

The

Good News

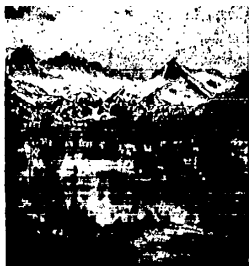
International Magazine of The Church of God



A GREAT PLACE

TO VISIT

IN THE MOUNTAINS



More About Our Cover...

This inspiring photograph was taken in the High Sierras of Northern California. David saw things in their true perspective while meditating in the midst of God's creation (Ps. 8:3-9). All of us need to step back from time to time from our daily routine and take a long reflective look at what we're doing; whether we are in the midst of God's creation, in our own back yards, or in our own living rooms. We need to take the time to actively think about God, His laws, His Word, and how they all relate to our lives. Beginning on page 23 is an article which will show you how to do this kind of meditation. Be sure to read it.

Cover photo by Wilbur Berg — Ambassador College

What our READERS SAY...

My husband and I received the January-March GOOD NEWS today. On the front is a picture of the new auditorium. What has been done is so beautiful. I wonder if the brethren in Pasadena know the blessing they have been there to see it and one day be able to go inside the "House for God." So many of us may never get to do that, yet we want it built. I haven't begun reading the articles in this issue yet, but it sure looks like these are the ones we need to read at this time of year.

E. R., Rogers,
Arkansas

Thank you for the GOOD NEWS with the picture of the new auditorium. Wow, it sure is beautiful! We are really looking forward to its completion. Thank you for the article on "Familiarity" by Mr. Hunting. We need to live each day as though it was our last; to do the work more fervently and zealously than ever before. And thanks for the article about the Canadian Work and the map of the churches and Bible studies.

L. B., Denver,
Colorado

The GOOD NEWS came this week with cover picture of the House for God. I want to say this work should be an example of quality in all things, and the buildings and landscaping certainly reflect right character. We are also very happy with the TV and Personal Appearance response.

W. L., Marston,
North Carolina

This thank you note is a little different. I want to thank you for putting the section "What Our Readers Say" in the GOOD NEWS. When I see how much impact your articles have made and are making on God's people all over the world, it's just wonder-

ful. Very often I want to go back and hunt up and reread an article that has made such an impression on someone else so as to inspire them to write such letters. Please always keep that section because it helps us feel so much closer to each other and calls to our attention things we might have taken too lightly. Special thanks for the article on "Fatal Familiarity." Like the classic line goes — "Thanks, I needed that!"

K. M., Westwego,
Louisiana

Thanks for the January-March GOOD NEWS which has more informative and hard-hitting articles and meat of the Word than any yet. Keep them coming — they're just what we need to stir us up.

R. G., Carmi,
Illinois

Thank you all on the staff of *The GOOD NEWS* for all the articles I've read over the years I've been a member. It seems each issue tends to give me a "shaking up," which is sorely needed at times. We all need to be reminded of how very blessed we are to be privileged to know the truth. Mr. Charles Hunting's article, "Fatal Familiarity," in the January-March issue has shown me how I need to examine myself. Also, I'd like to express my thanks to Mr. Basil Wolverton for his cartoons which are so unique I'd recognize them anywhere! The ones in the article, "Just What Do You Mean — Self-Righteous?" were especially good. Thank you all again for the love and effort put into each issue of *The GOOD NEWS* — it's as if each of you were sending your love directly to each of us.

T. D., Portsmouth,
Ohio

(Continued on back cover)

The Good News

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ministering to its members
scattered abroad

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ARE WE ASHAMED OF GOD'S TRUTH?

UNTIL recently, there existed a good deal of confusion in the minds of a lot of people about the Worldwide Church of God, Ambassador College, and *The WORLD TOMORROW*?

Speculations ranged from an ultra-rightist group with buried caches of arms, supported, perhaps by Howard Hughes, H. L. Hunt, or anyone else whose initials happened to be HH (would you believe — Hubert Humphrey?), to an ultra-leftist organization busily "badmouthing" the country.

Perhaps it was partially our own fault. We didn't want to push ourselves on anyone; we've always had the policy of refraining from public altar calls, public invitations to join anything, and public collections. We have always made it plain we do not wish to "cram our religion down anyone's throat" and have plainly stated our conviction that "none CAN come, to the Son except the Spirit of the Father draw him."

Still, though we only tried to avoid the "hard-sell" evangelistic appearance — the sanctimonious "Won't you come to the Lord, right now..." pitch or the "churchified" flavor of the usual run of radio and TV evangelism — we caused a fair amount of confusion to exist over just who, and what, we are!

None of the apparent "secretive" nature of the Worldwide Church of God was desired by any of us — it just seemed to "happen" as a result of a cumulative series of conditions and circumstances. Like Topsy, it "just grewed."

"Strange, bizarre sect" was one magazine's appraisal. "They meet in secret," said another. "You can't find out anything about them," complained a newspaper. "They must be Communist, or something" says a bewildered citizen. Persecution? Or the natural reaction to our own "fear syndrome"? Perhaps a little bit of both — but whatever it is, we don't want to bring it on ourselves!

by Gagner Ted Armstrong

Now all of that is very rapidly changing!

Striking the Right Balance

One thing is sure. You have no difficulty finding a label for other religious programs, magazines or churches! They are what they are — and by the time you've listened for a whole 30 seconds, you KNOW what they are.

The evangelist who comes on the TV screen, saying, in a slight tremulo, "Surely is a blessing to be here with you Christian brethren to talk about the Lord..." will never have a disclaimer put on the screen by the local station which says, "The opinions expressed on the following program do

not necessarily represent the views of . . ."

But such disclaimers are sometimes put before and after our program. We probably cannot ever change that — simply because no matter how strongly we speak out about Christ's Gospel, His Gospel is SO DIFFERENT from what people think it is and it is PRESENTED, both in the Bible and by His true servants, in such a DIFFERENT FASHION from what most people assume would be correct, that some stations feel we must be "disclaimed" when we speak the truth.

Now by properly seeing what has been a little bit of a "fear syndrome" on our part, and by capturing that right balance between not being "ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation" (Rom. 1:16), and the overdone, "hard-sell" flavor of the world, we can alleviate a great deal of confusion, wonderment and persecution.

My father and I have recently had long, animated and deeply heartfelt talks on these and other subjects. We are both completely confident and thoroughly enthusiastic that God is leading His Church to finish His Work more effectively by a deeper understanding of some of these matters.

Our "Fear Syndrome"

I think many of our past syndromes I'm going to talk about in this article began back in the very earliest years of Ambassador College when we were being actively persecuted by one particular man and a few associates, some of whom were former Ambassador Col-

lege students turned sour. At least partly as a result of their activities — handing out and almost forcing accusing literature on members, etc., and their threats — we began to develop a "fear syndrome."

Visitors on campus were oftentimes looked upon with suspicion. All that had to occur was for a stranger to appear and we began to get what I call a "spooky" (fearfully suspicious) look. And often, as a result of our reaction, we were a lot less than friendly to people who were just honestly interested in God's truth and came here for no other reason than to learn about it.

If an "outsider" suddenly appeared at the Feast of Tabernacles (especially if he wore a black bushy beard, drove a strange-looking car, or walked about handing out little tracts or gathering knots of individuals about himself in the parking lot), a "security system" we had developed took care of him. We had our deacons and parking superintendents out to "spot" such potential "troublemakers." Then they would rush a minister, or several of them, to the area to try to deal with the "problem."

As a result we used to turn off "outsiders" rather regularly — in all parts of the Work! In some cases we still do, without meaning to or realizing it.

Mr. Portune's Experience

Mr. Albert Portune told me how he came to Pasadena one Sunday years ago, searching for Ambassador College. Nobody in Pasadena, it seemed, knew where it was, and Mr. Portune was pretty frustrated. He had already written four times wanting to be baptized, but nobody ever bothered to answer him. (We were a little inefficient in those days. When Mr. Portune took over management of the mailing office and later the business office, he had a personal reason for wanting it to become efficient!)

Finally he did find the campus, but there was almost nobody around at the time. He walked in the back door of the old print shop (now the Library Annex) and found one student bending over a font of type. Mr. Portune asked, "Is this Ambassador College?" The student looked up and saw a

stranger — a person he didn't know! — and got that "spooky" look.

"Yeah, it's Ambassador College."

"Well, I'm here to talk to somebody about baptism."

"Oh, well, er, ah, let's see . . ." he hemmed and hawed.

Mr. Portune inquired, "Well, you do have ministers? You do have church services, don't you?"

"Well, yeah, ah, as a matter of fact what we have is just a college chapel service — that's what we actually have when you get right down to it." That was our standard answer in those days.

"Well, can I attend?"

Then followed some more conversation which I can't recall, and finally the student said, "I'm not sure, better check with somebody." But somehow Mr. Portune finally got to attend. That following Sabbath he was baptized in the baptismal pool at the college.

I think this fairly well epitomizes what was happening and how we developed what I call a "shame-fear syndrome." We just weren't really being what we were. We became more or less *ashamed* without meaning to be *ashamed*, and it has carried over even until today.

Ministers have told me that the longer a member is in the Church the more close-mouthed he tends to become about his religion, whereas in the first few months many are not close-mouthed at all, sometimes making a lot of mistakes and turning off some of their friends and relatives because they were overly enthusiastic about the truth.

Try to Find Us — If You Can!

I remember being part and parcel of this mood or this syndrome at the time. I strongly suspected in years past that some of our enemies would literally try to "infiltrate" the college campus, and that they would infiltrate various branches of the Work and local congregations.

To some measure, of course, some of these apprehensions were valid. The unfortunate part is that in MOST cases they were in error and that the "spin-off" from these apprehensions resulted in large degree to the "shame of reli-

gion" that I feel plagues the Church in general today.

It has been reinforced by the fact that we meet in rented halls, oftentimes without outside identifying characteristics or signs. They may be downtown office buildings, American Legion halls, Women's Clubs, Elks or Moose lodges, YMCA, YWCA, or perhaps high school auditoriums or civic auditoriums. Our ministers' names are not listed in telephone directories, and the Church is not identified in the yellow pages, nor is it ever identified or advertised in the Saturday church page in the local newspapers.

Unless I am mistaken, it has been the "generally understood" policy that before a member may feel free to invite a relative, neighbor, friend or casual business acquaintance to hear his minister preach on the Sabbath, he is expected to get "clearance" from the minister, explaining whether or not the person is familiar or conversant with what will be taught, whether the person knows about the Sabbath, what the person's approach and attitude is, etc.

Apparently all of this was to ensure that we did not, under any circumstances, experience any disturbances during a Sabbath service, such as an audible challenge from someone in the crowd. But because of this "syndrome," many people have turned away their own loved ones, their own families and mates. A husband would ask his wife, "May I go to church with you?" and she would say, "Oh, no, you can't unless you get clearance through my minister." And so it makes most husbands angry to be told, in essence, that they are *not welcome* where their wives are going on the Sabbath.

There have been many cases where our own spiritual brothers and sisters on the way home from the Feast of Tabernacles have thought, "I'd like to stop over the Sabbath here in Tucson (or there in Buffalo, or some other place) and worship with the local members of God's Church." But they didn't have the "combination" — the "secret" address of the meeting hall. They could not have found who or where the minister was or where God's people are meeting to save their life! Even my father couldn't have found

them unless he first obtained the information from the Headquarters files!

Letting Ourselves Be Known

As you probably know by now, all that is changing. We will be listing the "Worldwide Church of God" in phone directories of those cities where we have churches, using our "toll-free" number in Pasadena so that anyone may call for any information he may desire about the Church.

I was amazed when Mr. Dean Wilson told me that he felt so bad when his name and the name of the Canadian office somehow got in the telephone book. The telephone people just put it there without asking him and he didn't have the heart to change it. That happened eleven years ago. In those years, he has had hundreds of telephone calls, many of which resulted in people becoming members of the Church. Only four calls were of a threatening nature. (Each of those was from a spouse of a member who would have known his telephone number anyway.)

One lady called long distance about 3:00 a.m. She thought she had committed the unpardonable sin and was going to commit suicide. Mr. Wilson was able to talk to her and convince her she had not committed the unpardonable sin, then later he talked to her husband. Both are now strong members of the Church.

I can only guess at how many thousands of people over the years have tried to reach us late at night and have not been able, simply because they couldn't find the number!

The "clandestine" sect" as some newspapers and magazines have described us, is to a large extent, what we really have appeared to be, because we don't intend to proselyte. We don't want to say, "World come in. World welcome. Come in and worship with us!" But we have needed to strike a balance somewhere in the middle to make sure those little ones who are looking for us can find us!

During the campaign in Richmond, Virginia, a nice looking young man with a big friendly grin and his hand stuck out came backstage to meet me. He was the local pastor of a church of one of the well-known denominations. We talked a bit and he said, "I am glad

you are here. I have brought one hundred of my people along with me." He sat right in the front row questioning, listening, taking notes, an open look on his face, just wanting to know!

Maybe he will become a member of God's Church sometime soon. And maybe a few thousand other members of his denomination will too, one of these days. There is no reason why they can't, is there — if God is calling them? I mean, is belonging to a false church committing the unpardonable sin? Is a member of any denomination an "untouchable"? Many of us belonged to other churches before, didn't we?

Let Your Light Shine

Personally, I have been very unashamed and unashamed to urge people in my acquaintance — including strangers that I meet as I travel here and there — to come into contact with God's Work. I try to ensure they understand that they can see the television program, listen to the radio program, read *The PLAIN TRUTH* — and I tell them where and how! Of course, I never hard sell my religion — but simply and in a friendly manner make it a part of the conversation.

If each member of the Church in their contacts with people in the world felt a virtual spiritual responsibility to occasionally wax a little bit excited — in a simple, friendly, casual manner — about the worldwide Work of which he or she is a part, how many more people might be added to *The PLAIN TRUTH* mailing list, or become listeners to the radio program or viewers of the television program!

If we each made this a virtual "drive," realizing we are not ashamed of Jesus Christ or of His way of life or His true religion, what a difference it could make to our local churches, our teen-agers, and even our entire worldwide commission!

That we are not trying to "cram God's truth down anyone's throat," that we are not trying to proselyte in the world's sense, *must be remembered*. But we need not go to the opposite extreme of "hiding out," burying our talents, covering our light (Matt. 5:14-16), being ashamed and withdrawing into monosyllables and barest mutter-

ings when we are asked about religious matters. I'm sure I Peter 3:15 comes immediately to our minds: "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."

Now I am going to have to rely on the individual intelligence of everyone reading this article NOT to leap to some completely ridiculous assumption that Garner Ted Armstrong is going "off his rocker" and is advocating some utterly unbiblical program of knocking on doors and forcing religious literature on people like one particular church does today. *I do not mean to remotely imply this!* So PLEASE — let's understand, and find the right balance which is of God!

As you probably know, we have "freed up" our policy on inviting new people to church, as decided by my father in counsel with all the Headquarters Evangelists. With the Worldwide Church of God now becoming very well known through our own radio-TV programs and personal appearance campaigns, we are getting numerous inquiries from new people wanting to attend church. My father stated at the Headquarters Ministerial Conference this last January that we should make all who want to attend WELCOME, even if their interest is only casual.

What This Will Do for The Church

In the past, some of us may have tended to misinterpret or misapply the scriptural command "to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness." This does not mean to go to the extreme of virtually *shunning* even casual conversation with people in the world. There's a vast difference between "fellowship," which involves going back and forth in partying, double dating, joining civic organizations and clubs, or attending their churches, and simply being a friendly, vital, lively and interesting conversationalist with people you come in contact with in your daily life.

When you are in supermarkets, drugstores, restaurants, motels, etc., you inevitably come in contact with

other people. These casual contacts, I feel, can become an important way in which this Church can GROW!

I feel we are missing a very important area for *real exposure* for the total Work of God in this end-time generation as a result of this worldwide "shame syndrome" that seems to reign in the Church.

Are we REALLY ashamed of the truth of God? Are we *ashamed* of the fact that we observe Passover, go to church on the Sabbath, keep the Feast of Tabernacles, or send our tithes to Headquarters? Now I'm sure our answer is, "Absolutely not!" Yet, some of our postures in life make it APPEAR as though we are, indeed, ashamed.

Remember, Jesus did say that if anyone is ashamed of Him, He, Jesus, will be ashamed of that person at His coming! (Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26.)

Let's put it this way, brethren: Are we PROUD — in a sense of being thankful, grateful, and unashamed (*not* in the sense of being prideful, lifted up, or filled with vanity) — of our Savior, of our religion, of our ministers and of our church?

Because churches of the world have misappropriated the *name* of Jesus Christ, and talk glibly about how they love the Lord and the Lord loves them, and "Bless you, Jesus" and "Oh! what He has done for me," we as a church tend to *shy away* from anything that smacks of such — and rightly so. But if each member can feel free simply to tell people about *The PLAIN TRUTH*, the television and radio programs — that he (or she) is proud of and pleased with them — and even about certain aspects of his (or her) own way of life, and blessings, and personal triumphs, this entire syndrome of fear, shame, closemouthed and clandestine exclusiveness will be ended — *with dramatic results!*

Think of it this way. We have over 70,000 attending church every Sabbath, of which over half are adults — over 53,000 individual baptized members. Is every single one of our homes a microcosm of the Headquarters of God's Work in that right there conveniently laid out for guests, relatives or neighbors to see is the current number of *The PLAIN TRUTH* and some of our most colorful and readable booklets?

Does each member who works carry along the latest *PLAIN TRUTH* magazine on the automobile seat in hope that perhaps he (or she) may show it casually to others? Is *The PLAIN TRUTH*, or perhaps one of our booklets, in each man's lunch pail at work, and is he not afraid to be seen reading it during lunch and not ashamed to talk to people about it?

Remember, I am not talking about being like the denomination whose only purpose in life is to proselyte for their church. I'm talking about just being open about who we are and what we do. Our ministers, for example, who have been carrying identification cards that say, "Ambassador College Representative" are now going to be identified as "Worldwide Church of God, Minister."

Giving Our Teen-agers a Chance

Take a look at our teen-agers: Our "shame" of religion is far more intensified among the teen-agers of the Church. Why? As a direct result, I feel, of a subdued, or subliminal, or congealed shame on the part of the average church members.

But just give them a chance as we did at the recent campaign!

The teen-agers were the ushers in Richmond. I talked to them afterward, and they were on "cloud nine" just because they were so excited to be able to serve — just to have a part in something that was going on!

The kids in the Church *want* to be involved. They *want to help!* Just imagine the effect it would have if our teen-agers could tell their teen-age buddies to come to these campaigns and the follow-up Bible studies, and even to church!

Great Growth Ahead

Already in these weekend personal appearances, I have spoken to a cumulative audience of upwards of one hundred thousand people. Each time I introduce the local pastor, I have said something like, "This is so-and-so, with whom I used to play college basketball. He's a good guy and he's not going to hurt you, and he's the pastor of the Worldwide Church of God right in this city." Meanwhile, all of

our counselors and ushers scurry around handing out cards with his phone number to all who want them.

Many people are interested and have responded to this. After the very first meeting down in New Orleans, for example, 20 people responded with telephone calls. A large number of families voiced an interest in wanting to attend our church regularly, and 150 additional people actually did begin to attend the very first follow-up lecture.

You may say that's very small. Perhaps it is, but 15 or 20 years ago an intensive campaign going painstakingly through many doctrines and prophecies six nights a week for *six weeks* added no more than two hundred. Now we are having the cumulative fruits of campaign after campaign.

We are planning to run as TV specials this summer, several tapes of actual meetings and sermons in our personal appearance campaigns. Each will last one hour, into which we will insert two different three-minute spot "commercials" showing the college, the Church, *The PLAIN TRUTH*, the booklets. Then flashed on the screen will be the "800" toll-free number direct to Pasadena which our viewers can call to receive further information, request literature or receive whatever help we can give.

We are going to put these *specials* on during prime time, three nights one after another and include several messages about writing for various booklets. We hope to put them on in many smaller cities too, not just the big ones — and later go to those cities in person. And so I expect a tremendous response from all this!

We are also planning a series of personal appearances by Mr. Albert Portune, Mr. Ron Dart, Mr. Charles Hunting, Mr. Howard Clark, Dr. Clint Zimmerman, Mr. Dean Wilson, and others. And they're all very excited about the prospects. Of course, because they have not had the previous public exposure I have, and budgetary limitations prevent an extensive advertising campaign prior to the meetings, we will not anticipate the size of audiences to be as large as those that I have been privileged to speak before.

Mr. Wilson can go to places in Can-

(Continued on page 30)

THE PHILIPPINE STORY

The office manager for God's Work in the Philippines has filed this encouraging report on the growth of the Work in a land rocked by recent dramatic political changes.

by Colin Adair

Manila, Philippines

A NEW society is developing in Southeast Asia. President Marcos of the Philippines, in declaring martial law last September 21, introduced sweeping changes which most of this nation's 58 million people felt were badly needed. Prior to this drastic step, the Philippines was, to use the words of Mr. Marcos, "a sick society."

In the former political climate, the Communist cause was making headway. An estimated 80 to 85 percent of the nation's wealth was controlled by about 100 families, whose business interests reached around the country.

Ironically, the Philippines is the only "Christian" country in the whole of Southeast Asia.

Eighty-five percent profess the Roman Catholic faith, with the remaining 15 percent divided between varying Protestant groups and Muslims. However, religion obviously has not produced the answer to the country's mounting problems.

Something needed to be done, and President Marcos concluded that martial law was the only constitutional means left to enact a "democratic revolution" before a bloody revolution engulfed the country.

It is not the purpose of this article to elaborate on what has been accomplished, or to condone or disapprove the new form of government, but the nation does appear to be in much better shape than it was before. More reforms have been accomplished in the few months since martial law than in 25 years of American-style democracy.

I would like to add that the work of God's Church in the Philippines was

affected by the imposition of martial law — but more about that later.

History of the Work Here

A few PLAIN TRUTH magazines were being sent into the country in the early fifties by direct subscription.

Mr. Pedro Ortiguero was appointed representative of Ambassador College in 1961 and was instrumental in building the initial growth of the Church. (Today Mr. Ortiguero is a full-time preaching elder of the Worldwide Church of God and pastors the Urdaneta congregation in Northern Luzon, in addition to helping in the ministry throughout the Philippines.)

In 1962 an office was established to handle the growing response to *The PLAIN TRUTH* — Makati, a modern commercial center in the Greater Manila area, being chosen as the site. Filipinos whom God had called were chosen to staff the office under the supervision at first of Mr. Gerald Waterhouse and later of Mr. Guy Ames.

In the early years, ads were run in the Philippine *Free Press* and in the Asian edition of *Reader's Digest*, causing the mailing list to grow rapidly and steadily. The Filipino people's love for education showed itself in the huge responses we received. *The PLAIN TRUTH* and the booklets requested were (and still are) supplied to the Manila office by our printing plant in Sydney, Australia.

Fortunately, the Philippines is very familiar with the English language due to United States presence since 1898. Because of this, *The WORLD TOMOR-*

row broadcast is widely understood, in contrast to the situation in most other Asian countries. Along with some smaller stations throughout the islands, God opened up the large 50-thousand-watt station DZAO in Quezon City which virtually blanketed the nation.

Most of the Work in the Philippines had to be supported financially from Pasadena. The number of Philippine contributors rose steadily, yet because of the lower standard of living and widespread poverty, the income was never enough to cover the cost of operations.

In February 1970 the Philippine Government floated the peso and the subsequent rise in the peso/dollar rate enabled each dollar to accomplish more than before. Then suddenly the financial condition of the Work at Headquarters no longer permitted the sending of so many dollars to support the Philippine office.

It looked like we would have to close up the office and cease all operations. But the Filipino co-workers and members rallied and showed that their hearts were really in this important commission.

After careful study it was decided not to close up the office after all, but to transfer most of the workload to our Sydney office. Filipino listeners were told to address their letters to Australia. Only enough work was left to keep the Manila office functioning. This way the limited Philippine income was able to cover our expenses.

Growth Begins Again

Because of the cutback, the office was moved to smaller premises in the

same building. It looked as if the days of growth in the Philippine Work had ceased for good. But the Filipino people continued to support God's Work, and even *increased* their support! It was found that our new smaller premises were now *too* small! There was an urgent need to find larger office space.

In November 1970 God opened up to us an office section in the T. Davies & Co. (Far East) Building on Buendia Avenue, Makati, just five minutes walk from our old premises! Now we had the extra room to handle the steady increase we were receiving. Since then we have expanded again and now occupy two more suites on the same floor.

By March 1971 we were able to transfer most of the mailing and literature requests back from Sydney. (Only the larger facets of the Work, like the magazine mailing lists, remained in Sydney where IBM computers were able to handle them more efficiently.) Our radio programs reverted to carrying our local box number instead of the Australian number. Extra office employees were added to cope with the

letter increase. Today we employ fifteen in the Manila office.

Television Begins

On May 8, 1971 DZAQ Channel 2 television, seen throughout Luzon, opened up to *The WORLD TOMORROW* program, which was aired at 10:30 every Saturday night when Channel 2 was on schedule, but frequently started late. After complaints from us, the station agreed to make amends by replaying our program *free* at a morning time of our choice any day Sunday through Friday. So a second showing on Sunday morning at 10:30 was chosen to give those who missed the first showing an opportunity to see it.

To help promote the television program, small advertisements were placed monthly in the *Manila Times*, directing the attention of the public to the telecast and offering many of our booklets connected with the programs. The results were encouraging, and many Filipinos came into contact with God's Work for the first time. Schools, colleges and public service agencies requested our booklets on crime, marijuana, and famine for their educational courses.



The Effects of Martial Law

Then suddenly, in late 1972, the unexpected happened. As mentioned earlier, martial law was declared. It seemed like God's Work would come to a halt. All media (newspapers, magazines, radio and television) were closed down. Only a government-owned newspaper was allowed to continue, to serve as a vehicle and mouthpiece of the government.

A new department under the President was created, the Department of Public Information (DPI), with President Marcos' former Press Secretary serving as its head. It was given full control of all media. No radio or television station could function without its permission. No newspaper, or other publication could be distributed without first being cleared with the DPI.

As soon as this information reached us, we halted the distribution of *The PLAIN TRUTH*. At first it looked like we would have a long wait for clearance. Many publishers were "waiting in line" for their own clearance. But, thanks to God's intervention, officials' familiarity with our publications, and Mr. Armstrong's visit to President Marcos back in 1970, we were able to get quick approval to continue.

So *The PLAIN TRUTH* and our booklets began to be distributed as before. It had only been a matter of two or three days since we had halted distribution!

With martial law we had also lost our radio outlets. The few stations that returned to the air were very expensive. However, again we quickly received special clearance to resume broadcasting. By November 6 we were back on five provincial stations, and on two Manila stations by January. We are now on a total of eight.

But our troubles were not over. With martial law the President reformed the tax system. The Religious Act of 1916, permitting importation of religious literature tax-free, was scrapped and a revised tax code set up. Now we faced two tax problems. Both the Customs Office and the Internal

Ambassador College Photo

OFFICE MANAGER — Mr. Colin Adair, director of God's Work in the Philippines, is shown at his desk in the Manila Office.

Revenue Department imposed taxes on all imported goods.

With the Customs Office we were able to obtain clearance through one of their sections allowing religious material in tax free. One problem was solved! But the Internal Revenue Department had a tax called "Compensating Tax." At first we thought we were faced with a possible payment of P9,000 to P13,000 (\$2,000) on every shipment of *The Plain Truth* and other literature from Sydney, which our budget could never stand, and that our only recourse was a direct appeal to the President through the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA). So just before I left for the Headquarters Ministerial Conference in January, I sent a letter explaining exactly what we are and how we operate.

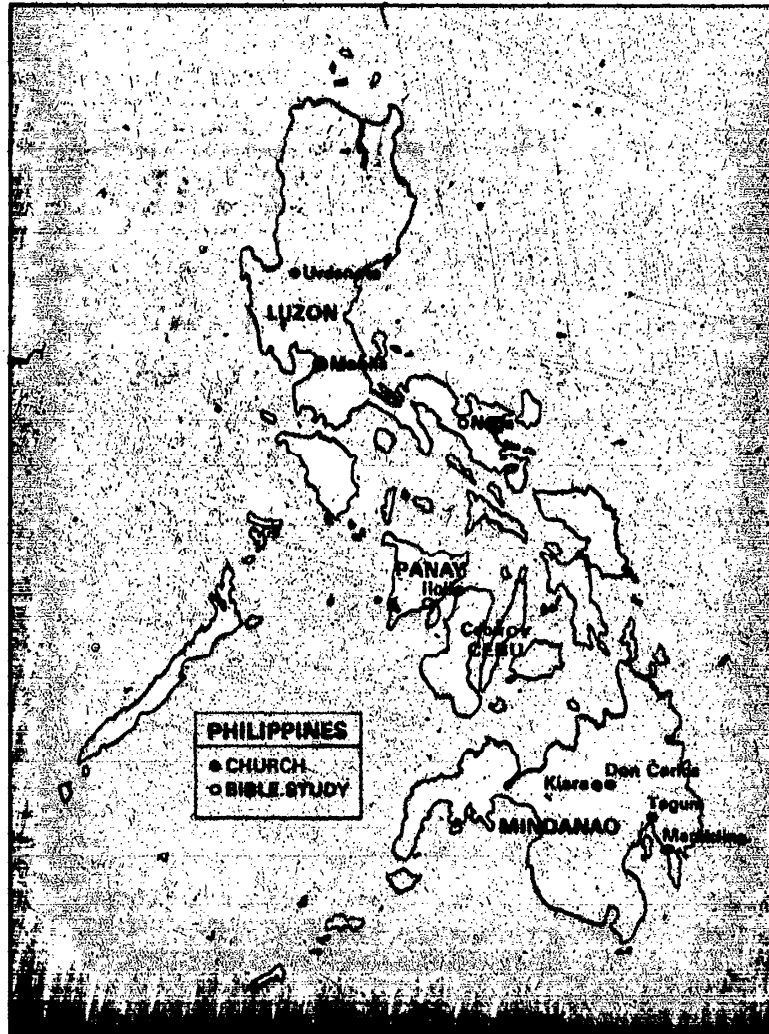
Since then we have found that because the magazines are already addressed before they arrive in the Philippines and the booklets are imported for the same subscribers, they are not categorized as bulk printed matter, and are free from the "Compensating Tax." God again showed us clearly who is in charge of this Work!

In the meantime our appeal for complete tax exempt status was approved by NEDA and forwarded to the Presidential Economic Staff (PES) for further study and action. So as of mid-April we are still waiting to see if we will be able to bring in other items, such as used clothing, without the tax. But it is now only a minor problem.

Growth of Churches

"Today we have two churches in Luzon, the main island, and six smaller groups in Mindanao. These latter were groups that affiliated themselves with us after being part of the "Sardis" Church of God. The leaders of these groups are converted men and receive regular instruction and guidance from Manila in conducting their services. They are in every way a part of the "Philadelphia" Church.

The Manila Church was established in 1965 by Mr. Arthur Docken, when the fruit of the broadcasting and advertising began to be harvested. Over 450 people now meet every Sabbath and steady growth is continuing.



The Urdaneta Church in Central Luzon, pastored by Mr. Pedro Ortiguero, has over 120 in regular attendance and is also growing steadily.

Last year we established two monthly Bible studies in the cities of Cebu and Iloilo, south of Luzon in the Visayan Islands. Their growth potential is very good. We are also starting a bimonthly Bible study in Naga City, southeast of Manila, which we hope will become a full church in a year or two.

Last year nearly 2,000 brethren kept the Feast of Tabernacles at three sites — Baguio City in Luzon (the main site) and Don Carlos and Maniking in Mindanao.

Current Emergencies

The brethren's main problem throughout the Philippines is still the soaring cost of living and a low basic standard of living. Though martial law has helped to stabilize prices, prime commodities are very expensive.

To add to this, a very severe drought afflicting Mindanao has affected our people there. With the land dried up, crops and money lost, and even wells and other water supplies failing, many would right now be in starving condition but for emergency aid rushed from Manila and from Headquarters.

Here is a portion of a letter from

(Continued on page 30)

WHAT IS THE OF PUBLIC

Why aren't God's ministers performing spectacular public miracles today? Is it because of a lack of faith? Is the whole Church just too weak, spiritually speaking? It's time we understand the principles set forth in this article.

by Charles F. Hunting
and Jim Carnochan

DOES it trouble you that ministers of God's Church are not performing the same kind of miracles today that were done during the time of Christ and the apostles?

Tens of thousands are members in the same Church of God today. Yet we do not see the blind receive their sight, nor the dumb voice their first words in the same way that sometimes occurred in the earliest New Testament Church.

This, of course, is not to say that many are not being healed *privately*, sometimes gradually, all the time. For they are!

Daily Miracles

Jesus Christ promised His true ministers power to perform the miracle of Mark 16:18: "They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." This kind of miracle has been and is being repeated thousands of times, for the

benefit of thousands of people around the world!

Today's miracles of healing are being performed not by dramatic decree of a healing "prophet" — but according to the command of James 5:14-15.

"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the *prayer of faith* shall save the sick." These healings are God's response to our request and our faith (Matt. 9:22, 29).

But how many of the hundreds of healing miracles which God is performing daily among our members, Co-workers and others do we ever hear about? We hear mainly about those in our local church areas whom we know.

Mark 16:17-18 enumerates some other miracles that Christ promised would accompany the preaching of the gospel. Notice, however, that not every sign mentioned has been prominent in every church age. Nor were these words given as commands; not the imperative voice, but the simple future indicative is used. (If one whom Christ has *set* *accidentally* takes up a poisonous snake, as in Acts 28:3-5, or accidentally drinks something poisonous, it need not harm him. But those who deliberately handle snakes or drink poison are *tempting* God and have no promise of protection! — see Luke 4:12.)

In accordance with Mark 16:17, demons *are* being cast out today. And many other miraculous occurrences transpire in the daily lives and experiences of God's ministers, and in opening doors for the furtherance of the Work! But they are not the *spectacular* type of miracle that the world must take note of. God's miracles today are the kind which go *unnoticed* by the general public.

Why? We will shortly see an important reason.

Regardless of all the miraculous healings taking place in the Church, many of our deaf, blind, lame and otherwise handicapped people have not been completely made well. A look back in history will help us to understand why.

Moses Worked Great Miracles

Moses performed tremendous miracles by the power of God. When Moses requested a miracle, he expected and got an immediate answer.

He relied on God to open up the Red Sea in the face of the pursuing Egyptian army. Moses never forgot that his staff became a serpent, that his hand became leprous and was healed again at will. Nor had he forgotten the plagues of frogs, flies, locusts and lice in Egypt. He remembered the river of Blood and the dreadful destruction of all the first-born Egyptians on the first Passover night — all *public* miracles of the first magnitude!

PURPOSE MIRACLES?

As a result, Moses had great faith.

But was Moses able to produce immediate spectacular displays of miraculous power — *at any time*? Did you know that even Moses did not always receive instant answers to his prayers? Sometimes his requests were not granted.

As recounted in Numbers 12, God struck Miriam with leprosy because she publicly campaigned against Moses' authority. Moses immediately pleaded with God to heal his sister then and there. And why not? Read in verses 6 through 8, how close Moses was to God. Moses had often asked for and received immediate action. But not this time! Even though she had begun to repent, Miriam had to live with her leprosy for seven days — to teach her a lesson.

The Miracle Work of Elijah

Look at the example of Elijah. Elijah challenged the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal before all Israel to prove the Eternal was the true God. Those false prophets danced, cried and mutilated themselves in vain attempts to make their god answer their request.

Then as sunset drew on, Elijah confidently constructed a stone altar for a sacrifice to his God. To add insult to their injury, he not only soaked the flesh of his sacrifice with gallons of water, but also flooded the area around the altar until it was practically swim-

ming. Then in sight of the whole multitude he calmly stood before his altar and in less than a half-minute prayer asked God to show Israel who is God.

Immediately a brilliant bolt of fire hissed down out of the sky and consumed his sacrifice in a flash of steam and smoke! It devoured the rock altar and licked up every drop of water. That indeed was a *spectacular* miracle!

But look at what happened as a result. When King Ahab told his wife Jezebel how Elijah had slain all the prophets of Baal, she was livid with anger. She swore to kill Elijah by the following day (I Kings 19:1-4).

Then, in stark terror, Elijah fled all the way to Mount Sinai, God performing additional miracles to help him get there. But why didn't Elijah simply rely upon God to protect him where he was? Why did he flee for his life?

Simply because he saw no need for such miracles for the furtherance of the Work of God.

Paul's "Failures"

The Apostle Paul was no stranger to divine intervention. His prayers were answered many times as he carried out God's Work. But Paul was aboard a sailing ship in a terrifying tempest, mercilessly roused, buffeted and pounded by foaming waves for a full fourteen days and nights without respite (Acts 27).

If ever Paul should have stood up

and stilled the waves, this was the time. No doubt he wished he could. Perhaps he tried his best to do so. But he and his companions simply had to "tough it out" till thankfully the ship ran aground. There was no *obvious* miracle in the whole drama.

Paul's faith did heal a serpent's bite (Acts 28:3-6), but we are told in II Corinthians 12:7-10 that God never healed Paul's "thorn in the flesh," a physical infirmity which he besought God three times to remove.

Paul had to leave an assistant named Trophimus behind, sick and unhealed, at Miletum (II Tim. 4:20). Paul told Timothy to take a little wine for his stomach's sake and his *frequent infirmities* (I Tim. 5:23). Epaphroditus nearly died of an ailment at Rome (Phil. 2:25-27).

Why weren't they all instantly healed? Why weren't dramatic miracles performed? Was it because of a lack of faith? We are told that Timothy was one of the few men who was truly faithful (Phil. 2:20) — yet he apparently was not healed of his infirmities!

The writings of Old Testament prophets record almost no miracles. In Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Amos, Hosea and Joel the total number of miracles reported is exactly *nil*. So far as we know, only Isaiah and Daniel ever performed a miracle.

Christ said no one was greater than John the Baptist (Matt. 11:11), yet "John did no miracle" (John 10:41).

Not one! Could anyone say John the Baptist lacked faith? He preached the commandments of God faithfully, and fearlessly rebuked the religious leaders of his day. At the risk of his life he proclaimed God's law before King Herod until his faithful preaching ultimately resulted in his own martyrdom.

When Is a Public Miracle Performed?

We have seen examples where miracles were performed and examples where none were performed. How do we understand the fact that men of faith worked miracles at one time and place and not at another?

The logical answer is this: *they could only perform great miracles when God required them for a specific purpose in His Work!*

Remember I John 5:14: "... If we ask anything according to HIS WILL, he hears us."

Carrying our thinking down to our time, then, the obvious reason we see no great public miracles today is because God's Work has not yet required them!

Is this a lame excuse? Not at all. We will see many awe-inspiring miracles in the future! But let us realize what results they will bring.

Great Miracles Bring Persecution

The apostles worked great wonders. Peter and John, for example, healed a cripple. The incident greatly publicized the gospel (Acts 3:10-16). It made thousands pay attention to what they had to say.

But it *also* brought persecution from the established religious leaders (Acts 5:17; 4:2).

Stephen, a deacon, was given power to work great miracles (Acts 6:8). But he died an early death as a martyr (Acts 7:54-60).

The mere passing of Peter's shadow healed the sick who were laid in beds and couches in the streets (Acts 5:15-16). Peter even raised a dead woman back to life (Acts 9:36-42), as great miracle working by the Church continued. But soon Peter and James were

imprisoned. James was martyred; Peter was saved only as the result of another miracle — being led forth from prison by an angel (Acts 12:1-10).

Paul healed a cripple who had never walked in his life. The people who saw this amazing healing wanted to worship Paul as a god. But the same people, only a few days later, were incited to stone him — and left him for dead (Acts 14:8-20).

These were the results of miracles *known* and *seen* by all. Through the early period of the Church, physical signs and wonders were very closely allied with imprisonment, physical violence and beatings because the established religions of the day took great offense at the threat which they imagined the performers of the miracles posed to their positions.

What the Future Holds for Us

History says persecution and miracles walked side by side in the early Church.

Question: Would you like a tremendous miracle or miracles to occur that would cause the Church today to be persecuted to such a degree that God's Work would be hindered before God's time to suspend it? Or would you rather the Church continue to do its job unhindered for a few more years without a great display of miracles? Jesus Christ knows which *He* prefers.

The time will come when great miracles *will* again be performed by God's Church. Joel prophesied that great miracles will take place *once* again in the end time (Joel 2:28-31). But prophecy also shows God's Church will be persecuted in the future, *some even being martyred* (Luke 21:8-17).

Revelation 11 describes two men who will work awesome miracles that will attract *worldwide* attention. But they will also be persecuted and finally *be killed!*

Great miracles cause great problems. The miracles Christ performed out of compassion caused such widespread excitement that large crowds continually surrounded Him. He had to get away from them to complete His job. Some-

times they even tried to kill him.

What would happen today if God's Church began to perform great public miracles? *The same things that happened at the time of Christ and the apostles!* This is one reason why God is now withholding this type of miracle from the Church.

There are also other reasons — all for our own good.

Miracles Given to Convince the Unconverted

In the Old Testament God gave miracles by the hand of Moses to convince the people of Israel that the Almighty God was the One backing him up (Ex. 4:28-31). As for Pharaoh, he had seen great miracles done by his own sorcerers and magicians. He needed to see the *greater* authority of God Almighty!

God caused the miraculous healing of the cripple by Peter and John to convince the religious leaders of that day where He had put His authority. He wanted the world to know that authority was now with the apostles. Whenever God decides it is time to convince this world where His Church is today, the power to do it *will be there!*

So, like tongues (foreign languages), great miracles "are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to [proft] them that believe not" (I Cor. 14:22).

Brethren, do we have to have miracles to convince us where God's Spirit and His Church are? Of course not! God has given us through His Holy Spirit the absolute knowledge that His law — all of it — is the way to eternal life and that *this is His Church*. That in itself is a MIRACLE! The world can't believe it. We do.

Why We Must Be Tested

What we need today is more of the love of God, compassion, patience and all the other fruits of the Spirit which express the very character of God Almighty.

Would you rather have miracles performed to relieve you of all severe afflictions or tests, rather than develop the CHARACTER you need for eternal

life? No, when you really think about it you wouldn't.

As James wrote, "Count it all joy, my brethren, when you meet various trials, for you know that *the testing of your faith produces steadfastness*. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing" (James 1:2-4, RSV).

We need to experience and sometimes *suffer* tests, trials and afflictions, because we need to *develop character*. We need to develop endurance, steadfastness and patience under great stress. In the future, this Church is going to face times which will try our faith severely. Without the preparation now, *we could fail*!

"More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us" (Rom. 5:3-5, RSV).

Abraham is called the father of the faithful (Rom. 4:11). He believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness. But the confirmation of God's promise that he should have a son was withheld for many, many years — until he was past the age when it was humanly possible to have a son. Why? Because early fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham would never have produced the great character and patience that stamped him as a faithful man.

Christ also learned lessons of obedience through what He suffered (Heb. 5:8). He learned what it meant to be obedient under *severe* trials and afflictions. So must we.

How Will the Church Know When It Is Time to Perform Great Miracles?

Peter was merely going up to the Temple, when a longtime cripple — a man of forty — asked for alms (Acts 3:1-11). Peter looked at him and commanded him to rise. Just like that!

How did Peter know God would back him up then and there, and heal

this man who had never walked in his life? Would Peter ever have felt and looked foolish if the man had just continued to sit there with useless legs and a puzzled frown on his face?

Once again Moses' example gives us the answer. How did Moses know God would open up the Red Sea?

It's simple. God had just *told* him. He would do it! (Ex. 14:15-16).

Actually, God always told Moses when He was going to perform a miracle. Reread the first few chapters of Exodus. God actually dealt with Moses "man to man" and told him *verbally* what to do in such cases.

But how would God tell a person today, whom He was about to use to perform a miracle? How could He do it?

God can inspire anyone with His Spirit at any time to suit His purpose and reveal His will. He filled Saul, before he became king of Israel, with the power of His Holy Spirit and caused him to prophesy (1 Sam. 10:9-10). It was not a matter of whether or not Saul was close to God — he was not a converted man.

If you have any doubts about God inspiring whomever He wishes, you should read Numbers 22:21-31. God actually caused a dumb donkey to hold a short conversation with a man! And then a short time later He caused Balaam, in blessing Israel, to say just the opposite of what Balaam wanted to say (Num. 24:25). That should pretty well dispel any doubts anyone may have about God's power to inspire anyone, at any time, to say anything He requires. (You might also compare the example of God inspiring the Jewish High Priest in A.D. 31 to say that Christ should die for the nation — John 11:49-52.)

Did you ever notice the words with which many Bible prophecies begin? Let us look at some examples. Ezekiel 11:5: "The Spirit of the Lord fell upon me, and said unto me, Speak, thus says the Lord."

And Jeremiah 2:1-2: "Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the Lord."

As Peter wrote, "... Holy men of

God spoke as *they were moved* by the Holy Spirit" (II Peter 1:21).

Of course, this is not to say that a man of God does not have any *control* over what he is doing with the power God is granting in performing a miracle or series of miracles through him. God does not work through zombie-like automatons who perform His will like a pre-programmed computer.

The principle in I Corinthians 14:32 shows that men of God do exercise *control* over the operation of the Spirit of God within them — for "the spirits of the prophets are *subject* to the prophets."

And so it is certainly feasible that God could reveal to a man that He has given him power to perform a miracle, or several miracles, and then continue to have the knowledge and the power or authority over a period of time and use it more or less at will. A good example of this is the two witnesses of Revelation 11 who "have power" to perform great miracles on the earth "as often as they will" (Verse 6). And notice, incidentally, that when it is God's time for their work to be *finished*, their ability to perform miracles and the supernatural protection afforded them will be *taken away*, and they will then be allowed to be *KILLED*! (Verse 7).

God Has the Power Today

We need not wonder how God will inform whomever He chooses to use as an instrument in performing a great special miracle or series of miracles. God somehow let Peter know and provided the power to heal the cripple on the spot. He spoke to Moses and opened the Red Sea at Moses' command. Elijah called down fire from heaven by God's special inspiration. And God will take care of the miracles *in the future*.

Brethren, God is going to keep every promise He has ever made to us *if we will believe*. We are finally going to look back on the troubles and afflictions of today with great rejoicing because of what they are producing *in us*.

So let's build the character now which will enable us to continue overcoming spiritually while enduring the results of great miracles *when they come!* □

PARENTS—

what today's youth wants from you

Most parents know what they want for their children. Parental advice and influence is tuned to direct the young toward what the parents honestly believe is best for them. But the "kids" don't always agree! Why are parental values sometimes rejected and spurned by the youth of our church? A teacher at Imperial High School in Pasadena gives the answers in this most needful article.

by Scott Royer

SOMETIMES we don't give our young people enough credit or consideration for their own views, intelligence and vision!

Most youngsters in God's Church know what they want out of life. And they have their own ideas and plans on how to obtain their goals.

But their parents also have their own ideas about their children's life and future. Sometimes, where two-way communication and the right amount of consideration are lacking, differences of ideas develop. And so youth concludes that "No one listens! No one understands! No one cares!" Consequently, they no longer desire what their parents have to offer, and they reject much of what their parents say. Then the parents also become upset and frustrated.

Thankfully, this is not the case in all families in the Church of God. Many parents and children do share the same

ideas. In many families there is peace and harmony, and there is appreciation on both sides.

The youth in these families say their parents listen, that they do understand, and care. They are not worried about grasping desperately for more "freedom," because they don't feel bound and fettered by their parents. They have a sense of security. These kids listen and obey. Their parents are happy and pleased with them.

What causes wide differences of opinion in families of God's Church? Why do some young people listen and obey while others go their own way? What kind of parents do young people appreciate? And what kind of help will they accept?

A number of teenagers in this church were asked a set of similar questions. This article gives their answers.

One of the questions asked was: "What is the best thing your parents do for you?" They said:

"My Parents . . ."

" . . . don't let me do just anything I want to do. . . don't give me just anything I want — they advise me when and where it is needed."

" . . . put up with me [emphasis his!]. They teach me the right way of life and correct me when I don't live right. They don't leave me on my own and let me get into trouble."

" . . . make me understand when I have done something wrong."

" . . . discipline and advise and instruct me in a very loving way."

"I think the best thing my parents do for us is teach us and try to bring us up the right way. They try to keep us from making mistakes like they did,

and they give us things they never had when they were younger."

The above answers were given anonymously to assure complete honesty. Other answers the teen-agers gave that most parents would call "less desirable" were: "Nothing besides giving me room and board." "Buy my clothes at Roebucks." "Keep me alive." "Let me do things on my own."

"I Want . . ."

Two other questions on this questionnaire were, "What do you want more than anything?" and "What do you want most out of life?" Almost every answer to these questions included some form of the word "happiness." A very few exceptions were answers like "a car" or "a driver's license."

When given the multiple-choice question, "How important are material goods and wealth to you?" ten percent chose "Necessary for an enjoyable life." Eighty-three percent chose "Enjoyable, but don't determine how enjoyable life is." The choice of seven percent was, "Don't have much to do at all with how much one enjoys life."

All the kids wanted to be happy! They all want to enjoy life!

And most of them are smart enough to realize that material goods alone will not give them the happiness they want.

But even the "hippies" saw that.

Lesson of the Hippies

The hippie cult rejected the establishment.

"Look at you" sneered the hippies a few years ago — "needing a couple of stiff drinks before you have

the guts to talk to another human being. Look at you, fouling up the land, polluting the water and air for profit and calling this *nouhere scene* 'The Great Society!' Look at you.

"And do you think you're going to tell us how to live? You've got to be kidding!"

They saw the "rat race" for material wealth, the double standard, the cheating, the lying, and the killing. They saw a sick, unhappy world. No member of the unhappy establishment — neither parents nor minister nor teacher nor boss — was going to tell them how to find happiness! So they held their "love-ins."

Did they find true love — or true happiness? If so, where are the hippies today?

Most of them now have jobs. Now they endure the "evils" of the establishment because they found they

couldn't get along without physical necessities, and because their own way of life *didn't bring them happiness either!* All it got them was wretchedness, disease, and wrecked bodies and lives.

The hippie experiment failed! It's too bad they didn't know and understand in advance the results one person obtained who tried a similar experiment ages ago.

But before we look into his experiments and solutions, there is a question church parents need to ask themselves: Do our children have a "hippie attitude" toward the family establishment of God's Church?

Church Hippies?

Do any of our children have the attitude, "Are you going to try to tell

FAMILY OUTING — A camping trip is one of dozens of ways to help promote the family "togetherness" our youth desire.

H. Armstrong Roberts Photo

me how to live when your life is an unhappy mess? You've got to be kidding!"

It will be hard to admit if it's true in your case. But many children do reject the advice of their parents because *they don't see the fruits of true happiness in their parents' lives!*

What all too many do see is their parents arguing every day — "at least until the minister comes to visit or it's time for Sabbath services. Then they see hypocrisy and the double standard. They see that all dad ever seems to have time for is making more money to pay for more material things. And mom is always on the go, never doing much of anything that really seems worthwhile. Each parent selfishly "does his own thing."

Do any of you parents wonder why your children never come to you for advice? And when you give it to them

(Continued on page 31)





ARE YOU WORKING FOR GOD?

Few people in the world really enjoy their jobs. It is one of the tragedies of our times. Yet, did you realize your ATTITUDE toward your occupation has a lot to do with your reward in God's Kingdom, as well as the spiritual character you build today?

by Ronald Lohr

WHY do you go to work? Just to feed the family? Would you perhaps not work at all if you had the means to sustain yourself indefinitely?

Do you work because you want to enjoy the "finer things of life"?

Do you work only to please people — the boss, the wife, or friends?

Are you eager to be the first one out of the plant or office so you can do something you really enjoy?

Do you, as a church member think: "There is nothing 'spiritual' about my

job; I am just putting in time until Christ returns"?

Work Is Important

Let's notice Revelation 22:12: "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

You probably have supposed this scripture refers solely to your "spiritual works" and has nothing to do with your particular job — whether laborer, office worker, housewife, student or whatever. But the Greek word for "work" in this verse is *ergon*, meaning "toil (as an effort or occupation), doing, labor, work." This is the same Greek word used in Titus 3:14, "And let ours also learn to maintain good works [perform honest trades — margin] for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful."

Having the right attitude toward one's job is important because whether one is a working man, housewife or a student, each is being judged by his or her works and performance in these day-to-day tasks.

Yet, some members seem to think, "If only I had a 'spiritual' job like the

ministers, then I could really put my heart into it." What they don't realize is that as far as *their* reward in God's Kingdom is concerned, their job is just as "spiritual" as a minister's. And the minister's job is often just as physically tiring and enervating as theirs may be.

Satanic Influence

God is a practical God. He had a purpose in mind when He said, "Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work" (Ex. 20:9).

But Satan, the god of this world, has permeated the occupational area of life with falsehood just as he has mightily influenced the religious and educational systems of society. Modern labor is constantly pushing for *less work* and more pay, greater "fringe benefits," etc. The same arch rebel who spawned the heaven myth and set a false goal of a life of eternal leisure — floating ethereally on clouds, plucking a harp, with no work, no challenge, no fulfillment — wants to influence God's people as well!

The same spirit that has permeated this society can affect us and our attitude toward our jobs if we're not careful!

The Fulfillment Value of Work

There was a time when people lived to work instead of working to live. What we see in the world today (and to an extent even in God's Church) did not occur overnight. But a Satan-guided evolutionary process has occurred which has resulted in bored workers, and has made employee unrest and disinterest the major problem facing employers in the United States and the Western world today.

"Relief from the strains of modern life lies not in shorter working hours and more leisure time but in taking on stress with enjoyment," says Dr. Hans Selye, Director of the University of Montreal's Institute of Medicine and Experimental Surgery. He was expert consultant to the Surgeon General of the U. S. Army during 1947-57 and has written a book entitled *The Stress of Life*.

"Man is made to work, to do something that makes demands on him," says Dr. Selye. "With the decline of so many other values such as religion, and nothing new to replace them, work is one of the few areas where man can find a sense of worth and enjoyment." (Of course Dr. Selye doesn't see that true religion and one's work go hand-in-hand, and really have the same goal.)

Dr. Selye added that too often work is a source of frustration and insecurity, just something else to put up with, like traffic congestion, pollution and violence.

In an article entitled "Liking Job Eases Strain" (AP), he pointed out that the root of this frustration is the depersonalization of the individual and the loss of pride in individual accomplishment.

"Sure, we're technologically more efficient, but in the process we have lost personal contact," he wrote. "What's the good of the end product — efficiency — if everyone's unhappy?"

"Formerly a craftsman would make a table from beginning to end and get a great deal of satisfaction. Today, one person makes the legs, another the top and still another paints, so that no one person has made the article and no one is gratified.

"Too many people blindly accept status symbols such as owning a car and put up with a job they probably don't really want to do to gain them. They may get the car but also years of pent-up tension and no real feeling of accomplishment."

Dr. Selye advocates employment of each person in a profession to which his talents are best suited. "There's just as much satisfaction in being a bricklayer and building walls well as there is in being a scientist. Everybody, no matter how low he may be on the scale of mental development, has something that he wants to express."

On the other hand, the stress developed in work you can't bring yourself to enjoy can wreck your health and your happiness. Also, since you probably will not give it your best, it is not likely to solve your financial problems. But most importantly, *your spiritual life will be impeded!*

With these points in mind, let's notice some purposes which should *not* be the reasons you work.

You Should Not Work Just for Money

It is certainly not wrong to receive pay for your work. It costs *money* in this developed, commercialized world to live, to support ourselves and those who depend upon us, and to support the Work of God.

It is not even wrong to be *rich*, if God has so blessed us because of our own or our predecessors' diligent application of God's laws regulating financial success. After all, God does *want* to bless us. He inspired John to write to Gaius, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health" (III John 2).

The Bible also tells us that "A wise man lays up for his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just" (Prov. 13:22).

But the point is that the accumulation of money should not be our GOAL. The wages and material blessings should not be ends in themselves. They should be considered as benefits which come along with *first* seeking the Kingdom of God (Matt. 6:24-33).

Many today worship money. A representative poll showed most people

felt their financial problems would be solved if they got a 30 percent raise. Get, acquire, grasp is a way of life for too many.

Another poll, conducted several years ago, showed \$75 a week would satisfy one man, while a banker considered a cool million a year not too much. It often depends on one's immediate financial status. A survey conducted by *Printer's Ink* magazine revealed that 76 percent of the advertising industry's executives who made over \$25,000 a year were unhappy in their jobs. More than 21 percent of those interviewed blamed their gloom on the belief they were UNDERPAID. Such is the greed of human nature!

Notice the admonition in I Timothy 6:5-10. God inspired Paul to warn of "Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that *gain* is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich, [that put money before God] fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a [not *the*] root of all evil; which while some *coveted* after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

Again in verses 17-19, "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in [the] uncertain[ty of] riches, but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good *works*, ready to distribute, willing to communicate [share]; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."

So don't work only for money! Seek God's Kingdom *first* (Matt. 6:33) and "if riches increase, set not your heart upon them" (Ps. 62:10).

Don't Work Just "Because You Have To"

What is the most enjoyable physical activity in your life? Is it a sport —

golf, tennis or skiing? Eating a steak? Drinking a cold beer? If you think about it, and are completely honest with yourself, you will admit that your happiest moments were during *work* — real production, fulfillment, accomplishment, building.

This pride in accomplishment is not wrong. Solomon advised that "a man should rejoice in his own *works*" (Eccl. 3:22). He was also inspired by God to say, "Whatsoever thy hand finds to do, do it with thy might; for there is no *work*, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest" (Eccl. 9:10).

Put your heart into your work! Learn to enjoy it!

Don't Just Put in Your Time

Some of God's people, knowing Christ's coming is near, have used this as an excuse for their lack of initiative and zeal on the job. Many have subconsciously thought, "There's no need for extra schooling or trying to better myself on the job since time is so short."

The identical problem was apparent in ancient Thessalonica. Some in the church there "closed up shop" when they supposed Christ's return was imminent.

Paul had to severely reprimand them. "For even when we were with you, this we *commanded* you, that if any would *not work, neither should be eat*." Some had actually quit their jobs.

"For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, *working not at all*, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness *they work*, and eat their own bread. But you, brethren, be not weary in *well doing*" (II Thess. 3:10-13).

You must work at your job as if there were years and years to go. That way you will be productive, fruitful and happy in your work, and prepared for Christ's return! Jesus said, "Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when he comes shall find *so doing*" (Matt. 24:46), and "occupy till I come" (Luke 19:13).

Don't Work Just to Get Ahead

In 1959 Nick was a fledgling, but ambitious young businessman. He borrowed \$500 to start his business and today is a multimillionaire. Success? Yes, if money and getting ahead are the important values.

He gets up around 4:00 a.m. each day, grabs a cup of coffee and does office work preparatory for his busy day ahead. He is off to work by 6:00 a.m. for a full day of meetings and decisions that sometimes involve millions of dollars. He is usually home by midnight or shortly thereafter. There is little time for his family or anything else. His job is his life. In fact, his job is his *god*!

Let's not go to this extreme either. The First Commandment requires us to put our Creator first and foremost above everything else, including our own lives (Ex. 20:3; Luke 14:26). If we are to please God by the way we work, we cannot put Him second. It's a matter of proper priorities.

Put God first in your work — make your spiritual responsibilities and your ability relate to God in the work you are doing. Do a good job — your best — even if you are being taken advantage of by lazy or incompetent foremen. Serve as if Christ were your *direct employer*. You will not only be happier with your work, but you will be qualifying for a greater reward in the Kingdom of God, and building greater spiritual character at the same time.

Don't Work Just to Please Men

Some workers are known "boot lick-ers" and think success comes from buttering up the right people. As a member and representative of the true Church of God, you are to be different.

"Servants [employees], be obedient to them that are your masters [employers] according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart [with one motive — to be a good employee because God requires it], *as unto Christ*; not with eyeservice [just working hard when the boss is looking], *as menpleasers*; but as the servants of [that is, actually working for] Christ, doing the will of God from the heart" (Eph. 6:5-6).

This is actually the conclusion of the whole matter: **WORK FOR GOD!** Put

Him first (Matt. 6:33; Psalms 37:4).

This and this alone must be your prime motive in *how* you work, as well as the *attitude* you have while you work. Any other prime motive is wrong.

"Servants [employees], obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever you do, do it heartily, *as to the Lord, and not unto men*" (Col. 3:22-23).

This is the starting place. Only by *working for God* can you properly reap the secondary benefits of work — financial blessings, enjoyment of your work, promotion to your highest level of competence and fulfillment, proper relations with those you work with.

But most important of all, doing your work as if every individual action were directly a service to God is one major way you will be building the spiritual character you must have to enter the Kingdom of God, and receive a greater reward.

Are You Working for God?

How about it? How does your overall attitude and approach to your job stack up in the light of what God says about working? How are you doing on *your* job?

Your attitude toward your job is a *key* factor which affects and directly relates to other aspects of your job performance. Following is a list of those areas you can check yourself on:

- Knowledge of your job
- Quality of work
- Quantity of work
- Reliability
- Resourcefulness
- Judgment
- Drive and leadership
- Listening to suggestions
- Attendance and punctuality
- Personal characteristics
(cleanliness, dress, manners, etc.)

If you detect any lack in yourself in these areas, meditate on the problems and possible solutions. Then write down your objectives for job improvement. If you do this and couple it with the *right attitude* toward your work, you will soon be on the road to greater spiritual and physical blessings! □

We Must Carry

"A MESSAGE TO GARCIA"

Integrity, loyalty, resourcefulness and self-sacrifice for a worthy cause are exceedingly rare in our age. There is a need today for men and women with these qualities — people who can carry "a message to Garcia."

by William F. Dankenbring

IT WAS 1898 — just weeks before the Spanish-American War. The War Department wanted to get in touch with General Calixto Garcia y Iniguez, leader of the Cuban insurgents.

Colonel Arthur Wagner summoned a first lieutenant in the Ninth Infantry and a West Point graduate, Andrew Summers Rowan. His instructions were oral.

Rowan's assignment: find Garcia, learn the strength of the insurrectionist forces, what supplies they needed, Garcia's plan of campaign, the morale of his followers, and whether he would cooperate with an American army.

Hazardous Mission

Rowan sailed to Kingston, Jamaica, establishing secret contacts with exiled Cuban patriots. From there he took a fishing boat to Cuba. A Spanish patrol boat stopped and inspected their vessel, but Rowan, carefully hidden, escaped detection.

At a remote point on Oriente Bay, Cuban guides were waiting and received Rowan. Then for six days they trekked through the steaming jungle, plagued by intense heat, barbarous insects, putrid water and numerous Spanish patrols. Despite the extraordinary hardship, Rowan finally met General Garcia, learned of his desperate need for artillery, ammunition and rifles, and his desire for American help.

After barely six hours of rest, Rowan and a few companions plunged again

into the thickly overgrown jungle to reach the north coast. They traveled only at night to escape detection by swarming Spanish patrols. They sailed from the coast in a tiny three-man boat with gunnysack sails, barely eluded several Spanish patrol boats, and suffered a severe storm before finally landing at Nassau in the Bahamas.

Rowan's perilous journey was widely reported in the American press. He was promoted to captain for his valor and courage in executing his dangerous mission. Twenty-four years later the United States remembered his valorous mission and awarded him the Distinguished Service Cross.

"A Message to Garcia"

In the meantime, Rowan's escapades so stirred philosopher Elbert Hubbard in 1899 that he wrote an article entitled "A Message to Garcia," congratulating Rowan for his heroism, gallantry, enterprise, resourcefulness and loyalty. It was soon being translated into other languages. During the war between Russia and Japan, every Russian soldier was given a copy to read. Finding copies on the bodies of dead Russian soldiers, the Japanese had it translated into their language. Within the space of sixteen years, over forty million copies of "A Message to Garcia" were printed. It has been translated into every major language!

Why did Hubbard's article have such an impact? There are many reasons: for one, Rowan's exploits caught

the popular fancy because it was the account of an uncommon man who accepted his difficult assignment and fulfilled it successfully in spite of extreme odds and seemingly insurmountable difficulty.

Rowan never asked, "Who is Garcia?" "Where is he?" "How do I get to him?" "Why choose me?" "Why can't someone else do it?" "What's in it for me?"

Rowan simply took the job — and accomplished his mission.

Elbert Hubbard, the "sage of East Aurora," concluded in his article: "Civilization is one long, anxious search for just such individuals. Anything such a man asks shall be granted. . . . The world cries out for such: he is needed and needed badly — the man who can 'Carry a Message to Garcia.'"

The Urgent Need Now

Such people are very rare in the world today! The world needs men and women who are loyal, who act promptly, who have a sense of responsibility and deep commitment, who are *motivated*, resourceful, persevering and DILIGENT.

In our modern self-seeking, lackadaisical society — where slipshod service, dishonesty in business, and competitive clawing and scratching to "get ahead" are rampant signs of decay — such qualities as Rowan displayed are becoming increasingly hard to find.

Rowan was willing to risk his life to accomplish a perilous mission, with no

thought of glory, reward or recognition. He sweated through steaming jungles, hacked his way through vine-covered paths, and kept on going past countless dangers to life and limb.

What about you? Are you striving to become such a person? Are you really going "all out" in service to God?

How to Be a Success

Rowan followed several of the laws of success which Mr. Herbert Armstrong has since described. He had a GOAL — he knew what his mission was. It was vivid before him. He never lost sight of it, or allowed it to become muddled or nebulous.

When it comes to keeping *your* eyes on the goal of God's Kingdom and completing God's Work, how easily are you distracted — perhaps by bright lights, glittering temptations — or discouraged perhaps by an insult, a casual remark, an apparent injustice or inequity?

Rowan was educated — trained as a military officer. He knew how to accomplish his task. He was an excellent soldier and knew his job. And, of course, he was in tip-top health.

Andrew Rowan also had the ingredient called DRIVE! He was zealous in carrying out his assignment. He toiled and labored to accomplish his objective, without wondering if he would ever be honored or recognized — simply because he loved his country, his native land.

He allowed no obstacle or series of problems to stand in his way. Absolutely, nothing was allowed to prevent him from accomplishing his mission. Are you willing to labor as Rowan did, and drive yourself, to accomplish the Work of God?

Rowan Had Resourcefulness

He figured out ways to overcome all obstacles in order to complete his mission. He wasn't daunted by impenetrable jungle growth, inaccessible mountains, poisonous snakes, miserable mosquitoes, polluted water, or Spanish patrol boats. He disappeared into the jungle and came out three weeks later on the other side of the island, having successfully traversed a hostile land on foot to fulfill his assignment.

In living your spiritual life, and overcoming sin, do you use resourcefulness to find a way to succeed?

Far too many people, when problems surround them, stop "dead in their tracks" — paralyzed into a state of inactivity. When unexpected problems arise, many people "cave in" and say, "I didn't bargain for this!" They exclaim in bitterness, "You didn't tell me about this specific problem. I've had it — I quit!" What are *your* reactions when such problems arise?

Rowan also had tenacity of purpose — the sixth law of success. He PERSISTED until the mission was accomplished and his task fully carried out. He had character. He knew that "when the going gets tough, the tough get going." He never quit, regardless of the threat to his life. With aching muscles and numb senses, he pulled himself through to final success by sheer determination and grit.

How much *tenacity* of purpose — determination to succeed — perseverance in the face of inestimable odds — do you exhibit? When the spiritual fighting gets rough — when the world batters and smashes you — when things seem to blow up in your face, even though you've done your best — is that when you call it quits, give up, throw in the towel and cry, "I'm finished — it's no use — I quit"?

Rowan, of course, did not fully understand the seventh law of success — divine guidance and contact with God. But as a member of God's Church, with His Spirit within you, you have God's promise of *additional help* through every trial, every obstacle. Are you maintaining that spiritual contact daily, replenishing God's Spirit through earnest prayer and regular Bible study?

Spiritual Warriors

"Sunshine patriots" and "fair-weather sailors" are a dime a dozen. Many are willing to be Christians when times are good, when being a Christian is easy. But God expects more from His people. He has called us to be strong soldiers — spiritual warriors — mighty men and women of spiritual valor.

The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy: "Thou therefore ENDURE HARDNESS as a good *soldier* of Jesus Christ" (II Tim. 2:3). He added: "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier" (verse 4).

A good soldier obeys orders. A soldier, when he is on the front line or a member of a patrol searching for an enemy bunker, isn't thinking of "how to get ahead," or how to make "captain" or "sergeant," etc. His main concerns are simply *how to do the job!*

As *spiritual* soldiers, we need to have the same attitude. Our only way to attain our objective, spiritually, is to fight the good fight — not turning our backs to the enemy, making ourselves easy targets.

Soldiers work together as a unit. Each works as a part of a team. Each one does not "do his own thing" without regard for anyone else. Can you imagine how effective a military unit would be if half the men were attacking an enemy bunker and half were retreating?

If each one of us would look upon ourself as a literal soldier out on the front lines for Jesus Christ and the Work of God, we wouldn't bog down in petty complaints, vain comparisons, selfish ambitions, seeking after carnal rewards, vain glory, our own pleasure or material wealth.

Paul encouraged Timothy: "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life" (I Tim. 6:12). That requires *vigorous* effort. We cannot be timid, listless, "tired" soldiers. We must *attack* our spiritual objectives with all-out effort.

The Christian life can also be compared to a wrestling match, where your strength is pitted against that of your opponents (the world, your own human nature, and the wiles of Satan the devil). In order to win over these adversaries, you must go *all out*, pull out all the stops — keep up your guard, be on the alert, and be aggressive. Don't let the enemy demoralize you, or "psyche you out" with his propaganda. You must *resist* the devil

with every fiber of your being, *straining against sin!*

In our age of idleness, lethargy and ease, everybody is concerned about self — his own material welfare. And if we are not super-careful, even we in God's Church can become inoculated with the world's attitude!

Our Prime Example

Jesus Christ set us the example. It was written of Him: "For consider him that *endured* such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be *wearied* and faint in your minds. Ye have not yet *resisted* unto blood, striving against sin" (Heb. 12:3-4).

The Apostle Peter exhorts: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom *RESIST* steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world" (1 Pet. 5:8-9).

The natural temptation is to get our mind off the enemy and his tactics and on to ourselves. Satan would like nothing better than to get us worried, thinking about our own lives, and get our mind off the captain of our faith, Jesus Christ, and the Kingdom of God.

That's why James wrote also: "*Resist* the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). Are you putting up resistance? Or are you a spiritual noodle — a pushover — a marshmallow?

The Tenacity of Jacob

When it came to determination our forefather Jacob was a real winner. After a long night of wrestling until daybreak with the One who became Christ (Gen. 32:24), who was testing Jacob to see if he had real character, Jacob still would not give up. When daybreak came, Christ said, "Let me go." But Jacob only panted, "I will not let you go, except you bless me" (verse 26).

Was Jacob being disrespectful? No, not at all. He knew that God was testing his mettle to see if he would endure adversity.

When Jacob passed the test, Christ then told him: "Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel [that is, prevailer, overcomer, ruler or cham-

pion with God]: for as a prince hast thou *power* with God and with men, and hast *PREVAILED*" (verse 28).

God names people what they *are*, for names have great meaning with Him. Jacob was one who *prevailed* — who fought till he got the victory. He endured to the end — never letting go even though he was in great *pain* as a result of his hip being out of joint (verse 25). That's why he was a conqueror, a champion, and why God changed his name.

Brethren, in order for us to receive God's blessing, we too must strive, prevail, endure and *fight* the good fight, never giving up or letting go of the promises God has given to each of us.

Jesus Christ commanded; "*STRIVE* to enter in at the strait gate..." (Luke 13:23). The original word used here is *agonizomai* in the Greek and means to struggle, to compete for a prize, to contend with an adversary — to fight, labor fervently, strive, to *agonize!* That's the kind of effort needed to be a champion — one who *PREVAILS!*

There are some who grow weary with the fight. Some may start out to carry "a message to Garcia," but soon drop by the wayside due to "battle fatigue." Even seasoned veterans sometimes grow battle weary and give up. Unaccustomed to the self-discipline necessary to be a loyal soldier, all too many lack the tenacity and stick-to-it-iveness that is necessary to be a winner and *CONQUEROR.*

Carry the Message!

In his widely published article, Elbert Hubbard wrote: "It is not book learning young men need, or instruction about this and that, but a *stiffening of the vertebrae* which will cause them to be *loyal to a trust*, to act promptly, concentrate their energies: do the thing — 'Carry a message to Garcia.'"

Brethren, we have a "message for Garcia"! But our message is from God. We are charged with the commission of getting that message — the good news of His coming Kingdom — to all the world as a witness.

If any people should be *loyal* to a trust, be willing and able to act promptly and to concentrate their energies on fulfilling an assigned task

— if any people should "carry a message to Garcia," *we should be that people!*

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, during his many years of experience, discovered long ago that the members who really grow spiritually are the ones who put their *whole hearts* into God's Work! Those who put this Work first in their lives are also the ones who *endure* to the end (Matt. 6:33). But those who put *themselves* first sooner or later fall by the wayside — becoming spiritual "casualties," losing out on the victory ahead.

Rowan demonstrated steadfast, loyal character when given an assignment to go find a particular general. How much more should *we* demonstrate loyalty, faithfulness, dependability, dedication, determination, and resourcefulness in performing our part in carrying God's message of eternal salvation to the *entire world!*

Christ and Our Message

Jesus Christ came with a message, the true gospel. He carried the message faithfully, resourcefully, zealously. He fulfilled God's Work.

He said, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day" (John 9:4). He declared, "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to *FINISH HIS WORK*" (John 4:34).

Of Jesus it was written, "The *ZEAL* of thine house hath eaten me up" (John 2:17). Jesus was wrapped up in a cause, a work, a mission He regarded as greater than Himself. His paramount concern was the Work of God. He was willing to give His own life to accomplish that Work!

Why was Jesus willing to go all the way?

The answer is simple. Jesus had vision. He saw the *end result*. His eyes were not taken off the supreme goal by physical distractions or temptations of this temporary earthly life. His eyes and mind were focused on the overview. He foresaw that through His sacrifice billions of sons of God would someday exist in the family of God, ruling over the entire universe.

Jesus never faltered. He was a "soldier" willing to give His life that billions might be saved from the eternal

(Continued on inside back cover)

How Important Is Your Willpower?

Just how much should YOU do, and what part does GOD play in overcoming your human nature? What is the role of self-discipline and determination in a Christian's life? This article will show you how important your willpower is in overcoming sin.

by Stephen Martin

MR. Herbert W. Armstrong has said many times, "God will not do for you what you can do for yourself." Do you really comprehend that statement?

Let's examine a biblical example to see this principle illustrated and proved.

Of himself, Noah had no way of knowing that the world of man was soon to be destroyed by a flood. So God had to reveal this to Noah and instruct him to build an ark in which to escape.

But God didn't build the ark. God *could* have created an ark just as He prepared a great fish for Jonah — but as Noah could do that for himself, God put him to the *test*. Even though God assisted by giving measurements and other advice, Noah had to go about the physical task.

If Noah had not put his heart into building the ark, if he had been sloppy in his work and in supervising the entire project, do you think God would have saved him? Of course, if circumstances beyond Noah's control threatened to destroy the ark, God would certainly have intervened to save it and Noah.

The experience of Noah illustrates the point: *God will not do for you what*

you can do for yourself. What you cannot do yourself, God will do for you (IF you have done *your part*), but your part must be done by YOU if you would have His assistance.

Not realizing and acting on this basic principle is a reason many in God's Church are not as successful in overcoming their human nature as they could be. Waiting for God to overcome their problems for them, they fail to realize what *their part* is, and thus fail to put forth the effort required to overcome.

The Role of Your Willpower

What then is your part in overcoming human nature? Just this: *you* have to put forth the effort, the determination to overcome your human nature. In this, as in every part of the Christian life, you must know and have faith that success is all dependent on GOD, but you must work and strive at it as if it all depends on you.

The effort and *self-discipline* to do this is called WILLPOWER. And this ingredient is sadly lacking in today's society, and thus also in many of God's people.

All too many of us give in to the baser drives of human nature. Why?

Because *determination*, (willpower) to stop sin, to resist the pull of the flesh, is lacking.

For example, television takes up far too much time in the average church member's life, while prayer and Bible study are all too often lacking. Why? Because television takes no effort to watch, requires no willpower to view, while prayer and study take effort and determination to accomplish. Many just give in without even attempting to fight laziness. They do not exert the effort to make themselves do what they know they should do.

What is your biggest problem? What one sin have you babied and pampered? If you analyze your problem you will probably find you have not overcome it because you have not put forth the *self-discipline* necessary to conquer it. You probably have not been willing to face that enemy and do *your part* in defeating it.

It is true that you need God's help and strength to overcome problems, but if you lack the self-discipline to DILIGENTLY seek God's help, you will *not* receive that help.

Why Willpower Is Weakened

The Bible warns in Proverbs 25:28, "He that has no rule over his own

spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls." Just as a city without protection will finally fall, so, too, will the Christian who does not "rule over his own spirit," or in our modern terminology, does not have *self-discipline!*

What weakens willpower? What are the factors that tear down, debilitate, dilute our self-determination?

There are several factors in today's society that have contributed to the weakening of our willpower. We need to recognize these factors and FIGHT them!

Laziness — It is normal to follow the line of least resistance, to do the easy thing. It is human, but it is not Christian. Christ warns us against the broad, easy way, and commands us to take the narrow, difficult, hard path (Matt. 7:13).

Human beings tend to seek the avenue of quick success, failing to realize true success comes only through hard effort. Consistent hard work finally gets the job done, and nothing else really works. Since it is normal to lack willpower, we must learn to fight what comes naturally. You should realize that laziness is inherent and fight it with dogged determination!

Lack of Willpower Training — Most of us were never made to complete our projects when we were children. Many of us were allowed to take food on our plates and then not eat all of it, to get out our toys and leave them scattered about, to start a project and never complete it. Most of our parents didn't teach us we should "never give in." And so most of us are suffering from a lack of determination to complete a task, to see a project through to the end, because as children we were allowed to drop a task when only half way through.

Now that you are an adult, you must belatedly begin *training yourself* in the areas where you are deficient. You can also determine to train your children differently. You can begin by teaching your child the importance of *completing* what he begins.

Society's Influence — We live in an age where work is commonly shunned and leisure is glorified. Our industrial society has provided us with so many

modern gadgets that we have lost the pioneering spirit.

This is the age of instant coffee, instant tea, instant potatoes and, some would like to believe, instant character. (The latter, of course, is not possible.) It is not wrong to use modern conveniences, but don't allow them to foster a "lazy" spirit.

Modern conveniences have added to our society's character of laziness. In the beginning years of our nation, our forefathers were not as plagued with habitual laziness as the 20th century seems to be. They had to work hard to exist, and hard work didn't frighten them. It is a tragic memorial to the 20th century that too many are afraid to work. This attitude has fostered varying degrees of weakened willpower in all of us which we need to fight!

Discouragement — Though you fight a particular weakness, you are almost bound to suffer occasional setbacks. It's what you do then that's most important. You can give up and say, "Oh, what's the use, I'll never lick this problem." Or you can repent and *determine* never to fail again.

Remember the old, but very true saying, "Quitters never win, and winners never quit." Never allow discouragement to weaken your determination. As Winston Churchill told the English nation during World War II: "Never give in, never give in, never, never, NEVER!"

So don't let discouragement weaken your will to fight your particular problems!

Delay of Punishment — Ecclesiastes 8:11 states, "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil."

Because God doesn't immediately strike you dead when you sin, your human tendency is to assume or act as if you assume that you have gotten away with the crime, and so you fail to see the need to really fight the problem(s) that led you to sin. Actually, it is not your getting away with it, but God's mercy and His hope you will eventually repent that keeps Him from meting out immediate punishment (Rom. 2:4).

Don't misconstrue God's mercy and

forbearance. Don't weaken your own willpower by thinking you got away with a particular sin.

The Habit of Procrastination — Procrastination is delaying what must be done, putting it off, just hoping that somehow the tasks will mysteriously get done by themselves. Procrastination weakens willpower, destroys self-discipline, and leaves you a slave to laziness. It is the grandfather of many spiritual diseases.

So fight procrastination by *setting your will* not to put things off if you can help it. Accomplish them when they should be done. You will find a great deal of satisfaction in so doing, and you'll be building spiritual character.

The Wrong Kind of Meditation — Have you ever noticed that if instead of instantly obeying God, you hesitate in order to weigh up the pros and cons of a particular act, trying to decide whether or not it is really a sin, that you will invariably finally perform that action?

Of course it may be permissible in the sight of God to do what you have wondered about, but when in doubt the best advice is — DON'T. This is the meaning of Romans 14:23: "And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eats not of faith: *for whatsoever is not of faith is SIN.*"

Don't toy around with thoughts of sinful actions, because if you do, the thoughts will eventually lead to the acts. Immediately reject what you know to be wrong. Don't allow your mind to weigh up the "pleasure" of the sin against the penalty, because this type of meditation weakens and destroys willpower.

A Vague Conception of Our Goal — Proverbs 29:18 tells us: "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Lack of vision is perhaps the greatest reason for lack of growth in Christians. In 1 Corinthians 13:12, Paul wrote: "For now we see through a glass, darkly." But many don't see through the glass at all. Having a goal is the first of the seven laws of success. If our goal is unreal to us we will not be motivated to change. We will lack the willpower and self-discipline a Christian *must* have to overcome the human nature within

us. Study your Bible and sharpen up the goal of a Christian in your own mind's eye.

How to Strengthen Your Willpower

Now that we have examined the factors that weaken willpower, we need to learn the practices that *strengthen* and build up willpower. Avoid the weakening factors, and make the positive factors a way of life. This way you BUILD rather than destroy your willpower.

Resolve to Overcome — The first key to strengthening willpower is a firm, resolute decision to mount a crusade against our problems. A Christian has to determine with a positive attitude that he *will* overcome sin. Rather than saying, "I'll TRY to defeat my weakness," we must affirm, "I SHALL overcome."

Don't give occasion for further sin by making a mental retreat plan just in case you don't overcome. Such a contingency plan will sabotage your willpower. "Burn your bridges behind you" has its application in this kind of situation. *Do*, in this case, "put all your eggs in one basket." Destroy all contingency plans. The Christian must aim for success without making provision for the possibility of failure.

Avoid Dangerous Situations — The second factor that must be employed to strengthen willpower is to avoid the situations that would normally destroy it. If your problem is alcohol, don't hang around bars; if you have a weakness for sex, don't go to movies that flaunt sexual transgressions and perversions; if you have a weakness being overweight, don't stock your closets with "goodies" you have difficulty resisting.

I have known alcoholics who keep alcohol in their home just to prove they can lick the problem. That is foolish because it can be a constant temptation. We are told in I Corinthians 6:18 to "flee fornication"! It doesn't say to stay around the temptation to develop strength of character, by resisting. Joseph didn't stay around Potiphar's wife; he fled lest he be tempted to give in to her desires. The principle of *fleeing* applies to all forms of temptation.

In Matthew 5:27-30, we are told to "cut off" the members of our body that would cause us to sin. This does not mean you should literally cut off your hand if you are a thief, but it might be a good idea to tie your hands together when you enter a store, if stealing is a temptation. If you have a problem with lust, don't literally cut out your eye. But it would be good to *force* your head in the opposite direction to avoid seeing the object that tempts you to think or do evil.

The lesson Christ wants us to learn in these verses is to avoid and stay clear of temptation — don't snuggle up close to it to prove you can resist. That is taking fire into your bosom, and as Proverbs 6:27 explains, you are certain to get *burned* if you do!

Build Good Habits — To get air out of a bottle, you put liquid in. So too with a Christian's life. To destroy the bad habits, you must replace them with good habits. This is "overcoming evil with good" (Rom. 12:21). Good habits you should develop include regular prayer and Bible study, fasting more often than just on the Day of Atonement, serving other brethren and generally living a life of outgoing love. When you are spending more time doing what is correct, you obviously will have less time to do what is wrong.

Catch the Vision — As mentioned before, lack of vision destroys willpower, so a strong goal and resulting high motivation will help tremendously in developing willpower. We read in I John 3:3 that "every man that hath this hope in him—[the hope of the resurrection from the dead—verses 1-2] purifieth himself [overcomes, conquers evil], even as he [Christ] is pure."

Again, in Hebrews 6:19, we learn that hope anchors the soul, makes a good steady dependable Christian, one not blown about by every wind of doctrine.

Matthew 13:44-46 shows that the Kingdom of God is like a hidden treasure and a pearl of great price, which when once a man finds he will do anything to obtain that treasure for his own. The trouble with many Christians is that they are like the South African

natives of the 19th century who exchanged diamonds for trinkets because they were ignorant of the value of diamonds. Unless you truly recognize the value of the Kingdom of God, you will not be motivated to "sell" all you have — give your all — to obtain this pearl of great price.

If, as Christians, we have the hope of salvation burning in our minds, then we will be motivated and will exercise the willpower necessary to overcome.

Seek God's Help — What should you do if you don't truly see the value of your calling? How can you recognize the "pearl of great price"? God shows that you must *seek His help*, and have your eyes opened.

In Ephesians 1:15-18, Paul states that he prayed continually that the Ephesian church would *see* the real goal set before all Christians. "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints."

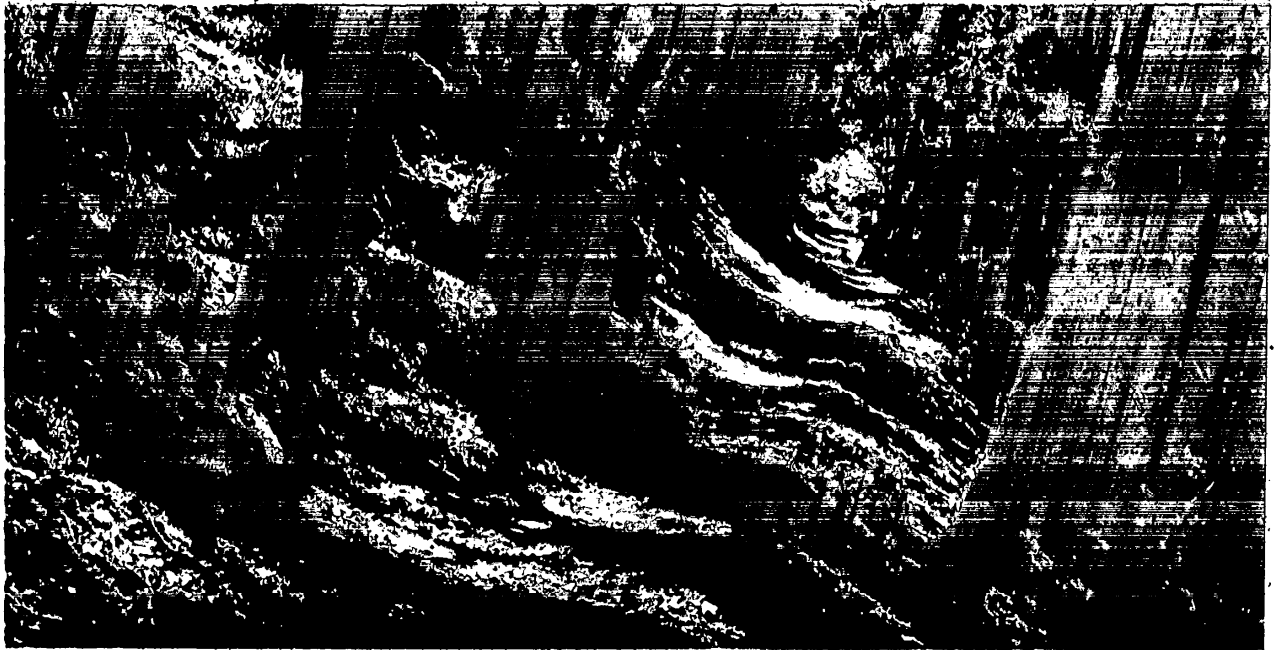
In Philippians 2:12-13, we find the key to this entire subject of willpower. Paul exhorted God's people at Philippi: "... Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling [that's *your* part]. For it is God which worketh in you both *TO WILL* and to *DO* of his good pleasure." God promises to *give* you the WILL, the self-determination, the mental determination you need to overcome your nature and receive salvation — if you will *ask Him for it*!

Receiving salvation and overcoming our faults and problems could be likened to moving the Empire State Building by tying a rope around it and pulling *with all your strength*.

As you pull, striving against all odds, suddenly you notice the building begin to move. But you really haven't moved the building — GOD did. But GOD didn't move it until He saw you put the rope around the building. Then he waited to see you put forth all your human effort. And after you have put forth all you had to give, GOD moves the building.

So go to God and ask for His *power* and the *WILL* to do what you know is right. Remember, "For it is God which worketh in you both to *WILL* and to *DO* of his good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13). □

MEDITATION - Vital Key to Spiritual Growth



Wilbur Berg - Ambassador College

A quiet stroll through the woods can inspire many reflective thoughts about the creative power, nature and character of God.

Constructive meditation can and should play a vital role in our Christian lives. This article will show you how to begin meditating effectively.

by George Ritter

HENRY FORD is reputed to have said, "Thinking is the hardest work there is, which is the probable reason why so few engage in it."

Whether Ford actually said it or not, that statement has never been more accurate than today. For most of us, turning on the "tube" is much easier than turning on our minds.

Ours is the age not only of the paid entertainer and the hired specialist who can provide the services we're unable to perform for ourselves, but it is also an age in which we can even become accustomed to letting others do our thinking for us.

A Human Weakness

Our educational processes have had a part in this mind numbing move-

ment. Too often, as students, instead of analyzing the subject matter to see if it was accurate, we simply repeated on the exam sheet what we had been spoon fed. After all, didn't many of us just go to school for grades?

And now even our jobs tend to become increasingly specialized and automated, leaving us as workers with little need or incentive to think. Our environment encourages a natural tendency to avoid "unnecessary" thinking.

Humanly, we tend to be superficial. As God says in 1 Samuel 16: *man* normally looks only at the outward appearance. This often means that we accept an answer, solution, or supposed fact on face value.

Half a century ago, for example, people *assumed* the new and mighty

Titanic was unsinkable, though in reality its water-tight integrity had been sacrificed for the comfort of the passengers. Superficially, it was undoubtedly a majestic, awe-inspiring ship. Probably nobody *thought* much about her internal strength and stability until a massive iceberg ripped a 300-foot gash in her hull.

But perhaps the most unfortunate part of our "no-think" environment is its effect on the mental outlook of many of us in God's Church. As its consequence, we don't spend the time or effort we should in active thought and meditation about God, His laws, His Word, and how they all relate to our lives.

Meditation Leads to Prosperity and Success

We find in Joshua 1:8 that God commanded the children of Israel: "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night" — why? — "that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

We all want to be successful and prosperous. Yet often God cannot bless us as He would like to do because we are inadvertently breaking His law. For unless we are meditating on our own lives in relation to that law, we can easily overlook areas where our performance is not up to God's standards.

Don't just assume you are on solid spiritual ground! Examine yourself (II Cor. 13:5) and at the same time ask God to help you search out your own life (Ps. 139:23-24). Use the law as a spiritual yardstick with which to measure your own personal performance. Look for the hidden, subtle sins that often escape notice.

David, in Psalm 119:105, called God's Word, which includes the law, a "lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." For God's law to illuminate our lives as it should, we must be actively *thinking* and *meditating* on it.

Meditating on God's Law

The first Psalm, verse 2, very aptly describes the righteous person (a true

Christian): "But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night."

Fine. But how do you meditate on God's law? Let's take one of the Ten Commandments — the seventh — for example: "Thou shalt not commit adultery." Now, think about this for a while. The people of the world, for the most part, don't keep that one too well, do they?

Suppose they *did* keep this commandment — then what?

All forms of venereal disease would eventually be wiped out! No more gonorrhea and syphilis. No more blind babies born to unwed mothers. The incidence of babies born with serious mental defects would drop as well.

Another result: fewer potential juvenile delinquents. The phenomenon of fatherless children would virtually disappear. Children would develop with more balanced personalities, keener minds, better health, etc., etc.

Now think about what happens to the people involved in an adulterous relationship. Are they helped? Far from it! The first time they probably feel pretty guilty about it. But if they continue to indulge, they will probably sear their consciences to the point where anything goes — even with partners of the same sex!

Then there is the other mate. Think about what it must feel like to be cheated, defrauded and lied to by the very one who supposedly took you for better or worse (if, indeed, that was even done in the first place). And let's not forget the children. Certainly they will sense that mommy and daddy aren't getting along (even if the wronged mate doesn't realize what has been happening). A feeling of insecurity will develop. And permanent scars will form in their personalities and character that may never be completely erased in this physical life.

What about the plight of the expectant unwed mother? In considering the alternatives, she may undergo the tragedy of an abortion. If it's too late for that, the newly born child may be abandoned or discarded in someone's

garbage can. It actually happens! Or if the unwanted child is more fortunate, he might be farmed out to an orphanage or adoption agency. But even if the expectant mother loves and really wants to keep the baby, what chance do you think the child has for a normal existence?

Now consider what mankind is doing about all of these problems. You guessed it — treating the effects with penicillin, the pill, prophylactics, and misguided sex education. To even suggest that adultery or fornication is harmful to all parties concerned, and that it violates a living law given by an all-wise God for man's benefit, well-being and happiness, would be considered a bit "old fashioned" in today's "enlightened" modern society.

Does thinking — meditating — on these evils get you stirred up a little bit? Can you see how badly this world needs God's Kingdom and His laws? Does this give you a better understanding of why obeying God's laws is so vital to our own salvation as well as that of the world?

Use this principle of meditation on all of God's commandments, statutes (Ps. 119:48) and judgments. You'll then be able to pray more fervently, "Thy Kingdom come!"

But what's that you say? You "can't meditate"? "It takes too much effort!"

Reconditioning Our Minds

We might compare our minds to a well-made precision watch. Kept running, cleaned and oiled periodically, a fine watch normally will function smoothly and efficiently for a lifetime. Neglected, the parts will eventually become rusty, dirty, and out of synchronization. If our minds are not kept active and fed a proper mental and spiritual diet, they will also become inefficient and run down.

Unfortunately, if you have allowed your mind to stagnate to the point that deep and continuous thinking or constructive cogitation of any type is a chore — be it spiritually oriented or otherwise — it is going to take some effort to get it back into condition. But it can be done!

If you have difficulty getting your

mental gears into motion, go back and reread Dr. Roderick C. Meredith's articles, such as "Seven Keys to Mental Mastery," which have been published in back issues of *The PLAIN TRUTH* and *TOMORROW'S WORLD* magazines. You will also find books like *The Art of Clear Thinking* by Rudolph Flesch quite helpful.

Environment, surroundings and life-style can be great hindrances to effective meditation. It's difficult, you know, to do any constructive meditation if your life is one big round of activities, social events and entertaining junkies. Or if you continually "burn the midnight oil" because you're snowed under, behind in your assignments, or simply engrossed in your work, you may experience the same lack of deep, reflective thought.

Jesus Christ successfully confronted that kind of problem during His earthly ministry. He and His disciples were so busy in the Work of God that at one point they didn't even have time to eat! (Mark 6:31) The obvious solution was to break up the routine and get away from the pressures for a while. Undoubtedly, during this short "vacation," Christ must have spent a significant amount of time in meditating and planning. On other occasions, He took the time for this type of spiritual rejuvenation even in the midst of a busy day's activities (John 6:15; 8:1).

We need, just as Christ did, to step back from time to time from our routines and take a long, reflective look at what we're doing. Almost anything that will get you out of your normal environment will help. One of the most relaxing and enjoyable ways is to get out into God's creation by going hiking, camping, back-packing or canoeing. You'll find that meditation will come much easier in this type of environment.

You won't have to contend with television, radio, ringing telephones, sirens, barking dogs, etc. And once you get out and away from "the four walls," you'll find that many of your day-to-day problems, inconveniences and difficulties won't seem quite so all-encompassing and "earth-shaking" as you originally imagined. David got the

"big picture" and saw things in their true perspective when he was able to meditate in the midst of God's creation (Ps. 8:3-9).

Meditate on God's Creation

David said in Psalm 143:5: "I meditate on *all* thy works; I *muse* on the work of thy hands."

Being out in the wide, open spaces is not always necessary to be able to reflect on the creative power of God and His creation — and on what they reveal about His nature and character. You can easily do this right in your own backyard.

For instance, if you happen to be raking leaves, think for a few minutes about those little objects being pushed along by your rake. Each one possesses symmetry, balance and a purposeful design. Thinking about these aspects of your subject should give you a better insight into some of God's personality and character traits.

Then look a little further. Notice the different varieties, shapes and designs of leaves hanging from the surrounding trees. Someone had quite a bit of imagination to design everything from pine needles to giant fern leaves. And each variety is not only fabricated to be pleasing to the eye in terms of beauty and color, but is also designed with a specific functional purpose in mind. Man has yet to fully explain the mysterious action of the chlorophyll that makes leaves green. Obviously it took the master Designer, Chemist and Artist, of the universe to "put it all together" and create leaves!

Take any object, small or great, simple or complex, in God's creation and think about it from the standpoint of the genius of design, breadth of imagination, depth of planning and understanding that went into it, and you'll soon begin to marvel and stand in awe of the mind and power of Almighty God!

Meditate on Lessons from the Past

Don't ever underestimate the value of hindsight! God certainly doesn't. Forty-nine books in the Old Testament

contain 929 chapters that are chock-full of historical examples written expressly for you and me! (1 Cor. 10:4) But the lessons you need to learn won't just pop out of the page, and into your brain unless you're meditating about the meaning of the black and white print passing before your eyes.

Whenever you are reading such examples, slow down and ask yourself a few questions. Read between the lines. Analyze the character and motivations of the people involved. View the passage in question as it fits into the overall panorama of historical and social events of the time. And most important of all, relate the events you are reading about to your own personal life.

For example, take the case of Saul, king of Israel. We know he disobeyed God. We understand fully that he was rebellious and self-righteous. But did you ever *analyze* or think deeply about what were some of the causative factors involved in his downfall?

First, you might remember 1 Samuel 15:17 which says, in the Authorized Version, that when Saul was little in his own sight, God chose him to be made king. Obviously, you would say the throne must have gone to his head. But think a little further — about the time he first went wrong by offering sacrifices at Gilgal, contrary to Samuel's instruction (1 Sam. 13:8-10).

Saul knew that Samuel spoke for God, and he obviously felt guilty about what he did, but he tried to excuse his actions to Samuel. Notice what his reasoning was: "Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash, therefore said I, the Philistines will come down upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the Lord: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering" (verses 11-12).

"Well, it appears he just lacked faith," you might say. True, but look further.

Primarily he was worried because "the people were scattered from ME."

Immediately we can surmise that he was overly concerned about his own prestige and importance in the eyes of the people. He was afraid that if he just sat there he would appear to the people like a dunce. Instead, he wanted to show them he was a dynamic man of action — that HE, Saul, would save them from the villainous Philistines. After all, wasn't he the biggest man in Israel? He couldn't allow his knight-in-shining-armor image to get tarnished, could he?

Also, he *had* to get that sacrifice in before the Philistines came down on — who? The people? Of course not! SAUL! (Verse 12) Saul was looking out for "old number one." That is not the kind of character God wants in a leader!

Then there was the matter of Samuel not showing up. Maybe Saul figured he wouldn't make it. "After all, you can't always be sure about his word," he probably reasoned. (Perhaps Samuel's delay was for the purpose of testing Saul's obedience.) Then, too, Saul more than likely had his doubts about God's government. He probably reasoned it was fine to follow it for routine situations, but this was a war-time emergency! The time had come to take matters into his *own* hands. Saul had his eyes on the Philistines and nowhere near God's power. He totally forgot whose nation he was ruling and who had put him at its head.

Actually, as the Revised Standard Version shows, Saul was "little in his own sight" (1 Samuel 15:17) in the sense that he did not comprehend, as king over God's nation, that he was in a very *big* position, and therefore even the smallest example of disobedience on his part would have a very serious effect on the entire nation.

The whole situation should ring a few mental bells, as far as our own actions are concerned, because Saul's problems were some of the same ones that many of us today face from time to time. He lacked faith in God and in His government to work things out, became impatient, and tried to work out a human solution. He was more concerned about himself than he was

the people or the nation, and he used deceit in trying to make his actions look good in the sight of men.

The account is all very realistic, up-to-date and applicable for us today. The lessons are there in God's Word. The question is: will we take time to *meditate* on what we read in order to learn and apply them?

Meditate on Your Life and Work

When you come home after a hard day's work, do you flop down in front of the TV and promptly fail to capitalize on the lessons and experiences of that day? Or do you, at some time during the evening, reflect on the main events that transpired and what you can do to improve your performance?

For instance, if you have offended someone, or something didn't go exactly right, don't just chalk it up to a bad day, but analyze what happened and why. See what biblical principle you or others violated. Learn from your mistakes and from circumstances that surround your life. If you do this, you'll find correction not only easier to take, but you will probably soon be getting much less of it (1 Cor. 11:31).

Remember, David said he *thought* on his ways and as a result turned his feet to God's testimonies (Ps. 119:59).

And as you meditate on your own life, it will be helpful to learn about the lives of famous men such as Franklin, MacArthur, Churchill, Patton and others. Reflect on some of their strong personal traits and characteristics. Also, read and reread Mr. Armstrong's *Autobiography*, you'll find many useful lessons you overlooked the first time through. Perhaps you overlooked this one.

"Try to throw yourself into the company of as many successful men as possible. Study them. Try to learn *why* they are successful. This will help you to learn how to build a success for yourself."

Meditation Helps Prayer

David admitted his prayers were more effective when coupled with meditation. "My soul shall be satisfied as

with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: *when I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches*" (Ps. 63:5-6).

Your prayers will be more joyful — your praise more sincere — if you take time to meditate on God! David did it. Why don't you?

After going to ~~bed~~ you ever unable to go right to sleep? What do you do? Count sheep!

Why not MEDITATE?

As you lie there feeling the blood-pulse in your temple, think about the great master Designer who made your heart. By what processes does your heart keep beating? You almost never give it a thought. Yet this powerful pump ticks day and night. It responds to the demands of physical exertion and emotional involvement.

With this meditation will come a warm feeling — a feeling that you'd like to kneel down and praise the Ever-living Creator. Then, why not? You can't sleep — why not get up and pray while you're inspired?

No other being of God's physical creation has a mind that can think and meditate. God gave man this capacity! God's Word is replete with exhortations to meditate. Meditation is vitally linked with His plan for our lives. He intended that we take time from our restless everyday hurry to ponder the most important questions: *What are we? Why are we? Where are we going? What are the laws that will guarantee success in life? What is the way that will lead to eternal life?*

Do you understand the answers to these questions thoroughly? Are you meditating on them? And is that meditation leading you to a deeper, richer understanding of God's Work — into a greater, more intimate contact with God, Almighty, your heavenly Father?

Paul wrote to Timothy these words which also apply to us: "Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting [progress] may appear to all" (1 Tim. 4:15).

Start today. Make meditation a vital part of your spiritual life! □

How to Increase Your

Bible I.Q.

You, as a member of God's Church, are a disciple — a "learner" or "student" — of Jesus Christ. Are you taking full advantage of the classroom sessions He has provided for your spiritual edification? Read how you can profit the most from local Bible studies.

by Hugh E. Wilson

GOD, with forethought and an understanding of human nature, knew thousands of years in advance what the end-time age would be like.

And since He realized our time would be characterized by a lawless, calloused society — a society deviating from His laws which give life, happiness, true success and prosperity — He provided for us His written Word, the Bible.

But for His called-out flock to benefit the most from that Bible, a systematic program of Bible study needed to be provided.

So just as God guided and inspired the writing and preservation of His Word, He has guided and inspired the ministry of His true Church to teach that Word at local Bible studies designed and tailored for the edification of each local church.

But exactly how are Bible studies helpful and beneficial to spiritual growth? And how can you help them to help you more?

Spiritual "Higher Education"

The Bible studies are a classroom situation for brethren of God's Church. You will recall that Christians are called "disciples" in the Bible, which means they are "learners" or "students." Oral instruction, note taking and sometimes even tests to check for comprehension and retention are combined to give you many of the same principles, concepts and guidelines for successful living which are taught at the Ambassador Colleges.

For spiritual growth, one must be nourished and sustained by spiritual food — God's Word (Matt. 4:4). Local Bible studies are one of the principal ways God is feeding and nurturing His people. The organized studies strengthen the Body of Christ against Satan's propaganda, his demon cohorts, and the manifold pulls and pressures of "this present evil world" (Gal. 1:4). They form a part of a "boot-camp" type training program for God's "army" — Christian soldiers of Jesus Christ.

In this, of course, major emphasis must be placed on *unlearning* the old, ingrained false concepts, the untrue knowledge and the age-old traditions of men which we have so gullibly swallowed in the past. And this unlearning process necessarily takes time. Making a "clod" (as we all are) into God is a process that requires lengthy and repeated exposure to the spiritual meat of God's Word. Therefore, God's educational plan goes on and on, week after week, month after month, year in and year out — not just for so many semesters or nine-month terms.

We do work, figuratively, toward degrees in this classroom analogy. We hope by the time Christ comes we may have our M.A. (Mastery of Attitude) degree, "bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ..." (II Cor. 10:5), and at the resurrection our B.A. (Born Again) degree.

We are making preparation for the "Commencement" of the World Tomorrow. Of course, what we learn is very useful *now* — if we pay attention to, retain and also *use* the vital knowledge being disseminated. But we need the vision to realize we are being groomed for the future. What we learn today *does* relate to the future and our jobs in the Kingdom of God.

Instructors

The men sent to *serve* and *aid* us as teachers are men trained, tutored and molded by the Ambassador Colleges and the Headquarters Church — teaching what they likewise were taught at Ambassador College. As Paul shows in Ephesians 4:11-12: "He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the *perfecting* of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the *edifying* of the body of Christ..."

Did you ever enjoy "singing along with Mitch" on TV? Well, here is your chance to "study along" with your pastor or local elder. Many have remarked that the minister always seems to be able to "get more out of it" (the Bible) as he explains and knits together spiritual lessons that most of us read right over. Weekly Bible studies are a chance to see his mind in action as he explores,

verse by verse, little nuggets and precious jewels of understanding which you may never before have understood.

We all have need for a teacher — someone more spiritually mature than ourselves — just as the Ethiopian eunuch did (Acts 8:30-31). Here was a man of ability, entrusted with heavy responsibilities. Yet this mature man realized he needed a spiritual superior to help him understand God's will. He certainly displayed a right approach and a golden attitude. When Philip asked him, "Understandest thou what thou readest?" he answered, "How can I, except some man should guide me?"

The eunuch was not too proud to get help. He realized, as we all should, that Christ uses human instruments to disclose His word to us. Verse 31 goes on to show, "He desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him." So Philip explained the truth the eunuch needed at that time.

If you give him a chance by attending Bible studies, your pastor will similarly explain much vital information you need in your particular area and time.

News of the Work and World

Month in and month out, God's desire is that we continue to grow in grace and knowledge. To be fed and edified spiritually is a means to this end. At the Bible studies, subjects, books and ideas are amplified for the needs of your church individually. News from Headquarters and other pertinent information is given for your edification and enlightenment. Also, more of an in-depth analysis of current events is generally given than in the Sabbath church services. Here the ministers have more time to analyze world news, trends, and how it all relates to us and our dynamic commission.

Having the news made clear to us helps give us prayer material and prayer ammunition. Above all, it aids us in obeying Christ's command: "Watch you therefore, and pray always, that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:36).

Opportunity for Fellowship

Numerous *additional* benefits and advantages are also made available by your local Bible studies.

Bible study night is an excellent opportunity for temporarily getting away from the regular routine. You can have some good fellowship and uplifting discussions with others in the Church. It's just *good* to be with God's people, and to be able to talk to someone who thinks as you do. Fellowship with the body of Christ is also very important as a tool in our overall spiritual development and growth.

We learn to work together as a unit, to worship together and even study *together* in an organized and profitable manner. This is vital training for the smooth functioning of all the members of the body of Christ (4 Cor. 12).

Bible study night is also an opportunity to obtain general member-to-member information. Perhaps you learn of someone who is sick, or someone else whom you can be praying for, and perhaps can visit and encourage sometime soon. So look at the weekly Bible study as resembling a "family reunion." It is the best time for fellowship you will ever spend, other than Sabbath services. We should all hate to miss it!

However, the Bible studies are not just "social clubs." And definitely they are not a waste of time.

What can we do to profit yet more from weekly Bible studies? Here are some basic guidelines that will help us derive even more benefit, and help everyone else involved as well.

Participation Is Important

To our detriment, we live in an age of noninvolvement. It is difficult for most of us to *respond* to others as we should because this society has so caloused and numbed us. But Bible study night is *your* chance to get *personally involved*.

As Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong has stated so often, those who are wrapped up in and involved with all the many facets of this Work are those who generally are the growing and overcoming Christians.

So go each time if you possibly can

— and go with the attitude of giving, not getting. You can serve someone in some way if you try.

Perhaps someone needs a ride. Maybe by your going you can influence another member to go who would otherwise stay at home. You can also be setting a good example for the newer members of the Church.

Ask Good Questions

Some of the brethren bring useful newspaper clippings to their minister. This may aid him during that particular Bible study, and may even inspire a sermon or two.

If your minister has announced what subject he will cover that night, then study ahead in anticipation. Preparation is the keynote. By being familiar with the subject material, your understanding will be increased. As the minister goes through his lesson for that night, you will be ensured a deeper overall understanding of the subject matter.

And here is your golden opportunity to get that question answered that you have wondered about for a long time, and have always forgotten to ask when the minister came to your home. Interesting, well-thought-out, *non-picky* questions can be very helpful and profitable also for all the others present.

Want to know something? Ministers *enjoy* good mind-provoking questions. It is a challenge to them and they rally to the occasion with an answer that feeds and helps many.

You might even be surprised how often the questions actually help the minister in conducting the study. How? By stimulating him to think out a question he had perhaps never thought about before from that point of view. He may even go home and do extra study or research on that particular subject — thus broadening his understanding of it — and then present this information to all the brethren at a later time.

We all need to ask questions from time to time, so don't be afraid or hold back due to false reasoning that you may appear dumb. Above all things, don't let *pride* or vanity keep you from growth and education, because we all need to *continue* learning.

Your Attitude

Familiarity *can* breed contempt if allowed to. So occasionally we need to diagnose our inward thoughts and motives to verify our spiritual temperature. Be careful and watchful lest a "ho-hum" half-hearted, half-interested approach begins to creep into your thinking processes concerning the weekly Bible studies.

Beware of this attitude: "I wonder if he'll bring out anything new I haven't already heard twenty times before?" Or, "Well, we **HAVE** to attend." With either approach, little wonder the studies do not seem to some as interesting as they should be.

We need to keep the childlike, "teach me" attitude Christ spoke of: "Except ye be converted, and become as little children [humble], we shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 18:3-4).

Guard against your enemies. Realize Satan does not want you to attend at all. Expect that your own human nature can always come up with a number of good-sounding reasons why you should stay home that night.

A good attitude goes a long way in God's Church. We must *want* to attend and not feel forced into it. We must inculcate the habit of *wanting to learn* and being mentally submissive enough to be taught. We must "... *desire* the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby..." (1 Pet. 2:2).

It is a truism that we get out of something what we put into it. God can educate a man or woman much more quickly who has an open, submissive, teachable attitude coupled with only average ability than He can a person with many talents who has a know-it-all, cocky concept of himself or of the Bible.

Many who *could* attend Bible study and do not should be more zealous by simply swallowing their excuses or justifications. Evaluate your own circumstances. You know whether you can



Ken Evans — Ambassador College
BIBLE STUDY — Bible studies are designed and tailored for the edification of each local church.

attend or not. You *are* missing out if you could come but don't. Certainly it takes some sacrifice on your part to attend the studies. It does take organization, pre-planning and extra effort to be there. But that extra effort won't go unnoticed by God.

Don't come just to be seen or to "check in," to avoid possibly being asked about your lack of attendance. Rekindle that original first love for God's truth. Help yourself study the Bible. Any temporary inconveniences now will ultimately turn out to be well worth that extra effort. The lessons learned and character built now will be set, usable and enduring throughout eternity.

Use the Studies

Absorb the studies. Mark your Bible and take good notes for your own benefit. The Apostle Paul explains that the Sabbath meetings and other meetings are important: "And let us consider one another to provoke into love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one

another: and so *much the more*, as you see the day approaching" (Heb. 10:24-25). That day is fast approaching — perhaps faster than most of us realize!

God wants to intensify our knowledge in these last days. One reason is to offset the mountain of false knowledge spawned by Satan and his world (II Cor. 4:4).

God also is preparing and conditioning us for the times ahead when additional false prophets will arise and deceive many. Deceiving *miracles* will actually occur and astound the world. Do your part now to ensure you will continue to be among the elite group that *cannot* be deceived! (Matt. 24:24.)

God wants His flock to be solid and unmovable in the true doctrines. Now is the time to learn and implant principles and doctrines deeply in your mind and character.

And be sure to pray for the other Bible studies — worldwide. Ask our heavenly Father to inspire the ministers around the world that they may teach the local churches the things they need every week, so they too will be spiritually edified. □

ASHAMED OF GOD'S TRUTH?

(Continued from page 4)

ada most of you never even heard of — like Moose Jaw, Moosomin, Medicine Hat, Prince George, etc. Some of them may sound small. But these campaigns will be worthwhile if he has just a few hundred people coming because by word-of-mouth neighbors invited neighbors and friends invited friends, saying: "Come and hear my minister; he's a good preacher; I'm really pleased with the Church to which I belong and the religion which I have found." In this way, we will reach people with Christ's message and members will be added to the Church.

Evangelists evangelize. They are not just administrators and desk executives and department heads. They preach the Gospel! That is one very vital area where the Work needs to grow. So, I'm just really enthusiastic about the future.

I know that without anybody proselyting, without anybody saying, "Oh won't you please come," but just through this medium of television specials and the campaigns and many other brethren getting involved in campaigns, we are going to receive a tremendously greater number of requests for visits.

Already, by March, just from the Calgary campaign and following up on that, the growth of the Canadian Work had reached about half of last year's record. A significant fact: just from the billboards alone, before we even got the campaign started, we had about twenty requests from people who wanted to start coming to church. Several said, "Why, I always wondered where your church was, and I wanted to come and see if I could attend, but I didn't know how to find it." People are funny. It never occurred to them to write to Pasadena and ask!

All Signals Are "GO"

Mr. Herbert Armstrong is one hundred percent in accord with what I've been talking about in this article!

So I am very, very encouraged about these significant breakthroughs in the Work, and I also look forward to

seeing a BIGGER financial income this fall than we have ever had before! Already TV and the new booklets are bringing huge amounts of mail. And just as much as the "white mail" increases now, the "pink mail" (as we used to call it; i.e., letters with money enclosed) — including visit requests — will soon increase dramatically.

The total impact of the Church's effort is going to increase too — as it's got to! It's got to in a hurry, because world conditions are going crazy. The dollar is devalued, the EEC is growing fast, and the first shots of a trade war have already been fired.

If a tiny handful of television stations at unearthly hours outpull all of our three hundred radio stations in letters, what will a greatly enlarged number of television channels do at better listening times? On into the autumn and the beginning of next year, what will the mail be like?

I think this Work is getting ready for growth like we have never seen before. (I don't look at any present budget cuts as a giant step backward. We are just getting ourselves trim and fit and "rarin' to go!") That's the way all of us feel on all three college campuses. Everybody is willing to work together and pull together, and so I'm really excited about the prospects for the future.

Let us all in God's Church unitedly pull together and get the job done! □

PHILIPPINES

(Continued from page 7)

one of the brethren which described the desperate situation at the end of March:

The brethren at this time are suffering not from malnutrition but from hunger because they don't have anything to eat. This drought now is more severe than the time Mr. Docken visited us. Wells and rivers have become dusty ground. Our community is depending on our well. Yesterday I watched nearly one hundred people surrounding the well to get water. I went back at 8:00 p.m. in the evening and saw that the water was just at the hip of the well. It is a sign of a dying source. If this will continue as it is, we will be forced to vacate the place and scatter ourselves... for survival.

What a terrifying danger we are facing now! The drought began after the Feast of Tabernacles. When it was planting time in the month of October, Mr. Benitez visited my cornfield and all was dried up. I lost almost P2,000 — no way of escape. Last Saturday I told my wife to give the last P30 for tithes and trust God for the rest of our lives.

Please remember to pray for your brethren in the southern Philippines, and that if it be God's will, the rains will return and next season's crops can be produced.

Some fighting is still going on in Mindahao between government troops and Muslim dissidents, but for some time the province of Bukidnon, where most of our brethren are located, has been generally peaceful and only a few scattered brethren have had to move to safer areas. However, robbery is rampant as a result of the dearth. Everything, including chickens, must be constantly guarded. It is only through God's protection and the prayers of the brethren worldwide, that none of our people have suffered violence.

What of the Future?

This year we are re-commencing advertising in national newspapers. There is also a real possibility of resuming *The WORLD TOMORROW* on television in seven major cities.

Also we have begun newsstand distribution of *The PLAIN TRUTH* as is being done in other countries. Three large supermarkets have allowed us space at their check-out counters at no cost whatever. The number of copies distributed so far has been small, but an encouraging ten percent of the cards, bound in the January issue have been returned for trial subscriptions.

Presently (April) *The PLAIN TRUTH* circulation is over 74,000. An increasing number of letters and financial support continues to come in each month. Much fruit is being borne and many people are finding the answers to life's problems.

Please continue to pray for the desperate needs of your brethren in the Philippines at this time. And remember to ask God to grant continued grace and favor in the eyes of the government for God's Work in the Philippines. □

PARENTS

(Continued from page 13)

anyway, do you wonder why they reject it? Hopefully the answer is obvious.

If you want your children to listen to your advice on how to be happy, you have to be an *authority* on the subject yourself. Otherwise they will have the same attitude the hippies had. You can't tell them how to live if you're not living right yourself. But the happier your lives are as parents, the more your children will listen to you and want the same way of life you have.

One Man's Experience

A long time ago a very wealthy man conducted an experiment in happiness. He saw that the world wasn't genuinely happy. So he rejected what everyone else — the "establishment" — had said and set out to discover on his own what happiness really was. He differed from most others in that he had an unusual amount of wisdom when it came to drawing proper conclusions. That man was King Solomon.

Solomon studied a great deal. He worked hard at gaining wisdom and knowledge. Yet the more wisdom and knowledge he obtained, the more problems he saw (Eccl. 1:16-18).

He then ran several controlled experiments. First he tried to amuse himself with entertainment, laughter and parties. But he found these to be empty. They didn't bring him true satisfying happiness (Eccl. 2:1-2).

Next he tried drinking. But he kept from getting drunk because in his wisdom he could see that a "stoned" person couldn't enjoy life (Eccl. 2:3).

Solomon embarked upon great building projects. He got more servants, listened to music, oversaw large farms, gathered great wealth and married many women. None of it brought him the happiness he desired (Eccl. 2:4-11).

Solomon saw that everything physical had an end. As a physical person there was no way that he could "beat the system." And he became so dejected about this that at times he exhib-

ited the symptoms of a potential suicide (Eccl. 2:17-20).

Under the system, there was only one conclusion he could reach: "So I decided that there was nothing better for a man to do than to enjoy his food and drink, and his job" (Eccl. 2:24, all quotes from *The Living Bible*). But Solomon also saw that there was only one way man could truly enjoy these physical pleasures. "Then I realized that even this pleasure is from the hand of God. For who can eat or enjoy apart from Him?" (Eccl. 2:24-25.)

Solomon's overall conclusion was that man could not have happiness without living God's way. "Here is my final conclusion: fear God and obey his commandments, for this is the entire duty [or opportunity for real happiness] of man" (Eccl. 12:13).

Solomon's wisdom didn't include the spiritual realm. It mainly involved what God calls "earthly wisdom" (James 3:13-15). And yet Solomon could see that God does want us to have a happy life by *enjoying the physical*. Although it isn't exactly stated in so many words, when you put his final statement with the rest of the Bible, you come to the conclusion that the only way to really enjoy the physical is to have a *happy spiritual life!*

Way to Happiness Must Be Learned

No one just happens to be happy by accident. Solomon searched for happiness and never really fully found it. The hippie experiment has also failed. Others have tried with the same results. But God's Church has the answer as revealed in His Word — the way to happiness both for the older and for the younger generation: Both parents and children want this way, yet often *neither* take full advantage of the opportunity offered, them.

Through the Bible and His Church, God teaches the parents, who should then teach their children. But if the parents don't listen, they can't expect the children to listen either!

The younger generation wants advice, and they know they need it. But it must come from a source that has proved it is an authority on the subject.

In the previously mentioned questionnaire, another question, "What is your best source of guidance and help? Second best? Third?" developed some interesting trends. The teen-agers who listed their parents as first (excluding replies such as "the Bible" or "God"), also usually gave an unqualified "Yes" to the question, "Are you getting realistic satisfaction and enjoyment out of life?" This group on the whole said "No" to the question, "Does some form of a generation gap exist in your family?" Some of the answers and comments to this last question were:

"No, not at all. If I have a different opinion on something than my parents do, they're willing to listen to my viewpoint."

"No, because my parents listen to me, and I listen to them. We do things together and are very close."

"Hardly any at all. Once in awhile we disagree about something, but it is usually leveled out."

What are the teen-agers who gave such comments like? They're the ones who seem to be most at peace with themselves and others. They're content, things are O.K. with them. And they are also the leaders when it comes to activities. They are not frustrated; they will not get frustrated; they will help get things organized.

And what about those who listed their parents as third or not at all as a source of guidance? A common answer to "Are you enjoying life?" ran something like this: "No — there's something missing." There were many responses like this one: "Yes in some ways, and no in others." And as to whether there was a generation gap, more often than not the answer was "Yes."

The reasons given for the generation gap, or for thinking one existed, were also illustrative:

"Pickiness — I like certain things and I have certain tastes which I want to show in my life. Not my parents' tastes."

"Parents aren't acquainted or involved in kids' ideas, etc., in this age as well as they could be."

"I think so because my dad never believes us when we tell the truth; he

always thinks he's right, and that he is never wrong."

The Selfishness Gap

From this questionnaire and from another given to a different church group of all ages, the obvious conclusion for the cause of the generation gap could be summarized in one word — SELFISHNESS!

Parents want to "do their thing." They're always too busy or too tired to listen to their children. They have more interest in self than what's happening to their children. Consequently, some parents never really get to know their kids. Perhaps the statement, "Delinquent children have delinquent parents," is truer than one might realize.

The kids also want to "do their thing." If parents have not helped them find an interesting life, they will live it *their own way*. Parents will then be regarded as "old-fashioned" because they're not up on the latest.

A "generation gap" will exist when neither side is willing to try to understand the other's views and feelings. No one is realistic about the situation. Each expects the *other* to be perfect. And since they are not, everything they stand for is suspected and rejected.

How do you close that gap? Here's the advice the kids give!

Closing the Gap

"By both seeing each others' side to things, right wrongs, and each side give in a little."

"I think both the adults and the teen-agers need to be more willing to listen and not to think that they have all the answers and close their minds to what the other person has to say. Also, I think people generalize so much. For example: He's a teen-ager, so you can't trust him. Or — he wouldn't understand because he's from a different generation."

"By the family being *together!* And doing things with each other. Counseling with each other, talking over problems. Togetherness is what a family needs. Concern for one another."

"By the parents showing the kids the right way, and making it fun, and

showing the advantages instead of just ordering around."

Most answers included the ideas of listening and being understanding, being together as a family, and doing things together. And the sooner the better.

Believe it or not, *your* children want family activities. But not just any kind will do.

Action Plus!

The younger generation wants an action-packed life! They want to *do* things and *go* places. Simply because they are young and filled with youthful energy, most are not content just to live a quiet, inactive life. They want to live life with "great speed" — as many older people regard it.

When asked which would be better, "to have a variety of interesting things to do to be kept busy with" or "lots of free time," 8 out of 10 preferred the former.

But who will provide them with the action they want? If the parents don't lead an active life, if they're too busy or too tired to do *anything*, if they're always saying "No," then chances are pretty good their kids will seek their kicks from a more appealing source. Whether it's right or wrong sometimes may make little difference to them. They want action!

There are many things families can do together that aren't expensive. You will be surprised at what can be done if you'll just get together with your kids for a brainstorming session.

"There is a time for everything," Solomon said, "a time to laugh, a time to dance" (Eccl. 3:1, 4). Youth is especially the time for the physically active life.

Many parents will say they're too old to go around and do things like they once did. But a lot of other parents have proved them **WRONG!** Chances are you'll be healthier and you'll feel younger yourself if you're more active.

Of course, no one expects you to have to *compete with* or *outdo* the youngsters in the sports of youth. And that really isn't the point. Remember, young people, like their parents, are intellectual beings. They also need *mental* exercise and stimulation as much

and perhaps even more. So the point is just to **DO** things more with your children, *as a family unit*, to prevent or heal a "generation gap."

Compare the Results

"What would you like to have your parents do for you that would be most helpful and prepare you for life now and in the future?" was the provocative question which brought forth the following interesting answers on the questionnaire. The group which was enjoying life and listening to their parents made comments like these:

"Stay the way they are because they're already teaching me and preparing me for life."

"Keep teaching me the right way, and be *strict* in things that are wrong."

"Set me a good *example* and make sure I follow it."

"Teach me how to act toward others and correct me when it is needed."

"Keep up the work they are doing now. Make me build a whole lot more **CHARACTER!**"

The group that stated there was something missing in life when it came to happiness, and had other sources of guidance listed before their parents, gave a variety of responses. Some of them were like this:

"Get me a *cycle*" (motorcycle).

"Teach me *how* to drive a car."

"Not be so overly concerned. Let me think and act for myself."

"Let us make a lot of our own decisions on where we want to go and so on. They should also trust us a lot more."

"I can't answer because I can't think of anything I want my parents to do for me."

It's Up to You

Remember:

Kids want to have a happy life.

They want an action-packed and exciting life.

They want their parents to set an example of happiness for them. This makes you a *living* authority on the information they want most. If you'll take the time to listen to them and talk to them, they'll talk to you, ask your advice and follow it.

Parents, it is up to you! □

MESSAGE TO GARCIA

(Continued from page 19)

death due for their sins. *Jesus sacrificed Himself.* That's the kind of spiritual soldier He was.

Are you — today — living your life as a veritable "living sacrifice" for Jesus, counting this world's attractions as so much dung that you may enter God's Kingdom?

Or, have personal problems or temptations distracted you from the supreme goal of life, or from carrying out *your part* in God's Work? Have financial considerations, sensual pleasures, family problems gotten your mind's eye off the Kingdom of God?

Do petty grievances — even if they do seem valid — cause you to stumble and falter as you do your part in God's Work? Has *vanity* and *ego* led you to think you're too important for the job God has given you in His Church and Work? Have you begun to lose the view that God has called us to be *humble*, to get rid of self-esteem, and to serve Him as Jesus Christ set us the example?

Are You a Fighter?

You *can* be a valiant spiritual "man of war" — a good soldier — through the indwelling **POWER** and **MIGHT** of God's Holy Spirit (Isa. 11:2; II Tim. 1:7). You can pull down strongholds, put the enemy to flight, be made spiritually strong out of human weakness (Heb. 11:32-34).

All the valiant men of God in the Bible had human weaknesses. They were far from perfect. They sinned. They became discouraged. They made mistakes. At times they even had attitude problems, felt "carnal," rebellious, stepped on, offended, hurt or angered. David, Moses, Abraham, Jeremiah, Jonah — they all had problems they had to overcome.

Notice Gideon's example, briefly. Gideon had to be convinced through miracles that God was really with him. But the angel of the Lord still declared, "Thou mighty man of valor" (Judges 6:12). He and 300 men, by the power of God, put to flight an army which in

NEW LOW PRICE!

Your brand-new 1973 ENVOY is READY

This year our College yearbook is truly different! We know you'll enjoy, in a new and different way, the changed format of the College's activities section. ● In this year's edition you'll find a student scrapbook chock-full of the kind of informal, "caught-in-the-act" pictures that show Ambassador College activities from a student's standpoint. ● And, one of the best parts is that due to savings on production costs, this year we are able to send you, postage paid, the new '73 ENVOY for the genuinely low price of only \$7.50 ● The total number of pages remains the same as the past two editions and we've maintained the same large page size. Total number of "activities" pictures, however, have been increased at least four to five times. Also, the usual high standards have been maintained in material selection and printing quality. ● This will be a different, "first of its kind" edition and we know each of you will want one of your own. As you recall, last summer our entire printing run was exhausted in a matter of a very few weeks. Do yourself and the ENVOY Staff a favor and order NOW! Enclose your \$7.50 with the coupon attached in this magazine and mail them to us in the envelope also inserted in the magazine. Your order will be processed immediately and mailing will begin in mid June.

The 1973 Envoy

numbers was like an all-devouring plague of grasshoppers (Judges 7:12, 21-22).

God uses *human* instruments, brethren. All biblical history attests to that fact.

And God has called and chosen *you* as a human servant. You are His instrument, today, to do *your part* in His Work, even as Gideon was His instrument over 3,000 years ago!

Your part in God's Work is needed. *Your* prayers are important. *Your* diligence and faithfulness, as a loyal mem-

ber of the Church of God, as a spiritual soldier of Jesus Christ, will make a difference.

Will you carry a spiritual "message to Garcia"?

Don't ask "Why me?" "Can't George do it instead?" "Why does this need to be done?" "Is there any hurry?" "What difference does it make?"

Be a loyal and responsible servant of God. Be a resourceful and enterprising, courageous soldier of Jesus Christ.

Carry "a message to Garcia"! □

Readers Say...

(Continued from inside front cover)

Thanks to Mr. Hunting and Mr. Stephen Martin for their articles in the current GOOD NEWS. They really hit where we live. Also the one on the death of Jesus Christ by Mr. Buck and Mr. Briggs. That, and the wonder of God's mercy and protection in the foreign work, bring the tears.

M. L., Spokane,
Washington

I have just finished the article, "Just What Do You Mean — Self-Righteous?" in the January-March issue of *The GOOD NEWS* magazine. Please give Mr. Stephen Martin my sincere thanks for a well-written article. I read the title and thought to myself, "Well I don't think I'm self-righteous, but I'll read it anyway." The trouble was that I didn't really know what self-righteousness meant. I didn't know it included so many different things until Mr. Martin presented them in this article. But there they were and one in particular fit me. I thank God that I could see the truth about this fact and can now begin, with His help, to get rid of this self-righteousness.

J. W., Shreveport,
Louisiana

Please express my appreciation to Mr. Stephen Martin for his article, "Just What Do You Mean — Self-Righteous?" This article shows *how* to obtain God's righteousness — how to *apply* Matthew 6:33. Mr. Martin makes clear that we seek God's righteousness by asking Him to replace our self-righteousness with His righteousness, as we obey, of course; and that it is not something we can achieve of ourselves. Thanks again for a powerful and helpful article.

I. M., Edmond,
Oklahoma

The January-March issue of *The GOOD NEWS* is the most inspiring I have ever read. From cover to cover. All the articles were like looking into a mirror and were very revealing. Mr. Royer's article about Burma makes me ashamed of my little effort. When I'm tempted to fall back in the old rut, I begin rereading these articles.

C. M., Hartville,
Missouri

I want to express my sincere gratitude for the January-March GOOD NEWS. Somehow this issue seems to be especially inspiring to me. I particularly enjoyed the article by Mr. Royer about Burma. I was nearly in tears of joy for that remarkable young Burmese man who was baptized. Also many thanks for the article on teaching children to pray. It answered questions I have had about how to teach my young daughter to want to pray. Every issue of *The GOOD NEWS* is fine, but this time you have really excelled.

N. E., Roanoke,
Virginia

Dear Mr. Royer: The articles in *The GOOD NEWS* are so exciting that they bring tears to my eyes. Living in the wealthy United States makes it very hard to imagine what people in other lands have to endure. Through articles like the one on Burma, we are helped to pray more for God's Kingdom and our brethren in other parts of the world.

-B. W., Waynesboro,
Mississippi

Thank you so much for the January-March GOOD NEWS. How do you continue to surpass each issue with an even greater one? The article about Herbert Zam Hei in Burma by Mr. Royer was to me one of the most stirring articles I have ever read. I become so complacent in my "good life," and having fellowship with one another and weekly sermons, I forget how truly blessed I am to live in a free country — not just any "free" country — but America! We certainly have more than any other people on the face of the earth to be thankful for.

A. H., Attalla,
Alabama

The January-March GOOD NEWS is the greatest yet! I've never received such blessings in a magazine before. What our tithes and offerings accomplish is so much more meaningful to us when we realize such faithful and zealous brothers as Herbert Zam Hei and the Ibo boy and the French school teacher have been reached. Each sold all he had to have the one priceless field! How happy we are to have them as brothers! I tell you this issue has certainly strengthened me in every way. Thanks from the bottom of my heart.

C. C., Corrigan,
Texas

Mr. Royer, I just had to write and thank you for your recent article, "Burma Revisited." I cried with rejoicing and shame together as I read the way God worked in Mr. Zam Hei's life. How great our God is! He will bless Herbert and all those faithful people in Burma. How I wish we in God's Church could help more. Do we ever fully realize how important our prayers and tithes and offerings are? How blind and unthankful we sometimes do become. How ashamed I am! I feel like I have been deeply REVISITED. I abhor what I see in myself. Here I have brethren all around me who I can talk to by just picking up the phone and calling. The minister is a telephone away and a few miles down the road. We are nourished weekly at Sabbath services, and yet how often we take this for granted. How great our shame should be!

God has used Mr. Zam Hei in more ways than he knows. I have been taught a deep and valuable lesson of gratitude for Mr. Hei, for God's Work around the world and for our part in it. Somehow let Mr. Zam Hei know that his brethren worldwide love him very much. His example of urgency, faith and love for our God has deeply affected us all, hopefully to a new awakening and urgency of the times. Maybe we could all make an extra effort to add his tithe amount to ours to speed the work further

into all the world. Is there any way we can help that young person from Burma to attend Ambassador College?

T. F., Preston,
Ontario

Thank you sincerely for all the inspired articles in the January-March GOOD NEWS. I was deeply touched, and still am, with the "Open Letter" report from Northern Ireland. My favorite verse always comes to my mind — "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord God delivers him from them all" — whenever I read stories of that kind. I am still praying for them. We miss your "live sermons," but we literally LIVE on your articles here in West Africa.

L. S., Winneba,
Ghana

The GOOD NEWS article, "An Open Letter From North Ireland," brought tears of appreciation for the answered prayers for protection God has given the brethren there. I was also amazed at the way God opened the mind of the young man Herbert Zam Hei in Burma. How many of us would have had the determination to overcome all language barriers to find the truth? We will be praying for the situation in the Philippines where brethren are suffering as a result of drought. I wish we could get some of our overabundance of rain to them.

D. C., Salem,
Virginia

I was very impressed with the article, "God's People in Black Africa," in the January-March issue of *The GOOD NEWS*. It really made the tears flow to think of the severe trials of those brethren who are scattered throughout that darkened land, with a pagan society hostile to everything they believe in and stand for. I will be praying for them.

D. D., Wisconsin Rapids,
Wisconsin

Thank you for *The GOOD NEWS*. All the articles are so good I can hardly put the magazine down. They are really educational as well as biblical. It is heart-warming to know that God is calling people from every nation and language. I am especially touched with the article, "God's Eyes and Ears Are on You!" by Mr. Hal W. Baird, Jr. It gives us a faint idea of how great God really is.

T. W., Andrews,
South Carolina

I just had to write and commend your staff on the very superior edition of *The GOOD NEWS* (January-March). Every article was just fabulous! However, the article "God's Eyes and Ears Are on You!" really opened my mind to God's very real power and His vast superiority over man. God opened my eyes to my sin and made me ashamed of my pettiness. I know now that He really sees all those sinful thoughts — ough! It has made me try harder to have something good for God to see.

D. A., Independence,
Missouri