

The Good News

International Magazine of The Church of God



**"SWANS IN FLIGHT"
— TEXAS CAMPUS**



More About Our Cover...

Five huge bronze swans rise majestically from their 120-foot pool at the main entrance of Ambassador College's Big Sandy campus. They are the work of Mr. David Wynne, prominent British sculptor and creator of the spectacular egret fountain at the Pasadena campus, and the delicate marble swans on the Bricket Wood campus. Since this beautiful color photo was not available for our feature story on the Texas campus in your last GOOD NEWS — here it is now! Read in this issue more exciting news about the development of the Big Sandy Festival site, and the upcoming Feast of Tabernacles around the world.

Ambassador College Photo

What our READERS SAY...

Envoy

Please let me thank you for the beautiful new Envoy. It's so wonderful to have the beauty of the Ambassador Colleges at your fingertips. Also, by actually studying the decorating and architecture of the campus buildings and grounds, and the fine appearance of the ministers and students, we can see what God wants us to strive for according to our means. We are so privileged to live nearby, but one can visit the campus anytime by just opening his Envoy.

Patricia M., Saugus, Calif.

Recaptures First Love

I am afraid I have been guilty of taking the quality of the training we have been receiving through "the Work" for granted, but now after seeing the college for the first time, the TV program for the first time, receiving the Envoy, seeing another church area for the first time, I am overwhelmed and am stirred with the love I had when I was first baptized. God is a very merciful God and a loving Father, and I thank you for helping to open my mind and heart.

Mrs. Andrew B., Bakersfield, Calif.

Tomorrow's World

First I would like to thank Mr. Herbert Armstrong for his lead article in the March-April TOMORROW'S WORLD — "Christians Have Lost Their Power." He made a most profound statement (in my opinion and judging by its effect on my attitude) at the bottom of the first column of page 7. I want to thank him and God for showing us that God is no respecter of persons, not only concerning punishment, but also blessing — and obviously the latter more eagerly. This one article (and particularly this one major point) has helped me to begin to pull out of a spiritual tailspin — the worst I have ever had in the 2 1/2 years I have been attending God's Church.

Charles F. M., Dayton, Ohio

Financial Blessings

I just wanted to tell you about a recent financial blessing. During the crisis in

God's Work in early April, I decided to send an offering of \$500.00 (\$450 at once, and \$50 the following week). On the day following (on which I sent in the first part — \$450) I found that an old insurance policy, which I almost threw away, and had been informed by the insurance company to have little if any value at all, turned out to be worth \$2,500.00. I never expected anything like that to happen. It all goes to show that God pays the greatest rate of interest, in more ways than one, when we invest in His Work. I don't think we receive financial blessings, though, if we were to give with an attitude of expecting to receive immediate blessings. I do know that if we patiently wait on God, and remain faithful, His blessings will come — not merely in a financial way, but in many other ways as well. I have been a widow since last September. The greatest blessing of all that I have is just to be a member of God's Church, and to have a part in the greatest Work on earth.

Mrs. Janet L., Savannah, Ga.

Healed of Severe Infection

I received the July Co-worker letter today. The question was asked if I believed in answered prayer. Well, for the past eleven months I was plagued with a severe inner ear infection. It was so bad, at one point I had to hold onto furniture to get from room to room. This illness not only affected my balance, but also my vision, and I was constantly nauseated. Because of my ignorance concerning divine healing, I never did go as far as being anointed until about two months ago.

Almost immediately after I was anointed, the nausea and double vision cleared up, my strength returned and I no longer felt so tired. I could work 8 hours again without a rest. And now you ask, do I believe in answered prayer? What do you think? As I look back, I wonder why I waited so long. It was as if that knowledge was being kept from me for perhaps some purpose. I'm still not completely healed, but I know I will be. I'll

(Continued on page 20)

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EDITOR

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Garner Ted Armstrong

MANAGING EDITOR

David Jon Hill

SENIOR EDITORS

Roderick C. Meredith

Albert J. Portune

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John R. Schroeder

Terry Warren

BUSINESS MANAGER

Albert J. Portune

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS to the Editor,
P. O. Box 111, Pasadena, California 91109.

Canadian members should address P. O. Box
44, Station A, Vancouver 1, B. C., Canada.

Our members in United Kingdom, Europe, and
Africa should address the Editor, P. O. Box 111,
St. Albans, Herts., England.

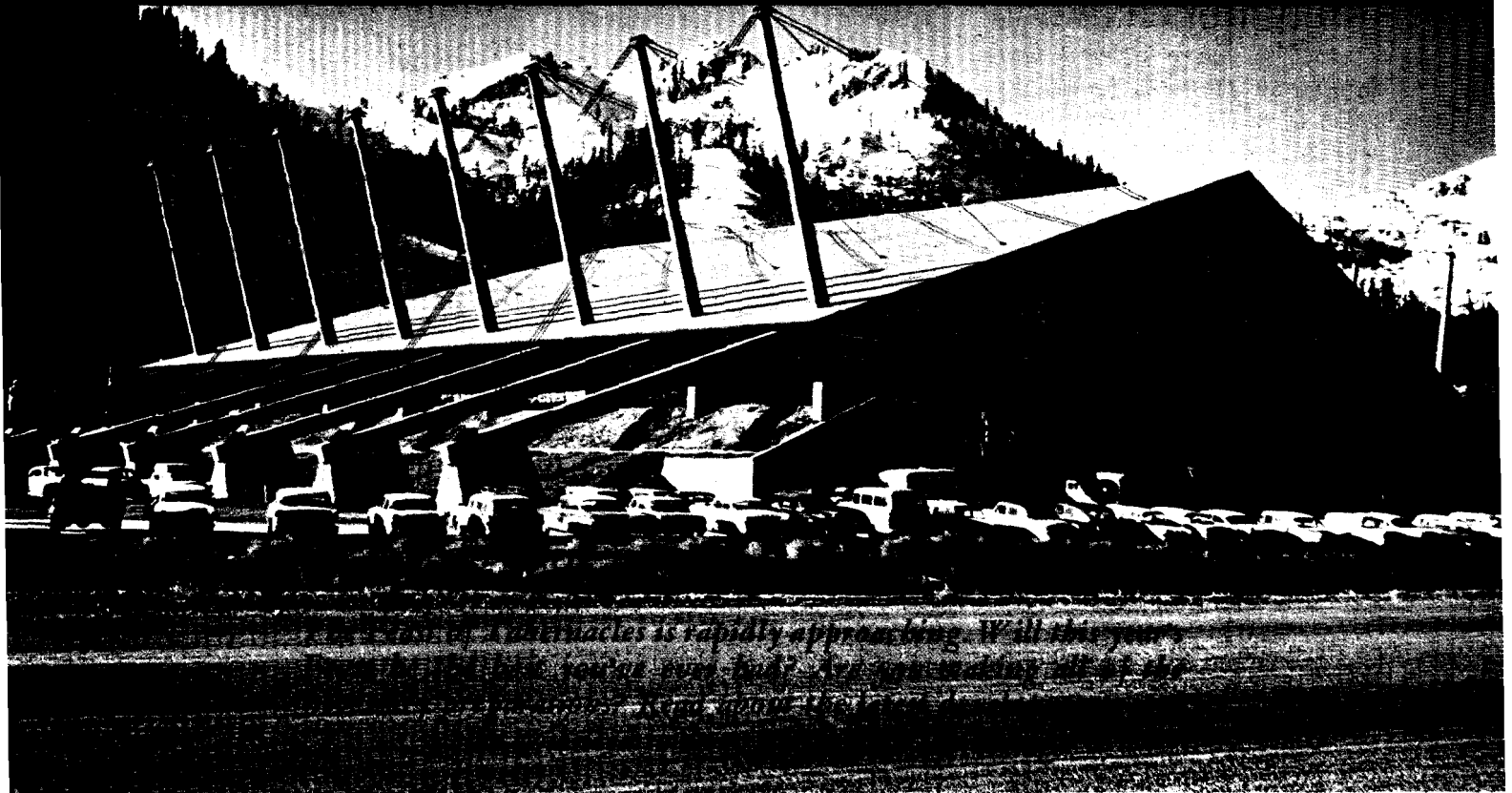
South Africa: P. O. Box 1060, Johannesburg,
Transvaal, R. S. A.

Members in Australia and Southeast Asia should
address the Editor, P. O. Box 345, North
Sydney, NSW 2060, Australia.

In the Philippines, P. O. Box 1111, Makati,
Rizal D-708.

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FEAST OF TABERNACLES



THE 1970 Feast of Tabernacles is shaping up to be the greatest Feast ever observed by the Philadelphia era of God's Church. Multiple thousands of man-hours have gone into the planning and administration of 18 Feast sites *around the world!*

This year's Feast portends a number of exciting changes which should greatly add to the overall inspiration of the Festival season.

Eight Feast Sites in Eight Days!

First of all, brethren in eight different Feast sites in four nations will have the opportunity to hear from Mr. Herbert Armstrong. Accompanying Mr. Armstrong on his "whirlwind tour" will be Mr. Albert J. Portune, Vice-President of Financial Affairs and Planning, who will give a report on the financial state of the Work at each Feast site.

Mr. Armstrong will begin the Feast in Praz-sur-Arly, France. This beautiful Alpine town will be the eight-day home for members from France, Switzerland

and the United States. Coming over from the States to serve during the entire Feast will be Mr. Dibar Apartian, Director of God's Work in France, and voice of *The WORLD TOMORROW* in French. Accompanying him will be several members of the Pasadena French Department staff.

Next, Mr. Armstrong plans to spend the second day of the Feast with those assembled at Minehead, England. Traveling to Minehead from the United States will be Mr. Bill McDowell and family. Mr. McDowell was formerly District Superintendent of the Chicago area and has, beginning with this semester, been added to the faculty at the Big Sandy campus. The welcomed trip to England will be a first for the McDowell family.

Coming to Minehead from Germany once more will be staff members from the Bonn-Düsseldorf offices. Our English brethren are eager to host their many friends from Germany, Holland and all

who can make it from the many parts of Europe, the Middle East, and Atlantic Isles.

After his stop at Minehead, Mr. Herbert Armstrong will fly directly to the United States to visit the Feast sites at Mt. Pocono, Jekyll Island, Big Sandy, Lake of the Ozarks, Squaw Valley, and then spend the Last Great Day following the Feast of Tabernacles at Penticton, British Columbia, Canada.

This special opportunity for so many of the brethren to hear from Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Portune personally will be made possible by the use of Ambassador College's new Gulf Stream II jet plane. The G-2 (as it is called) has a much greater range than the Falcon, and provides additional space for Mr. Armstrong to write articles and do other work as he is traveling.

Mr. Armstrong's current trip *around the world*, which includes conferences with the top leaders in several Asian countries, could well provide some

exciting announcements at the Feast! Such a trip would be very strenuous were it not for the new G-2. The top officials in God's Work are now able to carry out their responsibilities much more effectively and efficiently than ever before because of the G-2 and Falcon jets.

This year Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong will also be traveling to all the Feast sites in the United States and Canada, using the Falcon jet. And so brethren at these sites will receive the *double blessing* of hearing both of the Armstrongs.

The Feast Around the World

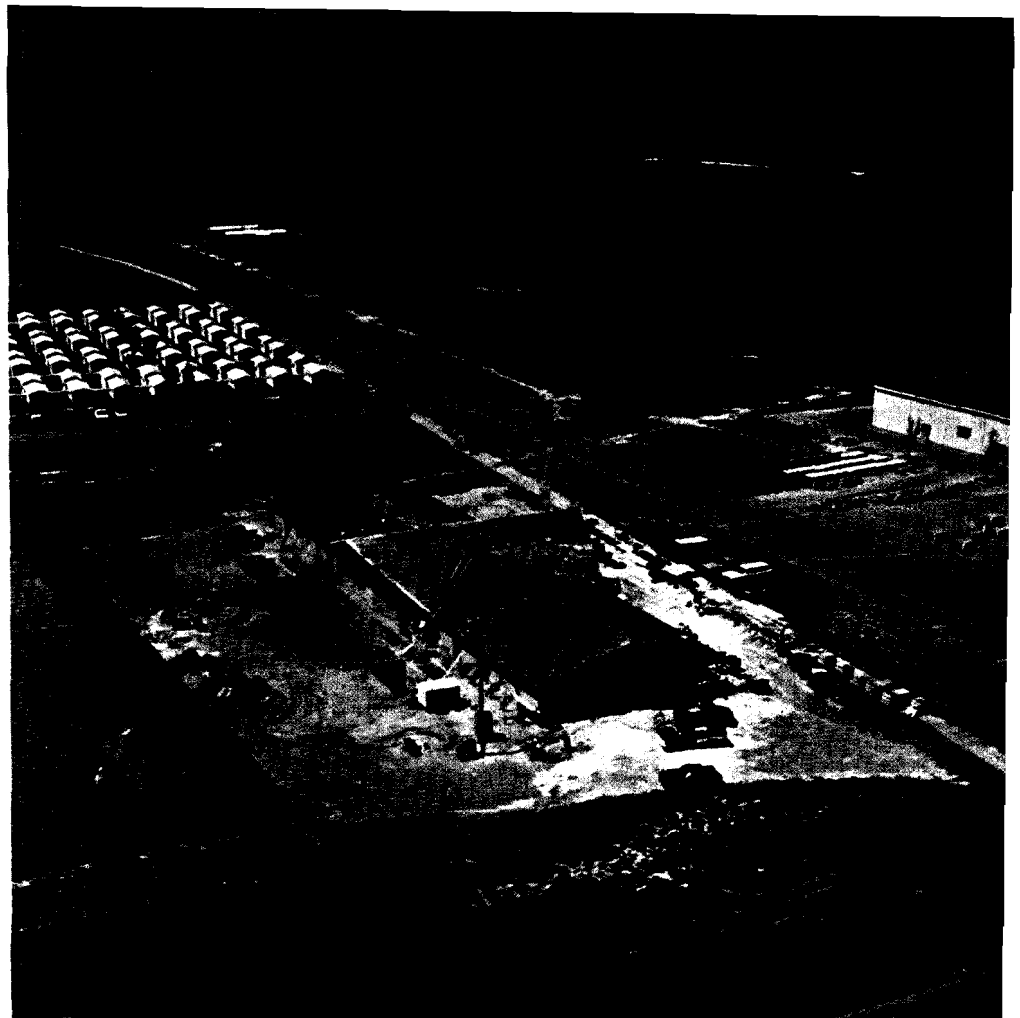
Other preparations for the coming Feast are well under way around the world. The English-speaking brethren in the Eastern Caribbean area will again assemble for services on the Island of Barbados. From Guiana to the Virgin Islands, God's people in this region will join Mr. Clarence Bass in observing a happy Festival season.

For those who speak French in the Caribbean, Mr. Louis Jubert will conduct 1970 Festival services at Fort De France, Martinique. He will be assisted this year by Mr. Gilbert Carbonnel, who has been transferred from the Paris church area to assist Mr. Jubert.

The New Zealand brethren will observe the Feast again this year at Lake Taupo. Services and activities there will be led by Mr. Graemme Marshall, director of the Auckland Office.

Meanwhile, Mr. Charles Hunting, Vice-President for Financial Affairs in Europe and the Middle East, will fly down to Australia from Bricket Wood to conduct the Festival at Blackheath. He will be greeted by some 3,000 happy Festival-goers. Three hundred additional brethren will rejoice in God's Holy Days with Mr. Ernest Williams at Perth.

For the first time in seven years Mr. C. Wayne Cole and family will not be in attendance at the Australian Festival. He has been assigned to the Jekyll Island and Pocono areas for this year. This will allow the Coles opportunity to visit family and friends in the United States, and permit a stopover for needed



New administration building at the Big Sandy Festival site is shown nearing completion. Final touches are now being applied.

Ambassador College Photos

conferences at Pasadena following the Holy Days.

In the Philippines, the Feast will again be observed in Baguio City. Overseeing services and activities will be Mr. Colin Adair, who has just been moved from the Toronto-Kitchener area in Canada to assume management of the Manila office. He replaces Mr. Arthur Docken, who has in turn been assigned to the Pasadena campus for a year of graduate studies.

It is 9,000 miles from Big Sandy, Texas, to George, South Africa. Making that trip this year will be the Ronald Kelly family. Mr. Kelly is Dean of Students at the Big Sandy campus. While Mr. Kelly has traveled extensively throughout Europe, this will be his first opportunity to visit the "Dark Continent." He and his family are looking forward to this new experience as eagerly as the South African brethren are to greet them.

The work among the black Africans in South Africa has taken a new turn. Arrangements are being made for forty nonwhite members to assemble at a Feast site near Mossel Bay, just a few miles from the spot where the rest of the Church in George will be meeting.

Mr. Richard Ames will also be leaving Big Sandy to conduct the Feast in Alaska. Mr. Ames and Mr. Bill Gordon, who is the resident minister, will speak to about 150 of our brethren from the "land of the midnight sun." They will be observing the Feast in the spectacular beauty of the Alaskan outdoors near Anchorage.

Mr. Alfred Carozzo has been chosen to "endure great hardship, trial and tribulation" this year. In order to fulfill his "strenuous assignment" he will be "forced" to leave the smoggy, congested and noisy Los Angeles basin for the warm, sunny and peaceful Hawaiian Islands! The northeast part of the Island of Oahu will be host to some 130 of our brethren from the 50th state.

New Facilities Added at Several Feast Sites

Another fact which should heighten the enjoyment of the Feast of Tabernacles this fall is the addition of new buildings and other improvements at Feast sites around the world.

A major building is presently under construction at the Feast site in Texas. A beautiful, new and very functional administration building is having the final touches applied as you read this article. The new structure, patterned basically after the administration buildings at Mt. Pocono and the Lake of the Ozarks, is located directly south of the huge auditorium. In addition to being nearer to the camping areas, the new facility will provide an inspiring place for the members to conduct their business matters, as well as provide needed counselling and anointing rooms.

This building will probably be used more than any other Feast administration building on earth. Throughout the rest of the year it will serve as vitally needed office space for various college personnel, provide a room for the local Spokesman Club to meet, and serve as a student lounge for the Ambassador College students living in Booth City!

Sound System Changes

Brethren attending at least four of the U. S. Feast sites should be able to hear the sermons better than ever. Lake of the Ozarks, Mt. Pocono, Big Sandy, and Squaw Valley will be equipped with "central source" sound systems for this year's Festival.

The new sound systems will feature a column speaker pointed toward the podium. This additional speaker will enable the men delivering sermons and sermonettes to have a better feel of how well the audience can hear them.

Future Plans

Although the SIGNS of our times clearly show that Christ *IS coming during this present generation*, all you brethren know that God's Church does not attempt to set dates for prophetic fulfillment. As Mr. Herbert Armstrong recently said, we *could* have only a little over a year left before the Philadelphia era of God's Church is taken to a place of safety. But as he also said, there is a 50-50 chance we *may* have 5-10 more years to do the Work of God!

Since we may have more time, we *MUST continue preparing for the future*, planning ahead for anticipated growth!

As we rapidly approach the end of this age, God's Church keeps on grow-

ing. Last year 54,000 people attended the Feast of Tabernacles worldwide. This year we expect about 64,000, with 77,000 attending in 1971 and 92,000 in 1972. Such growth is phenomenal! In order to keep up with it, it is obvious that new additional Feast sites must be found and developed!

In 1971 we will have to have another Feast site developed and ready for use, another one in 1972, and another in 1973 — but at the present rate of growth, *two new sites* will have to be opened up in 1974!

Hopefully, the Wisconsin Dells will be available next year for brethren in the north central United States. Construction is rapidly moving along, and it should be ready when it is needed. However, a few difficulties have arisen.

Another Crisis Approaching

This has been a very critical year for the Work of God. Earlier in the year, the Work found itself in a very serious financial crisis. As you will recall, Mr. Herbert Armstrong had to write to all the brethren asking them to dig as deeply as possible to help pull this Work out of a very severe financial situation. At the same time he asked all of God's people to beseech God to intervene in behalf of *His* Work.

The *response* was *MIRACULOUS!*

Brethren the world over rallied to save God's Work. Thousands demonstrated that they really did have their hearts in the Work. And for some "unexplained" reason, the Co-Workers (who were oblivious to the financial crisis in the Work) also began to respond in an "unexpected" manner after the members observed a day of fasting and prayer. The crisis proved that thousands and thousands of people all over the face of this earth *ARE* behind this great end-time Work!

Now another need has arisen in God's Work. Several years ago, the burden of buying land and tents, erecting buildings, providing rest rooms and other facilities for over 50,000 people was becoming simply too great a financial burden on the Work. Mr. Herbert Armstrong saw that we could no longer finance the Feast of Tabernacles out of the *operating* expenses of the Work. Therefore, he decided to ask each

member to contribute *a tenth of his second tithe* (a "tithe of the tithe") every year for the support of the Feast of Tabernacles operation.

Since the institution of this policy, a number of beautiful buildings have been constructed for brethren at Feast sites around the world. Many thousands have been greatly blessed as a result of the tithe of the tithe.

However, this year some of you brethren have not responded as you should have. In fact, a *CRISIS* has developed in planning the Festival budget. Unless there is a response *immediately*, Festival planning for future years will be seriously jeopardized!

Most of you brethren have proven that your hearts are really in this Work! And yet some of you don't seem to feel the tithe of the tithe is really important. Surely no one is deliberately holding back his tithe of the tithe. We rather believe that it is simply a matter that some have not been brought to *full awareness* of the VITAL NEED of the tithe of the tithe!

Stop and think! How are we going to provide for the added thousands who will *soon* be attending the Feast unless we can plan, finance and build *new* Festival buildings, parking lots and other facilities *NOW*?

How Will You Respond?

How are we going to answer Jesus Christ if we have to *cancel* the new Feast site proposed for next year? Where would those thousands of brethren be able to *keep* the Feast? There simply would be no room at the *other* sites!

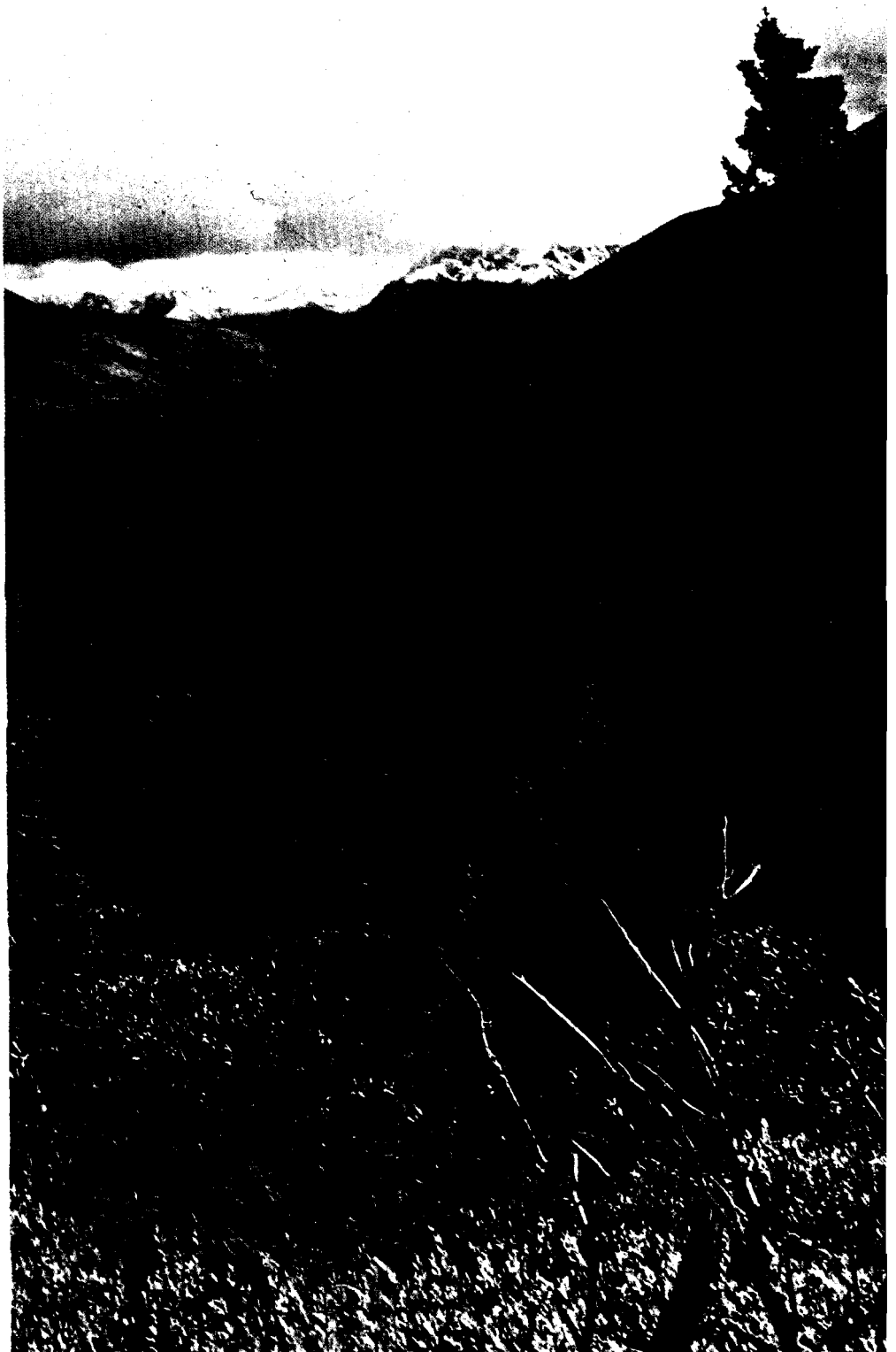
Remember, the Feast of Tabernacles *pictures* the very period of time when Jesus will return to this earth and rule it for a thousand years! What a terrible indictment to have to answer if we're guilty of letting down now, so that thousands might have to be turned away simply because of the lack of facilities due to the fact that *some* brethren haven't taken their responsibility *seriously*!

If you haven't responded yet — *please do so immediately!*

God knows that we have all contributed very heavily this year. However, the tithe of the tithe donation comes

ALASKAN FEAST SITE AREA

Ambassador College Photo



from second tithe, which you should have already saved. This should in no way affect your operating expenses. To determine the correct amount of tithe to send in, simply calculate how much second tithe you'll have by Feast of Tabernacles time and send in *ten percent* of the figure to Headquarters *right now*, designating it as "tithe of the tithe."

Most will be able to calculate almost exactly what the figure will be. However, in a few isolated cases, some may not be able to properly arrive at a figure because of loss of work or other extenuating circumstances. In such cases you should discuss the matter with your local minister and ask him to give you some guidelines.

The important thing is to RESPOND if you have not done so already!

The Feast of Tabernacles is a wonderful time of the year. It's time for rejoicing, close spiritual fellowship, spiritual nourishment — a time which pictures the WORLD TOMORROW! Make sure *you* keep the Feast with a "clear conscience" — knowing that you've done your part, physically and spiritually.

Seek God's Abundant Blessing

Every year we remind all you brethren to pray for God's blessing and protection over the Feast sites and all of the people attending. This year is no exception. More people than ever will be keeping the 1970 Feast of Tabernacles.

Remember all those who are traveling — especially Mr. Herbert Armstrong and Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong, both of whom will be traveling more than anyone else. Pray for their *safety and health* through the entire eight days of the Festival, remembering their heavy load of speaking, counselling, directing and overseeing the *whole* Festival.

And don't forget the weather! Remember the thousands who will be camping. In past years strong winds, heavy rainfalls, hurricanes and snowstorms have at times threatened to play havoc with various Festival areas. *Pray* that God will cause beautiful, pleasant, clear weather at *all* Feast sites! And if He should allow some bad weather to

test our attitudes, *don't grumble* because of it. Rejoice just the same!

Satan the devil would relish wrecking the Feast of Tabernacles for as many people as possible. He may try to do it through adverse weather or whatever means he can dream up. He may even try to stir up persecutors of God's Church to cause trouble. Be vigilant! Ask God to *restrain* Satan! Ask Him to intervene to PROTECT His people and His Work! Ask Him to make the Feast a spiritual BLESSING to *all* who attend!

While at the Feast, many of you will probably really have to strive to find a private place to pray. Don't let circumstances rule your life. Work out an arrangement with your wife or roommate about a place to pray. Don't allow the Feast to become a time when your prayer and study drop off!

Develop an Attitude of Cooperation

Come to the 1970 Feast of Tabernacles with a spirit of cooperation. Decide ahead of time not to let *anything* "get you down." Forget petty grievances! Refuse to get in a bad attitude if a traffic director or assistant deacon gives you a *seemingly* ridiculous direction.

Try to serve as much as you can. Have the spirit of service. Do your best to make the Feast as enjoyable as possible for as many brethren as you are able.

A Few Words of Caution

In order to really REJOICE before God and to ENJOY the Feast of Tabernacles as God intended, please be careful to *use common sense* at all times before, during, and after the Feast.

Each year some of God's people have troubles on the road to and from the Feast. Each year it seems somebody *needlessly* gets hurt or killed in a traffic accident. Be SURE to drive carefully. Don't take any chances. Always be alert and watchful — *vigilant!* DRIVE DEFENSIVELY! Never trust the other driver to do what *you* would normally do in a situation — he may *not* do the logical thing. If you're careful, courteous, and considerate in your driving and as you walk across a street, you can AVOID becoming a "statistic." □

Also, each year there is a certain amount of sickness at the Feast. Be sure to do your utmost to GUARD YOUR HEALTH and that of your family by *preparing properly* for the Feast. Get plenty of rest, sleep, and eat right. When the Feast comes, don't allow yourself or your children to suddenly CHANGE eating habits — to suddenly begin stuffing yourselves with starches, pastries, fatty foods, or rich desserts. Use common sense — use wisdom — BE BALANCED! DON'T OVERDO! Strive to stay *healthy* at the Feast this year. You will enjoy the whole Festival much more if you do. And you'll make it much more enjoyable for others!

A Final Word About Second Tithe

Many in past years have literally "blown" their second tithe in a wasteful attempt to "get rid" of excess second tithe. True, second tithe is for YOU to spend, and to enjoy. No question about that!

But if you have more than you can properly use, remember those who are less fortunate. God shows in Deuteronomy 16 that we have a *responsibility* toward the Levite, fatherless, widow, and stranger.

If you can see you will have more than enough second tithe for your needs — even after sending in your "tithe of the tithe" — *send in your excess to Headquarters*. By acting now you may enable someone to keep the Feast who would otherwise not be able to.

It certainly behooves us to take full advantage of this year's Feast. Are you preparing so you will be assured the 1970 Feast will be the best ever for *you*? Are you *planning ahead*? Have you been FAITHFUL in saving your tithes so you will have the physical means to attend this vital Festival?

And most important — are your *prayers* behind the Feast of Tabernacles?

Brethren, this Feast of Tabernacles should be the GREATEST FEAST EVER! There is no reason why it cannot be. But it is up to *you* to make it that way!

We hope and pray that you will follow instructions carefully — and that you will experience the most abundant, joyful, *happy* Feast of Tabernacles you ever thought possible!!! □



Lessons **THE**

Life was meant to be full of trials, tests and temptations — all intended to be the means of building beautiful, God-like character in man. Isaiah, Elihu and Paul all used the analogy of the potter and the clay. Jeremiah was advised to go to the potter's house to learn how God works with men to mold them in His spiritual image. In this article these important principles are clearly and interestingly explained.

by Raymond F. McNair

MANY OF YOU have experienced — or are experiencing — severe trials and tests. Unfortunately, some buckle under the pressure, instead of learning the vital lessons these trials are intended to teach us — lessons which are absolutely essential for a growing Son of God!

We all want to endure and conquer trials and temptations. But in order to do so, you must *understand why* your Creator designed your life to be “a seemingly unending multiplicity” of **PROBLEMS**.

God's Great Design

Sir Winston Churchill, speaking before the U. S. Senate in Washington on December 26th, 1941, said: “He

Ambassador College Photo

A master potter carefully examines choice weathered clay — fermented and ready to be used.

from...

MASTER POTTER

must indeed have a blind soul who cannot see that some GREAT PURPOSE AND DESIGN is being worked out here below of which we have the honour to be faithful servants."

What is the "great purpose and design" which God Almighty is working out "here below" on this good earth?

We in God's Church are the privileged few who really know precisely what that purpose is: GOD IS REPRODUCING HIMSELF! Man was *designed* to be born into the divine Family.

But man was *created* as a mere "CLAY MODEL" — a weak, transient, fallible creature who must be molded into the proper spiritual shape so that he can eventually become a member of God's Family.

The Potter and the Clay

The prophet Isaiah understood man was merely a "clay model" — to be formed and fashioned by the hand of his Creator. "O Lord, thou art our father; we are the CLAY, and thou our POTTER; and we all are the work of thy hand" (Isa. 64:8). The Apostle Paul uses the same imagery or symbolism of *the potter and the clay* in Romans 9:21-23.

God compares Himself to the MASTER POTTER. And *all* mankind is likened to CLAY. "I also am formed out of the clay," said Job's friend, Elihu (Job 33:6). Yes, man is made out of clay — we are just *the clay model* which God created for the specific purpose of molding into the image of His perfect character!

The Potter's Amazing Wheel

A few years ago I had the interesting experience of seeing a potter at work

with a *potter's wheel* near Luxor, Egypt. It was truly fascinating to watch the skillful Egyptian potter at work.

He would take a lump of moist clay and put it upon his potter's wheel, which he kept turning with his foot. Within only a matter of seconds, the lump of clay would, as if by a miracle, quickly take the shape of a cup, a jug, an earthen pot, or a vessel of some sort. The old Egyptian potter kept some *water* within easy reach and would, from time to time, put a little more water on the lump of clay to make it more malleable.

Millenniums ago, the prophet Jeremiah was told to "go down to the potter's house" in order to learn a similar lesson (see Jer. 18:1, 2). "Then I went down," says Jeremiah, "to the *potter's house*, and, behold, he wrought a work on the *wheels*. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it. Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying, O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the *clay* is in the *potter's hand*, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel" (Jer. 18:3-6).

It is interesting to note that a potter has to keep the lump of clay *on dead center* of his potter's wheel — otherwise the lump of clay will begin to *wobble*, and this will cause the vessel to have an uneven or irregular shape instead of being perfectly round.

So it is with the Master Potter and us. He has to keep us *on dead center of His Way*, or we will begin to "wobble" and develop "spiritual irregularities" — imperfect, marred *spiritual character*. God must continually nudge us — or

shove us — back to dead center as we continually veer to the right or to the left!

Before we can really understand the marvellous lessons to be learned from the potter-and-the-clay illustration given by Isaiah, we need to examine briefly some of the important, interesting and valuable steps in making pottery. This will enable you to see just *how* the great Master Potter deals with *you* — His "clay models."

Seven Vital Steps

For years I have known one of Britain's foremost pottery sculptors. He has, on numerous occasions, explained to me some of the fascinating aspects of his art.

There are *seven important steps* in pottery making. First, let us briefly examine these seven steps. Then we shall draw the crucial *spiritual analogy* — how God actually develops *spiritual character* within the lives of the "clay models" with whom He is directly dealing.

(1) The master potter must first SELECT the type of clay which he wants to use in making a specific piece of pottery. There are many types and colors of clays — each with its own particular advantages.

(2) The potter then lets this clay age, weather, or ferment — *until it "STINKS"* and is therefore ready for use.

(3) Next, the potter WEDGES — kneads, beats, treads upon or pummels — the clay to remove *lumps*, air *bubbles*, etc., and to make it more pliable.

(4) The potter is then ready to begin actually *shaping* and *forming* the clay into whatever shape or design he has chosen. Throughout this process it is



Ambassador College Photo

A suitable type and color of clay is carefully selected in making a specific piece of pottery.

necessary to add WATER or OIL to keep the clay malleable.

(5) Once the potter has shaped the clay, he then puts it into a furnace (or kiln) where it is heated until it reaches its "maturing point." This initial BAKING, or FIRING in the furnace, *permanently sets* or *hardens* the vessel in its desired form so that it can *never* be altered.

(6) After the first firing of the clay model, it is removed from the fire, let cool, DECORATED and finally *glazed* over. This newly-glazed pottery is then given a *second* firing to bake these decorations onto the clay model. (There are often several *decorations* and *firings* before the pottery vessel reaches its ultimate perfection of beauty. The FINAL DECORATIVE WORK may include fine *gold*, *silver* or other beautiful and precious metals arrayed in artistic patterns.)

(7) Finally the potter is ready to JUDGE his work. If the clay model hasn't cracked, exploded or become marred in some way during these firings,

it is at last ready to be used in whatever manner the designer and creator may decide.

The Crucial Analogy

Now let us understand the *spiritual application* of these seven vital steps in pottery making. We will thus acquire a much deeper comprehension of exactly *how* the Great Master Potter deals with us mortal "clay models."

Remember this is *God's* analogy — *not mine!*

FIRST: God Must Choose Us

Choosing the clay.

Just as the potter chooses the type and color of clay which he will use, so God chooses the individuals which He will use.

Different kinds of clays obviously have different properties. Some are *more malleable* than others. Some are better for one type of work and some for another. Likewise with different human beings. The *potter* must decide which color and type of clay he will use — *before* he begins his work.

By looking at the illustration of the potter and the clay, we first learn (draw the parallel) that *God must always choose us*. We *never* choose Him — any more than the clay chooses the potter who will shape and mold it.

Christ said to His own disciples: "*Ye have not chosen me*, but I have chosen you, and ordained you..." (John 15:16). He also told the disciples, "*No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him*" (John 6:44, 65).

The Bible clearly shows that it is *God* who calls and chooses us — *not we* who choose Him. "The Lord is . . . not willing that *any* should perish, but that *all* should come to *repentance*" (II Peter 3:9; I Tim. 2:4). Certainly, no one can say that it is God's will that all mankind must hear and receive the truth during *this age*. Many have never heard the name of *Christ*, have never seen a *Bible*, and don't have "a ghost of a chance" to be converted and receive true salvation during this life.

Notice how God predestined or purposed certain things even before Esau and Jacob were born. "(For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the *purpose of God* according to *election* might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) It was said unto her [Rebecca], The elder [Esau] shall serve the younger [Jacob]" (Rom. 9:11, 12).

Paul then goes on to show that it is *God* who decides what He will do with *His* creatures — the "clay models" *He* has created! "So then it is not of *him that willeth*, nor of *him that runneth*, but of God that sheweth mercy" (verse 16). Finally Paul asks this question: "Hath not the POTTER [God] power over the *clay* [mankind], of the same lump to make one vessel unto *honour*, and another unto *dishonour*?" (Verse 21.)

All right — God has *chosen* you. But why? Many in God's Church often ask this question: "Why has God chosen *me*? What have I done?" The answer is *not* what you *have* done, but what you *will* do; because you have been chosen for a *specific* purpose. Our God does

not choose at random. Our God does not play roulette! *You* have been called and chosen for a particular level of responsibility and some very specific jobs in God's Work today, in God's Government tomorrow, and in God's Family for all eternity!!

SECOND: Our Stinking Sins

Weathering the clay.

After a potter selects the clay he wishes to use, he must then let the clay weather, age, ferment, *sour* — and it often literally "*stinks*."

"Aging the clay — that is, keeping it moist in a container for several months — makes it better to work with. (Don't worry if your clay begins to *smell bad* — that's really a good sign.) Sometimes inoculating a fresh batch of clay with some of an old batch promotes the growth of *bacteria* and so helps *plasticity*" (*The Complete Book of Pottery Making*, John B. Kenny).

Also notice how Bernard Leach describes this same important aging process in *A Potter's Book*: "Clay is improved by long storage; it gains in plasticity, its decomposition continues, it changes colour, and may even begin to STINK. I have been told of old potters who speak of such matured, or *soured* clay with the quiet impressiveness of epicures discussing *vintage* wines." The author then states: "The storage of plastic clay over long periods *increases its plasticity* by combining the *water* more intimately with the clay, and also by continuing the process of *decomposition* whereby the pure clay content is increased. Some clays alter their colour and *give off a bad smell*."

It is commonly known among potters that clay which matures — which has literally come to "stink" — is *more malleable* than unmaturing clay.

What lesson are we to draw from this?

Simply this. God cannot really *begin* to deal with us — cannot begin to *convert* (change) us and bring us to the place of *true repentance* — until we have come to "stink" in our own eyes!

Many scriptures show that our sins are a continuous *stench* in the nostrils

of God. "But we are all as an *unclean* thing, and all our righteousnesses are as *filthy rags*..." (Isa. 64:6-8).

But it is impossible for the carnal mind to see itself as it *really* is. Therefore God cannot begin to use *us* until *we* come to see ourselves as *we* really are — self-centered sinners, wholly antagonistic to God's Law, deceitful above all things.

Until we come to see that we have sinned grievously against the Great God of Heaven, and acknowledge that we are *stinking* and *foul* in His sight — then we can't possibly even *begin* to *repent* and approach God.

Christ summed it up: "For I am not come to call the [self-] righteous, but *sinners* to repentance" (Matt. 9:13).

A most difficult human being to bring to true repentance was Job — because *he* THOUGHT *he* was RIGHTEOUS — he thought he was *pretty good* in God's sight. Notice Job's self-righteous attitude: "Thou [God] knowest that *I am not wicked*" (Job 10:7). "*My righteousness* I hold fast, and will not let it

go: my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live" (Job 27:6).

It was difficult for God to get Job to see that he *stank* — to see that he was entirely *wretched* in the eyes of his Creator. Why? Because "*Job... was righteous in his own eyes*" (Job 32:1).

But eventually, God really did get through — Job was finally whittled down to size. *Then* Job repented: "Wherefore I *ABHOR myself*, and *repent* in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6).

Many profess to be true Christians, but are still *wallowing around in their own SELF-RIGHTEOUS filth*! God cannot really begin to shape and mold beautiful *spiritual character* in such individuals — not *until* they come to see that their whole being is *rotten* and *stinking* in their Creator's eyes.

THIRD: Why Beat Clay?

Wedging the clay.

Before the clay is ready for use it must be *beaten* and *pummelled* — "*bashed around a bit*" — to help remove any AIR POCKETS and also to break up the HARD LUMPS in the

Wedging — beating — the clay to remove lumps and air bubbles is one step in the process of producing a work of art.

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Shaping and molding the clay is the next step.

clay. This makes the clay more plastic — and consequently more easily shaped.

What is the significance of this WEDGING of the clay?

God has to *rebuke* and *chasten* us — He has to subject us to some tough and unpleasant circumstances before we will really repent. This is precisely what God did with self-righteous Job. God allowed Satan to take away *all* of Job's physical *possessions*, and to destroy the lives of *all his children*. Then He let Satan *afflict Job with grievous boils* from head to foot — all to pummel Job, to bring him to his senses, to bring him to real repentance (Job 1, 2).

Job was finally beaten and buffeted about so much through his *trials* that all the *wind of vanity* ("air pockets") and *self-righteousness* ("hard lumps") were knocked out of him. Then he could wholeheartedly repent in sackcloth and ashes.

Just as a potter cannot properly work clay which hasn't been thoroughly *wedged* (beaten and pummelled — to break up the hard lumps and to expel the air bubbles) so God can't properly work with us until we repent of our *self-righteous hardness of heart* and our *wind of vanity* — both of which puff us up and prevent us from yielding to God (I Cor. 5:6-8).

Wedging the clay can be done by many different methods: *beating* or *pummelling*, *kneading*, *slamming* the clay against a special table or bench top, repeatedly *cutting* it in half by using a taut wire, *treading* heavily on it with the feet ("as the potter treadeth clay," Isa. 41:25), etc.

Similarly, God has many ways to chasten and correct us. But He never chooses the ones we want. He always seems to find our most sensitive nerve.

FOURTH: Molding the Pottery

Shaping the clay.

Once the potter has gotten the lumps and bubbles out, he is ready to start *molding* and *shaping* his clay into the form which he desires.

But there's still a problem: The clay is not supple — and consequently cannot be *properly* molded. The solution is basic: The potter must add the right amount of WATER (sometimes *oil* is used instead of water) to make the clay more plastic.

Once God has beaten our hardness of heart out of us, and knocked (some of) our vanity out of us, then we must receive the "living waters" — God's *Holy Spirit* — in order to be *properly* molded by God's Law.

No one can truly obey God — can truly *yield* to Him — unless and until he has the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. But when *anybody* really thirsts for God's Spirit, He will give it to him (see Isa. 55:1).

Jesus said: "If any man *thirst*, let him come unto me, and *drink*. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly [or innermost being] shall flow *rivers of living WATER*. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Spirit was not yet given...)" (John 7:37-39).

Just as the potter must add sufficient *water* to the clay to make it completely pliable and malleable, so must the Master Potter add the gift of the "living waters" — the gift of His priceless Holy Spirit — before we can truly become pliable and YIELDED in His hands!

Without the addition of *water* to the clay, it will not be malleable enough to be continually molded in the hands of the potter. Likewise, without the addition of the spiritual waters of God's Holy Spirit to our minds, we could never be *yielded* enough to be continually shaped in the hands of our Creator, the Master Potter.

The Apostle Paul told the Christians at Rome: "YIELD YOURSELVES UNTO GOD" (Rom. 6:13). We are to *yield ourselves completely* to God as "a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1).

FIFTH: Plunged into the Fire

Firing the clay.

After the potter has molded his vessel and has let it dry out thoroughly, he then puts his unbaked piece of pottery into a *fiery furnace* (or kiln) where it must be heated (very slowly at first so it won't explode) to a very high temperature before it will become sufficiently baked to attain its maximum *hardness*.

If it is fired at *too high* a temperature, it will warp. On the other hand, if it is fired at *too low* a temperature, the pottery will be "soft" — and will not attain its maximum "maturity," density and hardness. The master potter has

ways of testing to find out the proper "firing range" (the proper temperature) at which a particular type of clay should be fired.

There is an amazingly close parallel here between the human potter and the Master Potter. When God *allows* us to be put through *trials* (remember, God tempts no man — Jas. 1:13), He has to know just how high the "heat" should be "turned on."

If God doesn't allow us to be subjected to enough trials and tests, we get *spiritually flabby* and never develop the hard, firm character which is absolutely required for Sonship in God's Family.

On the other hand, if He were to let us be tried by such a big *temptation* that we couldn't cope with it — then it would destroy us beyond redemption.

So God, as the all-wise Master Potter, knows *the precise degree* to which each true child of His can be subjected — and He watches over us very carefully to make sure that the trials and tests we receive are neither too light (Heb. 12:6-11) nor too severe (I Cor. 10:13).

Just as it is most *essential* that a clay vessel be put through the fiery test of a furnace, so it is equally necessary that a Christian have his share of *temptations, trials and tests*. Without these we would never develop much strength of character. But God has solemnly promised not to let our trials and temptations overpower us — if we continue to really rely upon Him in faithful obedience.

Peter understood and wrote about the severe *temptations and trials* which would befall God's people: "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the *trial of your faith*, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be *tried with fire*, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (I Peter 1:6, 7).

But some in God's Church actually get *mad at God* for "*forgetting*" His responsibilities and allowing a severe trial to besiege them. What these misguided people don't realize is that God,

like a wise potter, has *deliberately* allowed His "clay models" to be put into the fire — for a very good purpose! "Beloved, *think it not strange concerning the FIERY TRIAL which is to try [or test] you*, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But *rejoice*, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy" (I Peter 4:12, 13).

James, the brother of Christ, writing to the "twelve tribes" of Israel, understood the need for Christians to be prepared to be plunged into the fiery kiln to become perfected — if God so

when firing his pieces of pottery, for he knows this would ruin them beyond repair. He, therefore, carefully watches and *controls* the fire to make sure that just the right temperature is maintained at all times. He would not think of going away and *leaving* his pottery in the fire.

So it is with God. He carefully watches over every believer, over every true Christian, to make certain that he isn't tempted beyond his capacity — making sure his "fiery trial" doesn't become too much for him to bear.

God has faithfully promised: "I WILL NEVER LEAVE THEE, NOR FORSAKE THEE" (Heb. 13:5).



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To permanently set the desired form, the clay must be fired in a kiln at a very high temperature.

willed. Notice his admonition: "My brethren, *count it all JOY when ye fall into divers TEMPTATIONS [or trials]*; Knowing this, that the *trying of your faith worketh patience*" (James 1:2, 3). James explains that *temptations* are actually a blessing — because when they are resisted, eternal character is built: "Blessed is the man that *endureth temptation*: for when he is *tried*, he shall receive the CROWN OF LIFE, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him" (verse 12).

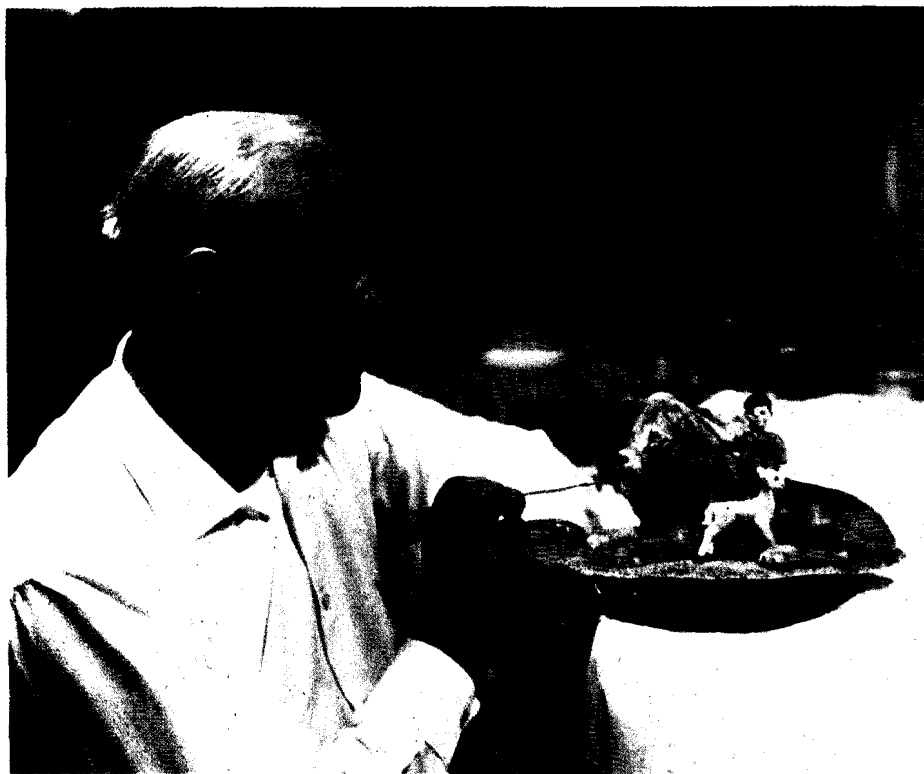
A wise master potter will not permit his furnace or kiln to become too hot

Notice how this is explained by Paul: "There hath no *temptation* taken you but such as is common to man: But GOD IS FAITHFUL, WHO WILL NOT SUFFER YOU TO BE TEMPTED ABOVE THAT YE ARE ABLE; but will with the temptation also make *a way to escape*, that ye may be able to bear it" (I Cor. 10:13).

SIXTH: Finishing Touches

Decorating the clay.

After the clay has been baked in a furnace to give it its permanent shape, strength and hardness, it is removed



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Exquisite glazes and decorations turn the vessel into a useful and valuable work of art.

from the kiln and DECORATED — after which it is GLAZED OVER.

Then what happens?

Back into the fire — back into the furnace it goes so that the decorative work and the glazing can be baked onto the surface of the vessel. This constitutes the *second firing*.

What should we learn from this DECORATING, GLAZING and SECOND FIRING?

God often puts *finishing touches* into our character — polishing different aspects of His perfect character within us through allowing *additional fiery trials* of various types. It is, remember, through *trials* and *temptations* that the most beautiful facets of our character are developed!

Now, even after a piece of pottery has been fired *twice*, it often has further stunning decorations applied — perhaps fine, pure *gold* or silver metals. Then after these exquisite finishing touches are added to the nearly finished vessel, it must go *back into the furnace!*

So, *back into the fire* this beautifully decorated piece of pottery goes — for the *third and* (in most instances) *final firing*.

So it is with God and His children. We sometimes think we have “had enough,” that we’ve gone through enough fiery trials; but God, in His infinite wisdom, usually feels otherwise.

He may realize that still more beautiful Godlike facets of character need to be added — if we are to have the exquisite, indescribably stunning character that is made in the image of the perfect, holy, and glorious God — our great Master Potter!

SEVENTH: At Last — A Work of Art

Judging the pottery.

The potter is now ready to judge his work. The piece of pottery has withstood *three* or more firings. The master potter can now survey his work. And he will judge it very critically.

Has it stood up to the test? Has it come through all of the firings a hard, strong, beautiful creation — something the potter can truly be proud of? Or, has it cracked, exploded, sagged, drooped, flaked or become warped somewhere along the line?

Likewise, at the end of our life, our

Master Potter will judge us extremely critically to see how we have come through all our trials — and He will reward us accordingly.

Rejoice — Especially in Your Trials!

So take courage!

If God has permitted you to be *sorely tried* — perhaps repeatedly — then that’s *the surest sign* that your Creator knows you’ve got it in you to “endure unto the end.” And that’s also the surest sign that the Ruler of the entire universe is working out some *higher purpose* in your life. Because it is *only* by means of severe tests and rigorous trials that God can develop His character in you, and will consequently give you a greater reward in His Kingdom — *if you come through!*

The Scriptures reveal that God sorely tested and tried *Abraham* (Gen. 22:1-19), *David* (Psalm 51), *Daniel* (Dan. 6), *Paul* (II Cor. 11:23-28). And they will all have very high positions in the Kingdom of God.

And *Jesus Christ*, our Saviour, will have the *greatest reward* and position of all — for He was tempted more sorely than any man — yet without sin! (Heb. 4:15; Matt. 26:38 through 27:50.)

Christ has solemnly promised that those who hold steadfast till the very end — those who *endure* all their fiery trials — will definitely make it! “*He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved*” (Matt. 24:13).

Think of that! When a potter finishes his work, he only has a beautiful piece of pottery. But when the Master Potter finishes His work with *you*, He will have a Son of God!

Only the “overcomers” will receive the fantastic blessings of great rewards — of rulership and service in the Kingdom of God (see Rev. 2:7, 11, 26; 3:5, 12, 21).

The great Master Potter has reassuringly promised that those who *endure* their fiery trails *will inherit EVERYTHING!*

“*He that overcometh* [sin, trials, tests, temptations] *SHALL INHERIT ALL THINGS; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son*” (Rev. 21:7). *What a fantastic future to look forward to!* ■

HOW IMPORTANT ARE YOU IN GOD'S WORK?

You need to be aware of your enormous personal importance to God's Work. Here are seven areas of your individual responsibility. Every one of them is IMPORTANT! There are of course others. But concentrate on these — and you'll become a more PRODUCTIVE Christian!

by David R. Robinson

MANY IN God's Church feel that they are not very important to God's Work. "After all," they reason, "I am just one small member of quite a big body. What could I possibly do?"

Consequently, discouragement sets in, and they become unsure of themselves and their part in God's Work.

At one time or another everyone in God's Church has felt this way. And perhaps you feel this way right now!

If we think that we are personally not very important in God's Work, we are actually accusing God of having made a *mistake* in calling us in the first place. Because it is *God* who called us (John 6:44) and gave us His Spirit, and He made no mistake! If any mistakes are made, they are our *own* doing! *God makes no mistakes!*

Let's understand our tremendous calling, and see how great our responsibilities in God's Work really are!

(1) Realize the Worldwide Importance of God's Work

The *worst* thing about our times is the *speed* at which conditions are worsening! The snowballing of world population, the lack of any proportionate increase in food production, the worldwide rebellion of our youth, the skyrocketing increase in crime, the inflation of currencies the world over, the proliferation of arms on an unprecedented scale, plus an unending list of "picky"

problems are all combining together to make the existence of human life ever more tenuous.

In the very last two verses of the King James Old Testament, God inspired Malachi to prophesy concerning our day: "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." (The word "curse" in verse 6 should be translated **UTTER DESTRUCTION!** See Zechariah 14:11 and I Kings 20:42 where the same Hebrew word is properly translated "UTTER DESTRUCTION.")

WHO IS DOING THAT WORK TODAY?

Who is teaching the laws of God concerning proper family life?

Who is bridging the "generation gap"?

Who is teaching the sanctity of marriage, proper child rearing practices — treating the *causes* rather than the effects?

THE CHURCH OF GOD! THE VERY WORK OF THE LIVING GOD in which you and I have a *very important part!*

Except for God's Work, God would *destroy* sinful mankind! Just how *important* is it to you that all humanity not be destroyed?

Brethren, WE are called *collectively*, first to **WARN** the world and second to

TEACH as many as will heed HOW to live by God's laws. Every one of us is needed in this great Work of God. That is *why* our Creator called us. That is what Jesus Christ said in Matthew 24:14: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and *then* shall the end come."

Look at these verses in Malachi and Matthew with your own eyes. Meditate on them. Ask God to let them burn right down into your very being — until you *FEEL* them *deeply*.

How could anyone ever feel *unimportant* when he has been called to help **SAVE THE WORLD?** Jesus Christ *is* the SAVIOUR — and we have been called to be His personal *executive* assistants!

The vision of **ACCOMPLISHING THE WORK OF GOD** must be *burned* into our minds and hearts. Mr. Armstrong has said many times over the years that those who have their *hearts* in the Work of God *do not fall away!* Every member of God's Church *must* be deeply concerned about the overall Work. The Great Family Project must be paramount in our minds!

A Good Example From the World

Years ago, in the midst of the Great Depression, there was a farm family near my own in Texas. The father died, leaving a large family. The farm was productive, but there was no money. Then

the eldest son began to carry the responsibility for the entire family. All the others worked together under the new family director. There were hard times; the family suffered deprivation, but they held together.

With the approach of World War II, prosperity began to return. The whole family continued to work as a team.

Soon the family venture *was expanding* into other areas of business. It was no longer just a farm. There was a *chain* of farms. Land-clearing equipment and other interests were added. The brothers and sisters married and had families of their own. There was responsibility for all. By now the eldest son had become the head of a growing clan. Because the eldest son was competent, and always set the example of hard work, none of the brothers or sisters ever pulled out of the family business.

After the War, in times of widespread economic growth, the family enterprise was incorporated. Always there was harmony, economic vision, industry. Grain storage, cattle feeding, ranching were added to the family's growing empire. Many employees were hired. And all benefited.

Hardship was a way of life in those early years. But what if one member of the family had balked, or failed to work hard, or just had not cooperated? The family enterprise *could* have failed!

God has called us to do His Family Work, and *every* member carries a *heavy responsibility*.

Recently, Mr. Herbert Armstrong *re-emphasized* that *every* member of the Church has a specific responsibility — and *is* extraordinarily important — even if he *is* like a "little toe" on the body! (I Cor. 12.)

We in God's Church are to be of one attitude and one mind concerning the Work of God. What a tremendous *blessing* it is to have this fellowship and responsibility with God in His Work!

(2) Pray for Specific Aspects of the Work

God is obviously able to supply every need of His Work. Yet He wants *us* to *ask* Him for those needs (John 16:23).

Why? Because our Father *wants* us to have a part in His Work! Because the Creator of heaven and earth called us into *partnership* with Him.

Even if we have little financial capacity to help in accomplishing the first commission of God's Work, our *prayers* to God can be very fruitful.

As the direct result of *your prayers alone*, God may call hundreds of new Co-Workers, or open unexpected doors in advertising and television — unleashing new opportunities to preach the Gospel to the world.

Remember, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16).

So pray *fervently!*

But *how* should you pray for the Work? There are innumerable ways. Here's a sample outline:

Ask for God's continued and continuous protection and guidance of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong. Think about the vast scope of their responsibilities — and beseech God again and again on their behalf. Because in a very real sense, *they are* the Work.

Then go over the whole scope of the Work — the College, radio and television, advertising, magazines and booklets, foreign offices, presses, and all the various departments. One way of going about this vast undertaking in an organized way is to pray for the specific duties of *each* of God's evangelists.

And remember James 5:16.

[Be sure to read the question box article in this issue, which elaborates further on the subject of prayer for God's ministers — Editor.]

(3) Your Financial Contributions Are Important

During the Ministerial Conference in January 1970, Mr. Albert Portune presented the financial report. I *was thrilled* to hear how *faithful* the average head of household had been in God's Church during 1969. Many commented how pleased they were. Without the baptized members of God's Church, God's Work would not be what it is today. The reports from Canada and overseas areas — Britain, France, Aus-

tralia, South Africa and elsewhere — were all the same. God's people are dependable. And we must continue to be — especially now. Why? Because *last year's* record will not take care of *this year's* needs.

We in the U. S. have been involved in a nationwide slowing of the economy. Certain critical segments of the economy are suffering. It's *not* "just" the stock market. The building trades, the aerospace industry and certain other mainstays of the economy are in trouble. Many workmen have been laid off, including some of our brethren. Those of us who *can*, should make a *special* effort to help take up the *slack* in tithes and offerings that this causes, realizing we *do* carry this *added responsibility*.

As we begin to realize what is actually at stake, sacrifice is certainly in order. If you didn't get your Bible out before and meditate on the message of Malachi 4:5-6 and Matthew 24:14, perhaps you will now. Our commission is a fantastic OPPORTUNITY. The great Creator God has looked down on *you* and *specifically* called YOU to join His *labor force!* What an honor!

Did you ever consider why God finances His Work through *many* individuals rather than through a few very wealthy men? It is because God wants to give *tens of thousands* of people the opportunity to wholeheartedly SACRIFICE for His Work!

Those at Headquarters, as well as the ministers in the field, often *sacrifice* by working long extra hours. They do it willingly because they know they are helping to carry out the greatest Work on earth! They realize they are helping to save humanity from utter destruction, and are proclaiming the reason why God created man. They feel a sense of great accomplishment.

You can feel this *same* sense of great accomplishment. That's why God, in His magnificent generosity, has allowed you to help financially support His Work. This is how *you* sacrifice and serve. Can you comprehend what an honor it really is?

Do you realize that Church of God membership represents about one-thousandth of one percent of the earth's population? These are round

figures, but calculating the earth's population at about four billion, each of us would represent 100,000 people — or a city approximately the size of Pasadena, California, or Cork, Ireland, or Canberra, Australia. It is encouraging to briefly look back to see what God has accomplished through so few of us. But at the same time, we must gird ourselves for the great Family Project that must *continue* to expand.

The top executives of God's Work at Headquarters could not continue to do their part unless we, the individual members of the Body of Christ, are doing ours. *Our part is indeed vital. It is absolutely necessary!* We must give as much of our financial resources as we possibly can. If we fail to fulfill our individual responsibility to God's Work, the whole Body could fail. Therefore, we cannot, and *must not* let down! If we do, our responsibility could be removed from us and given to others.

(4) Your Example in the Community and Your Church

Many of us have unconverted neighbors who know we have responded to *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast and have become closely associated with the Church of God. They are watching to see how good "the product" is. It is up to those of us in the local areas — where we are perhaps the only converted family in that part of town — to show *good* results, to demonstrate that the product is *GOOD!* We — where we are known — represent God and His Church. *You are very important in setting a GOOD EXAMPLE right where you are!*

Realizing that you *are* now directly influencing your friends, neighbors and relatives should flavor everything you do and say. You never know when God might use your example to call someone close to you.

Your example is a tremendous responsibility!

Perhaps the brethren in your local congregation will know you more intimately than anyone else — especially after you attend for several years. Your example to them — especially the newer members — is important. The ministers do the spiritual teaching, of course, but examples of friendliness, of hospitality,

of concern for others will help build the Church and be a real help to your minister. I Peter 4:9 says: "Use hospitality . . . without grudging." If you do, the brethren will benefit from and appreciate your thoughtfulness. And you will be helping in a very direct way in the Work of God because that is exactly what Jesus Christ would have you do. But of course, it must always be in balance.

In the local congregations, there is a continual inflow of new people — those who have just been invited to church by the minister. How important it is for you to set the right example for them! But many of us in God's Church simply lack *tact*. This certainly is something we can work on. Because, in order to be a really fine example to all the brethren, we need to continually *use* tact.

Do you realize that *tact* is closely associated with *wisdom*? It is an attribute of leadership — topflight leadership *requires* the use of TACT.

Jesus Christ Himself emphatically proclaims in Matthew 18:6: "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

Sounds pretty serious, doesn't it?

Our example in conduct, speech, dress, friendliness, is crucial. The Church is made up of members who are *people*. They are people to whom God has somehow seen fit to give His Spirit. That isn't a light thing with God. Is it with us? Do we sometimes set our brother against God's Truth with some inane, inappropriate utterance?

Finally, remember what we read earlier in Malachi 4:5-6. Your example to your children is very important. And the example your children set for others in the local congregation is also a very serious responsibility. A family that is actively following God's principles is of GREAT VALUE in their local congregation, as well as in their local community!

(5) Encouraging One Another

Closely related to your *example* is another particularly rich and rewarding area of service and responsibility: *encouraging one another* in the local

congregations. *Everyone* NEEDS encouragement from time to time — especially those who are sick, or are temporarily unemployed, or have other problems. But you should not wait for someone to become ill or to be in some sort of difficulty to be encouraging. It certainly is not wrong to encourage someone who has just done something especially well, or has received an advancement in his job, or is doing well in Spokesman Club, or any similar thing.

We read in Proverbs 15:23: "A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how GOOD is it!" Sincere words of encouragement can be tremendously effective and helpful.

The main direction of all encouragement must be toward God and to what He can do in and through us. This was always the source of strength and encouragement for Paul. And so he wrote in II Corinthians 1:3-4: "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all *comfort*; who comforteth us in all our tribulation [now notice especially the remainder of the verse], *that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.*" The source of Paul's absolute FAITH was *God* — so that he was then empowered to comfort, to help others obey, grow, develop as profitable sons of God.

We are told to "exhort one another daily" (Heb. 3:13). We are to be deeply concerned about the welfare of our brethren. This is a vital key. We need to KNOW one another, to KNOW the needs of others — so we CAN be a help, a loving companion when we are together, a true friend who *identifies* with their position, a brother in Christ who understands their pressures and needs.

"We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves" (Romans 15:1). We that are a little stronger in the faith have a responsibility to help others all we possibly can.

Perhaps it would help to think of a family of tribesmen crossing a desert. The young begin to lose strength, to

pant for water, to sag down onto the parched earth and give up. But the older and stronger members of the tribe reach down and take hold of each arm and help their fellows along, so they can *all* reach the oasis in the distance. We need to individually have that extra strength so we can help others in times of trouble. We need to be filled with faith, absolutely knowing that God means what He says in I Corinthians 10:13: "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

Then we *will* be able to help others who are in need of encouragement.

Remember — one of the greatest things you can ever do is to help someone else "endure to the end" — *to enter God's Kingdom!*

(6) Loving One Another

On the night Jesus was taken prisoner, to be horribly and brutally beaten, He gave some parting instructions to His disciples. He had just concluded the last Passover and He knew that before the sun set again He would be dead and buried. It was under such terrible pressure, with the sure knowledge of the awful humiliation and the intense suffering that He would immediately have to bear, that He spoke of *love*.

Jesus Christ was just about to demonstrate His own love for His disciples, and indeed for us all, by giving up *His very life*. He certainly knew the *meaning of love*. It was in such a setting that He said in John 13:34-35: "A new commandment [spiritual things never grow old] I give unto you, That you love one another; *as I have loved you*, that you also love one another. By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, *if ye have love one for another.*"

It becomes evident that *loving the brethren* is an essential ingredient in a Christian life. Jesus said: "as I have loved you" — and that is a great deal of love!

Peter felt he had that kind of love. Notice what followed: Peter said unto Him, "Lord, why cannot I follow you

now? I will lay down my life for your sake." Jesus answered him, "Will you lay down your life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto you, the cock shall not crow, till you have denied me thrice." Peter did not yet have the love Christ was talking about. That kind of love is not natural love, but love that comes from God! It is an attribute of God's Holy Spirit!

Once, years ago in the Corpus Christi Church, one of the older women spoke to my wife. She was a good friend, very sincere, and very dedicated. She said, "Mr. Robinson could help people a lot more if he just had more love. He just doesn't show enough love for the brethren." This woman had not spoken lightly, nor had she spoken just to be picky or critical, nor did she gossip by speaking to *others*. She spoke with deep personal concern, real love. Nevertheless, when my wife told me about it that night, it hurt me deeply. I knew it was the truth. I also respected our friend. I had by this time come to the point where I really did want to help the brethren. It was at this point that I first really cried out to God to grant me the love that I knew I lacked. And you know, He did! I found with God's help, it wasn't difficult at all. Somehow, when you project love and concern for people, they respond much better. It is something that many in God's Church need a great deal more of.

Many people may have a *natural* affection for other people. Yet what we are now called on to show — *Godly love* — is much more. In the dark and difficult days ahead, we are all going to find out just how much love we really do have for the brethren.

It would surely help our own private Bible study to carefully and prayerfully examine I Corinthians 12:14-26. Then we might look around and ask ourselves "which member of the Church was called by mistake." Of course there is none. On the other hand, perhaps some have not done as much with that calling as they might have. Perhaps we have not loved and encouraged our brethren enough. Maybe there is yet some way we could show our interest, our concern, our love. We could begin to love them more by spending some of

"our time" asking God to help and strengthen them.

Love is the very first fruit of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22. Without it, one could never be in God's Kingdom! Realizing our tremendous responsibility to show love to our brethren should surely help us better understand our *importance* in God's Church and His Work.

(7) Qualifying for God's Kingdom

Perhaps some have a certain set time in their minds when they think God's Work will be "over." But that is *simply not the case!* God's Work will go on and on and NEVER stop! We read in Isaiah 9:7: "Of the *increase* of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even FOR EVER."

It is *vitaly important* for US to be qualifying right now to assist in the government of God in the very near future. Yet it is *very* difficult for human beings to look ahead very far — to have vision. This is one of the greatest lacks in all the world today. You only need to study the history of Britain and America since World War II to see that our leaders did not have the vision to see ahead very far. How different the world could have been!

We in the Church of God find ourselves offered the utterly fantastic opportunity of helping to govern this whole world in a few short years. But we are not the great or the mighty of this world. And we sometimes become discouraged because of a short-term view — a LACK OF FAITH. Consequently, we cannot see ahead very far. We get our eyes fixed on the physical things of this age — the here and now. We begin to feel unimportant. And of course, to the extent we do that, we *are* unimportant. We are only important to the extent we are involved in God's Work. If we are totally involved in God's Work, then we are *mighty* important!

Paul wrote to the Corinthian Church (they were looking too much to the physical): "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have

entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." Man lacks vision. But read on! "But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God" (1 Cor. 2:9, 10).

Yes, God is showing us what is in store for those who will enter His Kingdom. Three thousand years ago, King David looked forward to the Kingdom of God. He had vision. He looked up into the starry sky and saw a lot more there than our scientists do today. They may see a lot more of the universe through their telescopes and other scientific equipment. *But David saw the REASON for — the PURPOSE of — the heavenly bodies, and of his own life!* And so we read in Psalm 8:3-4: "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man that thou visitest him?" He goes

on to say in verse 6, "Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands." David looked forward to awaking with *God's own likeness* (Psalm 17:15).

We are told there may be as many as a hundred billion stars in our galaxy. And there are so many galaxies that scientists are discovering new ones daily — and can't begin to count them all.

Yet we are to inherit it all! Ponder Hebrews 2:8.

Our ultimate destiny is so great we can't begin to grasp even a miniscule part of it. But we certainly *do* need to think about it a lot more. You have just seen that King David did. Perhaps in our urbanized society today we just don't see the stars enough. It would be good at times to drive out past the smog and bright lights to behold God's heavens, think about David's inspired message, and consider *your own* ultimate destiny.

God has such a fantastic future

planned for us that our minds simply boggle!

It is the ultimate!

Get Busy Being Important

Of course, in the meantime, we have all of the exciting things to do mentioned in this article. As we actively participate in the Work of God, there can NEVER be a time *anywhere* along the way when our job will not be "important."

Every one of us has a "piece of the action"!

But many of us need to *catch this vision!*

Remember the other 99,999 people God *didn't* call when He called YOU — someday both you and they will *realize* how IMPORTANT is your personal call today!

So perhaps you may be "just a little toe" in God's Work. That makes your job mighty important!

Be the *best* little toe possible!! □

The Bible Answers Your Questions

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

It has been a long time since I received a brochure listing the ministers of God's Church. Will another one be printed soon?

The Church of God Manpower Brochure will not be printed again. It has simply *outgrown* its function as a "prayer list" for Church members. Each year the list of ministers grows longer, and therefore the brethren of God's Church simply cannot pray as meaningfully for each of the hundreds of ministers *individually*.

Our prayers are MUCH more powerful and effective when they are *specific*. Praying for each and every one of God's ministers separately could actually become a FULL-TIME JOB in itself! Some few have even made a *fetish* out of praying for each man — by rote — almost like repeating the "Lord's Prayer." That is NOT the way Jesus Christ told us to pray!

But this doesn't mean, of course,

that you should *neglect* praying for the ministers. Not at all! As God's Work grows and the end draws nearer, your prayers are needed *more than ever before!* By all means you *should* pray for those at Headquarters, especially those God is using to make decisions that affect the future of the entire Work.

Pray *specifically* for Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, who shoulders the greatest responsibility in the Work of Christ today. And remember Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong — the Executive Vice-President of God's Work, worldwide, and the voice of *The WORLD TOMORROW* radio and television programs. Then, pray earnestly for the other executives, such as Mr. Portune who faces a tremendous load of financial responsibilities, for Mr. Rader on the executive committee, for Mr. Meredith, Mr. Hill, Mr. Dart, Dr. Hoeh and all the Evangelists and Pastors at God's Headquarters and the many different types of responsibilities they have. Don't for-

get the chief ones responsible for the English and Texas campuses — Mr. Raymond McNair, Mr. Hunting, Mr. McCullough — then there are the directors of the foreign offices and the district superintendents in the United States.

Pray *fervently*, then, for the Director or District Superintendent in your area of the world and for the ministers under him. After all, you are most familiar with *their* needs!

Of course, you should also pray concerning specific problems you are *aware of* in other areas — that God will direct and guide His ministers in each area to handle the persecutions, trials, or particular troubles they encounter as they fulfill the ministry to which God has called them. You will find this a sufficient number of offices and people to keep your prayer life full and your heart centered on God's Work!

To pray effectively, *you do not* need a Manpower Brochure. You simply need to keep up with the announcements, news, and growth of God's Work by reading each article in the magazines published by the Church, listening attentively to the announcements made in services, and by keeping up your

fellowship with other brethren. In this way, your prayers should be much more meaningful, effective and earnest — *from the heart!*

QUESTION: Just what is the "Emergency Fund"? How does it work?

God *commands* His people to help the poor and needy among them: "For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand *wide* unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land" (Deut. 15:11). God's Church strives to faithfully carry out this command.

The best way to help the poor, of course, is to provide the means and incentive to get them on their own financial feet so they may experience the joy that comes with accomplishment and productivity. God knew that there would be emergency situations where a person would need monetary or other material help: "If there be among you a poor man *of one of thy brethren* within any of thy gates... thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother: But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely *LEND* him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth" (Deut. 15:7-8).

Some have thought this money should come from one of the tithes, *but this is not the case*. The *first tithe* was anciently given to the Levites and is now given to the ministry of Christ to do the Work of God (Num. 18:21, Heb. 7:1-17). God has decreed the *second tithe* to be used *only* in observing His Festivals (Deut. 14:22-27). And the *third tithe* (required only in the third and sixth years of every seven) is *reserved* for certain groups, most of whom need assistance on a regular basis — *the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless and the widow* (Deut. 14:28-29). (If you do not fully understand the purpose of these three tithes, you should request our free article, "What You Should Know About Tithing.")

Although special help cannot come from any of the tithes, we are still commanded to give aid to the poor. Christ said in Matthew 6:2: "WHEN thou doest thine alms..." (give gifts

to the poor). God takes note of whether we keep His command to help our needy brethren. Notice the example of Cornelius, the first Gentile convert in the New Testament Church, of whom it was said, "Thy prayers and thine *ALMS* are come up for a *memorial* before God" (Acts 10:4).

God promises direct blessings to those who remember the needy. "Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord [Eternal] will deliver *him* in time of trouble. The Eternal will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. The Eternal will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness" (Psalm 41:1-3).

In this age, when we have brethren scattered all over the world, God has provided a means in His Church for helping members in need. An *Emergency Fund* is maintained in each local church area for that purpose. This fund is also sometimes called the *Poor Fund* or *Love Fund*. You can contribute to it either by giving the money directly to the minister, or by including an offering for the Emergency Fund with your regular tithes and offerings.

The amount given should be just a dollar or two per paycheck or perhaps *even less*, depending on your income. Used clothing and furniture also prove useful and make a welcome contribution for those in need.

In addition, we must all remember our duty to our families, including unconverted relatives in need, and act accordingly and in right balance. While not forgetting the parable of the Good Samaritan, we do need to realize there are those who would prey on our good intentions. Realize, too, that God's command in Deuteronomy 15 refers only to those "of thy *brethren*." If a genuine need arises among *unconverted* people, it would often prove wise to obtain the counsel of one of God's ministers before acting.

Christ said the poor would always be among us. Let's not forget them and realize that it is a *BLESSING*, as well as a *command*, to help the poor. "If ye know these things, *HAPPY* are ye if ye *do* them" (John 13:17). □

Reader's Say . . .

(Continued from inside front cover)

let God complete my healing in His own good time, in His own way.

Paul G., Verona, Pa.

Appreciates Minister

Many of us here in Alaska may not write a letter telling we are most blessed to have a resident minister now, but I expect everyone feels it as we do. It will be a job for Mr. Gordon to get to many of the people up here because of distance and type of, or method of travel. There are between 10 and 20 families that drive or fly from 130 to 250 miles each Sabbath. Also many in Fairbanks are becoming interested in counselling with the Gordons. By the Feast of Tabernacles there should be several new families added to the Church.

William H., Spenard, Alaska

New Bible Study

We were very thrilled and deeply appreciative to hear that sometime in the next month there will be a Bible study beginning in the Cookeville area. We have been praying that it would be God's will. God is certainly blessing my family and me, although as I wrote before, there are many trials and tests along with the blessings. But God is with me, so I don't fear. I trust Him to deliver me.

I don't believe I have expressed my gratitude to you for my Envy. It is a masterpiece of work. To me it is much nicer and has so many more beautiful pictures in it than the one I got in 1963. I was so glad to get the chance of receiving the Envy this year.

Mrs. J. P., Cookeville, Tenn.

First Church Service

I have been receiving your Correspondence Course for two years now and have been on the mailing list of *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine even longer, but my husband and I began to attend your church service in this area only last week. We were really impressed with the warm greeting and friendly concern of everyone we saw, with the service itself — with the involvement of the entire congregation in the message which was given, and the obedience of even the smallest children. In fact, that meeting was different from any other church in every way.

In light of all that we have seen, I am even more happy than ever to send my tithe and offering in this month, and am at the same time praying more earnestly than before for the well being of the Work.

Ann M., Bellaire, Ohio

I wanted to let you know Mr. Ronald Dart's article on Bible Study in the *GOOD NEWS* inspired my Bible studying at a time I really needed it. It impelled me to deeper and more meaningful study and meditation. Thanks so much.

Merle A., Walnut Creek, Calif.