

the
PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

JULY 1977

SAN FRANCISCO'S FAMOUS
**ALL GIRL
TOPLESS BAND**
THE LADYBIRDS
315 AM
LIVE ON OUR STAGE
**HELLO
BURLESQUE**
DAILY 11:30 AM

**BODY
SHOP**
BURLESQUE

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Magazines
ART FILMS

PORNOGRAPHY
IS NO "VICTIMLESS CRIME"



A LITTLE
EXERCISE
COULD MEAN A LIFETIME OF HEALTH!



WAS THE
RESURRECTION
A HOAX?

WARNING!
TOBACCO
IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH

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Vol. XLII, No. 7

July 1977

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I used to think that romance was something that thrilled and propelled up to cloud nine only youths from their late teens to their late twenties. Surely no person past fifty could ever experience the wonderful, anticipatory, exotic happiness of real LOVE!

I have learned better.

Let me here quote a portion from the beginning of what I wrote in both our ministerial *Bulletin*, read by our ministers all over the earth, and in *The Worldwide News*, read by about 98 percent of the members of the Worldwide Church of God besides many other nonmember subscribers:

"Brethren, my heart is filled to overflowing with gratitude and love to you for the overwhelming response of congratulations for my marriage of three weeks ago today, here in our new 'away-from-home home' in Tucson, Arizona.

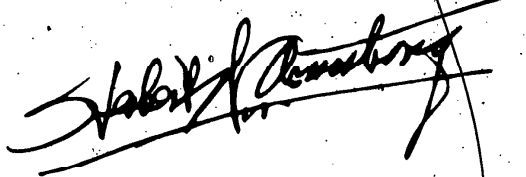
"The cards and letters consist of not only congratulations, but show rejoicing in your own hearts and your deep love for me, and now express that same respect and love for my lovely new bride, Ramona.

"I spent one whole day until I was tired, mentally and physically, and 'eye tired' wading through whole boxes of hundreds upon hundreds of congratulatory cards and letters. It was one of the greatest demonstrations of your love, concern, loyalty and affection for your Pastor General and God's apostle that I have ever experienced.

"And I shall never be able to thank God enough for selecting her and sending her to me and causing the very real and deep love that has grown in each of us for the other. God knew the help I needed by my side to accomplish His Work for the remainder of my life—for both of our lives—and He certainly chose and sent to me the loveliest and the most lovable of the lovely.

"In a sense this has been our honeymoon in our own new home together, yet it has been one of the BUSIEST and HARDEST-WORKING three weeks of my life. The one room that is already completely furnished in our new home is my study—my office. I have been hard at work at the typewriter and on the telephone with many of our top

Personal from...



Comments Inspired by My Own Recent Marriage—After Ten Years a Widower

people at the offices in Pasadena and in other telephone conversations from other points in the world. By no means have I been out of contact—but in constant daily contact—with the Work."

Our great Creator IS LOVE. He is the giver of true LOVE. And can we receive a greater gift—in this life, I mean? Of course, the gift of eternal life filled with divine love and joy and peace and happiness forever and ever is the greatest.

I was married when I was in the youthful age of romance—25. I had left off church attendance at 18. I was not religious, nor, for that matter, irreligious. I was full of ambition for success with the full SELF-confident bloom of youth. I had dated many girls, most of them from what I considered fine families, old families—the best. I liked them all, but was in love with none—until that certain one came along. Splendid, charming, cultured as they all were, she was different—superior—and this time it was LOVE—not at first sight, but it blossomed rapidly after our first meeting, which was January 1, 1917.

Of course, I was on that wonderful cloud nine. We were married on July 31 of that year. That happy marriage lasted fifty years, lacking 3½ months to the day.

Sure, the first flushes of romance changed gradually into a less exciting but deeper and deeper love and trust and loyalty. We fought life's battles together, and enjoyed its successes together. God used her in my conversion at age 35—in spurring me to an intensive, in-depth, night-and-day study of the Bible that led to opening its meaning for me, giving me UNDERSTANDING, and the GIFT, through the presence of God's Holy Spirit, of ETERNAL LIFE to come at the resurrection. She was cofounder with me of the "Philadelphia era" (Rev. 3:7-13) of the Church of God, founded in A.D. 31 by Jesus Christ. She was cofounder of *The Plain Truth*. She worked with me in starting the radio broadcast and throughout its rapid worldwide growth. She was cofounder of Ambassador College. We did everything together. We were a TEAM. Our marriage lasted until death parted us, May 15, 1967.

Then came ten LONELY YEARS, but a worldwide Work had been built, and I had to keep driving on—alone and lonely.

I learned God meant what He said when He said: "It is not good, that the man should be alone."

"Dad," said my son Garner Ted

(Continued on page 42)

by Herbert W. Armstrong

What Is Uppermost in God's Mind?

**What is most important—above all else—in the
mind of God right now?**

Does it make any difference to YOU what is IMPORTANT to God—what is important to Him above all else in your life? It should! For what is MOST IMPORTANT to Him IN YOUR LIFE will decide your happiness or unhappiness from here on; your success or failure in the remainder of your life—and far more—where and in what state you are going to spend your ETERNITY. For there is a life after death.

One passage in the New Testa-

ment spells it out for you. This same passage summarizes the WHOLE GOSPEL—or even, broadly, the ENTIRE BIBLE. I could preach every sermon for the rest of my life—each one different—using this one passage as my text.

It is found in Acts 3:19-21: a proclamation by the apostle Peter to a huge crowd gathered at the Temple after he had healed the cripple, well-known as being lame from birth.

"REPENT ye therefore," he admonished, "and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: whom the heavens must receive until the times of RESTITUTION of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."

Now let's UNDERSTAND! Without a real UNDERSTANDING of this passage by the inspired apostle Peter, you cannot understand the PURPOSE of life: WHY you are on earth, WHY mankind was put here, what life is all about, what is man's fantastic, incredible potential.

When Peter said to his listeners, first, "REPENT," he meant CHANGE ABOUT-FACE from the way they had been living. There are just two principal or general ways or attitudes of life. One is the way of this world, which for brevity I call "GET." The other is God's way, "GIVE." Satan's way is "GET" that is, vanity, lust and greed, jealousy and envy, competition, strife, violence and war, resentment against others, resentment and rebellion against any authority over one

Peter meant they first must turn FROM that way; that ATTITUDE of SELF-centeredness to GOD's way of "GIVE," or LOVE, which is love first toward God with yielded Obedience, and then LOVE toward man, which is *giving* CONCERN for the good and welfare of fellow humans.

Satan's way is that of SIN. God's way is that of the BASIC LAW of His GOVERNMENT—the way of LOVE. And LOVE—divine love from God as His gift through His Holy Spirit—is

the fulfilling of God's law, obedience to His government.

Jesus Christ came in the likeness of HUMAN FLESH. Though also divine, He was tempted in all points as we are and yet He had power to RESIST SIN; resist Satan's way of "GET." For man, the PENALTY of sin is DEATH. All have sinned—except Christ who, though our divine Maker, was made flesh subject to death—so that He was able by giving His life to pay the penalty for the sins of all humanity who choose to turn from and repent of sin, turn to God's way, BELIEVE Christ, and thus be CHANGED—CONVERTED—their sins blotted out by Christ's death.

Notice that Peter did NOT say their sins would be blotted out immediately upon this repentance. Belief alone in the atoning DEATH of Christ does not completely change or convert one. Their sins had CUT THEM OFF from contact with God, who alone had ETERNAL LIFE to give or impart to them. But belief in the death of Christ, following repentance, would REESTABLISH their CONTACT WITH GOD, who alone has eternal life and final CONVERSION TO GIVE.

So we humans are not finally SAVED by the BLOOD of Christ; we are restored to contact with God, who has eternal life to GIVE. But WHEN does He give it? Not immediately at the time of repentance and the decision to CHANGE from Satan's "GET" way of sin to God's way of "LOVE," but "when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and HE SHALL SEND JESUS CHRIST"—that is, at Christ's second coming as King of kings to rule the world.

But where is Jesus Christ NOW? At the right hand of God, on God's (His Father's) throne in heaven.

But WHEN will God send Jesus Christ as King? The heavens have received Him, where He now is on His Father's throne as our High Priest, interceding for us *until*—let me repeat, UNTIL—the times of restitution of all things (Acts 3:21).

Did you ever look up the meaning of "RESTITUTION"? It means RESTORING something that had previously existed, then was taken away, then finally RESTORED once

again. In Acts 3:21, "restitution" refers to the government of God!

Now let me go back just a little. I said the BLOOD of Christ—His DEATH for us—does NOT finally SAVE us; rather it RESTORES our contact with God the Father, who has eternal life to give.

Notice quickly and briefly in Romans 5:8: "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood..." NOTICE! Not

"And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: whom the heavens must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."

"SAVED" by His blood. The word "justified" means our *past* sins have been forgiven because Christ paid the penalty in our stead. Our past SINS cut us off from God. Christ's DEATH (in our stead, as our Maker) did *not* bestow upon us the GIFT of eternal life and final complete salvation, which only the Father has to give; rather, it RESTORES OUR CONTACT with the Father, from whom our sins had cut us off.

Continuing in Romans: "Much more then, being now JUSTIFIED by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him"—that is, through CHRIST. But HOW? "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the DEATH of his Son, much more, being REconciled, we SHALL BE [notice: "SHALL BE" in the FUTURE] saved by his life."

Notice it! Justified ONLY by His blood, BUT SAVED by His LIFE—by the resurrection!

Now WHEN is the resurrection? At the time of Christ's COMING—at "the times" of restitution of all things." "All things" means (as translated by

Moffatt in Hebrews 1) THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE.

What was once here, and taken away? The government of God. Most people do not know that angels inhabited this earth before the first humans. When God first created the earth, the ANGELS shouted for joy (Job 38:4-7). This earth was their "ESTATE," but they did not keep it (Jude 6). The angels on earth SINNED (II Peter 2:4). Their king over the earth was the super archangel LUCIFER (Isa. 14:12-15). He was PERFECT from his CREATION *until* iniquity (lawlessness—breaking the law of God's government, in which he ruled) was found in him (Ezek. 28:15). This REBELLION of the ANGELS removed the government of God from the earth.

Lucifer's name was changed to Satan. He still rules this world (Eph. 2:2; II Cor. 4:4). When Christ returns to rule, Satan will be REMOVED (Rev. 20:1-3). The government of God will be restored!

That restoration of God's government is the one great PURPOSE uppermost in God's mind.

Jesus had to qualify to replace Satan as ruler, and RESTORE the government of God by overcoming Satan (Matt. 4:1-11). If we also qualify by overcoming Satan, we shall sit WITH CHRIST on His throne, as He now sits on His Father's throne (Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21-22).

Next to restoring the government of God on earth, the most important thing on God's mind at the minute is the great commission He has committed to me and this Church as my helpers in announcing the restoring of God's government in the Kingdom of God in this very present generation, at Christ's coming. FOR THAT PURPOSE He raised up this Church of God through me. Is it important to you? ☐

RECOMMENDED READING

Read the story of a unique group of people—the Worldwide Church of God. It's a Church with a purpose, a mission that's being actively fulfilled on a world scale. It's a Church that is having a profound, positive impact on thousands of lives. Request the booklet, *This is the Worldwide Church of God*. For your free copy, write to the address of our office nearest you (see inside front cover).

Part I

THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT HEALING

Is the day of miracles past? Does the living God heal sickness and disease today upon believing prayer? Or was healing performed only by Christ and the original apostles? Did God raise up medical science for our day? What about modern faith healers and public healing services?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

You live in a world that relies primarily on medical doctors to treat illness. Most professing Christians today say: "God raised up medical science for our day." Jesus healed to prove He was the Messiah. But the day of miracles is now past." Some think God heals through self-professed faith healers, and attend public healing shows. Some believe in healing by one of the forms of "mental science"—the power of mind over matter. Others say, "Well, I think God *can* heal—it's His will. But how can we know, whether it's His will?"

Yes, people say!

But what does God say?

Does He reveal whether He still heals, *why* He heals, *how* He heals, *whether* and *when* it is His will? For the answers we go to the Bible.

Christ's Ministry Was Dual

Let's begin at the beginning. Actually, there are *two* beginnings, so far as the subject of healing is concerned—one in the New Testament,

with Christ; the other in the Old Testament, with the people of ancient Israel. We shall begin with the ministry of Jesus. Later, many readers will be surprised to learn how much is recorded on the subject throughout the Old Testament.

More than nineteen hundred years ago—in A.D. 27-31—Jesus Christ appeared on earth as a messenger bearing history's most important message from God to mankind. His mission was prophesied in Malachi, chapter 3, verse 1. That message actually was a stupendous NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT. The news was the most transcendent GOOD NEWS! It was the GOSPEL (which means "good news") of Jesus Christ. But Jesus' ministry was a *dual* ministry. And a miraculous ministry.

Jesus came also healing the sick by the divine power of God. It was not the power of human mind over matter. Few realize the extent to which healing and casting out demons were an integral part of Jesus'

ministry. Later, the apostles proclaimed His same message and healed the sick.

What Happened to the Gospel and to Healing

It comes as an astounding shock to learn that long before the end of the first century, the proclamation of Christ's gospel to the world and the ministry of physical healing ceased!

But WHY?

Christ's gospel was the glorious messianic announcement of the coming world-ruling KINGDOM OF GOD. It was the announcement of the wonderful WORLD TOMORROW! It was *not* a message of doom!—except for the doom of this world's evils, sufferings and unhappiness. It was a joyous announcement of coming world peace, universal happiness, and well-being! But the leaders of the people in Judea misunderstood and resented both that good NEWS, and Jesus' MIRACLES.

Jesus' miracles were public—but they weren't healing shows. He sim-

ply healed the sick wherever He came to them or they came to Him. But of course the miracles attracted enormous crowds. Many began to believe on Him. This alarmed the chief priests and the ruling Pharisees. It stirred them to violent persecution. They totally misunderstood Jesus' message! His news-announcement was that of the yet-to-come Kingdom of God, not—as they supposed—of the overthrow of the Roman government of their day.

The Romans, then ruling the Western world, avoided most of the details of government administration in Judea by causing the Jews to rule themselves at the lower levels. The Pharisaic rulers loved their position of authority. They viewed Jesus as an anti-Roman agitator proposing to overthrow the Roman rule. They feared being imprisoned as seditionists if they sided in any way with Jesus. They plotted to kill Him, and at God's set time Jesus was crucified, making possible man's reconciliation with God.

God miraculously raised Jesus from the dead, making possible eternal life for humanity. On the fiftieth day (called Pentecost) after His resurrection, the 120 converts of Jesus, including the apostles, received the POWER of the Holy Spirit of God. In that power they proclaimed the good news of the Kingdom of God. In the same divine power from God by which Christ healed, they healed the sick wherever they went.

But, as with Jesus, so now with the apostles: The miracles drew tremendous crowds. Without any pressured solicitations, thousands were converted and baptized. But soon the persecution against them multiplied. Two years after Jesus' resurrection, A.D. 33, Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8), the Pater (father or Peter) of the Babylonian mystery religion in Samaria, after being rejected by Peter, appropriated the name of Christ and applied it to his Babylonian mystery religion, calling it "Christianity." Simon and his followers began systematic opposition and persecution against the true Church of God, founded in A.D. 31 by Jesus Christ. (How the Babylo-

nian mystery religion was moved into Samaria in 718 B.C. is explained in II Kings 17:18-24.)

Gentile and Jewish Opposition

The earliest opposition against Christ's Church was Jewish, opposing the acceptance of Jesus as the Messiah. Judaizers insisted on observing the temporary rituals of Mosaic law. For this reason the early ministry of the apostles put prime emphasis on the replacement of rituals by the Holy Spirit; and on the resurrection, infallible proof of Christ's messiahship. The apostles were personally with Jesus for three and a half years before His crucifixion, and for forty days after His resurrection—so they were eyewitnesses to the resurrection.

After A.D. 33, as the work of this Simon the Sorcerer spread, the opposition to the true Church became Gentile. The writings of Paul, as well as I and II Peter, of James, of I, II and III John, and Jude show the Gentile opposition was primarily aimed against the law of God. Simon appropriated the doctrine of grace from the teaching of the apostles, but it was grace turned into license to disobey (Jude 4). They preached a false Jesus who, they said, did away with the basic spiritual law of God. Simon and his followers preached a totally different gospel than the apostles—primarily that of their own Babylonian mystery religion, with grace and Christ's name added. Of course they got it to the Galatians.

To the Galatians, Paul wrote: "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel" (Gal. 1:6). To the Corinthians, Paul wrote: "For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus . . . of another gospel . . ." (II Cor. 11:4). Of these Simon Magus-type preachers, Paul wrote, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness" (verses 13-15).

It was Satan—the former cherub Lucifer (Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:12-17)—who originally rebelled against the GOVERNMENT OF GOD and caused its removal from the earth. Satan is the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4). He has his churches and his ministers. They oppose the law of God. Therefore they oppose the KINGDOM of God, since it is governed by the laws of God. These apostles of Satan offered the world an easier religion. Obedience was unnecessary.

Dark Age Begins

The opposition of Simon's false church finally snuffed out the proclaiming of the MESSAGE of the KINGDOM OF GOD. Before the end of the first century, the curtain was systematically rung down on all records of true Church history.

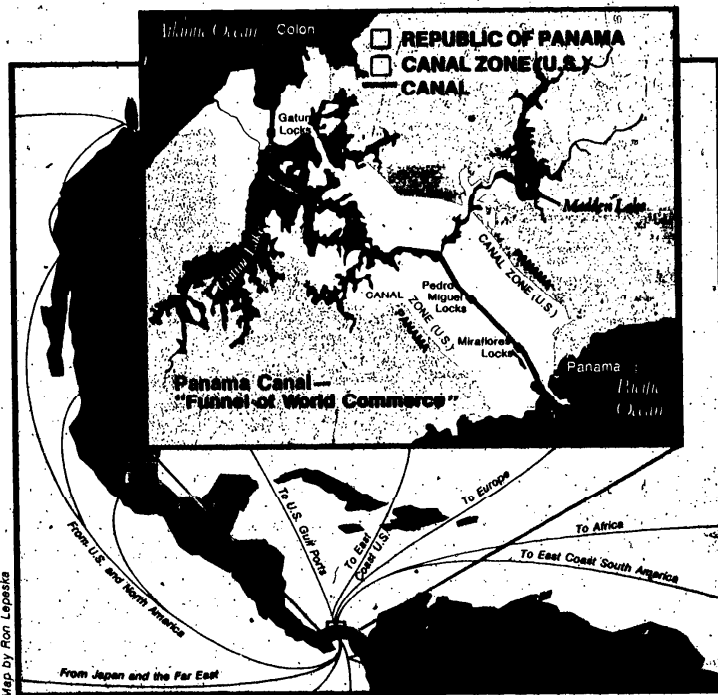
When the curtain lifts, late in the second century, we behold a "Christianity" utterly unlike that of Christ and His original apostles. Its doctrines, sacraments and customs were those of the Babylonian mystery religion. It persecuted and martyred those true Christians still holding to the teachings and customs of Christ and His apostles. Christ's doctrines and customs were branded as "Jewish." The term "Jewish" became a dirty word—an epithet.

The message God sent to mankind by Jesus Christ—the true gospel Christ preached, the announcement of the coming KINGDOM OF GOD—was done away by expediently calling THE CHURCH (Simon's) "the kingdom of God." Some, later, reduced the KINGDOM OF GOD to an ethereal indescribable something "set up in men's hearts."

Thus, through manipulations of "the god of this world," Satan, by whom ALL NATIONS HAVE BEEN DECEIVED (Rev. 12:9), the true GOSPEL MESSAGE CHRIST BROUGHT was suppressed and not proclaimed to the world after the first century! And healing the sick as a regular practice had ceased also.

Thus the DUAL ministry of Christ and the apostles was no part of what the world has accepted as traditional Christianity.

(Continued on page 41)



Canal Zone Handover?

AMERICA'S STRATEGIC SURRENDER

The United States is on the verge of concluding a new treaty with Panama which would relinquish its historic sovereign rights to the Canal Zone. But would a "new relationship" with Panama work? At stake is the security of not only America but much of the free world.

by Gene H. Hogberg

Representatives of the United States and Republic of Panama have recently concluded another round of negotiations with the aim of producing a new treaty to replace the 1903 pact under which Panama granted the U.S. control "in perpetuity"—meaning forever—

of a ten-mile strip across the Central American isthmus.

Within the 547-square-mile territory, the United States has, since its completion in 1914, operated, maintained and defended the famous ocean-to-ocean Panama Canal. Despite its age, the Canal, with its

high-level lake and gravity-fed locks, remains one of the engineering marvels of the world, an enterprise once described as representing "the greatest liberty man has ever taken with nature."

For years Panama has demanded a return of the Zone to its bisected country—complete with the strategic waterway—which has cost the American taxpayer a total investment of nearly \$7 billion. And as Panama's demands—backed by threats of violence—have grown stronger, America's resolve to hang on has grown weaker, to the point where she appears willing to give in altogether.

Vital Lifeline

It is difficult to conceive of a more strategic single piece of real estate anywhere on earth than the Canal Zone with its 50-mile-long fresh water link between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Approximately 13,200 ships transited the Canal in 1976, nearly three-fourths of them going to or coming from American ports, carrying one-sixth of U.S. ocean-borne commerce.

While some of the newer super-tankers are too big for the Canal's 1,000-by-110-foot locks, the vast majority of the world's oceangoing vessels can easily navigate the waterway, including all the newer container ships, which have revolutionized the shipping industry.

The economic impact of the closure of the Canal upon American industry—should that ever occur—would range all the way from "seriously inflationary" to "catastrophic." With dependence on foreign oil rising nearer to the 50 percent mark, the United States—in the interest of saving fuel alone—cannot afford the prospect of stringing its shipping "around the Horn" of South America.

The United States is by no means the only beneficiary of the Canal, which has been called the "funnel of world commerce." To maritime powers such as Japan, Norway, the United Kingdom and Greece, unhampered use of the waterway is essential.

Without the Canal the Japanese—who transport one-third of their oceanic trade through it—could not effectively ship their goods to the East Coast of the United States, or to

Brazil, where they have a giant market, or to Western Europe. The Japanese steel industry, in turn, depends upon shipment through the Canal for nearly all of its coal and coke supplies.

Writes Charles Maechling, Jr. in the Winter 1977 issue of *Orbis*: "One can imagine the crippling effect of a sudden closure on the Japanese economy. This is not to mention the adverse impact such a closure would have on countries like Australia and New Zealand, which have crucial European and East Coast markets."

Closure, or even restricted use of the Canal, could be the death knell of Britain's shaky economy. Down through the years Britain, with her far-flung merchant marine, has consistently been the second or third largest user of the Canal. Each year over 60 percent of British-registered shipping transits the Isthmus.

Several Latin American nations also have a huge stake in the Canal operation. The trade between the west coast of South America and the Gulf and East Coast of the United States passes almost directly north-south across the Panama Canal water bridge.

Thus, continued access to the waterway for all nations and at reasonable rates—which the United States has guaranteed for 63 years—is an issue affecting virtually the entire world. Yet the American government has allowed itself to be continually outmaneuvered by Panama into treating the Canal problem as strictly an issue between the U.S. and Panama, or at the very most, between the United States and Latin America as a whole. Washington has consistently failed to impress upon Panama that far more is at stake than internal Panamanian politics.

Key to Hemispheric Defense

Militarily, the Canal is as vital as ever to the defense of the United States and other countries of the Western Hemisphere. The waterway gives the U. S. Navy remarkable flexibility in its strategic planning—a factor even more critical today with the stress placed on economy of operations.

With the exception of the big air-



Tom Zimberoff-Contest

PANAMA'S military dictator, Omar Torrijos, needs new Panama Canal treaty to shore up faltering position.

craft carriers, all of the Navy's vessels, including all submarines and missile-firing craft, can take advantage of the Canal's quick ocean-to-ocean shortcut. And for expediting the movement of huge tonnages of military cargo to far-flung war fronts, the Canal has proven its inestimable worth—as witnessed in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

While the Pentagon has given its approval to the State Department to seek a new treaty, it has done so very reluctantly. Most of the top brass hold grave reservations about political control of the Zone passing into Panama's hands.

One American congressman who is opposed to any fundamental changes in the operation of the vital seaway expresses its importance in the bluntest terms: "The Panama Canal, with its protective frame of the Canal Zone, is a world waterway absolutely necessary for inter-oceanic commerce. Its security is of global significance in the current struggle for world power, and its loss would be a serious military blow against all nations of the entire free world comparable to defeat in war."

A "Model Treaty"?

Even though public opinion in the United States is said to run three to one against relinquishing American rights in the Canal Zone, the major-

ity of legislative members in Washington are not of the same persuasion. And the executive branch of government, namely the State Department, has been negotiating off and on with Panama's representatives for over 12 years trying to accommodate Panamanian demands for a new treaty designed to turn control of the Canal over to Panama in stages—with intended safeguards for continued American access.

The new Administration in Washington had hoped, in fact, to submit a new treaty for the required two-thirds Senate approval by early summer. However, obstacles on both sides—said to be a hardening position on Panama's part and a steady chorus of opposition against a new treaty in the U.S. Senate—are once again threatening to forestall the negotiations.

On both sides, quite a bit of personal pride is involved. For Panama's dictator, General Omar Torrijos, who assumed power in a coup in 1968, a new treaty asserting Panamanian sovereignty over the Zone and its canal would assure him a prominent niche in his country's history as the one who secured Panama's final "liberation." Without a new treaty, he claims, he doesn't know how he can restrain Panama's left-wing students and the country's National Guard from marching en masse in anger to seize the Zone. In fact, he has said he might even lead them.

There is a term which normally describes such boasting. It's called "blackmail."

For chief U.S. negotiator Ellsworth Bunker, a new treaty agreed to by both sides would cap a quarter century of public service. It is his hope that the new pact might provide, in his words, "a model for the world to admire of how a small nation and a large one can work peacefully and profitably together."

Such wording, of course, expresses a highly laudable goal, although it is not quite accurate in fact. The United States and Panama have worked for the most part peacefully, and, certainly for both sides, profitably, in the Canal enterprise ever since the first ship sailed through in 1914. The Canal has greatly benefited American com-

merce and industry, while Canal revenues, direct and indirect, have enabled the tiny Republic of Panama to achieve one of the highest standards of living in all of Latin America.

But, it must be admitted, it is the reality of the American presence on a small strip of U.S.-owned territory operating under American laws which has rankled certain elements in Panama almost from the beginning of what, but for human nature, could have been a beautiful relationship.

As one of the foremost authorities on the history of the Panama Canal, Dr. Donald M. Dozer, puts it so eloquently: "The very success of the United States in building and operating the Canal and in developing the Canal Zone, when contrasted with the conditions of underdevelopment in the Republic of Panama, has filled Panamanian demagogues with envy which has driven them to covet their neighbor's canal and Canal Zone. There would be no Canal problem today if these politicians would follow the commandment: 'Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's Canal Zone, his canal, or anything that is thy neighbor's.'"

Basic Terms

The broad outlines of a new treaty were established in an agreement reached three years ago by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Juan Antonio Tack, who was then Panama's foreign minister. Their talks resulted in a jointly issued "Statement of Principles" to be incorporated in a new treaty. The essential points called for an early

"Under the terms of the original 1903 Hay-Bunau-Varilla treaty, still in force, Panama granted to the United States, 'in perpetuity' a strip of territory crossing the Isthmus in which the United States could exercise 'all the rights, power and authority' which it would possess and exercise if it were the sovereign of the territory—to the entire exclusion of the exercise by the Republic of Panama of any such sovereign power or authority." For this grant of sovereignty "in perpetuity" the United States paid Panama the full purchase price of \$10,000,000 and later indemnified the owners of the land by purchasing it from them, thus acquiring complete ownership of all the land in the Canal Zone. The phrase "in perpetuity" is found a total of seven times in the original treaty."

If the Canal becomes Panama's, the temptation will be great for her politicians to milk the waterway and its major users in order to pay for misdirected policies in other spheres of Panama's economy. Many nations will suffer, not just the United States.

transfer of the Canal Zone to Panama and the setting of a date when Panama would assume "total responsibility" for running the Canal.

On the first issue—sovereignty over the Zone—it is believed the negotiators have agreed that the Canal Zone itself would pass out of U.S. hands no later than three years after the treaty is ratified. From the end of the three-year period until the end of the new treaty, possibly the year 2000, Panama would also increase its operating responsibilities of the Canal itself "in partnership" with the United States.

Other big issues yet unresolved are the number and size of military bases required by the U.S. for defense of the Canal during the new treaty's period, as well as the legal status of the several thousand "Zonians"—American citizens living in the Zone who, up until now, have been subject only to U.S. laws and regulations.

Quite understandably, morale among the American workers and their families in the Zone has sunk very low lately as the negotiations have dragged on and as the end to effective U.S. control looms. Most see no future for themselves or their families. Key personnel needed to keep the operation going—pilots, dredge and tugboat operators, engineers and machinists—are quitting at double the normal rate. Finding replacements is proving to be almost impossible.

Who will safely and efficiently operate the Canal if most of the trained Americans leave? Though Panamanians now outnumber

Americans in Canal Company jobs (about 11,000 to 4,000), it is doubtful whether Panama's tiny population can supply enough skilled manpower to fill the gap.

After 2000?

Another serious question at the moment revolves around what rights the United States will be able to exercise beyond the new treaty period to ensure adequate American access to and defense of the Canal.

Washington's negotiators have pressed for continued U.S. defense rights—perhaps in a separate status-of-forces treaty—well into the next century.

Panama insists, however, that the end of the treaty must write the finish to American responsibility of any kind. For Washington's influence to linger on afterwards, her officials say, would be a blow to Panama's pride *dignidad*.

General Torrijos has proposed that in the post-treaty period guarantees of access to the Canal and its continued neutrality (faithfully ensured to all nations by the U.S. for the past 63 years) could be invested in the United Nations instead!

But with the way the U.S. has been acting lately, such a proposal is tantamount, say some, to virtual assurance that "imperialist" America would someday be denied the use of the very waterway it built and paid for!

Four years ago in a special session of the U.N. Security Council held in Panama City, Panama completely won over the U.N. to its side in the Canal dispute. Panamanian officials, in a successful attempt to garner Third World support, argued that the Canal was their country's "greatest natural resource."

Of course, the Canal is not a "natural resource" in the same sense as, say, petroleum or iron ore. It is a man-made project, constructed and paid for totally by the taxpayers of the United States.

With regard to the "greatest resource" ploy, Panama's politicians have repeatedly made ominous statements to the effect that they want to see Canal tolls raised sharply and that they are not going to continue to "subsidize" the American shipping industry.

Given Panama's current sad state of affairs—an economy on the verge of bankruptcy, unemployment at 15 percent, and recent riots against increased food prices which nearly toppled Torrijos—the temptation will be great for her politicians to milk the users of the waterway in order to pay for misdirected policies in other spheres of Panama's economy.

Up until now, the global utility which is the Canal has been shielded from economic and political turmoil in Panama itself. This comfort will cease when U.S. control ceases—and what a political football the Canal could become!

U.S. Ignoring Geopolitical Realities

Critics of a new treaty express grave doubts that Panama would faithfully operate the Canal under reasonable rates and fair and equal terms for all as the United States has under what Theodore Roosevelt called "a mandate of civilization."

But this is only half the story. The biggest fear that opponents of a new treaty have is this: What happens to the Canal what happens to Panama itself after U.S. authority in the Zone ceases following the three-year period? For while Panama has proven itself to be a David in relation to the American Goliath, in reality it is a small, weak, unstable nation, vulnerable to imperialist predators. In possession of the Canal it would be a ripe plum indeed.

A survey of the history of Panamanian politics is enough to confirm these fears. In its 74 years as an independent state Panama has written a remarkable record of political instability. In fact, the present nine-year-old military government of General Torrijos is uncharacteristically long-lasting.

Uncertainty over Panama's intentions and future political direction is compounded by the growing worldwide posture of the Soviet Union. The opportunistic Soviets would undoubtedly be eager to move into a dominant role in Panamanian affairs if the U.S. relinquished its authority in the Zone.

Increasingly over the last decade the Soviets have made huge strategic gains at the expense of the West.

Negotiations with Panama over the future of the Canal have been carried on in the spirit of wishful thinking and without due regard to the realities of international politics. Wrestling the control of the world's strategic waterways, including the Panama Canal, has long been a major Soviet objective.

When Britain abandoned her "east-of-Suez" policy, the Kremlin moved quickly to fill the vacuum. In domino fashion, the U.S.S.R. has acquired a string of bases and port-and-supply facilities along the entire circumference of postcolonial Africa from Algeria in the north to Guinea, Cape Verde, Nigeria and Angola in the west, to Mozambique, Madagascar and Somalia in the east.

Reds in power at Africa's southern tip, a key Soviet objective, would mean a Communist stranglehold on one of the free world's most vital sea-lanes—the Cape Route—the critical water avenue over which sail over 24,000 ships a year, mostly tankers, transporting virtually all of Western Europe's (and much of America's) oil.

Thus it should come as no surprise that the prospects of Kremlin meddling on the Isthmus are looming greater. And with the United States effectively removed from the scene, it should be obvious that there is relatively little an unstable and vulnerable Panama, "protected" by its 10,000-strong National Guard, could do to thwart any overt or covert Soviet move.

As eminent Panama Canal authority Dr. Donald M. Dozer states: "With the removal of the United States' authority, Panama will again become a focus of international rivalry." Professor Dozer further stresses that wresting the control of the world's strategic waterways, "including the United States' Isthmian

Canal," has long been a major Soviet objective.

"The current negotiations," continues this expert, "have been carried on in the spirit of wishful thinking and without due regard to the realities of international politics. The critical situation of the United States in the Canal Zone, produced largely by Washington policymakers, is not a mere local question between the United States and Panama. It is part of a global power struggle directly related to the security of the United States and the entire Western Hemisphere.

"Upon the defense of the Canal Zone by the United States depends the fate of the Canal. Upon the fate of the Canal depend the safety of world sea-lanes and the fate of the entire Caribbean-Gulf area. Upon these factors depend the survival of the United States as a free and independent nation and the safety and welfare of the American continents."

Without the Zone, No Security

A key question America's negotiators should be asking is: What if Panama, under Communist pressure or not, should renege on the terms of a new treaty and threaten to expel the U.S. from further partnership in the Canal operation? What if, furthermore, revolutionary disorders erupt in Panama and threaten the Canal itself? Despite an "ironclad" defense treaty, Washington might be accused of international aggression against Panama if it intervened militarily since the troops would be fighting Panamanians on Panamanian soil, the Canal and the area around it no longer being U.S. property.

That is why the "protective framework" of the Zone is as important as the Canal itself. Without the Canal Zone the U.S. has no future guaranteed access to the Canal, save Panama's good faith! The Canal would become just like any other commercial enterprise held hostage by a dictator's whim to the threat of total nationalization. There is simply no way a new treaty can possibly provide the protection afforded by the 1903 accord!

There are those who claim that the Canal is "indefensible" and that

the U.S. should turn it over to Panama before she riots again and someone "bombs a lock" or commits some other aggressive act. Those who know better realize such arguments are spurious and alarmist. It is precisely the fact that the Zone is in U.S. hands which makes the Canal defensible. The U.S. has been able so far, by operating within the cushion of the Zone, to defend the waterway through two world wars, as well as against violence directed at it from Panama itself, including the riots of January 1964. Even during the three days of chaos 13 years ago, shipping was able to proceed unaffected precisely because the "fallback" area of the Zone kept trouble from interrupting commerce.

With the Zone passing out of existence and its area incorporated into Panama, this defensive cushion would be lost. Trouble could extend right up to the water's edge and the Canal indeed *would* become indefensible, no matter what military presence the U.S. might still retain under a new treaty.

Ugly Vision

Because of lack of foresight on America's part, one can easily envision a time when a radicalized Panama, under Soviet or even United Nations Third World pressure, could adopt a "selective policy" of who could use the Canal and who couldn't, such as: No American ships. No U.S. vessels under foreign flags (such as Liberia). No ships of any nation trading with any country on which the U.N. should decide to slap an embargo. The ships of leftist Latin countries would be permitted to go through, but not those of Chile or Brazil—or even those of Japan or Britain going to any of the above countries.

And—irony of ironies—we could even see engineers, pilots and technicians from the Communist world manning the Canal jobs vacated by Americans!

What a mess it would be. And who would get the blame? The United States—for making it all possible by giving up its responsibility. America would indeed be the scorn of many nations—and for good reason.

Ceding Territory— A Dangerous Precedent

"The claim that changed conditions justify the renegotiation of old treaties involving cessions of territory is a petard charged with dynamite for the future of the United States.

"State Department officials seek to justify the abrogation of the treaty of 1903 with Panama with the plea that that treaty was concluded 72 years ago and that in the meantime conditions have changed. Will they also insist as a corollary that the older the treaty of cession, the greater is the need for renegotiating it? Is a period of 72 years the minimal or the maximal terminal date for territorial cessions? In the early 1950s Soviet Russia addressed a demand to the State Department to show proof of ownership of Alaska, which the United States had purchased from Russia some 85 years before. It may well be that only the later admission of the territory Alaska into the Union as a state forestalled further demands along

this line for the time being.

"Or will the State Department insist upon the renegotiation of the Gadsden purchase and return all of southern Arizona and southern New Mexico to Mexico because the Gadsden purchase treaty was concluded 122 years ago, and since then conditions have changed? And what about the Florida purchase treaty, which is 158 years old, and the Louisiana purchase which occurred 172 years ago? As a matter of fact, the Panama Canal is not operated solely under the 1903 treaty but under that treaty as modified and reaffirmed in the treaties of 1936 and 1955.

"By scrapping these latter treaties our negotiators are establishing a precedent for the dismemberment of the national territory."

—Donald M. Dozer, professor of Latin American History and Inter-American Relations, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Few realize that America's obligations regarding the Canal go back *even before* 1903. Specifically, the U.S. has an obligation under the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty of 1901 (with Great Britain) to keep any Isthmian canal "free and open to the vessels of commerce and of war of all nations," on terms of entire equality and without discrimination as to "conditions and charges of traffic." The Republic of Panama was not a party to this treaty commitment (and in fact, was not even a separate nation at the time).

The United States also has a separate treaty commitment with Colombia guaranteeing that nation, the former sovereign of Panama, certain special rights in the use of the Canal.

Replacing the 1903 treaty in no way abrogates these other solemn agreements! The maritime powers of the world, moreover, have acquired rights of use of America's

Canal "by prescription" (that is, continual, dependable usage over many years). Washington is thus on the verge of abandoning a grave worldwide responsibility it had once assumed—and it, not Panama, will pay very dearly for the consequences should anything go wrong.

Yielding to Blackmail

Down through the years, America's officials have consistently whittled away at their nation's sovereign position in the Zone. The treaties of 1936 and 1955 each relinquished elements of the 1903 treaty, though leaving the fundamental sovereignty issue intact. But presidential decisions in the 1960s, allowing the flying of the Panamanian flag at selected points in the Zone seriously and needlessly compromised America's sovereign position.

Explains Professor Dozer: "Every new concession by the United States

to continuing demands of Panamanians has been met by accelerating demands, blackmail, and temper tantrums on their part. One concession has led to another concession, and our relations with Panama for the last 20 years have simply been a succession of concessions on our part. It's as if the negotiators for both parties have been on the same side—Panama's."

In fact, the negotiations which have been going on and off for the past 12 years cannot truly be considered negotiations at all. Professor Dozer told *The Plain Truth* of one particularly tragicomic episode:

"From the very beginning these negotiations have lacked the central feature of negotiation, namely a quid-pro-quo, give-and-take relationship. When I had an opportunity in 1967 to talk with Ambassador Joseph Earland, our ambassador who began the negotiations with Panama in 1965, I asked him: 'Joe, when you conducted the negotiations with Panama, did you make any counterdemands upon Panama? Did you ask for anything in exchange for the Canal and the Canal Zone?' His answer was, 'No, I don't think I did . . . Oh yes, on second thought, I asked the Panamanians to give us an additional 55 feet of land adjoining the U.S. embassy residence [in Panama City] for a parking lot, which they had promised. 'And did you get it?' I asked him. 'No,' he answered ruefully.

"Now the idea of exchanging the Panama Canal for a 55-foot frontage of parking lot is a ridiculous comparison, but through the years the U.S. has made no other demands upon Panama in these so-called negotiations except to ask the Panamanians to abandon their tantrums and quit rioting against the U.S. This is the only benefit we would derive from the giveaway policy."

And that "benefit" would not likely last one day into a new treaty! New reasons for attacking the American "oppressors" still on hand under the new arrangement would surely be found. Tensions would be greater than ever before—only this time the Canal itself would be in clear danger.

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"When you conducted the negotiations with Panama, did you make any counterdemands on Panama? Did you ask for anything in exchange for the Canal and the Canal Zone?"

"No . . . Oh, yes, on second thought, I asked the Panamanians to give us an additional 55 feet of land at our embassy for a parking lot, which they had promised." "And did you get it?" "No."

Longtime readers of *The Plain Truth* who have also read our booklet *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy* (write for your free copy today if you have not read it) know that the United States, Britain, and the English-speaking Commonwealth nations have been the end-time recipients of the birthright promise of national greatness conferred by Almighty God upon the patriarch Abraham.

The "Sea Gate" Blessing

In detailing elements of this promise, God told Abraham: "That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies" (Gen. 22:17). The Fenton translation phrases it in this manner: ". . . And your race shall possess the *gates* [plural] of its enemies."

The "gates" of enemy nations are the strategic land and sea gates of entrance to or exit from these nations. Although all wealth comes from the ground, prosperity and affluence on a national scale have come also by industry and commerce in modern times. And commerce between nations, even in the jet age, has been transacted almost totally via the sea-lanes of the world.

The keys to the world's sea-lanes, moreover, are the various sea gates—which Soviet strategists view, interestingly enough, as "choke points"—areas to grab hold of and restrict others' access to, not as gates which swing open wide to the commerce of the world for the benefit of all nations.

Many Americans, especially the younger generation who have lived through times of unprecedented national prosperity, seem unaware of their nation's critical dependence upon foreign trade (66 of America's 77 vital minerals have to be imported to a large degree) and unaware that continued, unhampered access to an area so vital as the Panama Canal can mean the difference between economic well-being and a crushing depression!

Jettisoning a Birthright Blessing

In their rise to world power, Britain and America came into possession of nearly every major land and sea gate in the world. But today, most of them, such as the Suez Canal, Aden and Singapore, have been lost as Britain's sun has set and that nation has shriveled back to "little England."

The Panama Canal is next on the list to go—the Russian Navy is steaming toward the "gate"—unless the American people and their political leaders recognize and return to the God who has faithfully blessed their nation so abundantly for the past two centuries.

This is not "our land," as the song goes, but *God's land*. The Panama Canal sea gate is part and parcel of America's God-given birthright, and a necessary vital territorial ingredient which has ensured and protected our inheritance. If America's politicians foolishly dispose of part of the national birthright for nothing (at least Esau in the Bible got a bowl of soup for his!), it shows they place little value on the future of their country.

It's time America's leaders woke up to the real challenge that confronts them. If they give up control of the Canal Zone now out of fear of another temper tantrum from tiny Panama, how would they react to a Soviet clamp on the Isthmus in the future? □

From ashamed anonymity to open acknowledgement, from hiding behind closed doors to standing on platforms before thousands of Jews, from talking in whispers to boldly proclaiming the gospel with great power and conviction, from trying desperately to lose themselves in crowds to openly jeopardizing their very lives—such is the unbelievable transformation of a small cadre of men destined to alter the course of history.

"We Are All Witnesses"

These men were eyewitnesses to one of the greatest events in all of human history—the resurrection of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. They saw Him; they talked with Him; they ate with Him; they touched Him—they did all these things *after* they knew He had been dead and buried for three days and three nights.

No wonder they powerfully preached and proclaimed the resurrection over and over again. Peter, in his very first sermon on the day of Pentecost, boldly said to the thousands gathered at Jerusalem: "Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it" (Acts 2:22-24).

A little later in the sermon, Peter restated it to his hearers: "This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses" (verse 32). All the apostles were eyewitnesses to the fact that Jesus had been resurrected from the dead. Just days later, Peter reiterated the same message to another crowd who had gathered because of the miraculous healing of a man lame from infancy. With great courage, he boldly told the gathering: "But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; and

Part 3

WAS THE RESURRECTION

A HOAX ?

by Garner Ted Armstrong

The Bible is very hard on its heroes. It exposes the sins, the flaws, the faults, the appetites, the compulsions, the inadequacies, the lack of faith and the doubts of its most vaunted heroes. It discloses the fact that every last one of Jesus' disciples fled the scene in abject fear when their leader and champion was about to be crucified. Yet barely fifty days later they were willing—to a man—to be lashed to the bone, imprisoned and even put to death for the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Here were men who, only weeks before, had escaped for their lives in fear and craven cowardice. Now they were suddenly willing to endure excruciating pain and even death on the rack. Why? What caused these men to so completely change their approach? What great event in history filled their minds and hearts with such incredible courage?

killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses" (Acts 3:14-15).

Did They Change Their Minds Under Pressure?

Were all these fervent speeches just an emotional manifestation of having seen a series of hallucinations? Would that fervor stand up to the insistent pressure of a "little" pain and a few threats to life and limb? Or were these men so solid in their convictions that even threats, beatings and imprisonment would fail to shake them?

Critics eager to disclaim biblical authority allege the disciples conspired in a plot to fake Jesus' resurrection. Stories of every stripe, including the very first one deliberately contrived and duly paid for by religionists of the first century, are freely circulated.

Some say the Romans stole His body away. Some claim the Jewish religious leaders did the same thing. Others say Jesus wasn't really dead, but was just in a deep trance or coma—faking death and then appearing later in the same body.

A popular concept alleges a plot and a hoax. What marvelous dedication to deliberate conspiracy it would have required—all of the apostles conspiring together to create a false religion around a person in whom they did not believe, and whom they knew to be a fraud!

Think about it.

If the Romans had taken the body, they surely would have displayed it openly to bring to a halt the religious furor that raged in an area the Caesar wanted quiet, peaceful and profitable. If the Jewish leaders had spirited the body away, they most surely would have paraded it through the streets, for they of all parties were the most keenly interested in proving Jesus dead and stopping the surge of religious zeal surrounding His resurrection that threatened their own status.

Did the apostles steal Jesus' body? Some of them were married; whole families, hundreds of people, would have been directly involved.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, saw Him alive, as did Mary Magdalene, "the other Mary." Jesus' own brothers and sisters saw Him dead and then saw Him alive.

Can you believe for one instant human beings would submit to the most horrible torture, including being crucified upside down (as tradition says Peter was), impaled, sawn in two, burnt at the stake, thrown to wild beasts, stabbed with spears and swords, stretched on racks, beheaded, or left to starve in a dungeon cell, for what they and their loved ones KNEW to be a farce?

Can you believe this, when only moments prior to Christ's final agonies they had all forsaken Him and fled? Peter *cursed*—which he knew was a sin—and vehemently denied Jesus three times. As we shall see: they proved unwilling to believe Jesus was alive; they were incredulous, disbelieving, needing to be *convinced*. Hardly the setting for a plot.

Almost immediately following the resurrection, the religious leaders jailed some of the apostles, because a great healing had taken place. The religionists couldn't gainsay the healing; hundreds knew the man; knew about his crippled condition; knew he had been miraculously healed. Can you believe healings take place as a result of lying plots? Do criminals involved in a great conspiracy have the power to heal?

The trauma of the original apostles was soon in coming. Let's see how they reacted: whether with real faith, knowledge, and courage, or in doubt and disbelief, knowing they were conspirators in a plot.

"And as they [the apostles] spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold [incarcerated them] unto the next day. . . ." (Acts 4:1-3).

The apostles reacted with great courage before the assembled might of the Jewish religious leaders. Through their chief spokesman, the apostle Peter, they said as if with one voice: "Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel. . . . *Be it known*

unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man [formerly permanently crippled] stand here before you whole [completely healed]." (verses 8, 10). Threats and beatings were not about to change their minds about what they saw with their own eyes and heard with their own ears. Later Peter and John further told them: ". . . We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (verse 20).

More threats quickly followed—threats that not long before would have had these men quivering in fear. But instead of a shaken collection of cowards, now they were a close-knit, transformed cadre of dedicated men, which neither the might of the Roman government nor the persistence of the vassal Jewish rulers could quiet. Notice verse 33: "And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. . . ."

By now, the religionists were beside themselves with anger and fear. Jerusalem was in an uproar! Impulsively they imprisoned the apostles once again (Acts 5:18), but this time an angel miraculously freed them. The twelve then hurried to the temple to give even further witness. But the religious rulers soon caught up with them. They asked these apostles: "Did not we straitly [strictly] command you that ye should not teach in this name? And behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine. . . ." (verse 28).

But the apostles steadfastly refused to bow to ever growing political and religious pressures. They weren't going to change their message to suit any man or group of men! Peter boldly told them: "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. . . . And we are his witnesses of these things. . . ." (verses 30, 32).

The Same Message to the Gentiles

Neither did Peter change his message when the gospel was expanded to include the Gentiles (non-Israelite ethnic groups). Luke, the author of the book of Acts, penned the very same message from Peter in the

tenth chapter. Here it is again, almost like a broken record: "And we are witnesses of all things which he [Jesus] did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem. . . . Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead" (verses 39-41).

So over and over again, the apostles preached the same message about the resurrection throughout the whole Middle-Eastern area.

The Reality of What They Saw

What the apostles experienced with their own eyes and ears was not just a one-time appearance. In the prologue to the book of Acts, Luke says: "To whom also he [Christ] shewed himself alive after his passion [suffering and death] by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days. . . ." (Acts 1:3).

As I mentioned earlier, there was eating and drinking together, much personal conversation, teaching of the Scriptures, give-and-take question and answer sessions, solid rebuke, and even sharp individual instruction. Actually, Christ's personal relationship with His disciples after His resurrection did not differ much from that before His crucifixion. Time and time again, He proved to them in myriad ways that He indeed was one and the same Being that had been with them throughout the 3½-year ministry. He left no possibility for any doubts to arise later.

Perhaps the most poignant incident is that of Christ's appearance to Thomas. This particular apostle had, like the others, been throughout Galilee with Jesus, had traveled with Him down to Jerusalem, up to northern Israel, and over to Tyre and Sidon. He had seen Him alive for 3½ years in dozens of different circumstances and situations. Then he'd seen Him killed; had forsaken Him, and just afterwards experienced the forlorn feeling of being part of a let-down, bewildered, scattered group of men whose hero and champion had just been taken from them.

But Thomas was even more skeptical than the others. He wasn't

even interested in the eyewitness accounts of the other disciples. He didn't for a moment believe the other ten. "The other disciples therefore said unto him, *We have seen the Lord.* But he [Thomas] said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, *I will not believe.* And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas was with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst. . . . Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, *because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed*" (John 20:25-29).

Look at the long after-dinner conversation Christ had with Peter concerning his immediate responsibilities to those who would later be converted and Peter's natural curiosity about John's impending duties (see John 21). Read the last few chapters of every Gospel account and you will see clearly that Christ showed Himself alive to His disciples in many varied circumstances and situations.

All are not even recorded for our benefit today. John wrote "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:30-31).

The Hostile Witness

Paul (formerly called Saul) was overtly hostile to the teachings of Christ. In the earliest years of the Christian Church, he was busy "breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples" (Acts 9:1). He sought to imprison more and more members of the early Church—that is, until his totally unexpected meeting with Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus. Probably there has been no compa-

rable turnaround in the history of the Christian Church: a transformation from an almost megalomaniacal, hostile, Hitlerian type of egotist to a humble, teachable, willing and loving type of person in almost an instant of time.

This doesn't happen every day. It requires a traumatic experience to accomplish such an immediate change. Paul saw and heard something that turned his life around in a few moments' time. He never was the same again—his change was total and lifelong!

Notice his own personal account of this life-changing event: "I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison . . . and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme: and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange [foreign] cities. Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, at midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me. . . . And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks [the goads of his own conscience]. And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest" (Acts 26:9-15).

Acts 9:6 records Paul's immediate reaction: "And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Jesus then told Saul to go to the city, and that he would be shown what he had to do. There followed three long days and nights of blindness (Acts 9:9), coupled with total fasting.

Saul was in a state of deep shock. He had been struck blind; had heard a powerful voice; had seen a light brighter than the sun; had been reminded about the inner doubts of his own conscience which were continually nagging at him. (This explains his vehemence in

some measure. It seems almost axiomatic that the more violently one struggles against some issue of conscience, the more likely that person has been compromised.)

Christ then spoke to Ananias in a vision and told him where to find Saul of Tarsus. Saul was spending his time in deep prayer (verse 11), and Christ had shown Saul that Ananias would come to him.

Ananias had heard of Saul and was afraid of him, but Jesus insisted he go and lay hands on him and baptize him. "And Ananias went his way; and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Spirit. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized" (verses 17-18).

Now, with the total change of the Holy Spirit to influence a brilliant mind—a mind that really *knew* the Scriptures (the only Scriptures written were those we call the "Old Testament")—Paul was able to preach "Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God" (verse 20).

Quickly Paul's own troubles began. The Jewish community in Damascus became more and more enraged at his teaching, and the news of a plot to kill him became known to some of the disciples, so they "took him [Paul] by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket" (verse 25).

There is strong indication Paul spent up to 3½ years with Jesus *in person*, learning at His feet, in the deserts of Arabia. That's more time than the average college education takes!

In any event, Paul, as one begotten "out of season," began preaching about the truth of the resurrection. The fact of Christ's resurrection became the central, dominant theme of Paul's message; and the culmination of such preaching gave us one of the most inspiring passages in the Bible: the "resurrection chapter" (1 Cor. 15). In that first letter to the Corinthian church, Paul summarized the many resurrection appearances.

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that *he rose again the third day* according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas [Peter], then of the twelve: After that, *he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once*; of whom the greater part remain [alive] unto this present [time], but some are fallen asleep [have died]. After that, he was seen of James [the brother of Christ]; then of all the apostles [once again]. And last of all *he was seen of me also*, as of one born out of due time" (1 Cor. 15:3-8). Paul's summary, however, is not intended to correspond exactly to the resurrection appearances in the Gospel accounts. It is written more as a general overview of the total picture.

A Change of Heart in Old Age?

Over the long haul, did the apostles' conviction that Christ had indeed been resurrected begin to wane as the years rolled by and they approached old age? Did the mere passage of time do what even whippings, imprisonments and death threats had failed to accomplish?

The Bible records the old-age convictions of three of the "pillar" apostles—Peter, Paul and John.

Peter's second general epistle was written shortly before his martyrdom. Notice verse 14 of the first chapter: "Knowing that *shortly* I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me [in John 21]." By this time, had Peter's earlier heartfelt convictions undergone a slow wilting process?

Just the opposite! Peter told his audience: "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you *the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*, but were *eyewitnesses of his majesty*" (verse 16).

There is nothing in this last letter of Peter's to even slightly imply that his personal religious beliefs had undergone any basic change. His earliest teachings were intact.

What about Paul? Did the fact that he was not of the original twelve slowly begin to erode his beliefs and lead to a later repudiation

of the heavenly vision he had seen? Did the fact that he had to suffer more than the other apostles finally begin to gnaw at him as time went by? Did a life-style that included the hatred and enmity of his own people, several bouts with a ball and chain, and deprivation of many physical necessities ultimately begin to take its toll?

Let's see what he wrote just prior to his death. Paul's second pastoral epistle to Timothy was his last. In the fourth chapter, he wrote to the young evangelist: "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand" (verse 6).

Notice now another verse in the very same letter to Timothy: "Remember that *Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel*" (2:8). This one verse makes it clear that Paul *never* changed his mind about what he had seen and heard. He was an eyewitness—having asked the Corinthian church even years after the actual resurrection: "Have I not seen Christ?"

The Aged Apostle

Apparently only John, of all the original apostles, died of old age. He outlived most or all of the others by about thirty years. He lived to see Jerusalem vanquished by the armies of Titus. According to many scholars, all of his writings should be dated in the late first century.

But, had the passage of time dimmed his convictions about Christ? Did he later reject the resurrection, in spite of the lifelong endurance of the other apostles?

No, John was busily proclaiming the very same gospel (which included the resurrection of Jesus Christ) right to the end of his life. In his first general epistle, his prologue begins: "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you..." (1 John 1:1-3).

Note that John appeals to three of our five senses in his logical declaration—hearing, touch and sight—something that even the most uneducated among us can readily understand.

Turn now to the book of Revelation, which is the record that John wrote of what he saw and heard. Notice his introduction to Christ's seven letters to the churches in Asia Minor: "John to the seven churches which are in Asia... and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten [or born] of the dead..." (Rev. 1:4-5)

Notice verse 18 where Christ is speaking in the first person: "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore..." Here you have Christ's *own personal witness* of His resurrection through the pen of the apostle John in his very old age.

A Unique Attitude and Approach

In these three installments on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, knowledge has been given to you that you may never have seen or heard before. What are you going to do with it? What is the ideal attitude and approach to new knowledge—something not generally brought out even in our Christ-professing churches?

The apostle Paul once went to a city where he encountered a group of people with one of the most unusual approaches to new knowledge in all of human history. It's one that is almost never used today, even in educational circles. This approach will do you no harm. But it does preempt prejudice, bias, hatred, racism, etc. It demands a patient, open-minded and objective search for truth.

Notice Luke's account of Paul's encounter with these unusual people in the seventeenth chapter of Acts: "And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (verses 10-11).

(Continued on page 41)



A LITTLE EXERCISE COULD MEAN A LIFETIME OF HEALTH!

*The right kind of exercise can add
years to your life and dollars to your wallet!*

by Harry Sneider

Harry Sneider is Executive Fitness Director at Ambassador College in Pasadena, California.

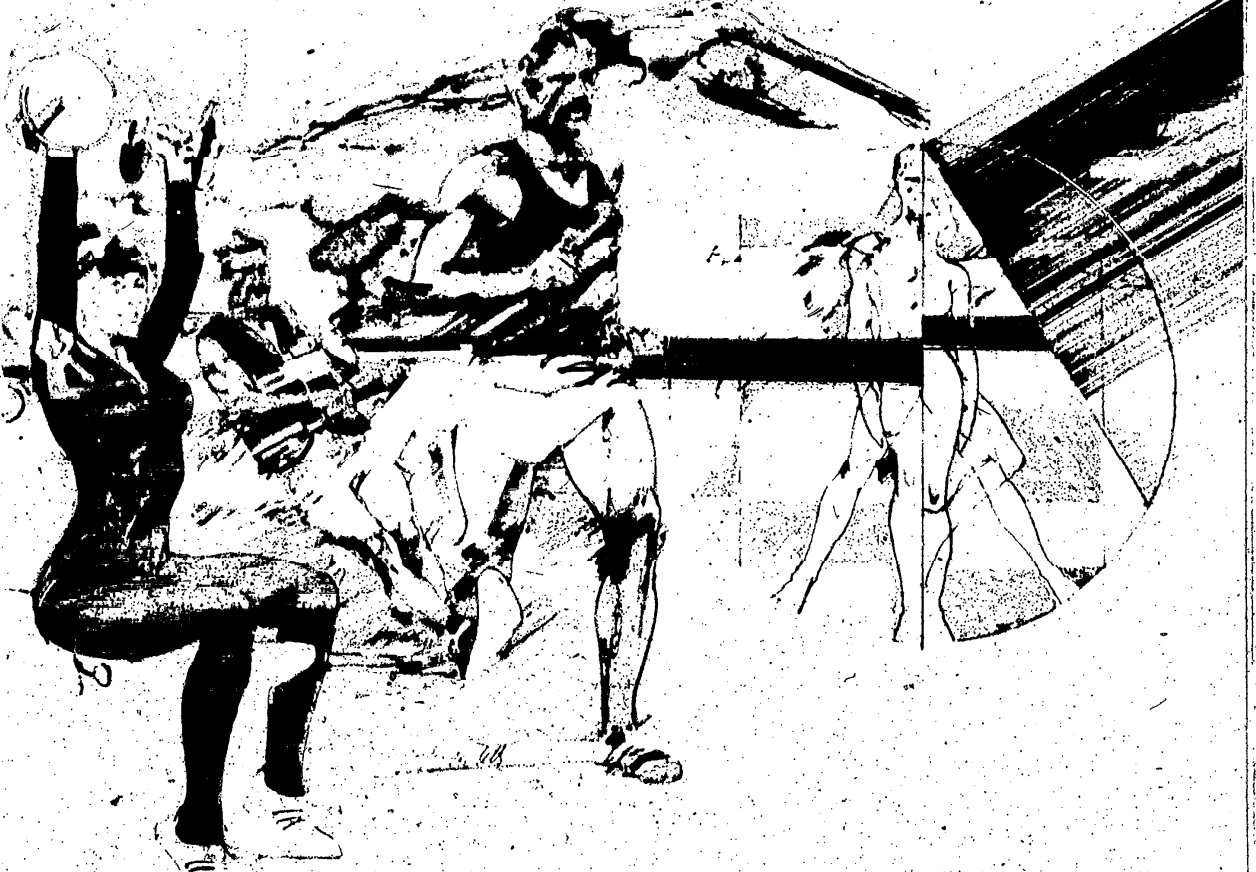


Illustration by George Barbi

Do you always feel tired? Get winded climbing a short flight of stairs? Have trouble sleeping at night? Is your waistline a worry?

If you answer yes to any of these questions, a basic program of simple, inexpensive exercise would almost certainly be of benefit to you.

You say you can't afford the time to exercise? The truth is, unless you have a special health problem, you can't afford *not* to exercise! Scientific research and experience prove that the human body needs exercise to maintain good health. No one can totally neglect it without paying a penalty. Millions suffer unnecessary ills and die prematurely because they are living inactive or sedentary lives for which their bodies were not designed.

Medical and health specialists around the world emphasize the importance of physical fitness, particularly in our modern world where riding and sitting are a way of life.

Dr. Paul Dudley White, noted Boston heart specialist who has helped presidents and other leading Americans achieve better health and productivity through exercise, has stated:

"Physical fitness is vital for the optimal function of the brain, for retardation of the onset of serious arteriosclerosis, which is beginning to appear in early adult lives, and for longevity, and a useful and healthy life for our older citizens."

Dr. Theodore G. Klumpp of New York maintains that "remaining active is the key to staying alive. Exercise opposes the effects of stroke or heart attack. Blood clots form when blood flow is sluggish rather than when it is vigorous. Yet many people won't exercise for fear it will provoke a heart attack."

Dr. Ian Adams, a leading British medical expert, adds that "middle-aged adults need regular exercise for the maintenance of good posture and joint mobility, for the preservation of

strength and stimulation of the circulatory system. It is a basic biological principle that stimulation maintains and disuse accelerates the deterioration of mind and body."

And finally, one noted heart specialist warns: "The average executive drives his car to work, sits at his desk all day, then watches TV at night. The heart is a muscle and when you don't exercise it, it's just like putting your arm in a cast. It deteriorates. Through exercise you can build it up."

As a physical fitness trainer, I always emphasize the simple adage: "What you don't use, you will lose!"

Mind and Body Inseparable

I have worked with all age groups, with overweight as well as handicapped people. I have witnessed great transformations, not only physical, but mental and emotional, as a result of a sound program of physical fitness tailored to individual needs.

Where Life-style Produces Longer Life

From 1970 to 1975, the Foundation for Optimal Health and Longevity engaged in research on exercise, diet and longevity to determine why some individuals and population groups were able to maintain vigor of mind and body with advancing age, whereas the majority follow the course of progressive deterioration.

Population groups in Ecuador, Hunza and the Caucasus were chosen because they had the reputation of being exceptionally long-lived. In Hunzaland and the Caucasus, the ages of those studied could not be precisely documented. Nonetheless, it was clear that there were a large number of older individuals (over 75) who were exceptionally vigorous in mind and body. In Vilcabamba, Ecuador, determination of exact age was considerably easier because of the existence of baptismal records. Here 46 men and women over the age of 75 were found in a village with a population of 819. All of them were unusually vigorous, both mentally and physically.

The long-lived people in the three population groups cited had several characteristics in common:

- They engaged in many hours of vigorous physical exertion daily, primarily farming using hand tools and much up- and downhill walking in the course of their work. In addition, they frequently carried heavy objects for relatively long distances.

- Their diet was in general much lower in calories, animal (saturated) fats, cholesterol and

salt than the usual American diet.

- They were generally slender, well-muscled and had a vigorous youthful appearance.

- Blood cholesterol and triglycerides were much lower than those of the average American of similar age group.

- High blood pressure and cardiovascular diseases were virtually absent.

In San Diego, California, other studies were done on two groups of individuals:

- 1) Highly conditioned men between the ages of 40 and 75. These were long-distance runners who were training and competing regularly the year round at distances of one to 26 miles.

- 2) A variety of unconditioned, but normal, individuals and groups: schoolgirls and boys aged 9-10; individual men and women aged 17-69; and firemen and policemen aged 30-50. These groups were tested before and after six to twelve months of special exercise and dietary programs.

Summary and conclusion: Daily prolonged physical activity as part of an individual's life-style is a major factor in maintenance of physical and mental vigor many years beyond the usual retirement age (65 or 70) in the long-lived population groups studied. The study convincingly shows that physical activity will increase the life span rather dramatically.

Source: Testimony submitted by Harold E. Erick, M.D., to the Senate Subcommittee on Aging, April 23, 1975.

Again and again these people have demonstrated that the mind and the body are inseparable. Physical stagnation results in mental and psychological stagnation, and vice versa. And while this applies specifically to the infirm and those well past middle age, it is a universal principle.

I have seen ego-battered business

executives restored to greater productivity and self-assurance as the result of a good exercise program. By being able to work more, and produce more, these men were able to earn more—and they became much more valuable to their employers.

I've seen overweight women and girls gain new self-confidence and

poise, develop a more positive self-image and change their personalities for the better because they became more physically fit.

I've seen handicapped people, even those in wheelchairs, find that they can achieve much greater use of their bodies than they ever imagined possible. All these people found that following the basic rules of good health, plus carrying out a tailored program of exercise greatly improved the quality of their lives.

I have also noticed that the leaders in nearly every field are the ones who engage in a regular exercise program to protect their health, skills and productivity. Studies have shown that exercise can even help students improve their grades.

How Else Could You Get All These Results?

Aware that modern sedentary life-styles result in deteriorating physical health, millions are now beginning to reap the benefits of a regular exercise program: greater strength and endurance, reduced tensions, increased self-reliance and the added enjoyment of a more active life. Approximately fifty percent of American adults are now participating in supplementary forms of exercise such as walking, bowling, bicycling, golf and swimming. What about you?

Here are some of the results you can gain from a good physical fitness program:

- You'll develop strength and endurance which will help you perform daily tasks with greater ease and economy of movement.

- Good muscle tone and posture will help protect you from back problems.

- Your appetite and weight will be more controllable. When you are inactive, the appetite, normally a marvelously precise guide of how much you should eat, no longer functions accurately. In other words, you will eat more calories than you actually expend. The result is creeping overweight. Some overweight is not the result of eating too much, but of exercising too little.

- Your blood and lymph system will function better and won't get

clogged up easily. Coronary arteries will become wider; blood will flow easier and faster. Many doctors believe proper exercise reduces cholesterol levels in the blood. And active people have fewer heart attacks and better recovery rates than inactive persons.

- The efficiency of your heart and lungs will rise sharply. The total effect is that all your body's systems will be strengthened, and you will feel much better overall.

- Enjoyable exercise provides relief from tension and serves as a safe and natural tranquilizer. And sleep will come easier.

Exercise Regularly

Health and exercise specialists will differ in what they feel is the minimum amount of exercise necessary for the best results. Obviously, a regular exercise program in any reasonable amount is better than none at all. I personally feel that around 45 minutes a day is the most beneficial—especially if your daily routine doesn't include much physical activity. However, I realize the circumstances of many do not permit spending this much time in exercise. But don't let this discourage you. A vigorous program three, four or five times a week for lesser periods of time can also bring many beneficial results.

Exercise does not need to be boring. Variety is the key once you've gotten into basic shape. Perhaps you might encourage your mate and children to join you. Choosing a definite time for exercise and sticking with it can also be helpful.

There are many forms of exercise to choose from: walking, bicycling, swimming, jogging, calisthenics, tennis, skating (roller and ice), basketball, handball, racquetball, to name a few. Each type of exercise provides benefits others may not. The publications referred to in the suggested reading list in the box (above right) offer many time-tested suggestions on how to develop the right program for yourself, depending on your age, health and present fitness, plus ways to avoid harmful pitfalls.

Some with special health problems may need trained help to develop a fitness program. Exercise,

The PLAIN TRUTH, July 1977

Before You Exercise, Some Precautions

Almost all persons, whatever their age, can benefit from some form of exercise. But authorities urge these precautions to lessen risks of over-exertion or complications that can result from existing or unknown health problems:

- Discuss your plans with a doctor, get a checkup and follow his advice in carrying out your exercise program.

- Take a stress test, offered by many doctors and qualified physiologists, to determine how much exercise is safe for you.

- Start the exercise program gradually, increasing the vigor and duration of the activity *only* as your fitness improves.

- Begin exercising with a warm-up period and end with a gradual cooling-off period, giving the heart a chance to adjust to the change in pace.

- Exercise daily or at least several times a week. Exercising infrequently does little to maintain fitness and, in fact, can cause more harm than good by straining not only poorly conditioned muscles but other vital body organs as well.

Suggested Reading

The New Aerobics, Kenneth H. Cooper, M.D., M.P.H. (includes age- and fitness-adjusted exercise charts and programs), Bantam Books.

From the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

you can order: *The Fitness Challenge in the Later Years* (an exercise program for older Americans), 75c. Order #S/N 017-062-00009-3. *Adult Physical Fitness* (progressive, five-level programs for men and women), 70c. Order #S/N 040-000-00026-7. *An Introduction to Physical Fitness* (includes self-testing activities, graded exercises, and a jogging and weight-control program), 60c. Order #S/N 017-000-00122-1.

Federally Sponsored Workshops for Communities

Under a grant from the Administration on Aging and in cooperation with the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, the National Association for Human Development offers a national program of health information and fitness activities called "Active People Over 60." Trained personnel conduct workshops in their respective states and regions to increase community knowledge of the causes of many of the diseases associated with aging and what can be done to combat them, including exercise, diet and nutrition. Further information on establishing such a workshop in your area, as well as a list of related booklets and films, can be obtained by writing: National Association for Human Development, 1750 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20006.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Even the best exercise program can be rapidly undermined by disregarding other principles of healthful living. For more on this subject, write for our free booklets detailing wise conduct in terms of food, alcohol, smoking, emotional health, etc. Booklet titles include: *Principles of Healthful Living*, *The Seven Laws of Success*, *Alcoholism—A Worldwide Curse*, and *The Dilemma of Drugs*. See inside front cover for the address of our office nearest you.

however, doesn't normally require special instructors or expensive health clubs with complicated equipment, plush carpets, mirrors, etc. It can be done in your own home or backyard.

The Creator designed the human body to function best with a moderate amount of vigorous physical activity. Increased vigor, health and happiness can be yours if you faithfully carry out a balanced program of exercise. □

The two prophets are Moses and Jesus, like-minded, totally in agreement at the heart of any matter. The One who became Jesus was the One whom Moses knew as YHVH—the Spokesman, the Word, the Logos, the Lord of the Old Testament. This One revealed to Moses that every human being would have his one opportunity for salvation, despite his intervening death in his own uncalled generation; that there was in God's design one Last Great Day when all past generations would be physically resurrected to be given their one and only chance. In addition, He told Moses that the purpose of human life was to become God as God is God! No pie-in-the-sky, harp-plucking, cloud-floating eternally retired psalm singers, but real, active, all-powerful sons of God! But the question is: What will those sons of God be doing? What does our Father have in mind to keep us busy—joyfully, eternally productive?

by Jon Hill

The great Creator of all that is has a plan for you and me which far exceeds the most vivid imaginings of men, who have come up with rewards for the saved which are so vague, ephemeral and basically undesirable. The good news, the gospel Jesus preached and the prophets and apostles wrote about, is the good news of the Kingdom of God.

All religions are aware of this, but have spiritualized away the heart of the good news by either making that

Kingdom of God in heaven (and hence having nothing to do with the earth), or concluding that the church is the Kingdom. Neither idea is substantiated in the pages of the Bible. Believe it or not, there is no scripture from Genesis to Revelation which states that the reward of the saved is heaven! Yet, on the other hand, there are many very specific statements about the Kingdom of God being here on this earth.

Bible Unorthodox

Most of orthodox Christianity is unanimous in believing that the reward of the saved is heaven. Vague and misinterpreted scriptures are used to document this belief, along with a generous amount of human imagination. Fortunately, the Bible itself is *not* "orthodox" and has many plain, detailed, clear statements about the reward of the saved being God's literal rulership in His Kingdom here on this earth!

Let's choose to be biblical rather than "orthodox" and see what is the reward of the saved as revealed in the Scriptures.

A kingdom has four basic elements: 1) a king; 2) subjects; 3) sovereign territory; 4) laws. Everyone is in agreement with that as far as the kingdoms of this world are concerned. Each kingdom jealously guards its own integrity. Wars are fought over disputed boundaries, succession of rulers, laws regarding the subjects' rights. But when we come to the Kingdom of God the general desire is to make it seem unreal. God is "allowed" to be King, but God is in His heaven and we are here on earth, and the "spiritual realm" is deliberately made vague, powerless—except as represented by human beings taking the name of the god they worship in order to exercise control over their subjects.

The whole concept of God and

His Kingdom is put in fantasy land, never-never land, the life hereafter, dismissed from today's or tomorrow's reality. To consider that the one who made the earth would ever be interested in governing what He has made is anathema! Separate church and state as much as possible (which is an excellent practice, seeing few pay any attention to what God says anyway). Keep God in heaven and out of temporal affairs at all costs—except as the idea of God might be used to control people. Plato put it this way: "It was indeed a wise man who first conceived the idea of God!"

If it really were man who "conceived" God, then we can continue to have our own concept of the future life. But if it were really God who invented mankind, and He did so with a specific purpose in mind which He reveals plainly in His Word, then it would behoove us to consider His ideas, purposes and statements. If you believe the former, then there is no need to read further. If you believe the latter, read on.

A Few Plain Scriptures

Since general belief goes contrary to biblical statements, let's examine just a few quotes from God's Word which have no meaning if heaven is the reward of the saved, but have tremendous impact if we consider the Bible to be true.

Abraham, the father of the faithful (Gal. 3:7), whose children you are if you are Christ's, and so heirs to promises made to Abraham (Gal. 3:29), was promised by God *land forever!* (Gen. 13:15.) God says the land belongs to Him forever and we are here sojourners and strangers living on it (Lev. 25:23).

The message of Daniel covers the entirety of history from the Babylonian Empire until the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth.

A TALE OF TWO PROPHETS

"And in the days of these kings [the last resurrection of the Roman Empire, yet to come] shall the God of heaven [that makes the *who* clear] set up a kingdom [that makes the *what* clear], which shall *never* be destroyed [that makes the duration of that Kingdom's power clear] (Dan. 2:44). "... And the stone that smote the image became a great mountain [biblical symbol for government], and filled the whole earth [that makes the *where* clear]" (Dan. 2:35). "I beheld, and, the same horn made war with the saints [that's us, we hope!], and prevailed against them; *until* the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came [that makes the *when* clear] that the saints possessed the kingdom" (Dan. 7:21-22). "And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom *under* the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the Saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions [territories, rulers] shall serve and obey him [them, as it is translated in the RSV]" (Dan. 7:27).

Daniel had no questions about whether God's Kingdom was to have power and dominion here on earth or not. He dealt with the first two of the world-ruling, earth-governing kingdoms (Babylon and Persia), and all his prophecies are very pointed and deal exclusively with the governments of the earth (including the Kingdom of the most High) and all its peoples.

Jesus Speaks

"Blessed are the meek: for *they* shall inherit the EARTH!" Jesus said in Matthew 5:5. Yet He said in verse 3: "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven." Does this mean that "meek" people have to settle for earth, while those who are "poor in spirit" get to go to

heaven? Or does it simply mean, as the rest of the Bible corroborates, that the "kingdom of heaven" is to be established here *on* earth, and that both the "meek" and the "poor in spirit" (and it is rather hard to distinguish between the two, you must admit) will share that Kingdom of heaven *on* earth?!

Jesus exhorted us to pray—and surely no one is ignorant of, this most oft repeated "Lord's Prayer"—"Thy kingdom *come*. Thy will be done *in earth*, as it is in heaven."

The book of Revelation, which tells in detail of the time of God's intervention in the affairs of mankind, the *coming of His Kingdom to this earth*, plainly says: "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, *The kingdoms of this world* are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever" (Rev. 11:15). That certainly agrees with what Daniel had to say. And to make crystal clear the precise location of the heavenly control of earthly kingdoms, the same book reveals: "And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: *and we shall reign on the earth!*" (Rev. 5:10.)

Would You Settle for Earth?

Reviewing the biblical doctrine we expound, a minister who believed that the saved go to heaven asked us cryptically, "Would you settle for earth?" I want to answer that question now.

A brief glimpse of all history proves that the great majority of mankind in every generation would not only "settle for earth," but has fought bitterly over the jurisdiction of every square inch of its surface to try to ensure that they and their heirs would control some portion of it! A second glimpse will reveal that very religious-minded people have been in the forefront of provoking

"holy wars" to gain or regain "holy land"! "Settle" for earth? Man has fought, scratched, killed, connived, deceived, plotted, etc. throughout his entire history for just *pieces* of the earth!

They don't call it "*real estate*" for nothing, you know!

There is a biblical record of one who did have control of earth at one time (Jude 6), but was not willing to "settle" for it. Rather he made war in heaven and sought to take over God's throne and replace Him. He ascended above the clouds and stormed the very gates of heaven. He failed. You can read about that in Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28.

Since God's promise to the faithful *is* the earth, my answer is, "Yes, I'll 'settle' for earth!"

Some Parables

The parables of Jesus have been grossly misunderstood. First, let's let Jesus Himself tell us *why* He used parables. "And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is *not* given. . . . Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see *not*; and hearing they hear *not, neither do they understand*. . . . But blessed are your eyes, for they see; and your ears, for they hear" (Matt. 13:10-16).

Then follows Jesus' parable of the sower and the seed. Jesus Himself interpreted the parable and said: "The field is *the world*; the good seed are the children of the kingdom. . . ." (Matt. 13:38).

The lesson is this. Do not conclude that the generally accepted understanding of the parables is correct. Usually they are applied as having some "spiritual" lesson only to be realized in some distant heav-

PART 6

only kingdom and as having little or nothing to do with real life here on earth. Nothing could be farther from the truth. And the purpose of Jesus' use of parables, in His own words, remember, was to obscure, not to enlighten.

The parable of the talents is one which could only be applied to an earth-ruling Kingdom of God. Look it up in Luke 19. The successful users of the talents supplied by God are rewarded with "ten cities" (verse 17) and "five cities" (verse 19). Are there cities in heaven? If so, where does the Bible so state?

Some Jobs in the Kingdom

The Bible plainly states that King David and the twelve apostles will be in the Kingdom of God. But what will they be doing? Plucking harps? No. Floating on clouds? No. Wearing golden slippers? No.

What then?

Let's check on David first. Ezekiel 37 tells, as explained in Part 4 of this series, of the resurrection of all the past generations of Israel and Judah—a physical resurrection: bones, sinews, flesh, skin and breath. All those who said, "Our hope is lost" (verse 11) are resurrected to hope eternal! "And David my servant shall be king over them . . . And they shall dwell in the land [not in heaven] that I have given unto Jacob my servant . . . and my servant David shall be their prince FOR EVER!" (Verses 24, 25.)

Now David wrote in Psalm 86: "For I am poor and needy." Wouldn't you say that was an attitude of "poor in spirit"? And yet the scripture we have just read clearly says David is going to be king of Israel, here on this earth, forever!

How about that!?

If Israel is going to be here on this earth, and David is going to be its king forever, where does that put the twelve apostles?

Jesus said—and that always seems good authority to me: "And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; that ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel!" (Luke 22:29-30.) They must be the "meek" who "inherit the earth!"

Now if David and the twelve

apostles are busy down here on earth governing Israel (finally with all its resurrected billions), do you want to be in heaven *doing nothing*?

God's Government

Jesus consistently preached one gospel, the good news of the Kingdom of God. Jesus preached that one gospel through the prophets of old who wrote the Old Testament. He preached it personally during His life on earth; and He preached it through the New Testament authors, the apostles. It has never been a gospel divided—one kingdom in heaven and the other kingdom on earth—and it never will be. That one gospel has always been the gospel of the Kingdom of God (or of heaven) on the earth!

The Kingdom of God has never been just an ethereal idea, a spiritual concept, a nebulous notion. Nor has the Kingdom of God been by proxy, through vicars or third parties. The Kingdom of God is not an emotional experience, a religious dream, an opiate for the people.

The Kingdom of God is real! The Kingdom of God is world government located on the earth, performing every facet of sovereignty ever known to any earthly government—and then some!

Isaiah and Micah make it plain. Let's read Micah. Governments are composed of three basic functions: executive, legislative and judicial. Micah says: "But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord [the government of the Kingdom of God] shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills [over all governments, large and small]; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he [the God of Jacob and the head of the executive branch of that government] will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law [the legislative branch of government] shall go forth of Zion [not heaven], and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem [the capital].

"And he shall judge [the judiciary

branch of government] among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks; nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more . . . and the Lord shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even, for ever" (Micah 4:1-3, 7).

The United Nations chose well their motto, "Swords into Plowshares." But only the power of the Kingdom of God on earth will bring it to pass!

That will be the most real kingdom this earth has ever known!

Your Job in God's Kingdom

If you turned to Micah 4 which I quoted above, you noticed I skipped over a couple of verses. Let's notice them right now. "But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it. For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever" (verses 4, 5).

Can this possibly mean that the Lord is going to allow many gods to be worshiped absolutely contrary to His own first commandment—and that "for ever and ever"?

No!

Since the purpose of God in creating us is to make us members of His family, sons of God, God as God is God, the **SAVED WILL BE GOD!** There is only God the Father (one) and God the Son, Jesus (two), in the God family now. But when the last trump is blown, the dead in Christ resurrected and changed in a moment and a twinkling of an eye, then Jesus will be the "firstborn among many brethren" (Rom. 8:29), and the Father will be delighted in "bringing many sons unto glory" (Heb. 2:10), all worthy of worship (Rev. 3:9), born members of God's family, each having different names (Rev. 3:12) but all sharing the name **GOD!** All sharing in the government of this earth in the Kingdom of God for ever and ever.

So, "all people will walk every one in the name of his God," the

Warning! Tobacco is Hazardous to Your Health

by D Paul Graunke



Written more than 300 years before the U.S. Surgeon General warned us about the dangers of smoking, the words of King James I (*below*) and Tobias Venner (*see page 26*) seem aptly prophetic. Yet, despite their denunciations of the obnoxious weed, the habits of smoking and chewing tobacco flourished. And today, despite an enormous mountain of evidence that implicates tobacco in the deaths of hundreds of thousands annually, hundreds of millions continue to inhale and chew away their health and lives on tobacco products.

In 1975 over 3.5 trillion cigarettes were smoked worldwide, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This represented a gain of almost one trillion over the 1960-1964 yearly average. Department officials forecast that cigarette smoking will continue to rise at a three to four percent annual rate because of population growth and because tobacco is the first luxury item poor people buy.

Perhaps you use tobacco. If so, then you already know the litany of grim statistics and facts about the consequences of your habit. And, of course, it hasn't stopped you.

That's pretty much the way it has been down through the centuries. People have used tobacco in spite of every medical report, papal bull and government edict designed to curb its use. Historically, wherever it has been introduced, it has quickly achieved widespread popularity.

Tobacco Instantly Popular

The tobacco weed is the New World's gift—or perhaps a better word is curse—to the Old. Columbus and other early explorers were amazed to meet Indians who carried



"A custom loathsome to the eye, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs... Herein is not only a great vanity, but a great contempt of God's good gifts, that the sweetness of man's breath, being a good gift of God, should be wilfully corrupted by this stinking smoke."

James I of England
"Counterblast to Tobacco," 1604

Should a Christian Smoke?

When missionaries arrived in the New World in the sixteenth century, they were alarmed and revolted by the sight of so many natives smoking and chewing tobacco. The Indians insisted on smoking even in church. As early as 1575, a Mexican church council issued an order forbidding the use of tobacco in churches throughout the whole of Spanish America. Soon, however, the missionary priests themselves became so addicted to the habit that it was found necessary to make laws to prevent them from using tobacco during services.

In Europe the pattern repeated itself. As tobacco became more widely used, the church took measures to condemn or restrict its use.

But despite two papal bulls against tobacco in the seventeenth century, its use flourished among laymen and clergy alike. Tobacco prevailed against every theological argument against its use, just as today it prevails against every health argument. The contradiction between what was preached about tobacco and what was practiced finally became so egregious that, by and large, most brand-name denominations ceased to make a big moral or spiritual issue of tobacco.

But the question remains: Should a Christian smoke?

The Bible doesn't say anything directly about smoking, since tobacco was completely unknown to the worlds of Moses, David, Christ and Paul. There is no command not to smoke, chew, dip or sniff tobacco.

Many therefore have reasoned concerning tobacco the way some in the church of Corinth in Paul's day did on another issue: "All things are lawful for me." Paul, however, re-

plied, "But not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything" (1 Cor. 6:12). He reiterated the same principle a little later in yet another situation: "All things are lawful, but not all things build up" (1 Cor. 10:23).

Paul asserted that Christian liberty was not unqualified; it must be conditioned by the criteria: 1) Is it beneficial? and 2) Does it enslave the user or practitioner? He taught that liberty must not lead to irresponsible and deleterious license. A Christian's life and body aren't his own to do with as he pleases. "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body" (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

When examined in the light of this guiding principle, it becomes readily apparent that tobacco is in no way helpful or beneficial to human health; in no way does it glorify God in the body of its user. Rather, it is one of the most dangerous substances people use for pleasure. The nicotine in tobacco is a drug that has enslaved tens of millions.

Not only does the tobacco smoker harm himself, he also contributes negatively to the health and welfare of those around him—hardly a Christian act.

The medical verdict on tobacco is clear and incontestable: It has no redeeming health benefits. Likewise, the use of it is inimical to Paul's guiding principle concerning the proper use of Christian liberty in those areas not specifically covered by a law or precept.

rolls of dried leaves that they set afire and smoked. Sailors on these expeditions tried this unusual weed and liked it. More than like it, they came to *crave* it, and so carried tobacco leaves and seeds home with them and included them in provisions for succeeding expeditions to other parts of the world. Within a few decades, the tobacco plant and

habit had literally been spread around the world.

Tobacco proved to be immediately popular wherever it was introduced; too popular, it seems, for many secular and religious authorities of the day. They considered it a strange, noxious weed, dangerous to public morals and health.

Pope Urban VII issued a formal

bull against tobacco in 1642, and Pope Innocent X issued another in 1650. But in 1725, Benedict XIII annulled all edicts against tobacco because they had failed to dissuade laymen and clergy alike from using it—and because the Pope himself had a penchant for snuff.

Most of the states of Europe at one time or another have prohibited tobacco. And Sultan Murad IV decreed the death penalty for smoking tobacco in Constantinople in 1633—but to no avail. Its use continued to spread. In the Ottoman Empire, even the fear of death could not overcome the craving for tobacco. "For thy sake, tobacco, I would do anything but die," wrote Charles Lamb in the eighteenth century. The Sultan found that many of his subjects were willing to risk that last step—as the chronicle of his savage slaughter of smokers testifies.

More Than a Vice?

No culture that has ever taken to tobacco has ever given it up. And some researchers say there is a good reason for this: The nicotine in tobacco becomes something tobacco users crave.

Some have gone as far as to suggest that tobacco users can develop a dependence for the drug—psychic, at least, and maybe even physical. The theory of the nicotine-dependence syndrome of tobacco has been espoused by the Addiction Research Unit (ARU) of the Institute of Psychiatry (London, England), a unit initially established to study heroin addiction. Further, the Royal College of Physicians reported in 1971: "The smoking habit certainly conforms to the definition of drug dependence given by Paton: 'Drug dependence arises when, as a result of giving a drug, forces physiological, biochemical, social or environmental are set up which predispose to continue drug use' . . . The remarkable spread of smoking throughout the world and the difficulty that most smokers find in abstaining suggests that the craving has a pharmacological basis" (*Smoking and Health Now*, p. 112).

Psychologist Stanley Schachter of Columbia University, himself a chain-smoker, in 1977 conceded after four years of research on smok-

ing: "We smoke because we're physically addicted to nicotine. Period."

And, as many people who have tried to kick cigarettes know, there can be withdrawal symptoms: anxiety, nervousness, etc. But they are certainly mild and nonlethal compared to withdrawal from heroin or alcohol dependence.

A Definite Health Hazard

Its psychic-dependence potential aside, nicotine remains an extremely dangerous drug for human consumption. "Nicotine is one of the most toxic drugs known and is usually thought of as a poison; being used as such in insecticide sprays and ranking with cyanide in rapidity of action" (*The Pleasure Seekers*, p. 155). In toxic doses it can cause death by paralysis of the respiratory muscles.

Of course, the amount of nicotine in one cigarette is far below lethal levels. But it is enough to affect the central nervous and cardiac systems in ways detrimental to health. And tobacco smoke has scores of other dangerous chemicals. Tobacco smoke is a mixture of gases and minute droplets in which nearly one thousand compounds have been identified. Some of the more hazardous include tar, arsenic, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, ammonia, benzene, formaldehyde and hydrogen sulphide. How much of these chemicals does the smoker take into his system? In the case of tar, a person who smokes a pack of nonfilter cigarettes a day for ten years inhales eight quarts of tar, according to Dr. A. C. Ivy of the University of Illinois.

The Pure Food and Drug laws of the United States permit 1.43 parts per million of arsenic in our foods. Tobacco has an arsenic content 50 times the amount legally permitted in food. Much of that is inhaled into the lungs through tobacco smoke.

This potent combination of chemicals has been clearly demonstrated to be a major cause of emphysema, chronic bronchitis, lung and throat cancer, and heart disease—to name a few. "Cigarette smoking is now as important a cause of death as were the great epidemic diseases such as typhoid, cholera, and tuberculosis . . . Holocaust [is] a reasonable

Kicking the Habit

According to most surveys, the overwhelming majority of smokers now concede that smoking is harmful—yes, even harmful to their health. And a majority of these same smokers will admit that they would like to quit smoking, but over half say they probably never will.

How can a smoker who wants to quit overcome the equally strong, or seemingly stronger, desire to light up?

First of all, a smoker must realize that he finds it hard to quit because he has become enslaved or addicted to tobacco. Most smokers would never consider themselves drug fiends in the same class as, say, marijuana smokers or heroin junkies, but they are! They have formed a dependence for the drug nicotine. (For more information about the relationship of tobacco use to other forms of drug abuse, write for our free booklet *The Dilemma of Drugs*.)

Since most smokers would like to quit—but can't—it's obvious that simply wanting to quit is not enough. You have to come up with a good reason to stop, and you must be thoroughly convinced of your reason.

The most important motivation to quit is for the sake of your health. Another is the desire not to see your children acquire the same habit. Children are more impressed by what you practice than what you preach, so don't expect them not to smoke if you yourself do.

Then there are financial considerations, especially as the price of tobacco continues to rise. If you smoke 20 cigarettes a day, the cost adds up to over \$3.50 a week, and over \$180 a year. Small change, perhaps, in these inflationary times, but small change that, nonetheless, is nice to have in the pocket at times.

OK, so you've got the motivation to quit. What will be your plan of attack? The psychology of

pleasure gratification through smoking is complex; people smoke for different reasons and under different circumstances. Some smoke as a matter of habit and are almost unconscious of whether or not they are smoking at any given moment. Others are more likely to smoke under pressure or tension. Some like to smoke at certain times of the day—for example, after a meal.

For whatever reason you smoke, you must be flexible and experiment with techniques to determine what best fits your situation.

Some quit cold turkey; they put out their last cigarette and resolve never to smoke again. Others find it easier to stop gradually. They cut back on the number of cigarettes smoked each day over a period of days and weeks until they are down to zero. Or, using a series of commercially available filters, they may smoke the same number of cigarettes each day, but receive decreasing amounts of tar and nicotine until they are able to stop smoking altogether.

Some like to quit smoking in company. They find it helps to go to withdrawal or cessation clinics or groups where they have the moral support of other people. Or they use the "buddy system," finding a friend to quit with them.

Others, particularly those with an immediate medical problem, enlist the help of their physician who may prescribe a nicotine substitute, tranquilizing agent, or both, to tide them over the first weeks of no smoking.

Again, it is important to emphasize that there is no surefire method that will work for everyone. There are many different kinds of smokers, and each has their own set of problems and their own best ways of quitting. Government agencies and cancer and lung associations have many useful booklets and other information to help the would-be nonsmoker pick his method of quitting.

word to describe the annual death toll [in Britain]" (*Smoking and Health Now*, p. 10).

Cigarettes are the chief cause of lung cancer, which kills over 36,000 people in the United Kingdom every year, according to the Health Education Council. They are also an important cause of chronic bronchitis, a disease which kills over 30,000 people in the United Kingdom every year.

In Australia, over 40,000 people a year die from diseases associated with cigarette smoking.

The U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare calls cigarette smoking the leading cause of the 600,000 deaths a year stemming from coronary heart disease, 72,000 deaths from lung cancer and 25,000 deaths from chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

Nonsmokers and Babies Suffer

As if the harm smokers do to themselves is not enough, they also affect the health of innocent bystanders. According to the American Lung Association: "Even when a smoker inhales, researchers have calculated that two-thirds of the smoke from the burning cigarette goes into the environment.

The fascinating fact is that sidestream smoke—the smoke from the burning end—has higher concentrations of noxious compounds than the mainstream smoke inhaled by the smoker. Some studies show there is twice as much tar and nicotine in sidestream smoke compared to mainstream. And three times as much of a compound called 3,4 benzpyrene, which is suspected as a cancer-causing agent. Five times as much carbon monoxide, which robs the blood of oxygen. And 50 times as much ammonia."

Even unborn babies can be adversely affected by their parents' smoking habits. Pregnant women who smoke deprive fetuses of oxy-

gen critical to proper growth and development. They pass nicotine and carbon monoxide through the bloodstream to the fetus. Consequently, children of smoking mothers tend to be born underweight, underdeveloped, and more vulnerable to illness. The National Children's Bureau in Britain has found that babies of women who smoke during pregnancy have a 30 percent higher incidence of death just after birth than babies born to nonsmoking mothers.

"Tobacco drieth the brain, dimmeth the sight, vitiateth the smell, hurteth the stomach, destroyeth the concoction, disturbeth the humors and spirits, corruptieth the breath, induceth a trembling of the limbs, exsiccateeth the windpipe, lungs, and liver, annoyeth the milt, scorcbeth the heart, and causeth the blood to be adjusted."

Tobias Venner, 1620

The smoking father may even be implicated in the fetus mortality rate. According to an eight-year study by the German Research Society, children whose fathers smoke at least ten cigarettes a day run a higher risk of dying at birth than babies of nonsmokers because the male sperm is damaged by excessive intake of nicotine.

... But Also a Big Business

These are real horror stories based on exhaustive research. So where is the hysteria, the clamor for a ban on all tobacco use? Why aren't people who work for tobacco companies and advertising agencies harassed, arrested and convicted for purveying and pushing a dangerous drug? Why isn't tobacco banned because it poses a threat to public health, a menace to our way of life?

The answer is that tobacco is so much a part of our way of life. It has been around so long and is so popular it isn't even perceived by most people to be a drug. And there are vested interests in its use. Globally, it is a multibillion-dollar industry. It is a big cash crop in the United

States, and its sale a big business and major source of tax revenue in many countries. In the United States alone, federal and excise taxes on tobacco products yield nearly \$6 billion in revenue a year.

To be sure, there was an uproar when the *Report of the Surgeon General's Advisory Committee on Smoking and Health* was published in 1964. There was a decline in smoking in the United States from 523.9 billion cigarettes in 1964 to 511.2 billion in 1965.

In the decade following the Surgeon General's report more than ten million smokers gave up their habit. The actual number of smokers kept declining until 1971. (Yet the number of cigarettes smoked rebounded to new highs in 1966 and succeeding years, which meant that

fewer people were smoking more cigarettes.) Since then the number of smokers has increased, until in 1976 over 50 million Americans smoked over 620 billion cigarettes.

The reversal of the downward trend in 1971 coincided with the ban on cigarette advertising from TV and radio by federal law. One would expect this would have removed some desire for smoking.

However, since TV and radio broadcasters could no longer carry cigarette advertising, they felt no obligation to continue the antismoking messages of the American Cancer Society and other organizations required under the Fairness Doctrine.

Significantly, the sharpest drop in cigarette smoking occurred between 1967 and 1971 when the televised antismoking messages were at their height. In face-to-face competition with smoking ads, the antismoking campaign was effective.

Eliminate by 21st Century?

A few other countries, notably Great Britain, have followed the

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HOW DO YOU STACK UP TO EMPLOYER EXPECTATIONS?

by Robert Oberlander, Ph.D.

Recently I was talking to a young college graduate who was seeking a job. He had just lost his third job in the matter of only a few months. He was intelligent and qualified, and had even been told that he was doing a good job. Nevertheless, he had lost his job again. This young man had a lot going for him, but he wasn't getting it all together. There was one thing he didn't know, and it was hurting him on every job: He didn't know what employers were looking for.

What is it that employers are seeking? Dr. Frank Endicott, retired director of placement, Northwestern University, researched this question among companies seeking students and college graduates. In 1975, he presented his research to the 26th annual meeting of the Western College Placement Association. The companies studied ranked in order of importance six factors they consider when hiring college graduates. The findings are most interesting. The single most important factor on all counts and for all groups is personal traits. This is followed by grades, specialized courses, part-time employment, participation in activities, and the number of broad liberal arts courses taken. Let's look at each of these areas more carefully.

The first and most important factor in the minds of employers was personal traits. By this employers mean maturity, initiative, enthusiasm, poise and the ability to deal with people. An interesting note concerning this finding was that even in research conducted 30

years earlier by Dr. Endicott, personal characteristics were found the most important job determinant. There was no change in 30 years! This is a remarkable finding in light of the numerous visible changes that have taken place in education and society.

Dr. Endicott, in his book *A College Student's Guide to Career Planning*, comments: "It is difficult to identify and define the personal characteristics of a person who works well with other people. We generally consider such a person to be kind, courteous, understanding, helpful, pleasant, and fair, with a good sense of humor. Negative qualities are more easily recognized. These include arrogance, conceit, shortness of temper, domineering behavior, and discourtesy, plus a long list of irritating personal habits."

In addition to the above, evidence of qualities related to leadership is commonly sought. Specifically these include the willingness to take responsibility, the ability to carry a project through to conclusion, initiative, ability to make decisions, respect for others, and again, the ability to work well with various types of people.

An individual's effectiveness as a person and as a successful employee is related to his self-confidence, poise, enthusiasm and emotional stability. Frequently, shy and retiring individuals find themselves at a distinct disadvantage.

Dr. Endicott stresses: "Personal appearance is important to employers. Physical characteristics, except extreme obesity, are generally much less important than dress. Within the general limits of neatness and appropriateness in dress, there is room for a considerable amount of individuality. The notion that employers insist upon the gray flannel suit and the dark narrow tie is a myth."

He also states: "Effectiveness in speech is a strong asset. The inability to express one's ideas clearly is a weakness which shows immediately and there is much to recommend courses in speech as part of

the program of study for college students."

Second to personal traits in terms of importance were grades. Grades were found to be especially important for jobs requiring a background in science, mathematics, engineering and accounting. Here employers preferred those students scoring in the top quarter of their class. College grades were somewhat less important for jobs in sales, merchandising and general business administration.

Ranked third in Endicott's research were specialized courses. Specialized training for the particular job being sought or held is obviously a necessity for most positions. This specialized training is frequently strengthened by students' summer and part-time work experience. While pregraduate employment is not always directly related to one's specialized training, it is important to the employer in that it has exposed the student to true employment experience.

Also of importance to the employer was participation in activities. It is frequently in extracurricular activities that a student is able to develop those qualities of leadership that are an important prerequisite for many jobs. In addition to providing leadership opportunity and experience, social activities directly reflect one's ability to work with others, the capacity to get along with people.

Ranked sixth in importance by employers was the number of broad liberal arts courses taken. Here the employer is seeking a breadth of education—broad knowledgeability outside the individual's area of expertise. Frequently the combination of specialized training and broad liberal arts background can open the way for administrative or managerial opportunity. Howard Figler of Carlisle College and author of career-planning books states that those who have a broad education have a special commodity—flexibility. Flexibility, he adds, is essential in rapidly changing job markets, and in a society where

(Continued on page 45)

REACH TO

by Robert A. Ginskey

Since the dawn of history, man has marveled at the mystery and grandeur of the heavens. On a clear night, our own galaxy, the Milky Way, can be seen as a star-studded ribbon circling the sky. The familiar constellations—Orion, the Pleiades, the Big Dipper—probably look the same to us as they did to ancient civilizations long since perished.

But what secrets lie hidden in the celestial realm of outer space? And what is man's place in the cosmic scheme of things?

To the writers of the Bible, the heavens were awesome testimony to the Creator (Ps. 19:1). According to Job, it was God who spread out the heavens, who made Arcturus, Orion, the Pleiades, and the chambers of the south (Job 9:8-9). "When I consider thy heavens," mused David, "the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast

ordained, what is man, that thou art mindful of him?" (Ps. 8:3-4.) In New Testament times, the apostle Paul expressed the same awe and wonder (Heb. 2:6). Yet somehow, in our hurried and harried twentieth-century life, the heavens no longer seem to inspire quite the same feeling of reverence toward the Creator.

Probing the Cosmos

But consider the awesome size and complexity of the cosmos that is revealed by modern science. Our earth is a massive sphere some 8,000 miles in diameter; yet our star, the sun, has a diameter 100 times larger than the earth. Viewed from afar, our solar system—the sun and nine revolving planets—would appear as a disk in space nearly eight thousand million miles across. Already such numbers stagger our imagination.


Perhaps we can better visualize such incredible distances by an

analogy: If we compressed our solar system so that our sun (which is actually over 800,000 miles in diameter) was reduced to the size of a quarter (one inch in diameter), then Pluto, the most distant planet in our solar system, would be the size of a grain of sand located over 400 feet away!

And the nearest star? Again on a scale where our sun is the size of a quarter, the nearest star, Alpha Centauri, would be a similar object, 500 miles away! And in between would be the vast emptiness of space. Yet our sun and Alpha Centauri are only two of 100 thousand million stars in the giant pinwheel of stars known as the Milky Way.

The Milky Way is so vast that light—which can travel around the world in the snap of a finger—would take 100,000 years to cross from one edge of our galaxy to the other.

Such distances are nearly impos-



INFINITY

sible for us to comprehend. Yet suppose we could drastically compress our Milky Way to the size of the continent of Asia. Then our entire solar system including the sun, the earth, and the orbits of all the other planets would be the size of a small pebble one inch in diameter. Can you imagine being given the assignment of finding a pebble (our solar system) amid all the millions of square miles in the continent of Asia? Surely it would be far easier to find the proverbial needle in a haystack!

Yet even our gargantuan galaxy could be easily lost in the endless expanses of space. For far beyond our Milky Way are additional thousands of millions of galaxies as common as blades of grass in a meadow. In just the space defined by the bowl of the Big Dipper constellation, astronomers have found nearly a million galaxies, with each galaxy containing thousands of mil-

lions of stars and other heavenly bodies.

The Edge of the Universe?

As man reaches out to explore the heavens, will he ever find the end? So far, using the largest and most sophisticated telescopes, astronomers have probed the universe to a distance of over one hundred thousand million million million miles. If we could ride on a beam of light, it would take some ten thousand million years to travel this distance! Still, astronomers have been unable to find the edge of the universe. Perhaps it is endless; no one knows.

Indeed, the latest evidence indicates not only that the universe is expanding, but that no known natural forces appear to be sufficient to stop the galaxies from expanding to infinity. Some scientists may be reluctant to accept such a conclusion, but the universe gives every indication of having had a definite be-

ginning, perhaps 15 billion years ago. Cogent evidence points to a unique creation event.

Did our universe simply come into being by itself? Or is it the product of divine intelligence?

Man has only scratched the surface of knowledge about the heavens. But even this limited understanding has been a humbling experience. The more man learns about the awesome universe, the more evident its Creator becomes. □

Photo courtesy Kitt Peak National Observatory

RECOMMENDED READING

The mysteries of the heavens have always challenged the mind of man. Where did the universe come from? Why does it exist? The free color booklet *Our Awesome Universe* discusses these questions and describes some of the amazing discoveries of modern astronomy. (To request your copy, please use the coupon on the back cover of this magazine.)

DO YOU BELIEVE GOD?

by Elbert Atlas

Sometimes it's hard to put a handle on something like faith. It seems so elusive to most of us. We try to talk ourselves into believing something, or we go through all sorts of mental gymnastics to feel a certain way about our problems. But how does the Bible define faith? And what does faith have to do with your daily life?

The classic definition of faith is found in the book of Hebrews, chapter eleven: "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (RSV throughout article). Paraphrased in more modern English, faith is having confidence you will receive something you hope for.

But Hebrews 6 gives an even better idea of what faith really is, clearly showing that it is *belief in a promise made by God*. This chapter states that "when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, 'Surely I will bless you and multiply you'" (verses 13, 14). Here God says: "Abraham, I am going to give this to you. This is what you will receive." Thus He bound Himself to certain conditions. Note that He had not already given anything to Abraham, but He bound Himself to do so in the future.

The passage continues: "And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of His purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us" (verses 15-18).

In other words, God gave an ultimate token of His sincerity, honesty and intent to perform what He had promised: God is able to go even above and beyond the greatest oath that man can muster in confirming His promise, or attesting to the veracity of what He says.

Faith and Christian Living

Notice a very important part of this statement: *It is impossible for God to prove false, or lie.* Now that is an integral part of faith—simply believing that God will not lie to you. If a person holds that belief and understands it deeply, he will have faith toward God. If you believe that God will not lie, then you have the

ground, the foundation, for the kind of faith that God wants you to have.

God is the one Being on whom you can count; the Being who will always say and do what is right. And the degree to which you believe that will strongly determine the way you live.

Here's an illustration: Say I told you if you walked out on the freeway in rush-hour traffic and darted in front of an eighteen-wheeler, the chances are you'd get smashed flat as a postage stamp. Would you believe me? If you did believe me, wouldn't that belief influence your conduct in terms of the freeway?

Now a child might not believe me. He might not understand, or think I didn't know what I was talking about. He might be tempted to go out and play on the freeway. But if he did, he'd be courting disaster.

It's the same with anything God tells us. If we firmly believe that God doesn't lie, and that every word that proceeds out of His mouth is true, then it will have a tremendous impact on the way we live—on our daily conduct.

Now God says He knows how to live forever—He's got the secret and He can pull it off. He's doing it already, and always has been. He sent Jesus Christ to show that it's possible for human beings to cross the chasm between mortality and immortality, and He promises that immortality to every one of us who believes Him and acts accordingly.

Consider Christ's example of faith: how He gave up eternal life to become a human being and die for all of us. He put Himself in quite a position. What if He had felt a bit of doubt? What if there had been animosity between Him and God the Father?

But Christ knew that God was not lying to Him. He knew that even though He was to die and have no ability to resurrect Himself, He could trust His Father to keep His word. He knew that the Father really loved Him and would certainly resurrect Him.

God the Father and Jesus Christ are so honest, so pure and so right in their ways, motives, and conduct that they were able to absolutely believe one another. They had a

very special kind of relationship. Christ knew that the Father was able to see Him through the whole experience, so He became subject to death, endured many temptations, and died *in faith*—believing without a doubt that God the Father would resurrect Him from death.

Thoughts of distrust, trickery, jealousy and envy go through the minds of human beings at times—but *God is not that way*. He cannot and will not sin because He has set Himself not to (see Titus 1:2; 1 John 3:9). And we have proof of the absolute purity and sincerity of His word and His intentions: He gave up His life as Creator of the universe, staking it on the word of another member of the God family, so that all of us could live forever.

Believing God's Word

God's Word has a great deal to say about you, what you are and where you're going. God, who does not lie, has the capacity to grant eternal life. He knows how to give you the kind of life that He has. He not only knows how—*He says He's willing to do it!*

Now how much do you *believe* that? Do you doubt that God would do it? Many times we want God to prove things to us. We're like Gideon. Before we go into battle as God has commanded, we want to see the fleece on the ground in the morning with the proper degree of dampness. (Read Judges 6-8 for the full story of Gideon and what it took to make him believe God.)

If your faith is strong, you won't doubt the fact that God does not lie. Now that's easy to say, and in some ways academically easy to understand. But you know that in practical fact, when you have dangers facing you—when you have problems that you perhaps cannot understand, like Gideon did—it's very easy to doubt.

But, on the other hand, when there is reason to doubt, the measure of your faith is how much you believe God in spite of the physical circumstances around you. You can also measure your faith by the degree of doubt you feel when you read in the Bible that God is alive and does exist. The fact that He has eternal life is verified by the fact

that you're here. (For a fuller discussion of this point, write for the free booklet *Does God Exist?*)

So how do you know you have faith? When your conduct, way of thinking, purpose in life, motives and intentions are in harmony with the purposes and plans of God. If your life is patterned along these lines, that says you have faith! It speaks louder than anyone can shout. You don't have to say, "I am living in the faith." What you do with your life says that, without your ever uttering a word (James 2:18). It simply boils down to believing that God does not lie. And to

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believe that God does not lie is a strong motivation.

The Mistake of Unbelief

There are examples throughout the Bible of individuals who lost faith in God, who began to doubt whether God was telling the truth. This is what happened to Adam and Eve. God told them one thing, but they had other ideas introduced into their minds by Satan the devil. They started to disbelieve what God clearly said. What Satan told them looked logical, sounded reasonable—but it was still wrong.

When Eve looked at the fruit, it looked harmless; it looked good. It didn't have big warts all over it, or big green worms crawling out of it. It looked just like any other delicious, delectable fruit anywhere else in the rest of the garden. It was beautiful—nice and juicy. It had a good feel to it. So Eve probably thought to herself: "Well now, let's just back off and readdress the situation. This fruit is all right—it looks good and it smells good. I don't get shocked when I touch it. . . ." She began reasoning that it would be all right to eat it, even though God had given a simple command not to. She just didn't believe God.

Then once she had convinced Adam to eat the fruit and the deed had been done, God came down and reprimanded them both. He said in effect: "You two didn't believe me. I told you one thing; somebody else told you something else and you fell for it. Now you are going to reap the result." The rest of the story is history.

In a nutshell, Adam blew it. He turned the experience into a disaster for himself and his family. And it was all due to a lack of faith. He simply stopped believing God.

King Saul of ancient Israel is another classic example of unbelief. In the beginning of his reign, Saul was humble. He was basically obedient, but like many human beings who are given a certain amount of power, he began to slip. He was given definite instructions by God, but he didn't follow them. He began to develop a pattern of unbelief, of disobedience.

When faced with the prospect of having his entire army desert him on the eve of battle, Saul "forced" himself to make an offering to God that could legally only be made by a priest. He did this because Samuel, God's prophet, didn't arrive in time to "ask the blessing" on this particular battle. But according to God's instructions, Saul was not supposed to make that offering under any circumstances. It was not his job.

But his reasons for disobedience were logical. When Samuel caught him in the act, so to speak, Saul replied: "Look, the people were starting to scatter and you didn't come when you said you would, and the Philistines were all ready to fight. I was in danger! These people over here with spears and swords don't mean us any good! They plan to tear my head off; they mean business. What did you expect me to do? The lives of the people were at stake—isn't that a good reason for offering something to God?" But Samuel replied: "You have done foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you."

The Bible tells us that after this Saul got in the habit of not adhering to God's instructions explicitly. A pattern began to develop in his life, a pattern of unbelief. Samuel was

forced to relay this message: "For now the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart..." (1 Sam. 13:13-14).

Two Positive Examples

But there are others who set a much more positive example of faith. One of the most outstanding was Job. Upon Satan's instigation, God allowed Job to be stripped of everything. If any man could have begun to disbelieve God, it was Job—he had every reason to question the system, or the generally accepted idea that if you're righteous, God has to bless you. Job was a truly righteous man, yet within a short period of time all his children were killed; his cattle and crops destroyed; his body afflicted.

Humanly speaking, he had every reason to reject God, but he never did! He had faith, not in the idea that God would bless him because of his good deeds, but faith that God knew what He was doing in Job's life! Job finally came to the place where he deeply felt God's greatness and overwhelming power, instead of just intellectually acknowledging God's power in the affairs of men.

Job believed the word of God, and he clung to it with all he was worth in spite of all that he could see around him. Humanly speaking, he probably had ample evidence for chucking it, modifying it, reasoning around it. But he didn't. He hung in there. And when all was said and done, he obtained a great reward. Not just the restoration of his physical fortune (God gave him double what he had before), but a place in His Kingdom.

Jesus Christ, of course, is the prime example of faith in the Bible. The fourth chapter of Matthew describes His temptation by Satan. Satan tried to make Him disbelieve the Word of God, and the Scripture says that it really was a temptation—not just some kind of exercise Christ went through to teach us a philosophical or religious lesson. Christ was actually tempted—tempted to disbelieve the Scripture. He was tried as a human being, but, as you

read in the account, He resisted the temptation.

Do You Believe God?

The book of Hebrews says that we are compassed about with a cloud of witnesses—faithful men and women who believed God, and acted on their belief. "Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...—what should we do? "...Let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God" (Heb. 12:1-2).

The Bible tells us to "consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood" (verses 3-4). We are encouraged to believe God's promises, accept His correction, and "lift [our] drooping hands and strengthen [our] weak knees, and make straight paths for [our] feet," because God has promised us a fantastic future. We will come to "the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to a judge who is God of all, and to the spirits of just men-made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks more graciously than the blood of Abel." With all this ahead of us, we are warned: "See that you do not refuse him who is speaking" (verses 12-13; 22-25).

This is what God is outlining—the promises of eternal life. That is what's in front of us—not a temporary covenant or blessings that have to do with temporal life on this earth and that end with death. He is faithful to keep His word, and He promises that if you follow what He says, you'll be in His Kingdom. What about you—do you believe God? And if you do believe, what are you going to do about it? □

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The answer is yes, we do.

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So if you have spiritual matters to discuss or questions to ask about biblical topics such as repentance, baptism, etc., please feel free to write to us and request a private appointment. Worldwide mailing addresses and phone numbers are as follows:

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Garner Ted Armstrong **SPEAKS OUT!**

Pornography Is No "Victimless Crime"!

Under the guise of constitutional rights and freedom of expression, the floodgates of filth and perversion have opened wide to unleash a torrent of explicit pornography and lurid erotica. The latest perverse twist the porn barons are milking for all it's worth is a booming multimillion-dollar child-pornography industry. Young children are being recruited for every degenerate act imaginable, with special emphasis on incest and pedophilia (adult-child sexual relations).

It is time for all decent people to wake up from lethargy and see that pornography is far from the so-called "victimless crime" that some professors of social behavior claim. Some liberal intellectuals want to dress up all this moral garbage in a tuxedo and sell us the idea that depravity and perversion can be "socially redeeming" or beneficial to some people.

Those who condone porn, moreover, assert that it has no proven deleterious effect on the human mind that can be clearly tied to the cause of certain social crimes, perverted sex acts or emotional disturbances. Unfortunately, the experience of many police or law enforcement personnel who have caught savage sex criminals with rooms full of pornography could tell you a different story.

Are we supposed to believe that pornography has no adverse effect on people when we know that great

works of art and literature have had a very profound beneficial effect on people? Our whole educational system is based on the concept that printed matter does influence human minds.

Far from being harmless, pornography corrodes the very pillars of civilization. It is a rot that destroys not only personal morals, but stable family structure. Wherever it is permitted to take deep root, it breeds criminal vice and violence.

Physically, we are what we eat. And mentally, emotionally and spiritually, each of our minds is what it feeds upon. Feed it compassion, love, respect and concern for others and you create a more civilized person or society. Feed it hatred, violence, sexual permissiveness and you wind up with a total self-loving society, with unconcern for the needs and welfare of others.

Make no mistake about it, pornography teaches powerful lessons. It teaches that the highest values are the immediate personal, animalistic pleasures and urges that enter the human mind. It teaches that sex is to be used without control, and then people are to be casually abandoned. When mingled with violence, pornography advocates harming others for the sake of violence—and enjoying it. Like heroin, it demands ever more brutal or perverse acts to give its sick adherents "kicks."

The porn industry knows no lim-

its, no controls. And that is the very essence of *social anarchy!*

Recently, an astute associate professor of law at a Midwestern university wrote in the *National Observer*: "Some say, 'The best way to deal with pornography is to let it run its course; once sated, people will get bored with it.' This is something like saying the best way to deal with the filth of Lake Erie is to let Lake Erie fill up until it can't take any more. Why should parents have to let their children's moral environment get so corrupt that by comparison Sodom and Gomorrah resemble a Trappist monastery?"

It's as stupid as pouring gasoline on a fire to put it out!

The millions who plunge headlong into pornography—soft core, hard core, whatever—are ruining their chances of being decent and trustworthy citizens, as well as robbing themselves of the opportunity for a normal, wholesome sex and family life. "Pornography, a 'victimless crime'?" What a hoax! Society already is paying a heavy price for permitting pornography to proliferate.

Who's guilty for the popularity of porn? The public for catering to and making such perversion profitable; public officials for not having the guts to pass or enforce laws that restrict the spread of pornography; the courts and our entire legal system for letting the porn barons off the hook with light sentences or fines, and twisting out constitutional freedoms in the first place in order to legalize such activities; clerics for succumbing to secular moral relevancy and refusing to spell out clearly to their parishioners the lesson about how God deals with nations going the way of Sodom and Gomorrah (see II Peter 2:6).

What new taboos will the porn industry seek to break next? Whatever it is, we can't afford it. Pornography is a threat to any decent and law-abiding civilization. If we don't stop the proliferation of pornography in our homes or communities, it will not only destroy them, but our whole nation! □

Questions & Answers

We invite you, our readers, to send in your questions on biblically oriented prophetic, doctrinal, historical and Christian-living topics. While we cannot promise that all questions will be answered in print, we will try to cover all those that are of general interest as space permits. Send your questions to the appropriate address listed on the inside front cover, care of The Plain Truth.

Q "Concerning II Kings 17, verse 18, where it states that there was none left but the tribe of Judah only, why do we read in Luke 2:36 of the prophetess Anna from the tribe of Aser? This tribe was supposedly taken captive with the rest of Israel as II Kings states.

Robert H.
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

A It is quite true that the tribe of Asher, along with the other tribes of the northern house of Israel, was taken captive by the Assyrians in the eighth century B.C. These Israelites were removed from their native country and were placed in the territories of the surrounding Gentile nations. Many of the people lost their tribal identity. Some, however, remained and later filtered back into the area of Palestine. This is not to say that all of the northern house ever returned; there is no evidence of this; it merely means that a representative few returned. Anna was such a person. We know from the Restoration books (Ezra and Nehemiah)

that about 50,000 from the tribes of Judah, Benjamin and Levi did return in the fifth and fourth centuries B.C. Together these tribes were known as "the house of Judah" or "the Jews." Paul called himself a Jew, yet he was of the house of Benjamin (Phil. 3:5). Modern Israel, however, is basically composed of the descendants of the southern house of Judah rather than the northern house of Israel. For further information about the ten-tribe northern nation of Israel, please write for the free booklet entitled *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy*.

Q "Did Abraham forbid Isaac to marry a Canaanite woman because the Canaanites were of a different race?"

J.C.
Houston, Texas

A Although the Israelites invaded the land of Canaan and lived side by side with Canaanites for many years, there is no statement in the Bible that the Canaanites were racially different from Israel, though this has often been assumed. The Bible does not specifically tell us why Abraham did not wish his son Isaac to marry a Canaanite, but the most likely reason was because of religious differences. (The Pentateuch later forbade such marriages because those of non-Israelite stock would introduce Israel to false religions. See Deuteronomy 7:3-4.) In other words, Abraham did not want Isaac to marry a woman who would be a worshiper of Canaanite gods. With such practices going on among Isaac's Canaanite neighbors, it

seems likely that his children would be influenced to become involved in pagan religious practices. Thus Abraham was seeking to ensure that his descendants would continue to worship the one true God.

Q "I read your booklet entitled 'Does God Exist?' and I fail to see any definite proof of God's existence. I have completed many long, hard Bible study courses and applied what I learned to my life but gained no contact with God whatsoever. I used Bible references in prayer, but I might as well have been talking to the wall. I now believe anyone who wants a good life has to forget about God and the Bible and go ahead and get it through his own efforts. If I did surrender to God according to Romans 12:1 and depend on Him to supply all my needs, I would go around naked and finally starve to death. There is nothing to gain in reading the Bible but unnecessary eyestrain and disappointment."

Ty H.
Guin, Alabama

A Perhaps your disillusionment stems from the fact that you have not understood the nature of God's dealings with men in this age. Just what kind of manifestation of God have you been searching for? What do you mean by "contact with God"? Have you expected Him to speak audibly to you? Have you hoped to see Him? Did you expect obvious miracles to occur in your life, or did you want God to provide for you in the literal sense by raining a new suit out of the sky, or causing food to suddenly appear on your dinner plate? Of course, you would probably answer these questions in the negative. Then how can we expect God to deal with us in this day and age? Understanding the nature of God can help us comprehend why He apparently is not dealing with us in quite the same way the God of the Old Testament dealt with the nation of ancient Israel. God is all-knowing, all-powerful and omnipresent. He is also invisible (Col. 1:15). God the Father has never been seen by human eyes (John 1:18; 5:37; 1 John 4:12). Christ came to reveal the Father (Luke 10:22). He said, "He who has seen me has seen the

Father" (John 14:9). But God is glorified and therefore is "un-seeable" by human beings.

Today God is working through the vehicle of His Holy Spirit, and He reveals His will to us through the pages of the Bible. Our job is to find out what God's will is and get in harmony with it. The rewards for doing so come mainly at the end of this life when the saints are resurrected (Luke 14:14).

However, Christ Himself stated that many Christians can expect definite blessings in this life. He said "There is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands [as members of God's Church], with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life" (Mark 10:29-30). And the book of Proverbs is full of cause-and-effect maxims showing the benefits of wise and righteous behavior.

Nonetheless, in a purely physical sense, Christians live lives pretty much like everyone else in today's world. Time and chance happen to all men (Eccl. 9:11). God causes the rain to fall on the just and on the unjust (Matt. 5:45). We experience sickness, accident and death just like everyone else. It is only at the end of life that God "separates the sheep from the goats" (Matt. 25:31-32).

A Christian should be willing to obey God whether God intervenes to provide for him or not. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were willing to be thrown into the fiery furnace rather than yield to idolatry—*whether God protected them or not* (Dan. 3:17-18).

Also, the Bible reveals that God hears the prayers of those who obey Him (John 9:31). But sins cut us off from God. (Isa. 59:1-2). We are told: "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you so that he does not hear." Perhaps there is a con-

nection between this verse and your statement that your prayers were not answered, even though you quoted Bible references. Or perhaps you were not praying in accordance with God's will (James 4:3).

Another question you might ask: Have you really been willing to repent and change your life before God? Have you "sought first the kingdom of God," or have you been seeking blessings for yourself first? (See Matthew 6:25-33.)

Heaven is not a magic lantern containing a genie called "God" who can be summoned to grant every wish. The Christian is not primarily out to get from God; he is concerned with pleasing God no matter what. He seeks to glorify God, not the self (John 7:18).

A good life is not to be found by ignoring God and the Bible. Quite the contrary. By acknowledging God and obeying His will as it is revealed in the Bible, one may have a joyful, fulfilling, abundant life now through the power of God's Holy Spirit, and look forward to a rewarding eternity in the future.

Q "The statement 'Jesus died for everyone's sins' is constantly being used by those in the Christian religion. I'm curious about the reasoning behind this. How can killing Christ possibly be linked with the forgiveness of all of our sins? For one thing, it was the gruesome murder of the greatest inhabitant that the earth has ever known. Secondly, it was clearly a breaking of the sixth commandment, 'Thou shalt not kill.' Why do people think that this horrendous murder is a basis for forgiveness of their own sins?"

Rocky N.
Grandview, Missouri

A When God created the universe He set certain inexorable moral and spiritual laws in motion. When a human being breaks one of those laws, He has committed a sin. I John 3:4 defines sin as "the transgression of the law." Once an individual has sinned in any way, shape or form, he is immediately guilty of breaking God's law, and the penalty for that lawbreaking is death (Rom. 6:23).

All human beings have sinned

and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). All of us, like Adam, have thus come under the death penalty for sin. As the apostle Paul wrote in Romans 5:12: "sin came into the world through one man [Adam] and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all men sinned."

But God does not want any of us to perish (II Pet. 3:9). Nonetheless, in order to give us freedom to choose between good and evil—free moral agency—so we could have the opportunity to develop the kind of godly character He's looking for in His children, He had to make us capable of sinning. So God came up with a plan whereby we could sin, suffer and learn from the consequences, and afterward escape the resulting death penalty.

This is where Christ's death in our stead fits into the picture. Christ was the Creator of the universe, our earth and all human life. (For more on this, send for the free reprint article "Who—What—Was Jesus Before His Human Birth?") His divine life was worth more than the lives of all humanity down through the ages; therefore His death could atone for the sins of all mankind. In other words, He could die in place of all who have sinned.

So while "the wages of sin is death," the "free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). Any human being who repents of his sins and accepts Jesus Christ as his personal Savior is no longer under the penalty of the law. Romans 8:1-4, 11, reads: "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set [us] free from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law could not do, sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, he condemned sin in order that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit which dwells in you." □

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 CORPUS CHRISTI — Channel 3, KIII-TV, 10:00 a.m. Sun
 DOTHAN — Channel 18, WDHN-TV, 8:30 a.m. Sun
 FARGO — Channel 11, KTHI-TV, 12 noon Sun
 FT. SMITH — Channel 5, KFMS-TV, 12:00 p.m. Sat
 FT. WORTH — Channel 11, KTVT-TV, 1:30 p.m. Sun
 GARDEN CITY — Channel 11, KGLD-TV, 1:30 p.m. Sun
 GREAT BEND — Channel 2, KCKT-TV, 1:30 p.m. Sun
 HATTIESBURG — Channel 7, WDMV-TV, 12:00 noon Sun
 HOUSTON — Channel 39, KHTV-TV, 9:30 a.m. Sat
 HUNTSVILLE — Channel 48, WYUR-TV, 5:30 p.m. Sun
 KANSAS CITY — Channel 4, WDAF-TV, 12:30 p.m. Sun
 KEARNEY — Channel 13, KHGF-TV, 12:30 p.m. Sun
 LUBBOCK — Channel 11, KCED-TV, 12:00 noon Sun
 LUFKIN — Channel 9, KTRE-TV, 10:30 p.m. Sun
 MCCOOK — Channel 8, KOMC-TV, 1:30 p.m. Sun
 MERIDIAN — Channel 11, WTOK-TV, 10:00 a.m. Sun
 MIDLAND — Channel 2, KMID-TV, 12:00 noon Sat
 MOBILE — Channel 5, WKRG-TV, 11:30 a.m. Sun
 MONTGOMERY — Channel 32, WKAB-TV, 3:30 p.m. Sun
 NEW ORLEANS — Channel 4, WWL-TV, 11:00 a.m. Sun
 NORTH PLATTE — Channel 2, KNOP-TV, 6:30 p.m. Mon
 OKLAHOMA CITY — Channel 5, KOCO-TV, 11:30 a.m. Sun
 OMAHA — Channel 5, WOWT-TV, 3:00 p.m. Sat
 PEORIA — Channel 19, WRAU-TV, 10:30 a.m. Sun
 SHREVEPORT — Channel 6, KTAL-TV, 12:00 noon Sat

SIoux CITY — Channel 14, KMEG-TV, 11:30 a.m. Sun
 SPRINGFIELD, MO. — Channel 27, KMTC-TV, 9:30 a.m. Sun
 SPRINGFIELD, IL. — Channel 29, WIGS-TV, 12:30 p.m. Sat
 TEMPLE — Channel 8, KCEN-TV, 1:00 p.m. Sun
 TOPEKA — Channel 27, KTSB-TV, 12:00 noon Sat
 TUPELO — Channel 9, WTUV-TV, 5:00 p.m. Sat
 TYLER — Channel 7, KLTU-TV, 10:30 p.m. Sun
 WICHITA — Channel 3, KARD-TV, 4:30 p.m. Sun
 WICHITA FALLS — Channel 6, KAUZ-TV, 2:30 p.m. Sat

Mountain Time

BOISE — Channel 6, KIVI-TV, 11:00 a.m. Sun
 GREAT FALLS — Channel 5, KFBB-TV, 9:30 a.m. Sun
 MILES CITY — Channel 3, KYUS-TV, 10:30 a.m. Sun
 MITCHELL, S.D. — Channel 5, KXON-TV, 8:00 p.m. Sun
 PUEBLO — Channel 5, KOAA-TV, 12:30 p.m. Sat
 ROSWELL — Channel 46, KBIM-TV, 10:00 a.m. Sun
 SALT LAKE CITY — Channel 5, KSL-TV, 12:30 p.m. Sat
 TUCSON — Channel 9, KGUN-TV, 11:30 a.m. Sun

Pacific Time

ANCHORAGE — Channel 13, KIMO-TV, 11:30 a.m. Sun
 CHICO — Channel 12, KHSL-TV, 10:30 a.m. Sun
 FAIRBANKS — Channel 11, KTVF-TV, 5:00 p.m. Sat
 HONOLULU — Channel 2, KHON-TV, 10:00 a.m. Sun
 LOS ANGELES — Channel 9, KHJ-TV, 10:00 p.m. Sun
 PORTLAND — Channel 12, KPTV-TV, 11:00 a.m. Sat
 RENO — Channel 2, KTVN-TV, 3:00 p.m. Sat
 SACRAMENTO — Channel 13, KOVR-TV, 11:00 a.m. Sun
 SALINAS — Channel 5, KSBW-TV, 9:30 a.m. Sun

CANADIAN STATIONS

Newfoundland Time

SAINT JOHN'S — Channel 5, CJON-TV, 1:00 p.m. Sun

Atlantic Time

HALIFAX — Channel 5, CJCH-TV, 2:00 p.m. Sun

MONCTON, N.B. — Channel 2, CKCW-TV, 2:00 p.m. Sun.

SYDNEY — Channel 4, CJCB-TV, 2:00 p.m. Sun.

Eastern Time

BARRIE — Channel 3, CKVR-TV, 12:00 p.m. Sun.

KINGSTON — Channel 11, CKWS-TV, 12:00 noon Sat

MONTREAL — Channel 12, CFCF-TV, 5:30 p.m. Sun.

NORTH BAY — Channel 4, CHNB-TV, 1 p.m. Sun

PETERBOROUGH — Channel 12, CHEX-TV, 12:30 p.m. Sat

QUEBEC CITY — Channel 5, CKMI-TV, 12:00 noon Sun.

SAULT STE. MARIE — Channel 2, CJIG-TV, 9:30 a.m. Sat

SUDBURY — Channel 9, CKNC-TV, 1:00 p.m. Sun.

THUNDER BAY — Channel 4, CHFD-TV, 1:30 p.m. Sun

TIMMINS — Channel 6, CFCL-TV, 1:00 p.m. Sun.

Central Time

BRANDON — Channel 5, CKX-TV, 12:30 p.m. Sun.

REGINA — Channel 2, CKCK-TV, 12 noon Sun.

SASKATOON — Channel 9, CFQC-TV, 12 noon Sun

SWIFT CURRENT — Channel 5, CJFB-TV, 11:15 p.m. Sun

WINNIPEG — Channel 7, CKY-TV, 12 noon Sun

YORKTON — Channel 3, CKOS-TV, 12 noon Sun.

Mountain Time

CALGARY — Channel 4, CFCN-TV, 4:00 p.m. Sun.

EDMONTON — Channel 3, CFRN-TV, 11:00 a.m. Sun

LLOYDMINSTER — Channel 2, CKSA-TV, 9:30 a.m. Sun.

Pacific Time

DAWSON CREEK — Channel 5, CJDC-TV, 5:30 p.m. Sun

VANCOUVER — Channel 8, CHAN-TV, 11:30 a.m. Sun.

VICTORIA — Channel 6, CHEK-TV, 11:30 a.m. Sun.

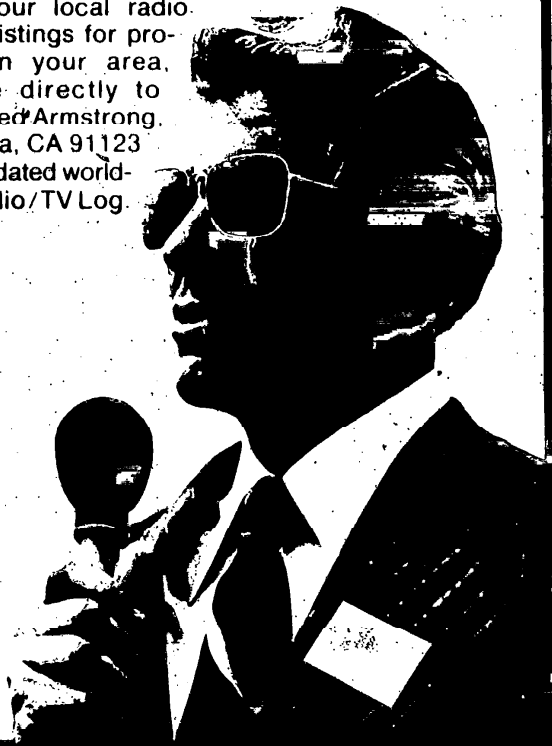
WHITENORSE — Channels 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, WHTV-TV, 7:00 p.m. Sun

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*denotes new stations or changes.

Garner Ted Armstrong COMMENTARY

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Garner Ted Armstrong, long known for his lucid, provocative, and insightful commentaries on contemporary world events, can now be seen and heard on many additional stations throughout the United States and Canada. In fact, Garner Ted Armstrong's five-minute, radio commentaries are being broadcast on so many new stations, we are not able to provide a listing in this issue. We suggest you check your local radio and TV listings for programs in your area, or write directly to Garner Ted Armstrong, Pasadena, CA 91123 for an updated world-wide Radio/TV Log.



WORLDWATCH

An Overview of Major News Events and Trends

SOVIET SUPERWEAPON CONTROVERSY

American intelligence analysts now warn that the Soviet Union may soon have the capability—via a directed-energy beam weapon—to destroy American nuclear missile warheads thousands of miles before they reach their targets. Since the Soviet Union is already defended from bomber attack by a thick network of fighter interceptors and surface-to-air missiles, the effect of neutralizing America's strategic offensive weapons would be to render the United States, in any all-out war with Russia, virtually powerless before a potential Soviet nuclear attack.

The main proponent of the beam-weapon analysis is former Chief of Air Force Intelligence, Major-General George Keegan, who is now with the United States Strategic Institute, an independent military research think tank. Keegan recently told a group of Washington newsmen that the Soviet Union is "20 years ahead of the United States in its development of a technology which they believe will soon neutralize the ballistic missile weapon as a threat to the Soviet Union. It is my firm belief," Keegan continued, "that they are now testing this technology."

Keegan's ideas have been given a boost by a recent article in *Aviation Week and Space Technology* (May 2, 1977), by Military Editor Clarence Robinson, Jr. *Aviation Week* declared that the Soviets have "leapfrogged a generation of high energy physics technology and developed a workable experimental model of a directed-energy beam weapon." The weapon would work by using an explosive nuclear

charge to drive atomic particles through a magnetic field. This would change the particles into a beam of almost pure energy. Any object hit by such a beam would absorb its energy and explode.

Robinson's story was immediately denied by the Pentagon, the CIA, and President Carter. All asserted that they did not believe that the U.S.S.R. had achieved the technical breakthrough necessary to create such a weapon, though they provided no details or specific refutations.

For its part, the authoritative aerospace weekly noted that most of the controversy centers around what kinds of tests are being conducted at a Soviet research center near Semipalatinsk. The center has been under intensive observation by U.S. reconnaissance satellites for more than 10 years.

Recent data collected on the center include satellite detection of various kinds of experiments involving gaseous hydrogen, lasers and powerful new generators, as well as the likely presence of a collective accelerator, electron injectors and power stores, all necessary for the development of a particle beam weapon. As one U.S. official quoted by *Aviation Week* puts it: "This is a case where the experimental hardware is identical to the equipment necessary to destroy an ICBM. If they can generate the charged particle beam, and large amounts of hydrogen being burned there indicate they are; then they can generate for weapons use."

As evidence for the beam weapon mounted, the Air Force convened a panel of its Scientific Advisory Board to study the activities of the Semipalatinsk facility. They rejected the beam weapon idea on the grounds that the concept was scientifically impossible and identified a number of "theoretical roadblocks"

which prevented the development of such a weapon.

However, within a few months of the Advisory Board's report, a group of brilliant young physicists working with General Keegan managed to demonstrate that all of the Advisory Board's theoretical objections could be overcome and "had already been solved in the Soviet Union."

Much of the *Aviation Week* article is devoted to demonstrating the theoretical possibility of a particle beam weapon, and takes many older-generation physicists to task for refusing to admit it—especially for their unproven premise, that since American scientists tried and failed to develop such a weapon several years ago (code named Project Seesaw) then the Russians, whom the older physicists believe to be technically inferior, certainly couldn't be making any progress.

Aviation Week also quotes an unnamed U.S. official to the effect that the Soviets are far enough along in their testing at Semipalatinsk that the next phase of development will be "scaling the device for weapons application." Such scaling could be done by as early as 1978 and an operational beam weapon could be reality by 1980.

From the data, *Aviation Week* editor Robert Hotz in an accompanying editorial paints a scenario in which the Soviet possession of a particle beam weapon in the early 1980s will allow the U.S.S.R. to threaten the United States with nuclear annihilation without fear of retaliation. The Soviets would also be able to pursue, unintimidated by the U.S., their foreign policy goals throughout the world. A worldwide nuclear alert of U.S. forces, which former President Nixon called during the Mideast war of 1973, and which prevented the Kremlin from landing troops in the volatile

region, would be of none effect. The international chess game of strategic arms, Hotz warns, could end "with the triumphant Soviet shout of 'check and mate.'"

KOREA "PHASEOUT"- IMPACT ON JAPAN

The Carter Administration's proposed five-year "phased withdrawal" of American troops from South Korea has once again focused world attention on the security of Northeast Asia.

The issue was brought to a head in May when General John Singlaub, U.S. Chief-of-Staff in South Korea, was removed from his post for criticizing the phaseout plan, claiming it would be an invitation to war. Singlaub is not alone in his criticism. Senior American and South Korean military officers point to what they feel is the bad timing of such a policy and its psychological impact on the rest of Asia.

North Korean Premier Kim Il Sung has never renounced his stated goal of unifying all of the Korean peninsula under his control, and military observers are asking whether South Korea is strong enough to defend itself against a full-scale communist invasion launched by the Pyongyang regime.

Unlike past proposals from Washington to reduce American troop strength in Korea, the current effort is prompted primarily by non-economic considerations. The revelations of bribery of American Congressmen by South Korean agents as well as the reaction to President Park Chung Hee's handling of political opponents have created considerable domestic pressure in the United States for the removal of most of the 33,000-man U.S. army and 1,000 tactical nuclear weapons from the area.

At the moment, it appears that South Korea would be able to defend itself against an attack from the North. The Seoul government has around 600,000 troops compared to North Korea's 430,000-man army. However, the North outnumbered the South in reserve

strength—three million men to one million—and possesses 1350 modern Russian tanks to the South's 840 tanks. Even more critically, North Korea has 600 combat planes to the South's 264, and for that reason the Carter Administration has promised to continue to give South Korea "air cover" after it withdraws its troops.

The effects of renewed fighting on the Korean peninsula could not be confined there, for ultimately the fate of Japan would be at stake. Japanese observers such as Hideo Sekino of the Japanese Historical Research Institute point out that if South Korea fell, almost all of Japan would come under the radius of hostile fighter aircraft. Continued joint Japanese-South Korean control of the Tsushima Straights, through which Soviet East Asian ships and submarines reach the Pacific, would also become virtually impossible.

Confronted with a unified communist Korea, the Japanese would have two choices: launch a rapid military buildup or become a Pacific "Finland," a country under domination of the Soviet Union.

London's *Economist* summarized the real nature of the Korean defense problem in an editorial last year: "The truth of the matter is that the American army does not keep [its forces] in South Korea for the sake of the South Koreans. They are there mainly because of Japan—because a still militarily naked Japan (its army little more than a third the size of North Korea's) would hate to see communist troops only 100 miles away across the Tsushima Straights, and because most of the rest of us would hate to see a Japanese army suddenly expanded six times over."

THE CARIBBEAN: A "RED LAKE"?

The growing influence and prestige of Fidel Castro's Cuba threatens to undercut whatever influence Washington has had among the nations and nations-to-be in the Caribbean Sea, once called "America's lake."

In the years since Fidel Castro

introduced radical socialism to the area, eight former British and Dutch territories there have gained full independence. Another six expect independence within the next decade. The political common denominator in nearly every case is a marked lurch to the left. The new mini-states inherited multiparty systems of government, but now left-wing politicians in nearly all of the 14 countries either are in power, share it, or are in powerful opposition.

Many of these leaders see the Cuban model of rigid social and economic planning as a real alternative to American-style capitalist democracy, and as a way to solve—or at least contain—the enormous problems they nearly all share—poverty, overpopulation, and unemployment. Here are a few examples of the new political wave throughout the Caribbean:

- Guyana, the former British colony on the northern coast of South America, has become a virtual communist state under the leadership of Prime Minister Forbes Burnham. Foreign business has been nationalized, and eighty percent of the economy is under state control. Guyana's leadership openly espouses a Marxist-Leninist philosophy.

- Jamaica's radicalization is second only to that of Guyana. Prime Minister Michael Manley has promised to "bury Jamaica in socialism." Along with Guyana, Jamaica is seeking formal economic ties with Comecon, the "Common Market of Eastern Europe." And, again along with Guyana, Jamaica has signed a number of economic, scientific, cultural and educational exchange agreements with Cuba, leading the *Wall Street Journal* to speculate that the country is on its way toward becoming a Cuban satellite.

- While Trinidad and Barbados have moderate governments, the main opposition parties in each case are Marxist. Former Barbados Prime Minister Errol Barrow has accused the U.S. of trying to "destabilize" the governments of the English-speaking Caribbean because of their developing relationship with Cuba. Cuba had also used Barbados as a refueling stop last year when it flew troops to Angola.

• In the smaller eastern Caribbean islands which are Associated States of Britain, Cuba has established a number of "Friendship Societies" as well as giving encouragement to local Marxist elements to work through established parties to gain power. Leftist influence is growing in Dominica and St. Vincent. Dominica in particular has been plagued by a band of tourist-hating radicals who are still holding out in the hills.

• Even the moderate government of Lynden O. Pindling in the Bahamas has shown some sympathy to the Cubans because of Castro's support of black liberation movements in Africa.

• On every island of the Caribbean, there is a radical movement of some kind.

The pattern that seems to be emerging is that of a Havana-prescribed Cuba-Jamaica-Guyana axis of hardline Marxist States exerting strong left-wing influence over their smaller counterparts throughout the area. There is a twofold significance to this emerging development. First, American economic stakes in the region are high. U.S. firms have between \$4 to \$6 billion invested in the Caribbean, thousands of Americans own property in the area; many more thousands visit the region as tourists. More importantly, the strategic stakes are high. Panama's dictator, General Omar Torrijos has very close ties with Cuba and some American observers fear that he will move even farther to the left after he concludes a new Panama Canal treaty with the United States (see article beginning on page 6). The prospect then arises that with the Caribbean/Gulf of Mexico region almost enclosed by states hostile to the United States, the Kremlin could move in to establish its own bases in the area right at America's underbelly. □

NOTICE TO READERS

Due to financial and production considerations, we will publish combined issues of the *Plain Truth* for August/September and October/November. You'll still get the same vitally important *Plain Truth* content to which you've become accustomed. Be sure to read each timely article!

IN BRIEF

THOUGHTS ON THE NIXON INTERVIEW

by Stanley F. Rader

The author accompanies Plain Truth Editor-in-Chief Herbert W. Armstrong on his frequent visits with heads of state and other leading international dignitaries.

For several weeks now, former President Nixon has attempted to justify not only his conduct during the Watergate cover-up, but also such alleged abuses of presidential power as covert war against political opponents and anti-Vietnam War protesters, secret operations against Daniel Ellsberg and others, and the so-called "White House enemies list." In addition, he has tried to rationalize his concept of unlimited presidential power as long as the President believes he is serving the national interest.

Comments from citizens across the United States and throughout the world in reaction to the first Nixon-David Frost interview, in which he made the comments, have been mixed. It does appear that more people were concerned, almost three years after Mr. Nixon's resignation from office, with the fact that for more than two years he had repeatedly lied in his addresses to the American people.

The other day, I was reading one of my favorite authors, the renowned novelist and short-story writer Somerset Maugham. In a book entitled *The Summing Up*, written some two decades before his death, he said: "At first sight it is curious that our own offenses should seem to us so much less heinous than the offenses of others. I suppose the reason is that we know all the circum-

stances that have occasioned them and so manage to excuse in ourselves what we cannot excuse in others. We turn our attention away from our own defects and when we are forced by untoward events to consider them find it easy to condone them. For all I know we are right to do this; they are part of us and we must accept the good and the bad in ourselves together. But when we come to judge others it is not by ourselves as we really are, that we judge them, but by an image that we have formed of ourselves from which we have left out everything that offends our vanity or would discredit us in the eyes of the world.

To take a trivial instance: how scornful we are when we catch someone out telling a lie; but who can say that he had never told not one, but a hundred? We are shocked when we discover that great men were weak and petty, dishonest or selfish, sexually vicious, vain or intemperate, and many people think it disgraceful to disclose to the public its heroes' failings. There is not much to choose between men. They are all a hodgepodge of greatness and littleness, of virtue and vice, of nobility and baseness. Some have more strength of character, or more opportunity, and so in one direction or another give their instincts freer play, but potentially they are the same. For my part I do not think I am any better or any worse than most people, but I know that if I set down every action in my life and every thought that has crossed my mind, the world would consider me a monster of depravity."

HEALING

(Continued from page 5)

But, persecuted over the centuries, mostly unrecognized by the world, the true and original Church of God has continued through all generations to the present. In the book of Revelation two churches are described. One, in the twelfth chapter, the true and original Church of God, small and persecuted, having to endure hardship, persecution and martyrdom for survival; the other, in the seventeenth chapter, the great politically popular church, ruling over kings and nations of this world, drunk with the blood of saints and martyrs of Jesus.

For 18½ centuries Christ's true gospel—His MESSAGE from God of the coming KINGDOM OF GOD—had not been proclaimed to the world. It was only taught to the comparative few secretly who kept the Church of God alive through the centuries.

Gospel Restored

The original one and only true Church of God still lives! And, still persecuted, maligned, misrepresented, it is restoring the true gospel of Jesus Christ today! It is sending out that good news worldwide—as a witness for all nations, in real POWER!

And Christ's doctrine of healing the sick is also being restored. There have been multiple thousands of miraculous healings. But not, in our time, spectacular public displays of sensational miracles to attract both crowds and added persecutions. The REASONS for this, and the truth about the whole subject of healing will be made plain in this series of articles.

There have been "gospel" programs scores of them—all over the world. But, as Paul described, they have each been another gospel. Christ's MESSAGE was suppressed. Christ has been preached to the world but a different Jesus. (Be sure to read our free booklet *The Real Jesus*.)

But what about healing the sick TODAY? How is it being restored in God's Church? This important series will continue next issue and will be available later in booklet form. □

The PLAIN TRUTH July 1977

TWO PROPHETS

(Continued from page 22)

Son governing in that particular area, "and we"—hopefully you and I, glorified as born sons of God at that time—"will walk in the name of the LORD our God"—total unity—"for ever and ever," and THAT is a long time!

David will be the son of God governing all Israel. The twelve apostles will be busy with the duties of judging and governing, one each, the twelve tribes of that one nation, Israel.

Some unnamed successful overcomers will have lesser duties governing five cities or ten cities.

What will you and I be doing?

Just a Beginning

Now that we have scratched the surface, gotten the overview of the purpose of life and the Kingdom of God, we're ready for more details of that busy eternal life. "Governing" and "ruling" in the Kingdom of God are too general. Some people even say they don't want to be telling others what to do forever. They have too narrow a view of government. Life won't be just a piece of cake; sitting on a throne giving orders. Active doing in every facet of life is involved.

Next issue we'll get to some of those details, and see if you wouldn't just love to be doing at least one of those jobs forever! □

(To Be Continued)

RESURRECTION

(Continued from page 15)

What was the result of listening to Paul with readiness and open minds, digging out the source material and studying it on a daily basis? "Therefore many of them believed..." (verse 12).

You have a choice before you. You can close your mind to what you have read, cling to your own cherished concepts and shut your mind to everything except your own preconceived ideas. Or you can be objective and open-minded about this new knowledge, and use these articles as a springboard to more and more truth.

The choice is yours. No one else can make up your mind for you.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ of Nazareth is a fact of history. Your Bible proves it. Sound logic and plain admission of concrete evidence prove it! Without it there would have been no Holy Spirit from heaven; no New Testament of the Bible. All history would have been written differently.

Without it you cannot be saved. Without it there would have been no Church; there would have never been a single real Christian.

It is a prelude to another great event in history soon to come. Jesus Christ is going to stand on this earth once again. He will rule it with a rod of iron. Think of it! The heavens splitting with a rock-breaking, earth-quaking roar! Streaming, blinding, brilliant flashes of light revealing the descending King of kings, followed by vast numbers of His angels, as far as the eye can see.

Will you be ready to meet Him? □

Death takes all the fun out of life.

No one likes to think about his own death. We'd like to postpone it forever. The apostle Paul called death man's enemy—"the last enemy that shall be destroyed." Everyone hopes for some kind of afterlife. For an explanation of what the Bible says on the subject, request the free booklet, *After Death, Then What?* Just return the coupon on the back cover.





GARNER TED ARMSTRONG congratulates his father, Herbert W. Armstrong, and his new bride, the former Ramona Martin, after performing the wedding ceremony (left). The wedding took place among a small group of family and friends in Tucson, Arizona. A joyous reception followed which included the traditional cutting of the cake (right).

Personal from...

Herbert W. Armstrong

(Continued from page 1)

one day, "everyone who knows you is convinced that GOD really chose your wife—my mother—for you, brought you together, and used you together. If you will be patient and trust God, He will choose the second wife by your side to help you carry on from here on."

But that seemed impossible. You see, by this time, this last phase of the Work had developed to the point where I was now forced to travel to all parts of the world. I was away from home 300 of the 365 days each of the last two years—and what woman could stand that grueling ordeal and travel with me? Mrs. Loma Armstrong never could have. I think not one in a hundred—whether man or woman—could. Often our flights last from 12 to 17 or more hours—with perhaps two 30-minute refueling stops—and crossing six to nine TIME ZONES. It is a killing pace.

Then, I became conscious of a woman traveling with our traveling team as Mr. Rader's assistant, who often did special missions like flying on ahead alone to Nairobi, Kenya, to make all advance arrangements for my big campaign there—a very competent woman. Our acquaintance developed. In due time I discovered that God had already done what Garner Ted said He would do—He had chosen and sent her to me. (I had nothing to do with her joining our traveling team.) As with my first courtship, it developed into ROMANCE, and deepened into real LOVE.

Now, after three weeks of married life once again after a ten-year lapse, I realize now that I have needed her all along.

What has, in a sense, amazed me is that there could, after all these years—now in the sunset of my life—be that same thrill and ecstasy, sense of romance, and visits to cloud nine again that were there in the sunrise years of life. But, then, is not a beautiful sunset in Arizona, Florida, or Iowa, usually even more beautiful than a sunrise? We are both fully mature now, whereas at

25 we were at the beginning years of maturity. But the beauty of pure, God-given LOVE is fully there.

God did not intend earthly human life to be merely childhood play and fun followed by a brief period on that high cloud of early romance in the first few years of marriage, then a settling down to life's work, raising a family, and nothing from there on but serious work, problems, troubles, sorrows, and too often years of lonely widow- or widowerhood—eking out an existence, looking forward to nothing but relief from it all by death.

One of the most pitiful sights that I have ever had the misfortune to see was a few blocks of second rate hotels for elderly and retired people in one of America's cities. Sitting on the front verandas were elderly people just enduring life until death released them from it. They looked so terribly unhappy, frustrated, hopeless. In calendar years, I am sure most of them were younger than I—probably in their sixties or seventies.

Most of those still had their marital mates, but life was not fun any longer. Undoubtedly they had long



MR. HERBERT ARMSTRONG shares his exuberance after the wedding with Dr. Robert L. Kuhn (center), Larry Neff, Worldwide Church of God minister in Tucson, and Garner Ted Armstrong. At right, the newlyweds pose in the kitchen with Stanley R. Rader, who frequently accompanies Mr. Armstrong on his many travels around the world.

since let sex dry up and die out, whereas God, the loving Creator, intended sex to supply spice and active love and even to increase vitality and the spark of life, as long as we live even into the eighties and nineties as long as we are still physically active. And ten times as many of us would be, if we took care of our health, learned to eat natural health foods and correct diets, remained careful and diligent about elimination all our lives, and got the proper amount of exercise, especially walking in the later years. About 99 percent of us grow old before our time.

Life could be so much more enjoyable and beautiful than it is, if mankind had not cut itself off from our Creator and our God and His LAWS and WAYS.

I have been referring primarily to elderly married couples, still living together.

But what of the tragedy in the United States where more than HALF of all the population past 55 is now SINGLE living ALONE through widowhood, widowerhood or divorce??

One of the cruellest ways that

Satan has deceived this world is in regard to sex life. The world is getting away from the old dictum emanating from the church that sex is evil, shameful and wrong. But it is leaping from the frying pan into the fire and going into promiscuity.

GOD created sex. He made us male and female, and all He designed and made was "VERY GOOD" (Gen. 1:31), not "VERY BAD." The really important sex organs that God designed and created supply the hormones that make a woman feminine with feminine VITALITY and charm and active personality and which make a man actively and vitally male.

We used to think that all the OTHER systems in the physical body—the digestive system, the eliminative, the respiratory, the nervous, the circulatory systems—were meant to keep us alive and vital in this life, but that the reproductive system was meant only to bring forth the future generations and had nothing to do with our own physical well-being now. Satan has never foisted a greater lie on a deceived world. A well-regulated and normal sex life between husband and wife

originates in the very vital organs that keep a man actively and vitally MALE, and his wife actively and vitally FEMALE, exuding charm, fascinating personality, thus giving happiness to others.

Those elderly married couples who maintain a normal sexual-love relationship live some ten years longer than the average oldster, either married, and sexually inactive, or those living single.

Why do so many know so little about how to live?

Sex normally is not more than about 15 percent of married life; companionship 80 or 85 percent. But in the full, ABUNDANT life that's 100 percent, and the 15 percent helps and adds to the 85 percent.

Yes, it has been an eye-opener to me to learn that ROMANCE can be just as thrilling, exciting, and filled with JOY and happiness in the SUNSET years as in the sunrise years, and perhaps we have a little more sense to enjoy it with.

Not only have I been happier these past three weeks, but I have worked harder and accomplished more in the wonderful Work of the living God! □

Photos by Ken Evans—The Plain Truth

update

ANWAR SADAT PRAISES REPORT ON EGYPT

Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat called Garner Ted Armstrong's reporting of Egypt's role in the Middle East situation, "objective and truthful" in a March 19 letter the president sent to Mr. Armstrong.

"It pleases me to extend to you profound appreciation for your one-hour special 'Egypt Under Sadat' which I watched lately and enjoyed very much. I also wish to state here that I enjoyed the two half-hour interviews with me and Mrs. Sadat by your colleague, Mr. Adli Muhiadi in Cairo. The way you handled Egypt's problems, human hopes and legitimate aspirations is objective and

truthful. Also, your commentaries show how you grasped your subject in a short period of time during your visit last year with us.

"I am confident that such an approach is the surest and most proper way to bring our two peoples together, and promote close cooperation between our two friendly countries for both their interest as well as for the interest of world peace and order.

"Again, I thank you very much for the successful and fruitful effort you have made, as well as for your noble sentiments toward me and the Egyptian people. I wish you every growing success and advancement."

The one-hour special was broadcast in January and February of this year in major U.S. cities. Mr. Armstrong and a television crew traveled to Egypt in March 1976 to interview the Egyptian president and first lady

EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT Anwar Sadat was interviewed by Garner Ted Armstrong last year in the Presidential palace in Cairo



Lyle Christopher - The Plain Truth

as well as report on conditions in the country.

As a result of the trip, Mr. Armstrong was invited to and attended a dinner sponsored by the Egyptian Embassy in Washington, D.C., on April 5 during Mr. Sadat's trip to the United States. Mr. Armstrong again saw Mr. Sadat, along with U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale and officials of both governments.

TV, RADIO EXPAND IN AUSTRALIA

With the addition of air time in Geraldton, Western Australia, the number of TV stations carrying the *Garner Ted Armstrong* telecast has grown to 45, announced Dean Wilson, director of the Australian Work. It is hoped that eventually 53 stations will air the program, enabling the telecast to be seen by most of the Australian populace.

In a related development, the Australian office announced that Garner Ted Armstrong's five-minute radio programs are being added to eight more stations. All eight stations will air the programs three times a week. In addition, radio time has opened up in the Solomon Islands. The program will be carried on three radio stations covering all of the Solomons, parts of New Guinea and even a portion of Australia.

PLAIN TRUTH ON CARIBBEAN AIRLINE

About 200 copies of *The Plain Truth* magazine are being supplied each week for the in-flight library of the British West Indian Airway (BWIA).

The airline makes about 20 flights a week to London, Toronto, New York, Miami, and Georgetown, Guyana from the West Indies. □

Warning! Tobacco...

(Continued from page 26)

U.S. and banned the advertising of cigarettes on TV. Tobacco companies in a growing number of countries are required to print health warnings on packages and in ads.

In the United States, nonsmokers are pushing for a bill of rights to greatly restrict public smoking. Norway is engaged in an antismoking campaign banning the advertising of all tobacco products in newspapers and magazines as well as by the electronic media. Shopkeepers can't even display their tobacco wares in the windows. And Sweden has undertaken the ambitious goal of eradicating smoking in a generation through an education program.

At the Third Conference on Smoking and Health in 1975, Sir George E. Godber of Britain, chairman of the expert Committee on Smoking and Health of the World Health Association, advocated the effort to by and large eliminate cigarette smoking by the end of this century.

"We may not have eliminated cigarette smoking completely by the end of this century," he said, "but we ought to have reached a position where relatively few addicts still use cigarettes, but only in private, at most in the company of consenting adults."

Despite the progress made in some countries, it would seem that cigarette smoking is here to stay for quite some time. As was pointed out earlier, no culture that has ever been introduced to tobacco has been able to kick the habit. Even while envisioning a relatively smoke-free twenty-first century, Dr. Godber conceded that to date "most countries have pursued their action in desultory fashion, have achieved only limited progress... [and] have lost in some other directions."

Slow Suicide

And so clouds of tobacco smoke continue to foul the air of smoker and nonsmoker alike. And the grim death toll continues to mount. In the time it has taken you to read this brief article, at least 60 people have

died prematurely because of tobacco.

And in most cases, their deaths were the denouement of a prolonged decline in health and well-being. Tobacco is cruel in that it kills slowly by means of such afflictions as cancer and emphysema. "Nothing kills as slowly and painfully as the cigarette," said Dr. Hollis S. Ingraham, onetime Commissioner of Health for New York State.

"I was married to a chain-smoker for 50 years and 11 days when he expired at 79 years old," said one widow. "He had smoked one and a half packs a day for 60 years. He had so many illnesses... He quit several times and started again. The last time was when he was told he had emphysema. He lived six more years but needed medication and oxygen all the time... I suffered watching him commit suicide because of cigarettes."

Are you committing slow suicide with your tobacco habit? What are you going to do about it? □

DRUGS: the good, the bad, and the deadly

From booze to hash, from caffeine to heroin, mind-altering drugs have become a way of life. Nearly everyone needs a "fix"—for pleasure, for escape, or just to keep going. If you'd like to know more about drug use, its benefits and dangers, write for *The Dilemma of Drugs*. It's free—just return the coupon on the back cover.

DRUGS



GRADUATES

(Continued from page 27)

jobs sometimes turn inside out within five to ten years. Those with a liberal education are capable of adapting a seemingly unrelated combination of talents to a constantly evolving job description.

Knowing what employers are looking for in positive strengths can be very helpful to a prospective employee. It might also be useful to examine some of the shortcomings reported by employers as well. Dr. Endicott, surveying 182 companies employing college graduates, listed the following shortcomings mentioned by employers:

1) Overemphasis on management positions. Expect too much too soon. Reluctant to accept routine training assignments. Unaware of competition for advancement in industry (68 companies).

2) Unrealistic idea of what is expected in business. Inadequate understanding of business (48 companies).

3) Lack of ability to write clearly and concisely. Poor writing skill (46 companies).

4) Poor oral expression. Inability to speak effectively (45 companies).

5) Lack of specific goals. Failure to determine career goals. Failure to investigate possible fields of work. Unaware of opportunities in business (23 companies).

6) Overemphasis on degree. Failure to recognize the value of experience and on-the-job training (19 companies).

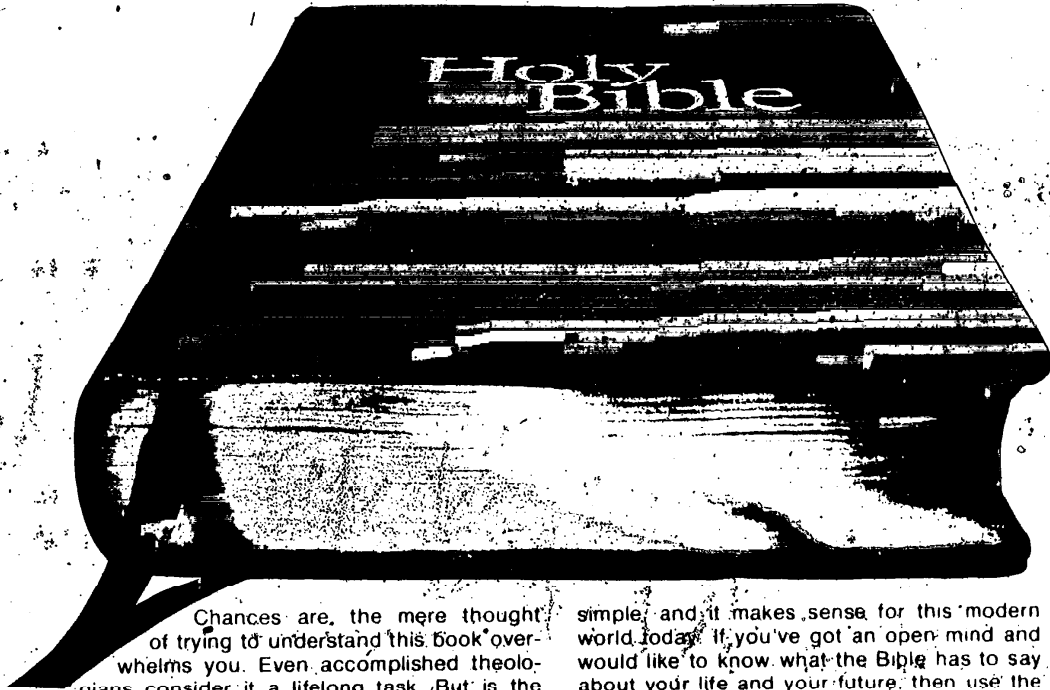
7) Immaturity. Poor social adjustment (16 companies).

Whether you are seeking a position or are comfortably established, by recognizing what employers want—as well as what they do not want—you can build, strengthen and maintain a solid, cordial relationship with your employer. □

RECOMMENDED READING

For more on how you can become a more valuable employee and a success in other areas of life as well, write for the free booklet *The Seven Laws of Success*. Addresses are listed on the inside front cover.

Can anyone truly understand this book?



Chances are, the mere thought of trying to understand this book overwhelms you. Even accomplished theologians consider it a lifelong task. But is the Bible really all that hard to comprehend? Is it only a jumble of disconnected, conflicting passages, subject to various interpretations and largely irrelevant to the space age? Or is it a book that is truly relevant to this world today—and to your own personal private life? The Bible is not a book of mystery. It is plain and

simple, and it makes sense for this modern world today. If you've got an open mind and would like to know what the Bible has to say about your life and your future, then use the coupon below to request your free lessons of the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. Why not do it today?



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