professionals whose sole object is to wrongly commercialise and mislead people on the great past events of the Holy Land. Many informed people visit the area, but seem to be afraid to speak the truth about many of the sordid conditions which exist and it is most refreshing to have your authoritative and constructive comments.

I am sure amongst others, many thousands of returned soldiers, sailors and airmen in Australia who served in the Middle East Campaigns will follow this particular series of broadcasts with great interest. I trust my comments are of interest to you; any authoritative observations, such as yours, are of great interest to Australians. During the course of two World Wars, thousands of our men fought and died in the Middle East area and most of us are well aware it could happen again.

Handling your Radio assignments in Australia brings me into constant contact with Mr. Wayne Cole and his staff out here. To me, it is a very happy and pleasant association and we all get along very well together.

I trust you will be able to visit us again in the not too distant future. I know you have a very busy schedule, but nevertheless, I guess you will find time to fit in another trip to Sydney.

With best wishes and kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

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The Good News

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

October-November, 1966

Volume XV

Numbers 10-11

Published monthly at Pasadena, California
© 1966, by Radio Church of God

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

ARE YOU A SPIRITUAL DRONE?

Have you succumbed to today's WORLDWIDE SPIRIT OF COMPLACENCY? Are you letting down in your prayer and Bible study — not doing your part in supporting God's Work? Or, do you continually prod yourself — to make certain that you "bear much fruit"?

by Raymond F. McNair

RIGHT NOW God's Work is in a crisis! *Why* is it that the most important activity on earth should be in a financial bind?

Is this financial crisis the result of *laxity* on the part of the Co-workers? Or, more importantly, is the Work's present financial crisis primarily due to *spiritual lethargy* and let-down-ism on the part of many *members* of God's Church?

Recently, Mr. Armstrong mentioned that *more heartfelt prayer* by the entire Church is what is needed to get the Work of God in a better financial condition.

In 1948, when God's Work was in a very severe financial crisis, Mr. Armstrong, a few members and the students of Ambassador College (there were only seven) prayed and fasted. God heard and caused a veritable deluge of offerings to be sent in. This was a direct answer to prayer. The income usually dropped in December — especially during the Christmas season. But not in 1948!

How many of you baptized members have become *apathetic*? How many are letting down — in daily Bible study, in diligent, heartfelt prayers, in fasting? Are you one of the members who is failing to faithfully render to God His tithes (Mal. 3:8-12)? Or do you give stintingly — perhaps grudgingly — to God's Work, yet spend lavishly on yourself and your family?

Perhaps you are becoming weary in well doing. We are commanded: "And let us not be *weary in well doing*; for

in due season we shall reap, *if we faint not*" (Gal. 6:9).

Are you growing as you should in grace and knowledge? (II Pet. 3:18). Are you producing much fruit? Or are you a shirker — a *spiritual drone*? *You need to know!*

Common Complacency

Indolence, both individual and national, seems to be the universal affliction of our time. Spiritual and physical *sloth* are all too prevalent. Complacency is so commonplace. This is the chief reason for Britain's present terrible economic plight!

And some members — employed directly in God's Work — have had to be reproved for tardiness, indolence and lack of diligence.

Have you been infected by *this worldwide spirit of apathy*? Yes — all too many have! This is why many in God's Church are not growing as they should. Because of spiritual complacency, they are being overcome by the lusts of the flesh, by the world and by Satan! This spiritual slothfulness prevents them from really overcoming their sins and faults.

Spiritually weak members cannot produce the fruit which God requires of them. These *spiritual drones* are not doing their part in helping to carry the load which Jesus Christ, the Living Head of His Church, has put on the shoulders of His people today.

Are you one of these spiritual drones? Are you failing to do your

part? Failing to pull your weight in God's Work? Failing to produce the fruit which will be rewarded by everlasting life, joy and service in the Kingdom of God?

The Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, want every Christian to be diligent — to bear "much fruit" (John 15:5, 8).

Prod Yourself!

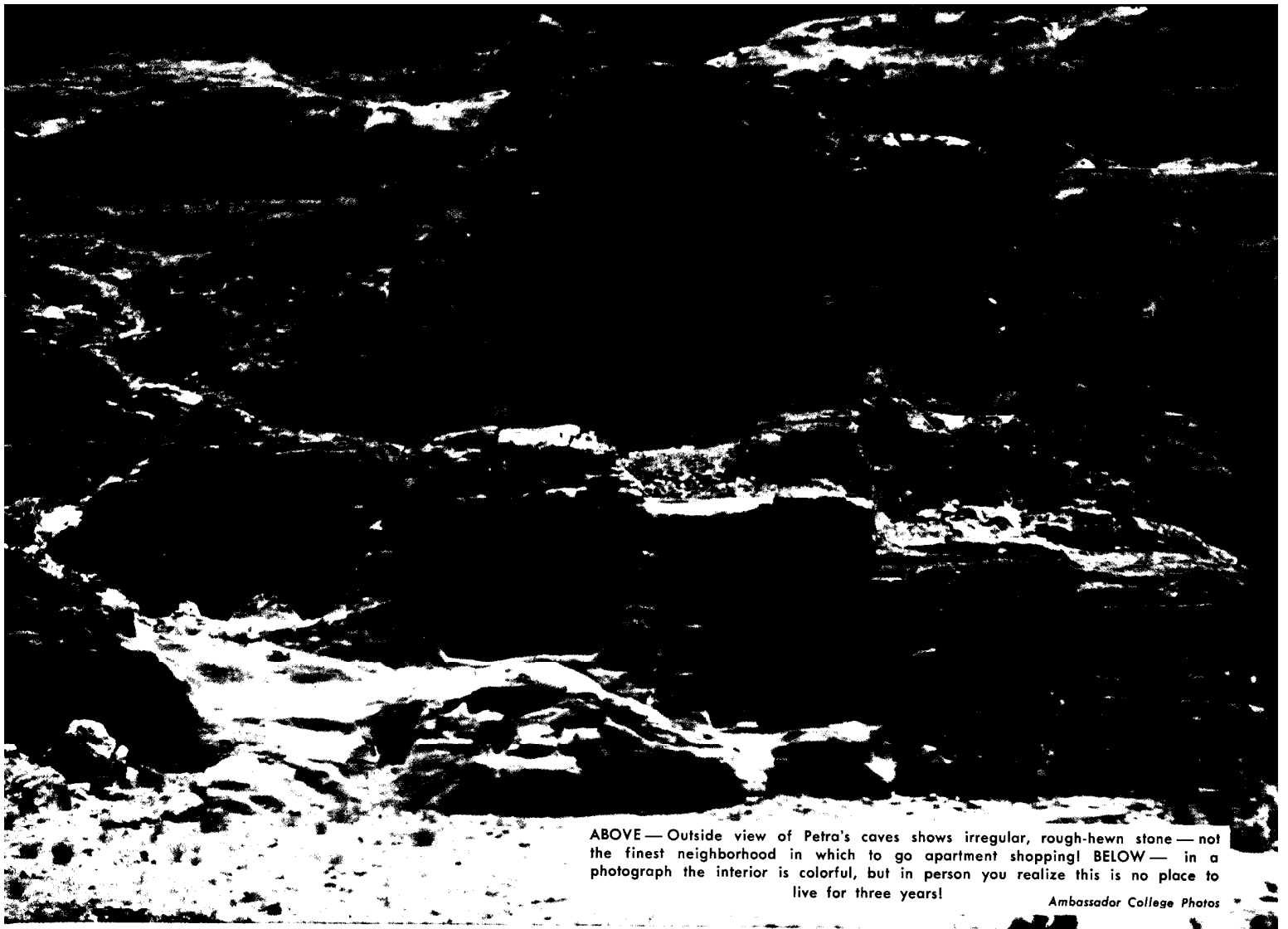
Many in God's Church need to prod themselves. Mr. Armstrong, who is often in his office *early* in the morning, has mentioned that it has been necessary, at times, for him to put a prod on himself in order to produce as much as possible.

I, too, have had to do this. For years I have deliberately scheduled the classes which I teach at 8:00 a.m. to make sure I got to work early. This is not always *easy* to do — especially when we ministers are often up till beyond midnight — writing articles, preparing classes, visiting with members, ministers, or students or interested radio listeners, anointing the sick and looking after other facets of God's Work!

Christ's attitude toward *spiritual barrenness* is clearly revealed in the parable of the fig tree.

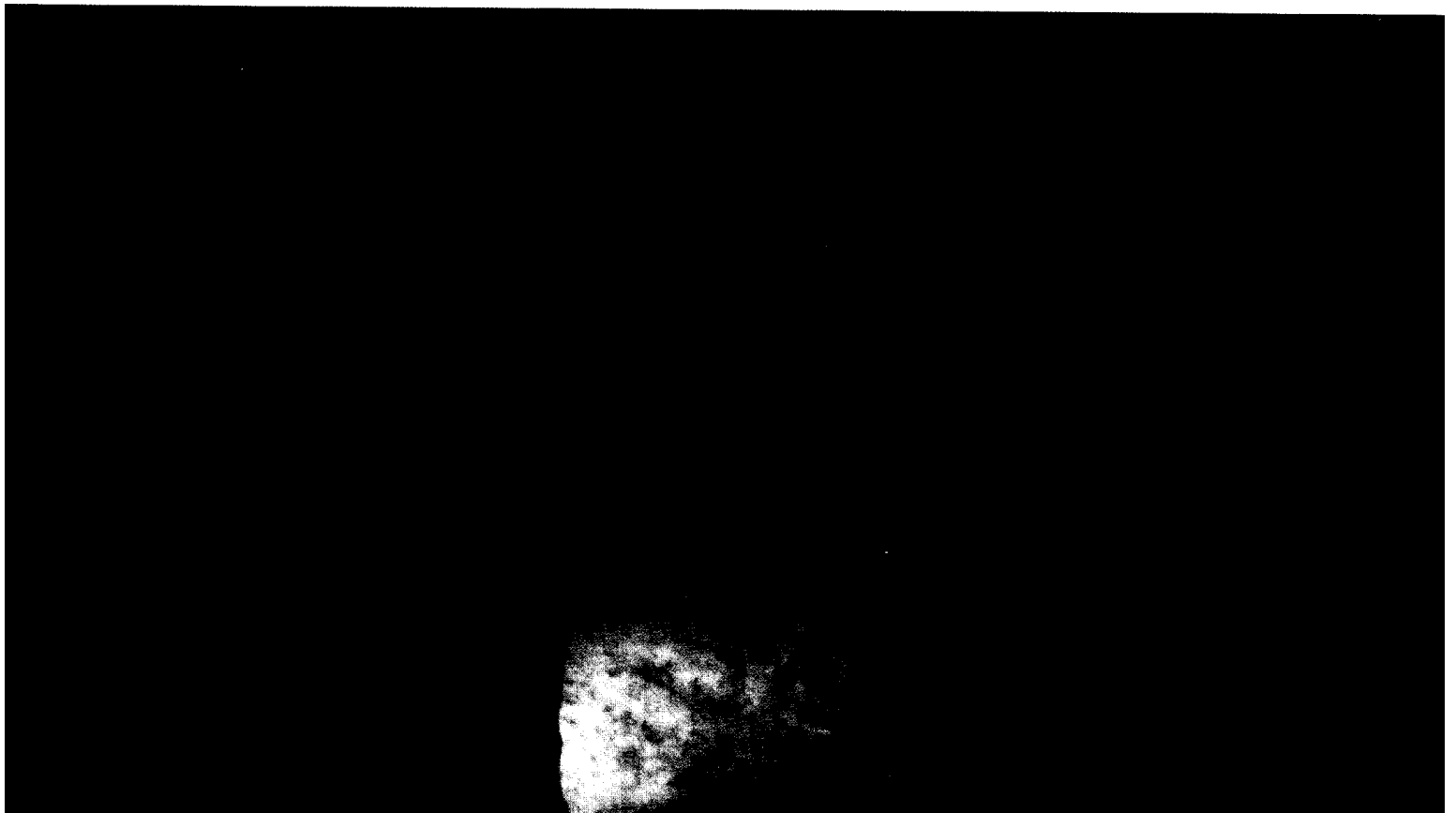
"A certain man had a *fig tree* planted in his vineyard; and he came and *sought fruit thereon*, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come *seeking fruit* on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth

(Continued on page 17)



ABOVE— Outside view of Petra's caves shows irregular, rough-hewn stone — not the finest neighborhood in which to go apartment shopping! BELOW — in a photograph the interior is colorful, but in person you realize this is no place to live for three years!

Ambassador College Photos



WE FLED PETRA!

What should your attitude toward Petra be? What is it like there? Here is an eyewitness report from the Director of the Radio Studio and Evangelist rank minister.

by Norman A. Smith

“WE’RE GOING TO PETRA!” Electrifying words, those. Where will you be when you hear them? What will be your attitude? Will you be ready? Or will *you* ever hear those words?

Our schedule called for a trip to Petra on Thursday, April 28th. As you have heard on the broadcast and read in *The PLAIN TRUTH* we were delayed a day in Lebanon in order that we might arrive at the airport in Amman just at the time of the Royal send-off of some of the Arab Sheiks by King Hussein.

Jerusalem

After clearing customs at the Amman Airport our party was divided up into several different taxis for the journey to Jerusalem. Each taxi was already partially filled with other groups so we had to split up to fill the remaining spaces in each taxi. It was a noisy ride to Jerusalem. The cars were quiet enough—’65 or ’66 Dodges and Plymouths. It was the drivers and their proclivity to blow their horns at any and everything that happened to be on or alongside of the road that caused the problem.

On the outskirts of Jerusalem we approached a sign in bold black letters “NO SOUNDING OF THE HORN WITHIN CITY LIMITS.” I thought, “That’s great. What a relief.” To my amazement the driver gave two or three blasts of the horn to show his contempt for the sign and proceeded to sound off more frequently as the traffic thickened. You heard the din of horn blowing on one of the programs made in Jerusalem. I soon surmised that the lowest indignity you could heap upon an Arab taxi driver would be to clip his horn wire. He would be utterly frustrated.

Mr. Armstrong had had enough of guides and taxi drivers for a while; therefore, our first move after checking

in at the Intercontinental Hotel was to rent a couple of Volkswagens for the trip to Petra the following day, Friday. Thursday afternoon we made a trial run with the VW’s from the Mt. of Olives across the brook Kidron (it’s dry now of course) up the other side of the Kidron Valley into the Old City of Jerusalem where we viewed The Dome of the Rock, The Wailing Wall as well as plenty of other dark cavernous walls, streets and hovels that somebody needs to wail over. After coming out of the squalor of Old Jerusalem into the late afternoon sunshine again it was like meeting a long lost friend to find our VW’s waiting for us.

Back at the hotel Mr. Hunting arranged for box lunches, water, etc., for the next day’s outing. Petra and return is an all-day trip from Jerusalem. About 205 miles each way. We wanted to leave early in order to return before the Sabbath, so Mr. Hunting arranged for a 4:30 a.m. breakfast at the Coffee Shop or so he thought. He arranged it all right but we hadn’t yet learned that those Arabs are a disarranged people and the Coffee Shop boy was not about to get up at 4:30 a.m. to accommodate a few American tourists.

Nobody was in the Coffee Shop when we arrived the following morning. Fortunately it was not locked and with the cooperation of the desk clerk we were able to find some hot water and a few slices of bread — some butter, too, I believe. Lyle Christopherson had brought a jar of instant coffee with him. We had bread and instant coffee for breakfast. We *did* find the lunches had been prepared and were ready. There was no water, however — none that we would dare drink, anyhow. We raided the cooler in the Coffee Shop and came up with assorted bottles of beer and Pepsi-Cola. These were placed in a wooden crate. No ice. This would enable

us to withstand the desert heat, we hoped. We had no false illusions about the tantalizing *taste* of warm beer or Pepsi-Cola.

After stowing our camera equipment, refreshments, etc., under the hood, bonnet, mouth, or whatever you call it, of the Volkswagens, we were off to Petra. Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong and Lyle Christopherson in one; with my wife Charlene and I and Mr. Hunting in the other. Mrs. Hunting was battling the Jordanian plague and remained behind to rest.

On the Desert Highway

I believe it was about 5:30 a.m. when we departed on the wide, divided 4-lane boulevard leading east toward Amman. At the edge of Jerusalem the highway is no longer divided however. We soon began the winding descent around and down the canyons that slope off rather quickly from Jerusalem, elevation 2500 ft. to the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea, elevation 1286 ft. *below* sea level. Before turning south to Petra you must descend into the Jordan Valley, come back up out of it again and continue east-northeast almost to Amman before cutting south on the plateau east of the Jordan via the Desert Highway.

The Desert Highway today is a wide 2-lane blacktop strip in fine condition built with American dollars and assistance a few years ago. It was still early and relatively cool as we headed south on the high plains — approximately 2500 ft. elevation. The terrain was relatively barren except for a few spots of green at water holes, but we could imagine what this country must have been like with knee-high grass waving in the breeze when the tribe of Reuben (Numbers 32) gazed upon it and decided this was the place for their cattle.

Soon the sun rose higher and hotter.

Mr. Armstrong flashed his lights and gave the signal for the first stop. It was still early but we figured why not have a drink before it gets hot. During this and subsequent stops several of those new Plymouths and Dodges passed us. We wondered where everybody was going. We soon found out.

Nowhere have I ever driven through country so devoid of vegetation of any kind. One hundred miles or so and no sign of a tree. After the rest stop Mr. Armstrong pulled out in front and there was nothing to look at but his license number, 26040. "That adds up to 12. We'll have to tell Mr. Waterhouse. Wonder what mine is. Say, they put the license number on the key chain don't they? There it is, 13564. That adds up to 19!" Well, anyway, so much for that. I suppose it had to add up to something, but at the time it seemed interesting. Except for an occasional camel or a few goats there wasn't anything else to think about.

Nearing Petra

Finally we approached Ma'an. Here we added gasoline or petrol. The turnoff to Petra was only a few kilometers farther. Leaving the main highway which continues to the Gulf of Aqaba we began a climb back to the west on a one-lane paved road. This road soon reaches an elevation of 5,000 ft. according to an ONC Air Navigation chart of the area and then drops back into a valley where the village of Wadi Musa is located.

The descent continues slightly until you approach the "jumping off" place for Petra. Petra itself is apparently between two and three thousand feet above sea level. At the "end of the road" they have recently added a building called The Petra Rest House. In front of The Petra Rest House were several automobiles with numerous tourists milling around not quite sure where they were nor what was what, all the while being harassed and befuddled by numerous Bedouin peddlers.

As soon as we got out of the car the Bedouins swarmed around us. They attempted to force their wares upon us. A knife, a scarf, a turban, a piece of rock, a Roman coin or whatever else they had was being offered. We prob-

ably said "No thank you" in various forms, intensities and inflections 15 or 20 times in the next few minutes, all the while turning around, walking away sideways or backwards or doing whatever we could to shake them off. Eventually they either gave up or some fresh prospects arrived and we were able to think again. If I ever go back and take the recorder along I think I'll put a tape on that just says, "No thank you, I don't want any — No thank you, I don't want any — No thank you, I don't want any . . ."

To try to take pictures, to try to operate a camera, a tape recorder or anything else with somebody over your shoulder looking down your neck and trying to jam a knife in your side not because they want to stick you with it but because they want to sell it to you—is *distracting*.

While we were getting organized several large buses of Arab students apparently, rolled up from somewhere. Whether this was their annual field trip or an everyday occurrence I don't know. Next I heard a clinking sound of glass bottles banging together. The Nchi Express was passing through on its way to Petra. There were 4 donkeys each loaded

with five 24-bottle cases of orange pop or Pepsi-Cola, 480 bottles in all. As the donkeys bounced along the bottles clinked and clanked. Ferde Grofé should have heard it.

From this point the trip to Petra through the Siq was reported as 5 kilometers, approximately 3 miles. Since they had horses for rent the distance may have been slightly exaggerated. Mr. Armstrong arranged for horses for himself, his wife, my wife and Lyle. Mr. Hunting who was suffering from the effects of Jordanian food chose to suffer it out at the Rest House. He had been to Petra previously. I had the 16mm movie camera. If you've seen movies taken from horseback you'll know why I decided to walk.

We then proceeded down the trail which gradually narrowed into the Siq. Soon we were within the narrow red rock canyon. The width in most places is at least 6 to 10 feet with the rock wall ascending vertically two or three hundred feet. At least the Siq was shady and not so hot as the desert outside had been. As we approached the mouth of the Siq our cameras were clicking, capturing the classic Petra photograph of

(Continued on page 23)



Ambassador College Photo

At the first stop, Mr. Norman Smith stretches his long legs and checks things over.

WHY THE PHILIPPINES?

The Work of God continues to grow rapidly throughout the world. One of the fastest growing areas is the Philippines. Why has God chosen this particular nation in which to raise up and prosper His Work in Asia? Here is the fascinating answer.

by Arthur Docken

Manila, The Philippines

CURVING gracefully across the blue China Sea like a string of pearls, lie the 7,000 beautiful volcanic islands that comprise the Philippine archipelago.

Over 50,000 PLAIN TRUTH magazines are mailed to the Philippine Islands every month! Because of *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast and monthly ads in a national magazine, the *Philippines Free Press*, this figure has been increasing at a rate well over thirty percent per year.

Jesus Christ, the living Head of this Church, promised that doors would be opened to His disciples so that His message—the Good News of God's coming Kingdom—could be preached to all the world and published among all nations. But why was a door opened to us in this particular nation of Southeast Asia? Only by understanding the Philippines can we understand God's reasons for opening His Work there.

Historical Background

When discovered by Magellan in 1521, the islands were already inhabited by natives of Asiatic stock, mostly Malayan. Magellan was killed here when he became involved in a local power struggle between warring tribes. Those power struggles still exist!

In 1565 the islands were subjugated by the Spanish, and Manila was founded in 1571. It was the Spanish who named the islands after their king, Philip II.

Spain dominated the Philippines for the next 350 years and the Roman Catholic Church established many missions and schools. The Spanish-Catholic rule was strict and cruel, and often the natives tried to rise up against them. The revolt was always quelled, and

many natives lost their lives in the struggle.

Finally Germany became interested in the Philippines. They negotiated with Spain, and actually made arrangements with Spain to purchase the islands. But before anything definite could be done, the transaction was cut short by the Spanish-American War in 1897. God was beginning to set the stage for the final days of this Work!

The United States navy, under the command of Commodore Dewey struck the Spanish fleet a deathblow in Manila Bay in 1897 and this was instrumental in the overthrow of Spanish rule of the Philippine islands. The United States paid Spain \$20,000,000 for the islands and they came under American jurisdiction.

The American rule was different from that of Spain. As they ruled, they also worked to develop a Filipino government. This government was based on that of the U. S. and used a monetary system identical to that of the U. S. dollar. It was the desire of the United States to turn control of the Philippine Islands over to the Filipinos as soon as they could rule themselves. Also, the United States allowed missionaries of many different religions to come to the islands thus ending the Roman Catholic monopoly of religion here.

The Republic of the Philippines was formally inaugurated on July 4, 1946. Independence at last! But independence did not mean freedom—nor did it really mean freedom from dependency upon the United States. The ravages of war and the weakened condition of the country's economy was too great a burden to bear alone.

Independence did not bring the expected and desired peace and prosper-

ity to the Philippines. Problems of survival sapped the strength of the new nation that had never known true independence. Peace was still a long way off.

In 1950 the Philippine government requested the United States to send an Economic Survey Mission to the Philippines to study and make recommendations on the economy of the country. The mission uncovered corruption, inefficiencies, injustices and economic backwardness. They recommended far-reaching reforms that were necessary to bring about stability in the government and the economy, but today, sixteen years later, the picture is little changed. The corruption is worse than ever and economically the Philippines continues to stagger. President Marcos in his inaugural address last January told the nation that the government was going in debt at the rate of three million pesos a day (\$750,000)! Inefficiencies are still tying up government and business in hopeless tangles of red tape. Some courts are clogged with hundreds of cases that will take years to handle at the present rate. Even so, many courts meet for only three or four hours a day. The Philippine government is still in trouble.

The Crime Picture

Crime is a way of life. Smuggling is taken for granted in spite of a concentrated government drive to stamp it out. The anti-smuggling program is hampered by the fact that many officials, army, navy and police officers are apparently involved in the smuggling operation. These officials, underpaid, feel they have to go into crime to make ends meet. The government, going further in debt every day, is unable to pay any more and because of the smug-

gling operations they figure they are losing over five hundred million pesos a year in unpaid custom revenues alone.

A crime syndicate called the *Octopus* has great power and controls many local government officials, and indeed whole communities. A government task force has been set up especially to combat this organization, but although arrests are made weekly there seems to be no end of members of the gigantic "octopus" that has a stranglehold on the nation.

Robbery has always been prevalent, but recently well-planned and executed jobs have been taking place with uncomfortable regularity. Only recently a daring daylight robbery took place just two blocks from our offices. Although the police were tipped off and surrounded the building *during* the hold-up, all members of the gang mysteriously and miraculously escaped.

One of our office staff was robbed of a watch and money at the Manila post office when he went to pick up mail on one of the many religious holidays.

All office buildings are forced to have their own private guard detachments on duty 24 hours a day as a result of the high crime rate. Some manufacturing plants have guard towers and barbed wire fences making them look like prison compounds, and workers are searched as they leave the plant in the evening. All guards carry pistols and often they carry other, more powerful weapons such as sawed-off shotguns, carbines or submachine guns.

Many congressmen have their own bodyguards to protect them from their political rivals, and the weapons issued to the bodyguards come from the government! Is it any wonder then, with men in high office resorting to such tactics, that crime and violence are taken for granted in the Philippines?

The Agriculture Problem

Rice is the staple of the Filipino diet. It is eaten three times a day by most Filipinos and takes the place of bread, potatoes, cereals and most vegetables on the Filipino dinner table. Rice and fish is the normal menu for breakfast, lunch and dinner. All of Asia grows and eats rice as it has for centuries past.

Long a rice exporter, the Philippines is now forced to import rice. The ironic thing about it is that it is becoming increasingly difficult to purchase rice from the other rice-producing countries in the area. The Filipinos have imported rice from the United States, but generally the price is too high for them to pay and most of the other rice producers are having difficulty producing enough for themselves. The continuing population explosion is draining off all surplus, and rice production lags further and further behind.

The Philippine population is growing at the rate of 3,000 per day (or 3.2 percent per year—one of the highest in the world) and every day brings them closer to a real crisis. It is estimated that by 1980 all available farmland will have been exhausted—if things should continue as they are going now, which we know will not happen. The officials don't want to think about what will happen that far in the future. But of course they will have to face the horrifying facts much sooner than that, especially if the present drought conditions continue.

Philippine Religion

Many religions have become established here. Because of the 350 years of Spanish rule by far the largest group is the Roman Catholic Church encompassing over 90 percent of the population. It is a Catholic country with the government controlled by Catholics and the nation observing all Catholic holidays.

The religion, however, is mixed with local traditions and mysticism inherited from other oriental religions such as Hindu and Moslem. One interesting celebration is John the Baptist Day when fun-loving Catholics "baptize" unsuspecting pedestrians by throwing buckets of water on them.

It is here in the Philippines that the practice of being nailed to a cross at Easter time is found. Not widely practiced, the ritual is often scorned by the public and condemned by the church, but every year at least one zealous religionist allows himself to be pinned to a wooden cross by nails through his hands.

Flagellation, the cutting and beating

of the body to take upon the individual the supposed same sufferings as Christ endured, is still practiced in rural areas and the streets are red with the blood of these "devout."

Candlelight or torchlight processions are also an important aspect of the Filipino's religious life. Usually these revolve around a statue of one of their favorite saints, such as Santo Niño or the Black Nazarene, and generally, beautiful girls dressed in flowing white robes are an integral part of the procession. They adore their statues and hold city-wide celebrations on the statue's special day.

Mysticism and mystery are found everywhere. Strange lights illuminate statues of the "virgin Mary" and the superstitious natives flock to these strange occurrences. Young girls seem to be imbued with healing powers or other spiritual gifts.

Attitude Toward Americans

Although the number may be dwindling, there are still thousands of Americans living here. Some have been here most of their lives and call it home. American children are born here, educated and eventually go into business here. Thousands of American servicemen are stationed at several naval and air force bases located in the Philippines.

The Filipinos seem to love the American, and the familiar greeting, "Hi, Joe!" is still heard from the children. But there is a fresh breeze of anti-Americanism that is stirring up a dust cloud of resentment which will probably lead to a general feeling of distrust and eventual ill-will toward Americans. There is a steady diet of criticism aimed at the American foreign policy and U. S. relations with the Southeast Asian countries in particular—especially the war in Viet Nam. Although the Philippines is sending a contingent of non-combatant engineers to Viet Nam, and officially the government of the Philippines backs up the U. S. war efforts, influential columnists and congressmen are pouring out a daily tirade against Americanism and Americans in general. They criticize American customs, music, motion pictures, and the famous American hypocrisy as well as its government.

American military might is once again in evidence here since the war in Viet Nam has grown to such proportions. The Philippines is an ideal depot and base for many of the units fighting in Viet Nam. There are several air and naval bases here, and that means many servicemen as well as civilian employees. Sailors on shore leave are seen constantly as ships return from the fighting to refuel and replenish their stores.

With the American military and civilian population in the Philippines the United States is well represented and exerts a strong influence on the Filipino economy as a result. Without Americans here the country would continue, but their absence would be felt in many levels of business and government. Many Americans are in executive positions in business and all Americans purchase food, clothing and appliances here — they rent homes for highly inflated prices — they pay taxes to the Philippine government. The Filipinos would be sorry to see the Americans leave but this feeling could change rapidly of course.

God's Work in the Philippines

So much for the Philippine background. What about God's Work here? As long ago as 1948, *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine was coming to the Philippines, perhaps carried by Americans or sent to Filipino missionaries. In 1957, Headquarters received a letter from a man by the name of Pedro Ortiguero who said he was a minister in the Church of God (Sardis church) and was interested now in the Radio Church of God. Correspondence followed and in 1958 Mr. Ortiguero broke all ties with his former church and became the representative of the Radio Church of God in the Philippines. Mr. Waterhouse visited Mr. Ortiguero in November of 1958, and could see the potential here.

More and more requests for the literature came from the Philippines, and finally in 1961, after Mr. Ortiguero had attended the ministerial conference at Pasadena, Mr. Waterhouse and Mr. Portune made a trip to the Philippines to survey the situation and study the possibility of opening an office here. What they found was discouraging, but

as the Work continued to grow, the Philippine office was established by Mr. Waterhouse in 1962. In early 1963, Mr. Guy Ames was transferred to the Philippine office from Headquarters. Ads were run in the *Philippines Free Press*, and the mailing list grew even faster. Many were being baptized, and by the spring of 1964, a regular Bible study was established with 16 attending.

Mr. and Mrs. Ames were returned to Headquarters in August 1965, so that he could complete his training and Mrs. Docken and I were transferred here. On September 25, 1965, the first church service in Manila was held, and the first Spokesman Club was formed a week later.

Meanwhile, on the island of Mindanao, another group was being called by God. Several other ministers of the Sardis church were beginning to understand more truth than they had received in their previous church, and they guided their followers into this new truth in the Radio Church of God.

Mindanao is a virgin territory. Only in recent years has the government opened the land for development and homesteading. Some of the church leaders in that area obtained a large tract of land from the government and started a regular community based on God's teachings. Not having a trained leader from Headquarters, they made mistakes but they continued to grow and develop. They have since built a large tabernacle for services, and often over 500 attend services there. The language is generally a local dialect called Visayan (Cebuano) but some can speak English. During a recent trip down there to investigate the drought and famine that they were suffering, I had a wonderful opportunity to meet the brethren and see the country firsthand.

The climate is very much like that of Southern California. Gently rolling fields, broad valleys and lushly covered mountains make it a beautiful country. The rich soil supports a wide variety of fruits and vegetables. I saw pineapples, corn, mangoes, rice, bananas, and many other crops being grown commercially. There are vast acres of neatly planted pineapple plantations that are really beautiful viewed from the air.

Although the people in Mindanao do not have the close direction of Headquarters-trained personnel as do the people in Manila, they are nevertheless growing and developing into a stronger church area.

Why the Philippines?

The Work has continued to grow throughout the Philippine Islands. Over 100 attend services in Manila every week, and 161 showed up for the Feast of Unleavened Bread this spring. Growth, yes. But why here in the Philippines? Why not Japan or even British-influenced Hong Kong?

With the background we now have, it is quite simple to see the reasons God has chosen the Philippines to be the center of the Work in Southeast Asia.

One: Exposed to Western Religion

The Philippines have had an exposure to or familiarity with God's Word, the Bible, in a way no other oriental country has. The Spanish introduced their "Christianity" over 400 years ago, and the Filipinos are therefore familiar with the name of Jesus Christ and some of His teachings. Missionaries have been to China, Japan and other countries in this corner of the world, but because of the vastness of the countries and their firmly established state religions Christianity had little influence in these other countries. But Spain ruled the Philippines, and they forced the people to observe their religion. Because of this influence, the Spanish religion, Roman Catholicism, remains today as the state religion of the Philippines. While this is not the true religion, it nevertheless has given the Filipinos an introduction to God's Word, and has helped make God's Work here less conspicuous. As Christianity was considered just another Jewish sect during the apostolic days of the church, so here today, as in many other parts of the world, God's true Church is looked upon as just another Christian sect. This helps avoid much persecution that might otherwise be experienced. Although eventually we will be persecuted by the Catholic Church, there is still enough ecumenical spirit and a desire to avoid religious persecution on their

part that we operate in complete freedom here in a dominantly Catholic community.

Two: Freedom of Speech

The second major reason God has established His church in the Philippines is the freedom of speech enjoyed here. Israel has had a powerful influence on the Filipinos for the past 50 years. If Spain still ruled the land, there would be little chance to broadcast *The World Tomorrow* program, or advertise in the national magazines. Spaniards are just not that tolerant. American policy has always been to allow complete freedom of speech. This American philosophy has been adopted by the Filipinos. The Spanish are not tolerant — if they had remained in authority any longer than they did, their influence would still be felt here even if they did not rule. But the Filipinos believe in freedom of speech, just as Americans do, and while that results in some anti-American comments in the papers it also allows the Work of God to preach and publish the truth. As long as we have freedom of speech we can continue this Work. This could not

be done in China, Indonesia or any other country in the area, at least not for long.

Three: Widespread Use of English

The third reason God chose the Philippines is the large number of English-speaking Filipinos. This is also due to American influence in the islands. For a while there was even talk of making the Philippines one of the States of the United States of America. Just as Spain required Spanish to be taught and spoken when they ruled, so America introduced English in the schools when they took over. The Spanish influence was felt long after the Spanish left, and Spanish continued to be used in the courts until 1930, but English was made the official language in 1913, and was taught in the schools. Today there are at least eighty-seven dialects and languages spoken throughout the archipelago! About forty-nine percent of the people know English although it is often difficult to understand because of the accent. They read it well, however.

Tagalog, the official language, is

being taught in most schools. Very recently some public meetings have been conducted in Tagalog and this year the graduation ceremonies of some of the schools were conducted all in Tagalog. But Congress and most governmental activities are conducted in English, the largest circulation newspapers and magazines are published in English. But Tagalog is being pushed. Stop signs say, "Hinto" instead of "Stop" and "Lakad" instead of "Go." Many signs use both English and Tagalog, but the English words are painted out as people become familiar with the Tagalog.

Because almost half of the Filipinos speak English, nearly as many as speak Tagalog, it is simple for us to use our present English language broadcasts and literature without having to translate into many dialects. Some church groups have large staffs trying to translate the Bible into the dialects, but by using English we reach almost as many people as we could if we used Tagalog. Generally the English-speaking people are more educated than those speaking *only* the native dialects. True, they do have a little difficulty understanding English, but those that God is calling are learning and growing in spite of this slight handicap. If the church were to grow any faster it would be difficult to handle the increase. God is calling people who can understand and are willing to learn. The church is growing and the members are growing, proof that English is the language God is working with now. No other country in this corner of the globe has such a large percentage of English-speaking people.

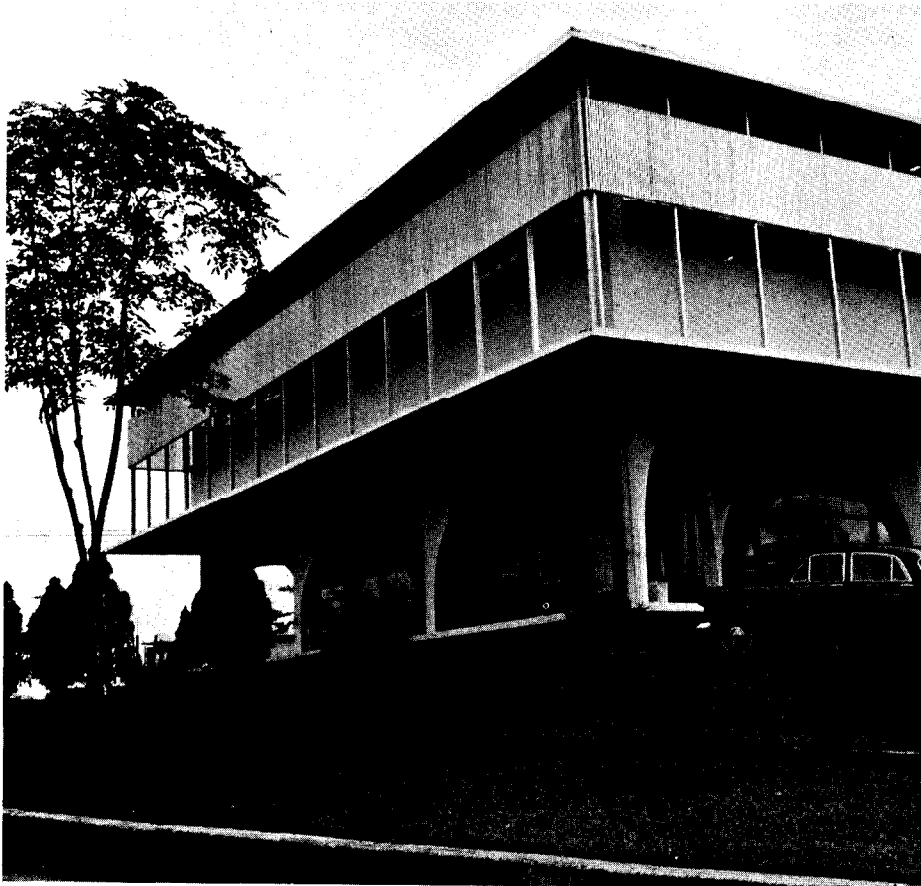
Four: Good Followers

The natural ability of the Filipino people to follow will be used by God to great advantage in the Church today, and in His government in the World Tomorrow. The people will follow those in authority and are obedient to them once they are converted. For this reason God has chosen the Filipinos to be His people today in the Far East. He knows that they will submit to authority readily and obey that authority. They have been trained to submit to authority during 400 years of foreign rule. Unconverted, they will often stick



First Philippine Feast of Tabernacles at Kiara, Mindanao.

Ambassador College Photo



Ambassador College Photo

The Philippine Office fills a suite of rooms on the top floor of this fine building.

tenaciously to the letter of the law, and fail to keep the spirit of the law. But once God has called them and they become converted, understanding the spirit of the law as well, they readily submit to authority. The attitude of the Filipino people is really an inspiration, and it seems certain God considered this outstanding trait when He chose the Filipinos today. They are meek, humble, courteous and friendly as well.

They are especially receptive to American influence, and the Filipino is familiar with American habits and American ways. In fact the Filipino is very much like the American and enjoys American products, movies, music and Americans in general. The hostility and suspicion of most Asiatics toward Americans and Westerners in general is not as strong here — at least not yet. Often they will trust an American where they will not trust their own people. If an American says something they will usually accept it, and as a result those that God is calling accept the authority of the church more readily than other Asian peoples might.

Five: Poor Reputation

Strangely, the reputation — what other nations think of the Filipino — is also a factor God considered when choosing this particular people. In this part of the globe Filipinos are looked down upon by other nationalities. During World War II the Japanese showed little mercy on the Filipinos, calling them monkeys and treating them as if they were. Thousands of them died at the hands of the merciless Japanese military, and they still fear and distrust the Japanese to this day. Although Japan is making overtures of friendship for mutual economic development, there is little reason to believe the Japanese have acquired a real love and respect for the Filipino since the war.

The Chinese are also aggressive and would like nothing better than to take over the rice paddies and cornfields of the Philippines. Indonesia is the same. All look to the Philippines as their natural prey because they have no respect for the Filipino and they covet his land.

This disrespect and derision is one

reason God has chosen the Philippines to carry on His end-time Work here in the Orient. Here, the people are learning to obey their Creator, the God of Israel. In the World Tomorrow they will be used as a showcase to other Asiatic countries, including Russia. When these countries see the blessings being experienced by the Filipinos whom they have always felt unable to produce for themselves and unworthy of special blessings, they will naturally want to know how they too can prosper. They will be told in response to their queries that the blessings come because of obedience to the Laws of the God of Israel. The Filipinos will then proceed to teach the other nations of the Far East how to live, GOD'S WAY.

One of the most hated and disesteemed nations of Southeast Asia, the Philippines will then be a respected leader used to teach God's truth to a war-weary Orient during the Millennium. God will truly use the "weak" to confound the "strong."

Six: Similar to America

In spite of Government inefficiencies and other problems, it is still comparatively easy to do business here. The mails are reasonably efficient (although often slow) and regulations are lenient for our type of work. Business transactions and modern banking are necessary to God's Work. Here in the Philippines we have business and banking methods as well as a monetary system almost identical to that of America. For these reasons it is very easy for an American to come into the country and transact the Work of God without having to learn new systems and monetary units. Housing, food and clothing are on a par with what can be purchased in the United States. Most American foods are available here for quite reasonable prices considering the distances involved. In many ways the Philippines is not a "foreign country" to Americans but a miniature U. S. Some of the Filipinos even jokingly call themselves "little brown Americans." God's Filipino people can see the example and enjoy the blessings of Israel and understand what God's blessings mean to them in a physical way here and now. We can

(Continued on page 21)

Why Do You Want to Be In God's Kingdom?

Why were you called? What progress are you making toward qualifying for your ultimate job? What does God expect of the lay member in His Church? Just how do you measure up?—don't take it for granted. Read this article before it's too late!

by Richard F. Plache

MANY changes have occurred in your life since you began to listen to *The WORLD TOMORROW* program. There was a time when you would have adamantly refused even the slightest suggestion that you would be living the way you now live.

You no longer smoke. Shrimp cocktails and ham sandwiches are a thing of the past. Tithing and Sabbath keeping have become integral parts of your life.

As you look back over the last few months or years, you can realize that you've come a *long way*.

But does this mean, however, that you are making gigantic strides forward toward finally qualifying for the Kingdom of God?

NOT NECESSARILY!

All these changes aren't enough!

The Bible contains a list of specific qualifications which *every* member of God's Church should be using to evaluate his own personal progress. Yet few have even realized that they should be applying these qualifications in their own lives.

Guidelines for Growth

This list is found in I Timothy 3 and in Titus 1. It is God's inspired qualifications for His ministry.

These qualifications do not apply *exclusively* to ordained ministers. There is much that *every* member of God's Church can learn from these verses of Scripture. The apostle Paul wrote that "all scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for

reproof, for correction, for *instruction in righteousness*; that the man of God [not just ministers, but all members of the Church] may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Tim. 3:16-17).

You need to study these verses in order to KNOW what God requires of *any leader*.

Obviously, only a very few will ever become ministers at this time. This is an office to which God, and God alone, calls a man. No one dares assume this responsibility for himself. All such *self-appointed* ministers are FALSE MINISTERS! Jesus Christ said to His disciples, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you and ordained you" (John 15:16). Paul said that Jesus Christ *put him* into the ministry (I Tim. 1:12).

God always guides those who are *already* in the ministry to discern by their fruits those whom God is calling to the ministry. Anyone who becomes obsessed with the aspiration to become a minister is in serious trouble. His very attitude disqualifies him for the ministry, and it might—unless repented of—even keep him out of God's Kingdom.

It is NOT, therefore, the purpose of this article to focus your eyes on seeking the ministry. Rather, the purpose is to show you how the qualifications God has set for His ministry are also valuable GUIDELINES which you can use to evaluate *your own* growth toward the Kingdom of God.

No man is going to be ordained un-

less he meets these qualifications. While no minister *perfectly* measures up to all these qualifications, you can rest assured, brethren, that he measures up MORE FULLY than anyone else in the congregation. You should *follow* him as he follows the *perfect example*, Jesus Christ. God has chosen ministers to help *lead* you toward this ultimate goal. You should be learning how to live by *watching their example*. Paul said, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ" (I Cor. 11:1). God also inspired him to write, "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: WHOSE FAITH FOLLOW, considering the end of their conversation [CONDUCT—WAY OF LIFE]" (Heb. 13:7).

Our Ultimate Job

There is no reason to be disappointed because you cannot become a minister. God didn't call you primarily because of the service you could render the next few, fleeting years. God had something *far greater* in mind for all of us.

Yet many have not caught the vision. They are frustrated because they cannot have a more active part in God's Work. They feel useless. They have their eyes focused on the narrow horizons of their immediate future for the next few years. Brethren, EVERYONE in God's Church is destined for a truly GREAT FUTURE!

Stop for a moment and consider a remarkable statement made by Jesus Christ in Matthew 11:11: "Verily I say unto you, Among them that are

born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is *least* in the kingdom of heaven is *GREATER* than he."

John was chosen to personally prepare the way before the first coming of Jesus Christ. What a fantastic responsibility! No one has ever filled a more important office in this physical life than John the Baptist. Nevertheless, Jesus Christ plainly stated that even the *lowest* office in the Kingdom of God *towers* above this ministry of John in importance.

It doesn't matter what your present occupation might be or where you presently function in the Body of Christ—ALL of us have been called for something far greater and more awesome than anything man has ever done in this physical life.

God's Manpower Committee

At Ambassador College, we have a manpower committee, composed of faculty members and department heads, which meets each week. It carefully analyzes each man's strengths and weaknesses. This is done so that we can more effectively assist each man in his overall growth and development. By the time a student has entered his junior year, the committee is seriously considering *where* he can be used in the Work. Upon graduation, he is then placed in the position where he can render the greatest service to God's Work.

The apostle Peter wrote that judgment is *now* upon the Church (I Pet. 4:17). God's *heavenly* manpower committee is carefully analyzing each one of us. Your name is discussed with your accompanying strengths and weaknesses. Your future position in the Kingdom of God hangs in the balance. Will you receive a *good report* as did those mentioned by Paul in Hebrews 11:39. Just where will you fit in?

Do you think for a moment that anyone is going to be given even the *least* position in God's Kingdom unless he meets the qualifications? All must *first* qualify.

What then are the qualifications we must meet?

Why Do You Want To Be in God's Kingdom?

Paul was inspired to preface the list of actual qualifications by focusing our attention on the attitude of the potential servant toward the job itself. "This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop [overseer in spiritual matters], he desireth a good work" (I Tim. 3:1).

Some in the Church secretly long to become ministers. Usually, the desire is selfishly motivated. The lust for position and prestige often blinds the eyes to the real purpose of the ministry. Too often the attention is focused on the office rather than on the *work*. This is the reason Paul was inspired to put the emphasis on the right place, namely, the *service* being performed. It is the work which is good—not necessarily the desire, which could be wrongly motivated.

Certainly, the desire to receive eternal life and avoid the lake of fire is *A* consideration. It is *one* reason why we want to be born into the Kingdom of God. It is only natural for us to desire life instead of death. This in itself is NOT wrong. The apostle Paul wrote, "No man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it" (Eph. 5:29). God so designed us that we automatically seek to preserve our lives.

On the other hand, God has made the penalty for sin so repulsive and irrevocable that only a *FOOL* would deliberately choose that fate. Unfortunately, some will *foolishly* reject God's way of life through disobedience to His laws and suffer eternal extinction in the lake of fire.

However, there must be more than this *natural* or inborn desire for self-preservation. There must also be a right *SPIRITUAL* motivation, and this must be *FOREMOST!*

Destined to Rule

The entire message of Jesus Christ concerned the Kingdom of God. He preached the gospel of the Kingdom of God (Mark 1:14). He brought the GOOD NEWS of how God's Kingdom was to ultimately be established on this earth and how we can qualify to be born into it. Those who do qualify are

to be *kings* and *priests*, *RULING* with Jesus Christ on this earth (Rev. 5:10). "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: and he shall *rule* them with a rod of iron" (Rev. 2:26-27).

As amazing as it may seem, some in God's Church look with suspicion and disdain on the prospect of becoming a ruler. They reason, "I don't want to rule over anybody. I'll be satisfied with just *being* in the Kingdom of God. That's all I *want*."

Others look upon this goal with greedy anticipation. They have never amounted to anything in this life, and now they can hardly wait to be "big shots" in the World Tomorrow.

Both of these attitudes are *wrong!* They are *TOTALLY SELFISH* and devoid of the *real* purpose for wanting to be in God's Kingdom. Unless these attitudes are completely repented of, *SUCH PERSONS WILL NEVER BE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD!*

If you are deeply converted, you aren't going to resent or shy away from your *God-given* responsibility as a potential ruler in the World Tomorrow. Neither are you going to allow your human nature with all its selfishness and swelling vanity to distort and pervert the *real reason* for desiring to be a king or priest.

Conversion involves developing the mind of God—learning to think the way God does. In His infinite wisdom, God has decided to place us in His Family. It is a *ruling* family—a divine governing body. It is the Kingdom or Government of the God Family. No one is going to be born into this Family that has no interest in ruling. Everyone who is finally a part of the Kingdom of God will be ruling in one way or another. All will occupy *governmental* posts. Either we qualify to rule or we just don't qualify!

Yet why is it that some shrink back from the prospect of ruling? Why is it that some fail to grasp that the reward of ruling in the Kingdom of God is the greatest of all possible rewards?

Quite often it is because of a wrong concept of rulership. We have difficulty understanding the value of divine ru-

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What our READERS SAY . . .

Feast of Tabernacles

"We have just returned from our first Feast of Tabernacles at Jekyll Island. We had been looking forward to it with great enthusiasm for we had heard how wonderful the services are. We enjoyed every moment of it. We received very much spiritual training and knowledge from all of the ministers. We thoroughly enjoyed having Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong and Mr. Meredith."

Mrs. F. V. H., Maryland

Campus Tour Enjoyed

"Thank you for the wonderful Feast site in Long Beach, California. The spiritual food was wonderful; the tour of the college was enjoyed very much. I had visited some of the grounds before but never any of the buildings. Thank "John," he was our guide on the tour."

Mrs. L. R., California

• *Thank you, John!*

"I have just returned from God's Feast of Tabernacles and before I get busy with the cares of this life, I want to give thanks to God and to His servants for the blessings of being among God's people. This is my fifth year in God's Church. I had the privilege of seeing Ambassador College, and of course, words fail me to describe the awesome beauty, the grounds and the interiors—truly the beauty that becomes God's headquarters for this era of His work. I suppose everyone of us who has had this privilege feels almost as Moses felt—I know I did feel the ground there was holy, meaning worthy of deepest respect. I kept thinking of the time in the near future when the whole earth will be remade and everyone will have the opportunity to have a beautiful home with beautiful surroundings. I enjoyed the new dining hall very much. I think I appreciated this more because I had a tiny widow's mite part in it through the Building Fund. God's way is so very good—how He planned for us to have a little part in this Work through prayer, tithes, offerings, special

offerings, gifts and loans. In this there are many lessons learned."

Mrs. E. B., Illinois

Big Sandy

"I am thankful for God's work and His law and Holy Days. I had the most wonderful time at the Feast of Tabernacles at Big Sandy this year ever, and the sermons were something that I pray will sink in my head, mind and heart forever. I think the young people in the college are really nice young people. I met many of them and I really love them and thank God they are learning His way. May God bless you in His work and all that are with you in it forever."

Mrs. C. L. S., Missouri

"I attended the Feast of Tabernacles at Big Sandy, Texas, this year. I have never before heard such inspiring and forceful sermons at any of the three previous Feasts of Tabernacles I have attended."

M. W., Tennessee

• *The same was true in Squaw Valley, Long Beach, Jekyll Island, Lancashire (England), Blackbeath (Australia), Martinique, South Coast (South Africa) and The Philippines. As Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong put it, this year the Feasts mutually excelled each other!*

COMING . . . in the next number of *The GOOD NEWS*—the details of each Feast of Tabernacles site, worldwide, and a summary of each of this year's ordinations!

"Last night was superb—I don't know any words to describe the wonder of the performance given by the Chorale and Big Sandy college talent. I have not laughed like that in years. Neither have I been so thrilled at any music such as given by the Chorale. God has given us such beautiful young people. This was a wonderful night to look back on for years to come. I'm sure, though I do not know how, that they

will be even better next year. I hope we all are and I know we better be."

W. W. H., Texas

"We just arrived home from the greatest Feast of Tabernacles we were ever privileged to attend. The sermons, the surroundings, and the people were wonderful. It was a Feast we will long remember."

Mr. and Mrs. L. J. L., Oregon

Squaw Valley

"I would like to say that the Feast of Tabernacles which I attended at Squaw Valley was fantastic! It was my first one and I am really thankful that I could attend. The sermons were very helpful and instructive and the music was beautiful. Thank you for all the prayer and hard work that went into making it a wonderful Feast."

Mrs. J. K. G., Jr., California

"What a wonderful Feast at Squaw Valley this year, the best one yet. The weather was beautiful the full time, the messages were timely and to the point, giving so much spiritual "meat" for the coming months. Even the "sheep" did not require quite so much "bawling out" as usual. We here in the Boise Church were delighted to have many of the brethren from Canada stop over and attend Sabbath Services here on their return home. I'm sure God was "smiling" on us during the Feast days, and we will all try harder to overcome self and please Him."

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. H., Idaho

"I thank God for the opportunity of attending the Feast of Tabernacles at Squaw Valley. It was a really great Feast and will help us all to go on to another year of overcoming and with God's help build a character more like Christ's in the next year."

Mrs. M. D. O., Washington

"This was the most wonderful Feast ever. Seems I got more out of the sermons than ever before. I wouldn't know how to pick one above another. Two of the men ordained I have known for

six years, Mr. Bertuzzi and Mr. Al Portune. It was a joy to see them grow until they were made ministers of God. I thank you all for a wonderful Feast." Mrs. M. H., Oregon

"I am thrilled with joy and thankfulness to God for His ministers that are carrying on His work here on this earth. They feed us the laymembers of His Church with the most wonderful spiritual food, and if we fail to put it into use (digest and apply it), it certainly is not their fault. It's been the best Feast personally speaking in all my five Feasts of Tabernacles in God's Church."

Mrs. C. A. S., Pennsylvania

Topped Only by the Real Thing!

"I know it would be impossible for God's ministers to receive the individual "thanks" of everyone who desired to speak their appreciation during the Feast. I wanted so much to have that personal contact with each minister, yet I comforted myself that I could express my gratitude, love and praise through more fervent prayers. Nevertheless, I do want to say that I left the Feast this year (my first) with the feeling that it was the ultimate in human experiences and that it could only be 'topped' by the spiritual, *the real thing!*"

Mrs. M. M. P.,
Washington

Faith Pays

"First off, God has been testing us for a period of about two months,

where it hurts—in our pocketbook. I was almost tempted to 'forget?' my tithe one week, but I said to myself that we would go hungry first. Well, I sent it in and we didn't go hungry either. My bills were beginning to pile up and I was figuring every way I could think of as to where the money was going to come from. Well, it came from the least expected source. My wife needed a box of salt from the store so she went and bought a 10-cent box of salt and ended up the winner of \$100 because of it. God never answers a prayer in the way you might expect, but I don't want to argue with His way of doing things. This makes twice now that we have been in a financial bind and God has brought us out of it. If I never see it happen again I will trust in Him. And talk about not being room to receive it—my wife and I bawled like a couple of babies. Those tears of joy were wonderful; God has surely fulfilled His promise."

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. C.,
California

Bible Story

"What a wonderful surprise was awaiting me when my daughter and I arrived home from grocery shopping yesterday afternoon. Yes—Volume IV of 'The Bible Story.' . . . I was just like a little kid who has just received some very special gift, as indeed it was—very, very special! Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Money couldn't buy it from me."

Mrs. E. F. V., California

It was a covenant that God made with them as an outward sign of their willingness to be obedient.

Notice in the 15th chapter of Acts that many Gentiles were being converted, and they balked at the idea of being circumcised. Yet, here were some Jews, apparently with the Law backing them up, saying, "Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved" (Acts 15:1).

These newly converted Pharisees believed that circumcision was a passport into the Kingdom of God. Some, however, believed that circumcision was a yoke of bondage to the Gentile. To avoid a split in the Church a decision had to be made.

After everyone had expressed his opinion, the apostle James was inspired to say that the converts were not to be burdened with such matters (Acts 15:19, 20).

The apostle Paul further clarifies the issue in Romans 2:28, 29: "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that OF THE HEART, in the spirit, and not in the letter, whose praise is not of men, but of God."

Since every Christian is to be circumcised *in heart*, the principle of circumcision still continues today as "an everlasting covenant" (Gen. 17:13).

Yes, we *do* have to be circumcised today. But in the heart—in the spirit through Jesus Christ—not *in the flesh*. Spiritual circumcision is a process of conversion. That Christ circumcises us is made plain in Colossians 2:10-11, "Ye are complete in him [Christ] which is the head of all principality and power: *In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, [not something we do] in putting off the body of sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ [not us].*"

But, is it *wrong* to be circumcised for health reasons? Many eminent doctors and physicians feel that it is *advisable* for purposes of cleanliness and general health. Circumcision of newborn infants is not wrong in God's sight. Generally speaking, we urgently recommend circumcision of newborn infants

The Bible Answers Your Questions

Please address any questions YOU would like answered
in this column to the Editor.

Are you circumcised? If not, are you breaking God's law?

Many have caused themselves endless heartache and worry over Genesis 17:10, "This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised."

One man *circumcised himself* and

suffered severely for several weeks because he failed to understand God's teaching on this subject. You need to know how this law is to be applied today.

Notice that the ordinance of physical circumcision was given to Israel—a fleshly carnal nation—before God's Spirit was made available to mankind.

for health and sanitary reasons—but not for spiritual reasons.

Many who are not circumcised when they are children, have to have it done later in life because of disease or irritation. Being circumcised as an adult is extremely painful and sometimes dangerous. It is best done when a child is eight days old and is less painful at that age than any other time in life.

[Study pages 226-228 in Mr. Armstrong's book, GOD SPEAKS OUT on "The New Morality" for a more thorough and intimate explanation of circumcision in both religious and marital context. Editor]

We must also remember that Paul had Timothy circumcised "because of the Jews" (Acts 16:3)—for the sake of the Gospel. It is not wrong to be physically circumcised, provided that we DO NOT DO IT FOR SPIRITUAL REASONS!

Physical circumcision profits nothing so far as getting into God's Kingdom is concerned. "Circumcision counts for nothing, uncircumcision counts for nothing; *obedience* to God's commands IS EVERYTHING" (I Cor. 7:19, Moffatt translation). The important thing is to *obey God*—to be circumcised in heart, not in the flesh (Jer. 4:4).

God is after an ATTITUDE OF MIND—not a physical condition!

The Bible gives us the laws of clean and unclean meats, yet in I Corinthians 10:27 it makes an exception to these laws. Why?
Mr. R. G., London

Has God made exceptions to His Law? Does I Corinthians 10:27 permit us to eat *unclean* meat while dining at a friend's house in order to avoid offending him?

First, let's consider the people Paul wrote this instruction to. The Corinthians were Greeks who had been converted from pagan idolatry. They came from a society where sacrificing to various gods was a daily way of life. Offerings—usually sheep and goats—were sacrificed in the pagan temples continually. The sacrificed meat was then eaten by the person who brought the offering.

However, often not all the meat was consumed. The priests were left each

day with the carcasses of many animals. Not willing to miss a chance to turn a fast profit, they sold the extra meat to local butcher shops—called "shambles"—where the meat was sold to the public.

This is where the problem came up.

Paul warned the converts at Corinth not to become involved in pagan temple rituals or sacrifices (I Cor. 10:14-21). Christians should have no connection with such idolatrous practices.

But the question arose—What about eating the leftover sacrificial meat sold in the butcher shops? How were Christians to tell the difference between *ordinary* meat and that which came from pagan altars? And if you were invited to the home of a friend, how could you be sure the host wasn't serving "defiled" meat?

This seemed to be a gigantic problem to many! Many were worried and anxious about it. Some were making mountains out of molehills!

However, Paul explained the simple solution to the problem. He had already explained in verse 19 that the idol was nothing and that which was offered to idols wasn't anything. The idols were just wood and stone; and the meat offered to them was just meat. *The sin involved was participating in a pagan religious ceremony* (verses 20-21).

Therefore, Paul told the Corinthians in verse 25, "Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, that eat, asking no question for *conscience* sake." In other words, go ahead and buy whatever meat is sold in the shambles or meat markets, without asking whether it had been sacrificed to idols. Meat was meat—it did not matter where the meat came from as long as it was good meat. There was no need to worry whether a particular piece of meat had been part of a pagan sacrifice. Even though you couldn't tell just by looking at it, it didn't make any difference.

And the same principle applied to eating at the home of a friend. It did not matter where the meat came from or what had happened to it. Meat was meat—regardless. As long as it was clean meat, it was all right to eat. That is why Paul said, "If any of them that believe not bid you to a feast, and ye be disposed to go; whatsoever is set

before you, eat, asking no question for *conscience* sake" (verse 27).

"Whatsoever" referred to both regular meat and that which had been sacrificed to idols. *Paul was not even talking about clean versus unclean meats.* He was not claiming God's dietary laws were done away. He was simply showing that it was all right to eat meat which at one time might have been sacrificed to an idol.

However, Paul did add one warning. He said, "Ask no question for *conscience* sake" (verse 27). Don't ask the host where the meat came from. It is better to ignore that matter, since it doesn't make any difference. If the Christian questioned the host about the meat, and then ate it, the host might be led to think he were compromising his belief. Others present might also be led astray. They may feel that idol worship isn't so bad in the eyes of a Christian.

Therefore the Christian guest shouldn't ask about the origin of the meat. Nevertheless, if someone else present *does* point out that the meat was used in a pagan sacrifice, then the Christian should not eat it, lest he offend that individual. If somebody bothers to volunteer the information that the meat is "tainted," then considering the conscience of the person who pointed this out, the Christian should refrain from eating it.

Rather, the whole problem concerned whether certain meat had been sacrificed to idols—a property which could *only* be determined by ASKING someone about it. If unclean meat had been involved, there would have been no reason to *ask* someone *what* it was—they could tell just by looking or smelling.

Paul, then, pointed out it was unnecessary to ask, "Was this meat first sacrificed to an idol before it found its place on this table?" It was alright to avoid bringing the subject up in the first place, to avoid offending anyone else. However, it is NOT permissible to eat unclean food served in the home of a friend in order to avoid offending the host. Unclean meats are not even under discussion in this chapter, but other parts of God's Word show they should never be eaten.

A SPIRITUAL DRONE?

(Continued from page 3)

it the ground? And he [the vine-dresser] answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear FRUIT, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down" (Luke 13:6-9).

What vital lesson does Christ intend that we learn from this parable? Jesus Christ may tolerate a barren Christian for a time — perhaps even for a few years — but the time will come when even God's patience will run out (Prov. 1:24-33). If a Christian does not respond to God's loving care, instruction and correction — then he will eventually be cut off from God and His Church — ultimately to be flung into the lake of fire to be destroyed (Mal. 4:1-3)!

Jesus Christ also revealed His attitude toward barrenness by cursing the barren fig tree (Mark 11:12-14, 20-24).

As Jesus returned from Bethany to Jerusalem, He saw a fig tree. Moved by hunger, He went over to it, hoping to find some luscious figs. The tree looked all right. It was green, and had plenty of luxuriant leaves! In fact, there was apparently no reason why it should not have been yielding fruit. But, alas, it was barren! Christ promptly pronounced a curse upon the fig tree and immediately "the fig tree withered away" (Mat. 21:19).

Many have asked, "Why did Christ curse this barren fig tree?"

This cursing of the fig tree was *not* the result of an uncontrollable or immature outburst of temper on the part of Jesus. Christ cursed the barren fig tree as an *EXAMPLE* of what will ultimately happen to any *BARREN individual or nation!* If we do not produce fruit, we, too, will eventually come under the curse of the *second death*, to be executed by Jesus Christ. Such barren ones will wither in the flames of the lake of fire.

If we are not producing the abundant fruit which God Almighty expects of us, then there is a reason. Why do some in God's Church (the

very begotten sons of God) fail to bear rich fruit? We are exhorted: "*EXAMINE YOURSELVES*, whether ye be in the faith; *PROVE your own selves*" (II Cor. 13:5).

But *how* can a truly begotten child of God really *know* that the *FRUIT* being borne in his life is acceptable to his Creator?

The Bible is the Christian's daily guide — his constant companion — his instruction book. It reveals God's perfect will.

By diligent, prayerful study of God's Word, the true Christian learns more about God Almighty and His character. He learns what kind of life he should live — the kind of fruit his Creator expects him to produce.

Learn From "Nature"

Another way by which one can learn a lesson in producing fruit for God's Kingdom, is by studying nature—God's physical creation. That is why God commands the "sluggard" to go to the ant and consider her ways — her diligence, wisdom and providence. "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise" (Prov. 6:6-8).

In fact, God's whole *physical creation* furnishes countless examples of living, pulsating proof of the invisible Creator God's ways. By studying God's creation around us, we can discover marvellous examples of diligence, unity of purpose, providence, selflessness, courage and fortitude. "For *the invisible things* of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being *understood* by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead . . ." (Rom. 1:20).

The starry heavens "declare the glory of God" (Ps. 19:1-6). And "nature" abounds with endless examples of the wisdom, power and majesty of God. (See Job, chapters 38 through 41).

Nature operates precisely as God ordained it to function. It never deviates from that purpose; and all nature is *fruitful*. By studying God's creation the true Christian can see how he, too, should lead a productive life.

The Marvellous Bee

One of the most fascinating of all of God's creatures is the lowly honeybee.

From creation, the hearts of men have been cheered and refreshed by the many varieties of flavors of *honey* produced by this marvellous creature.

And, without the diligent bee for *pollination*, farming would be difficult — if not impossible. Mankind would have a herculean-sized task trying to devise a means of pollinating the myriads of trees, shrubs, plants and flowers which countless billions of bees do for him — and free!

Many of us ministers, faculty and students of Ambassador College here in England are able to observe firsthand, from our thriving college beehives, the marvels of this amazing creature.

The honeybee is a good *EXAMPLE* of *diligence, selflessness, tireless energy, wisdom, devotion, fearlessness, loyalty, providence, wholehearted communal cooperation*. Mankind can certainly learn a great deal from the amazing honeybee.

Like the ant, the honeybee has *no guide*, overseer, or ruler to direct the communal activities of the hive. Instinctively, the bees work together so perfectly, so harmoniously, that they function almost like a well-oiled machine — like a living organism.

Example of Diligence

Even members of God's Church can learn a lot by observing the honeybee. There are many striking parallels between the way God's Church functions and the God-designed functioning of a beehive.

An average beehive contains about forty to sixty thousand bees. There are three types of bees — the *queen* (a fully mature female), the *workers* (undeveloped females) and the *drones* (males).

The *QUEEN BEE* is the catalyst — the rallying point of the hive. Many will be surprised to learn that the queen does not actually rule or govern the hive. Each bee instinctively carries out its various functions — without receiving orders from any other bee.

The queen bee develops from an ordinary female egg which has been fed for *five* days on a specially enriched diet, called "royal jelly."

After mating with a drone the queen bee begins accomplishing her chief,

God-given function — laying countless thousands of eggs to perpetuate the hive. The queen often lays between two and three thousand eggs a day during the busiest part of the nectar-gathering summer season.

The WORKER BEES are merely undeveloped female bees. Their beginnings are exactly like those of the queen, except they develop from an egg which has been put in a small "worker" cell and which is fed on royal jelly for only *two* days. This limited diet causes these worker bees to be undersized (in relation to the queen bee) and prevents them from developing and maturing to the maximum.

No sooner have the worker bees hatched from their cells, than they begin doing *nurse duty* — feeding the young bees from milk which is exuded from their bodies. Shortly afterward, when they get a little more strength, they will help in *cleaning out the hive*, or in *fanning the air* in the hive to keep it cool. Later still, they may perform *guard duty* around the beehive. And finally, when they have matured fully, they go out on *foraging trips* gathering pollen and nectar.

These worker bees begin working almost the instant they are hatched, and do not cease until they literally *work themselves to death!* An average worker bee will live only about 38 days or so (during the height of the nectar-gathering season) before working itself to death. These diligent worker bees make many trips to gather nectar during each day. Eventually, their wings become so frayed they are no longer capable of flying.

These worker bees are very selfless, self-sacrificing creatures. When on guard duty around the hive, a bee will sting its enemy — the intruder — and promptly dies from its death struggle with its enemy.

The "Lazy" Drone

The DRONES (or male bees) are in the minority. They only number a few hundred in an average hive. (The worker bees make up the remainder of the forty to sixty thousand bees of the typical beehive).

Drones are seemingly *lazy*. They do

no work whatsoever! They merely stand around and eat the honey which the worker bees gather. They lay no eggs, feed no young larvae, gather no honey, do not help clean the hive, build no new cells, do no guard duty or any other work.

But, in spite of this seeming laziness, the drone bee performs a very vital function in the hive. When a new queen has hatched, she must first be mated with a drone before she can lay fertilized eggs.

So far as is known, the drone's sole duty is to perpetuate the species.

The worker bees *tolerate* these lazy drones during the summer. But any drones which have not fulfilled their God-given purpose of mating with a queen bee (after which the drone always dies!) are *stung to death* in the autumn — before the cold winter sets in!

Why let these lazy drones hang around eating more honey — especially during the long, cold winter, when the precious honey will be badly needed to sustain the beehive? What a tragic end these indolent bees come to!

Is this a lesson from the Creator — that any who do not work and produce fruit — will eventually be destroyed — in the lake of fire?

Striking Parallels

What are some of the examples, lessons or striking parallels to be observed between the smooth functioning of the Church of God and a common beehive?

Members of the *Church of God*, like the bees, *must work together UNITEDLY*, as a whole — for a single goal (see I Cor. 12:12-28; Eph. 4:4-16).

Each bee *instinctively* knows what to do and does it. Christians, however, possess *intelligence* — not instinct. They must be directed through God's pyramidal chain of authority from the Father right on down through Christ, apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, and other helpers.

They must *voluntarily choose* to do the will of the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. If they do this, God Almighty, through Christ, will direct each of the members of His Church in the

same way that the head of a human body directs all of its many members or parts.

The queen bee lays a prodigious number of eggs. She works hard. So do the worker bees. They literally work themselves to death. And even the male drone which mates with the queen promptly dies, having served his God-given purpose.

The bees are very *self-sacrificing!*

Jesus Christ shows that the Christian, likewise, must learn to be selfless, self-sacrificing. He must even be willing to lay down his life for the sake of his goal — the Kingdom of God (Luke 14:25-33).

The honeybee is a *diligent* creature — it works very hard. Likewise, God Almighty wants His people to be diligent. "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy *might* . . ." (Eccl. 9:10). (See also Prov. 6:6-11; 10:4, 5; 12:24.)

Bees, in the time of harvest, diligently lay up for the hard times ahead — especially for winter! The Bible tells us to work diligently now so that we can lay up a treasure in heaven — a *reward* which Jesus Christ will give us at His second coming (Luke 14:12-14; II Tim. 1:12, 4:8; I Pet. 1:4; Rev. 22:12).

But some will not receive any reward at all when Christ returns! Why? Simply because they, like the lazy drones, are not producing!

A Rich Diet

The only "royal" member of the beehive is the "queen bee." Remember, she has the same humble beginnings as any "worker bee." She must receive an *enriched diet* of "royal jelly" for *five* days in order to attain full maturity. Also, a larger-than-average cell is prepared for the hatching of the queen so she can grow to full maturity. The worker bees, remember, only receive the royal jelly for a period of two days. This prevents them from maturing fully.

Cannot the people of God's Church learn a lesson from this?

Many in the Church of God are living on a very meagre spiritual diet. They are not diligently studying God's Word as much as they should. Their

growth is being stunted because they are not constantly feeding themselves on God's Word (Hos. 4:6). It is only because God has revealed to us His Word and enabled us to live on this enriched diet of the Holy Scriptures — that we are able to become His begotten children, thereby becoming members of His royal family.

Christ commanded: "*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God*" (Mat. 4:4). He also said: "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: *the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life*" (John 6:63).

Furthermore, we are commanded: "As newborn babes, *desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby*" (I Pet. 2:2).

If we continue each day in diligent study of God's Word and in prayer—by this means drinking in God's Spirit—then we will eventually be born into God's very family. Even now, we are begotten members of His royal household!

"*But ye are a chosen generation, a ROYAL priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light*" (I Pet. 2:9).

Yes, we, like the queen bee of the hive, are different from the rest of the world in that we have received a *special diet* of the unadulterated, royal food of God—His Word! If we continue to receive freely of this royal food, we will someday reach full spiritual maturity and will be given a place of responsibility in God's Kingdom.

This is why it is so vitally important for baptized members to diligently study the Correspondence Course.

The busy bee produces *much fruit*. It renders an invaluable service to God and man!

But what about you? Are you producing abundant fruit?

The bees act according to a pre-set, God-given instinct. It perfectly fulfils the purpose for which it was created. But what about you? You have intelligence—not instinct. You must choose to obey God—choose to do the right thing. Then you must receive power

and strength from God and His Spirit to enable you to faithfully, perseveringly yield to God in order to produce much fruit.

Produce "Much Fruit"!

Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. *Every branch in me that BEARETH NOT FRUIT He taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit* . . . Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear *fruit* of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches; He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth *MUCH FRUIT: for without me ye can do nothing*" (John 15:1, 2, 4, 5).

In order to more fully understand the kind of fruit which a Christian should bear, read the entire 13th chapter of I Corinthians—especially verses 4-7.

Also notice the *FRUITS of God's Spirit* as listed in Galatians 5:22, 23. "But the *FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*" Christ said, "By their fruits ye shall know them" (Mat. 7:20).

Are you a spiritual *drone*? Are you a *barrren-fig-tree* type of Christian? Or are you producing "much fruit"—thereby rejoicing the heart of the Father and Jesus Christ?

Here, then, is how you can *know* if you are producing the right kind of fruit!

Do you spend the proper amount of time in diligent BIBLE STUDY?

A Christian should habitually spend at least a few minutes in Bible study each day. God commended the Bereans for "searching the scriptures daily" (Acts 17:11). We are also commanded: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15).

And what about your PRAYER? Do you pray as you should?

The Scriptures plainly show the servants of God normally prayed morning, noon and night, and they prayed regularly (Ps. 55:17; Dan. 6:10). God's

ministers have repeatedly stressed that members of God's Church should spend at least a bare *minimum of half-an-hour* on their knees daily. The Bible does not specify the exact required amount of daily prayer; but a Christian should try to spend nearer *an hour in prayer* a day, and may sometimes spend much more than this (Luke 6:12).

What about *FASTING*? Do you fast as often as you should?

Though God only commands Christians to *fast* on the Day of Atonement (Lev. 23:23-32), yet many Bible examples show the servants of God fasted on numerous occasions throughout the year (Dan. 10:3; Mat. 4:2; Acts 13:2, 3; II Cor. 6:5; 11:27).

What about *TITHES and OFFERINGS*? Are you faithfully supporting God's Work with your (or God's) *tithes* and liberal *offerings* (Mal. 3:8-12)?

Still another way by which you serve God's Work is by sending in to God's Headquarters Church in Pasadena (or to the other branch headquarters around the world) *NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS or MAGAZINE ARTICLES*. These news items can be used by our worldwide News Bureau to assist Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong in the radio broadcasts, and to help God's ministers in writing articles, preaching sermons, conducting Bible studies.

Set a Good Example

What kind of a *LIVING EXAMPLE* do you set?

"*Actions speak louder than words!*" This old proverb states a Bible truth very aptly. Christ commanded: "*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your GOOD WORKS, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven*" (Mat. 5:16).

One of the best ways by which we further God's Work and bear fruit in our lives is through setting the *right example*. People take far more note of our *actions* than they do of our *words*. This means we should set the proper example *at home*—before our *husband or wife, our children* or other members of the family. We must set a good example at all times before our *workmates, our friends and relatives*.

Another way by which we produce

fruit is through our whole-hearted obedience to God, His ministers and His Church — at all times.

Also, by *regularly attending the weekly and annual Holy Day services* with God's people, we set the proper example.

If we set a proper example in everything we think, say and do — by our habits of *health, cleanliness, cheerfulness, love, humility, generosity*, and in doing good deeds such as *visiting the sick* — then we become shining lights before members of God's Church and before the unbelievers (Mat. 25:35, 36).

Another way by which we glorify God is by *prospering* and being in *good health* (III John 2). If unbelievers see members of God's Church are in good health and prospering, then this will tend to make them ask themselves: "Why is it that members of the Church of God seem to enjoy good health and prosper?" Will they not want to enquire into our *way of life* because of the *result* which they will see in our lives?

Ministry by Prayer

And don't forget, brethren, we must *keep the all-important Work of God FOREMOST in our minds and hearts at all times!*

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong has repeatedly mentioned that people whose minds and hearts are riveted on God's Work — supporting it liberally with their *offerings, tithes* and fervent *prayers* — always remain zealous and grow a lot spiritually. Conversely, however, those who get their minds on themselves — on material, physical, carnal things — soon lose their spiritual fervor for God — and for His Work.

Not everyone can make broadcasts, write articles, preach sermons, baptize, or perform the functions of the ministers. But each member has his *vital* part in God's Work!

One of the best possible ways you can serve God's Work is through *fervent, heartfelt prayer*. "*The effectual FERVENT PRAYER of a righteous man availeth much*" (Jas. 5:16).

I know an elderly, frail widow who unselfishly prays her heart out for

God's Work — for His ministers and for His people. I feel certain that this widow's constant, day-and-night prayers are "availing much."

The apostle Paul praised Epaphras — "a faithful minister of Christ" — for his zealous concern over the Colossian Christians (Col. 1:7). "Epaphras . . . always *laboring fervently for you in prayers*," commended Paul (Col. 4:12).

Do you pray daily for Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong — that God will give them renewed health, strength, wisdom, guidance and protection in all they do in His service?

Do you also pray each day for Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong — that God will give him strength, wisdom, protection, guidance, blessing and inspiration, in making the daily radio programs, and in carrying out his many responsibilities?

Do you pray for Mr. Dibar Apartian (who broadcasts to the French-speaking people) and Mr. Erhard Klammer (who broadcasts to the German-speaking audience)?

And do you pray for God's ministers at the Pasadena Headquarters Church who have a vital part in helping make important decisions?

Also, do you pray each day for all of the District Supervisors in the U. S. and Canada — and for the field ministers?

Do your prayers include all God's servants who serve in the many overseas branches of the Work of God? Do you remember the Overseas Directors in your prayers?

And, do you pray for those who are writing for *The PLAIN TRUTH, The GOOD NEWS*, books and booklets, the Correspondence Course?

Do you pray for the three Ambassador Colleges and for the Imperial Schools?

Do you pray for the Printing Departments and for all of the many hundreds of laborers who are serving faithfully in God's Work in the far-flung corners of the earth?

Are you praying each day for *The WORLD TOMORROW* radio broadcasts? Pray that God will continue to bless this vital means of reaching the whole world with the Good News of His soon-coming Kingdom. Satan would like to forever silence these dynamic messages.

Pray that God will keep these vital doors of radio open.

Do you pray that God will lay it upon the hearts and minds of the *Co-Workers* to give liberally so that His Work can continue to grow? Pray that God will really move people to give generously to His Work; and then make sure you do your part!

And also pray that more *Co-Workers* will be added to this rapidly growing Work!

Do you, as commanded, pray for *the sick*? (Jas. 5:16.)

And do you also pray for those whom you know are undergoing serious temptations and trials? Do you pray for those *weak members* who have departed from or are about to leave God's Church — members who are on the verge of spending eternity in the awful, empty, lifeless void of oblivion? — UNLESS THEY REPENT!

Another way by which you can serve God and His Church is by making sure that you *don't unduly monopolise God's ministers' time*. Do not, however, go to the other extreme of failing to seek *counsel, advice* or *help* from God's ministers when you really *need* it!

Make Your Calling Sure

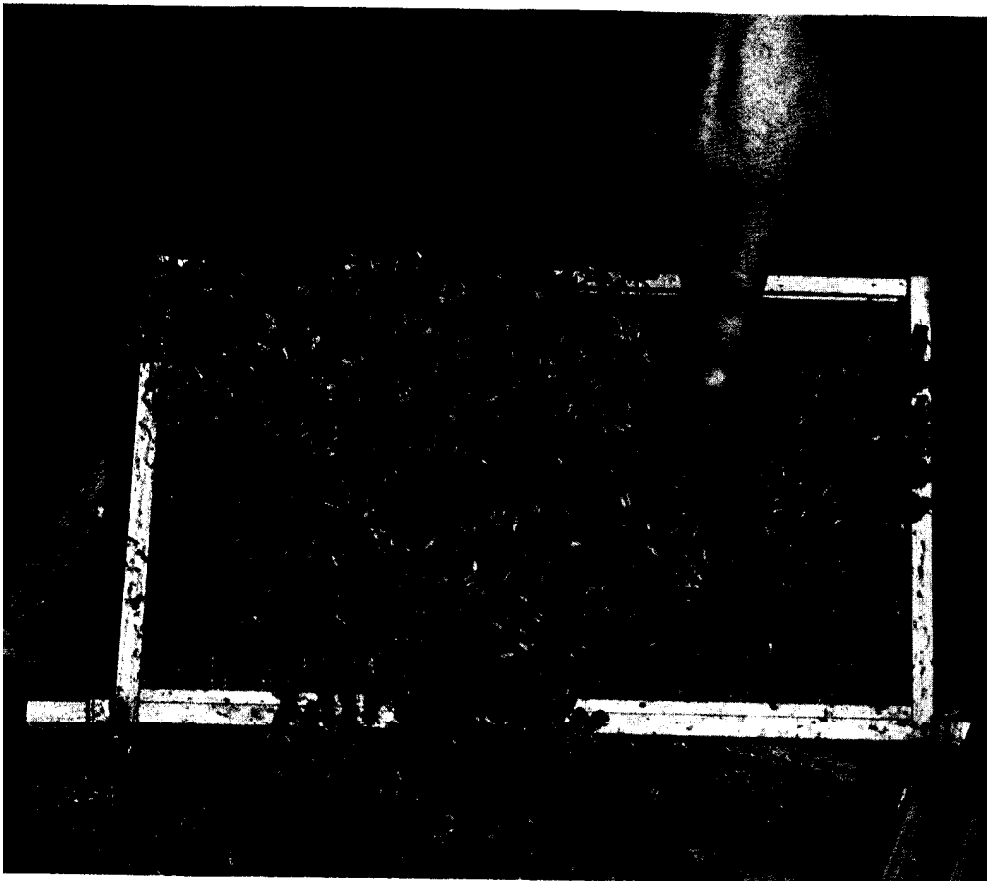
Are you making sure of your calling?

Brethren, God commands: "*Give diligence to MAKE YOUR CALLING AND ELECTION SURE: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall*" (II Pet. 1:10).

Do you really realize how great your calling is? What a priceless privilege to become a begotten — then born — son of God! "*Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God*" (I John 3:1).

We have been blessed beyond description by having been called out of this darkened, sin-cursed world, and by having been *begotten* by God's Holy Spirit — thereby becoming His very own children! Eventually, if we continue to grow in grace and knowledge, we will someday be born into God's family — to live and rule eternally with Him, sharing His blessings and glory forever (Rev. 21:7; 22:3-5)!

How can we be sure our lives are not spiritually barren?



Ambassador College Photo

A brood chamber from one of our own hives on the Brickwood Campus. Mr. Silcox is pointing to a bee biting its way out of a capped cell. Will it be a Queen, a Worker, or only a Drone?

God's answer is clear — PRODUCE GOOD FRUITS!

"And beside this, *giving all diligence*, add to your *faith* virtue; and to *virtue* knowledge; And to *knowledge* temperance; and to *temperance* patience; and to *patience* godliness; And to *godliness* brotherly kindness; and to *brotherly kindness* charity. For if *these things be in you, and ABOUND*, they make you that ye shall neither be BARREN nor UNFRUITFUL in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (II Pet. 1:5-8).

Are you a really fruitful Christian, or are you a spiritual drone—a drag to God's Work and to His Church?

Brethren, God Almighty wants us to "bear *much fruit*" (John 15:8)! It is not His will that one single child of His be unfruitful or barren in anything (II Pet. 1:8)!

This much, you can be absolutely certain of! You will *not* be barren or unfruitful if you willingly submit yourself to God Almighty — diligently serv-

ing Him to the very utmost of your ability!

If you do this, you will not be a spiritual drone! Your life will be fruitful — and you will make it into God's Kingdom!

The Philippine Office staff today. Left to right are Mr. and Mrs. Pedro Ortiguero, Mr. and Mrs. Victorino Tuangco, Miss Verano, Miss Eunice Ortiguero, Mrs. Benjamin Ortiguero, Mr. Tuangco's boy, Mr. Docken's older girl, unidentified woman, Mr. Waterhouse, Mrs. Docken, Mrs. Nicolas and daughter, Mr. Docken, Abraham Ortiguero, Filamer Santos, Franklin Gonzales, Mr. Docken's daughter and Dominador David.

Ambassador College Photo



Why the Philippines?

(Continued from page 11)

conduct God's Work easily, economically in familiar surroundings and using familiar methods of business that are compatible with those used at Headquarters.

Seven: Strategic Location

The location of the Philippines has a great deal to do with their being chosen by God today. Situated right in the middle of all of these nations, it is the natural position to use as a center for training other nations in the World Tomorrow.

At the same time the islands are far enough removed from the other countries to provide at least some protection from them right now. Because the U. S. is fighting a war in Viet Nam, two hours away by jet plane, and since we are so close politically to the Philippines, these islands are a natural base for U. S. combat units. With such a large build-up of U. S. fighting strength as we have here, there is little chance of other nations attacking the Philippines at this time and for some years to come — long enough at least to accomplish God's Work here.

These are some of the more obvious reasons God has chosen to start the Asian Work in the Philippine Islands. We may yet reach Japan, or other na-

tions in the Orient, but it looks like the Philippine work will be the most important now at the close of this age.

Problems

Just because God has opened the door here does not mean we do not have problems. This is a poor nation and as a result the Work cannot pay for itself in the Philippines, and is naturally somewhat restricted in growth. The minimum wage here is \$1.50 per day, but the average is much less. Unemployment is as high as it was during the depression of the 1930's. We need more co-workers that's true, but the Philippine brethren need to be prospered more, as well, so they can help finance God's Work themselves and enjoy some of the blessings of this world including three good meals a day. Many do not enjoy this "blessing."

The language barrier is a problem. While they understand English reasonably well it is difficult for most to follow the rapid-fire delivery of *The World Tomorrow* broadcast. For this reason the written ads in the *Philippine Free Press* bring in more than ten times the response that the broadcast does. Many of the brethren are working on themselves to improve, but it is a slow process. Only God can really give them the understanding they need.

In spite of American military might God must protect this nation or one of the other nations could step in and take over. The Communists that terrorize the outer provinces could certainly become powerful enough to overthrow the government; they almost did it once before. We need God's protection so that this Work can be accomplished and completed. The Philippine Islands are volcanic and there are still live volcanoes here. Only God can control these destructive explosions which could blast the whole archipelago out of existence.

The Philippines is a land of contrast. It is beautiful, but in many ways ugly. It is rich and poor. Happy and sad. God loves these people and He is blessing them with His truth so that they may learn the right Way and never be wretched, poor nor sad again. It isn't easy for these people to overcome.

But they are eager to learn of their God and are faithful to serve Him.

The Work here is just one more facet of God's ever-expanding activities. You and I are members of the body that is making it possible to reach all nations. No matter where we are or what color

we are, we are one in Christ performing the most important and interesting task on this earth today. Pray fervently for the Work here in the Philippines and around the world that these problems can be overcome and God's will be done on this earth today in us.

Why Do You Want to Be In God's Kingdom?

(Continued from page 13)

leadership because we have been prejudiced by the gross injustice of man's system of government. We are surrounded with the misuse of authority in positions of government. Today, greed, graft and corruption are synonymous with high office. The public official is anything but a servant of the people. Rather, he is frantically striving to get his while the getting's good.

A Wrong Approach

Even the men selected by Jesus Christ to be trained as apostles were guilty of having a wrong concept of greatness. Notice the account in Matthew 20. The mother of James and John had come to Christ, requesting the two most exalted positions for her sons (verse 21). When the others overheard the conversation, their carnal jealousy caused them to become highly indignant. They too desired the most exalted positions *for themselves*.

Jesus Christ then contrasted the avenue to greatness as followed by worldly aspirants to the *true way* which His life exemplified. Jesus said, "Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles [governmental leaders] exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them" (verse 25). Here are the tyrants, the despots, the petty dictators who have earned the infamous title of "strong men" by their pompous parade of power—usually at the expense of their own people. They revel in seeing people tremble before them. They live in pampered luxury and affluence and deign to do anything that some fawning servant could do *for* them.

This is not God's way of ruling. These are the governments of men—not the Government of God.

Key to Greatness

What then should your attitude be? What is a rightly motivated desire? Christ made it very clear when He said, "But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister [servant]; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant [bondman or slave]: even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to GIVE his life a ransom for many" (Mat. 20:26-28).

Service is the gateway to true greatness! Christ has set the standard of performance. It involves GIVING of your time and energies—in unselfish service. God is the greatest being in all the universe because He serves the most.

Need for Authority

Consider what the right use of authority could accomplish. Haven't you frequently been brought face to face with the wretchedness of man's way and been deeply moved by the pitiful plight of hapless individuals who have been victimized by their own folly? Haven't you WISHED YOU HAD AUTHORITY TO STEP IN AND MAKE THEM OBEY THOSE LAWS OF GOD WHICH WOULD SOLVE THEIR HEARTRENDING PROBLEMS. *Of course you have!*

Human nature isn't going to naturally obey God. It will automatically resist the very thing which would bring it every good thing which it so desperately wants. This is why Jesus Christ is going to have to rule this world with a rod of iron (Rev. 2:27). Men are going to be *forced* to obey God's laws, whether they want to or not. They are going to be forced to give God's laws a chance. Before too long, they are go-

ing to experience the benefits of obedience and will no longer resent the laws or chafe under the authority of God's Government.

God is love (I John 4:8). He gave His Son so that mankind would not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16). If we have the mind of God, we will be thrilled with the prospect of having an opportunity to *share* the priceless benefits of God's way with all mankind in the World Tomorrow. We will be motivated by a genuine desire to *serve* the millions and billions of future begotten sons of God. *Love* then is the spiritual motivation which we all must have.

Hard Work Is Necessary

You might have the right spiritual motivation and nevertheless *FAIL* to qualify! It takes more than desire. Spiritual daydreams and visions of grandeur are not enough to insure that you will be qualified to discharge the sweeping responsibilities of rulership in the Kingdom of God.

The desire to which Paul refers in I Timothy 3:1 is not merely idle dreaming or wishful thinking. It means "to *stretch* oneself, reach out one's hand" that is, "to aspire or STRIVE FOR." Just as no man is *automatically* qualified for the ministry, no one is automatically qualified to be a king or priest. In both cases, it takes earnest and properly directed effort. Years of intensive preparation and training are required before you will be qualified to fulfill the job Christ is preparing for you.

Strive To Enter

Jesus Christ commanded, "STRIVE to enter in at the strait gate: for many will *seek* to enter in, and shall not be able (Luke 13:24).

There must be a *sense of urgency* in your seeking. A listless and lackadaisical attempt is *DOOMED TO FAILURE!*

The word for "strive" which Christ used is a remarkable word indeed. It means "to enter a contest, to contend in the gymnastic games; to endeavor with *strenuous zeal*; TO FIGHT or STRUGGLE." We not only are to know what we *want* — that is, to ultimately be in the Kingdom of God — but to be vigor-

ously and forcefully preparing ourselves for that tremendous position we hope ultimately to fulfill.

The apostle Paul used this same word in his triumphant statement made shortly before his martyrdom. "For I am now *ready* to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have FOUGHT [to strive, struggle or endeavor with strenuous zeal] a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and *not to me only*, but unto ALL them also that love His appearing" (II Tim. 4:6-8).

Those who desire the office of a king or priest in God's Kingdom most certainly desire a GOOD WORK. However, it is a work that can be accomplished only by those who have met the *qualifications*.

Examine your motives! Do you want to rule for the purpose of *servicing* countless millions of future sons of God? Are you developing the mind of a servant *now*? Here is where to begin — this is the way to a *rightly* motivated desire to be a part of the Kingdom of God.

(To be continued)

WE FLED PETRA!

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the huge carved temple directly opposite. Any feelings of grandeur we may have felt were quickly swamped by the milling crowd of tourists, Bedouins, Arab students, etc. Charlene remarked that it looked like Disneyland on the 4th of July.

Before we could contemplate our arrival we immediately had orange pop and Pepsi-Cola stuck under our noses by the local vendors of the Wadi Musa franchise. For 2 or 3 miles I had been playing leapfrog with our group, running ahead of them and then photographing them as they passed. I was tired, dusty and thirsty. As a TV ad writer might say an "influencible — someone with buying power and a need and desire to buy." The need and desire was there all right but I didn't like the idea of some Arab cramming

it down my throat. So I said, "No thank you," and continued taking pictures. Ten or 15 minutes later when I caught this Petra pop vendor seated, with his back turned I walked over to his cooler (warmer would have been a better term) and announced that I would like an orange pop. He came up off his stool as if it were a "hot seat." His expression was a mixture of frustration and joy. Frustration because he had "missed a sale" but joy that I was buying anyway.

We proceeded around to the right and out into the area where the valley widens out to perhaps one half or three quarters of a mile in width. In this area is the arena which would seat perhaps three to five thousand people on rock benches or steps. Cushions could be a top-selling item here. On each side of the valley are numerous caves or tombs as they have been called by explorers. We looked inside a few of them. They make a convenient location for subdued light when changing film. Of course we could always tell several people had been there before us. We weren't judging this by the film boxes left behind either. There are no rest rooms in Petra. And no shovels either. (See Deut. 23:13.)

From the arena we could see out into the plateau beyond. As we were observing that any mechanized army would have easy access to Petra from the west — the Siq is not the only means of entrance — this observation was immediately punctuated by an army helicopter flying overhead.

Petra is listed in the Atlas as a place of ruins. It certainly looks ruined. No food, no water, no nothing. One phrase I remember hearing describes it best: "A God Forsaken Hell Hole."

It is *lower* than the surrounding terrain. The caves are supposed to be tombs or *graves*. The people that used to live there *died out* and *there's no sign of God around there today*, so the description fits.

A Good Feast Site?

How would Petra stack up as a Feast Site?

When we plan for a Feast of Tabernacles site we have to consider climate

and availability of water. How many thousands of gallons of water are needed? How many tons of waste material have to be disposed of? How many truckloads of food staples must be brought in? How many beef cattle must be slaughtered?

This becomes a massive problem just for 8,000 or 15,000 people and we only plan for 8 days at a time. But in Petra, if that's the place, we are talking about 50,000 or 100,000 people—or more—and not for 8 days, not for 80 days but more on the order of 1260 days! *All the goats in Petra wouldn't last through the first meal!* The problems are simply beyond human ability to cope with. In its present condition Petra would be appropriate for only *one* Holy day. That's right—the Day of Atonement.

The point is: If somebody decides to go to Petra as his place of safety, on his own—it would be his greatest blunder, and his *last!* Only if the Almighty God promises His supernatural intervention and commands you to go there would it be sane. Only if God supplies the water, the food, protection from the weather, the natives and pursuing armies would you want to go to Petra! Otherwise you'd be marching to your *sure death!*

A Place of Trial as Well as Safety

Seeing Petra is a sobering experience. You are immediately aware that it would separate the faithful from the doubters, the thankful from the complainers, the converted from the self-deceived. There won't be any room for vanity and foolishness there. Don't make the mistake of thinking that I am complaining when I describe Petra. I'll be glad to sleep on a rock. The point is, God will have to provide food and water if we stay alive. I'm not discussing anything more than the bare necessities. Even though I know the conditions, if God says "Go," I'm ready to go on faith that there will be water there and that He'll provide food. And, of course, God will have to take us there, remember. As Mr. Ted Armstrong said, "Not five percent of our people could make it in there. They wouldn't have the physical strength and the stamina



Tourists seek shelter from the sun in the "Treasury" cave, while others mill around in the sun at the Siq entrance.

if you turned them loose 20 miles distant on a hot day."

So the thing to do about Petra is to *forget about it now.* Put it out of your mind and do God's will—see that the Gospel of the Kingdom of God is preached and *the world is warned! Prepare to Rule.* Not as a physical being but as a Spiritual being in the Kingdom of God when Christ comes back to set it up.

As *never before* you need to *pray* for God's Work. You need to support that Work while there is time. Pray for direct guidance for Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and for *all* the leaders in God's Work. Pray that all of God's people remain united under that leadership. Direct your interest toward warning the world—not toward saving your skin. Only if we watch and pray will God account us worthy to escape.

Exit Petra

We didn't stay long in Petra. We rolled those VW's back up that Desert Highway toward Jerusalem as the Sabbath drew on. There was nothing we could accomplish in Petra but we knew that we could get back to Jerusalem

and make some more broadcasts there. You heard those broadcasts. They contributed to God's Work.

There is still a staggering amount of work to be done. And not much time to do it in. Brethren let us begin to pray for God's Work with the same kind of faith that it will take to bring water out of the rock and manna from the skies. If God can take us to Petra He can begin to open up new doors for His Work. He can pour finances into His Work from unexpected sources. He can speed up activity in magazine advertising. He can open the door of Television. Let's look to God. Remember, the problems of Petra can't be solved with a 30 percent growth each year.

You will have to have *living faith* to live in Petra. Develop that faith now while mightily advancing God's Work.

When you hear those fateful words "We're going to Petra" you will want to know that the God you worked with and served is taking you there, otherwise you'll be walking toward a death trap.

With God's help change your self and do His Work now while there is time.