

The Good News

International Magazine of The Church of God



AMBASSADOR COLLEGE —
BRICKET WOOD CAMPUS

JANUARY-APRIL 1971

**SPECIAL SPRING
DOUBLE ISSUE**

More About Our Cover...

The bright colors of an English summer come alive in this sweeping view of the gardens in front of Memorial Hall, main classroom building of Ambassador's Bricket Wood campus. At right is the Music Hall, behind which is the grove of trees separating the farm facilities from the campus proper. Beginning on page 3, read how the English campus of Ambassador College is providing a tremendous service in the growing overseas division of God's expanding Work.

Ambassador College Photo

What our READERS SAY...

New Correspondence Course

I recently received a letter from Garner Ted Armstrong advising me of the termination of the Bible Course, having received my 30th lesson. Although I enjoyed getting them immensely, I am in complete agreement that we who have been given this marvelous opportunity for learning, and who, after having come to the full realization and knowledge of God's complete plan, should willingly and gladly give this part over to those who are still in need of this help.

We, who have come to know the truth, been baptized upon repentance and are now a part of the Church and Body of Christ, have ready access to all knowledge through the Holy Spirit. And with the wonderful help of you, your staff and the able and inspired counsel of the many true ministers of God always available to us, we should be more than happy to forego these lessons that others may have the same opportunity to learn of the wonderful truths of God's Word.

Mrs. E. P., Kokomo, Indiana

The Master Potter

Would you please let Mr. Raymond McNair know how much his article "The Master Potter" has helped us? We read through it and discussed it as a family study. We remind each other of it several times a week. From it we gained more

understanding, encouragement, and inspiration than we had before. It has helped us over and over.

Mrs. Warren E., La Porte, Indiana

New Auditorium

Greetings and thank you kindly for the fine magnificent sketch of the new auditorium to be built to the honor of our Most High God. It is without a doubt the most beautiful and balanced structure in the whole world. I am sure our Creator of all the universe will be pleased with it. Even though there is no house built by man that can contain our God, I know He will be well pleased to dwell in this temple (in Spirit) and to be near His Headquarters Church to direct it and oversee His great Work here on this earth.

Gordon K., Duluth, Minnesota

The brochure on the new auditorium arrived this week. It's not only beautiful and magnificent, but so very inspiring. My husband, who is not a member, was so moved by its beauty that he gave me permission to send \$10 a month to the Building Fund. So if his heart can be so moved and inspired, I know that God's children are going to be inspired even more so and that there will be sufficient funds to build this House for God!

Mrs. Bonnie H., Marysville, Calif.

• Be sure to read the inspiring article on page 23 concerning the building program.

THE STORY OF MAN Bound Volumes Available

Since November, 1958, *The Story of Man* (previously titled "The Bible Story") has appeared in *The PLAIN TRUTH* and then *TOMORROW'S WORLD*. Since then six bound volumes have been produced. These volumes are available once again to our membership while the supply lasts. When the current inventory is used up, they will not be reprinted.

So if you wish to have a copy of one or all of these volumes of *The Story of Man*, you'd better hurry! The current supply is available upon request on a first come, first served basis *while they last*. Remember, they are free for the asking, of course. See inside front cover for the addresses.

The Good News

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ministering to its members
scattered abroad

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

A DAY TO REMEMBER!



An account of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's visit to the Philippines, December 1970.

by Colin Adair

Manila, Philippines

DECEMBER 11 was a big day for the Filipinos of God's Church.

On this day God's true servant, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, stepped out of Ambassador College's Grumman Gulfstream jet at the Manila International Airport. It was his second visit to the Philippines within three months.

Those of us who had gathered to meet Mr. Armstrong were *especially* glad to see him, for when he was in Manila last September, he had been unable to speak to the Church because of a scheduled appointment with President Marcos. Over 500 disappointed brethren waited in vain on that day!

A Promise Fulfilled

As he was leaving in September, I mentioned to Mr. Armstrong how many brethren had traveled to Manila just to see and hear him. He deeply regretted that he had not been able to come to the service, and expressed the possibility that he would be back in December and could perhaps speak to us then.

Sure enough, toward the latter part of November, a telex came from Pasadena asking us here in the Manila office to reserve accommodations for Mr. Armstrong and party for the weekend of December 12.

With great excitement I wrote a letter almost immediately to all the brethren

in the Philippines, announcing Mr. Armstrong's visit! I fully expected as many as before to attend on that special Sabbath.

As the weeks passed, however, it seemed that Mr. Armstrong's visit was by no means definite. We waited anxiously for word, but as the particular week dawned, no final word had been received. I began to feel uneasy. Would all the brethren be disappointed a second time? Would many of them make long, arduous journeys in vain?

I had not counted on Mr. Armstrong's *determination!* On Thursday, December 10, the long-awaited telex clicked from the teleprinter in my office. Our distinguished visitor would arrive in Manila on Friday evening, and would be available for the Sabbath service! Our prayers had been answered!

As I learned later, Mr. Armstrong



Ambassador College Photo

had been advised to cancel his stopover in the Philippines in order to rest. But he was *determined* not to disappoint the brethren a second time, and came to Manila solely for the purpose of addressing the Church.

The Philippine Welcome

On our way up the stairs to the Sabbath service, Mr. Armstrong asked me if he had to shake hands with all 500 people. Of course he was joking, but as it turned out, he did just about that! On entering the hall, all the brethren came to their feet, applauded their special guest, and settled down again to wait for the service to begin. They put their best into the singing, and the hall reverberated as we sang one of our favorite hymns, number 25, "O Give Thanks Unto the Lord."

For almost two hours, Mr. Armstrong spoke of the recent trips he had made, and was making, showing us the purpose for them, and reminding us of our part in this great end-time Work. He excited the brethren again when he said Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong would probably be here sometime in the near

IN APPRECIATION — Mr. Armstrong receives a gift made of natural Philippine woods from the Manila Church in appreciation for his visit.

future to make a telecast about the Philippines, and speak to the Church!

In Appreciation

After the service, we presented Mr. Armstrong with a revolving table set on ball bearings, designed to sit in the middle of a dining table — and made from four different kinds of wood native to the Philippines. It is shaped like a dart board, with the wedges of wood meeting in a pointed center. He was very pleased with the gift.

Then came the handshaking! Not 500, but all 609 people surged forward, each one eager to grasp Mr. Armstrong's hand. He was completely surrounded by the enthusiastic members. Overwhelmed, he finally had to "fight" his way to the exit. Smiling young and old alike crowded around, determined to shake his hand if they could.

After this warm and friendly greeting,

Mr. Armstrong left to keep an appointment with another important government official that evening.

Zeal of God's People

I learned afterward that some of the brethren had arrived at the hall as early as 8:00 a. m. in order to get a seat near the front! Others came two to three hours before the services at 1:00 p.m.

Because of the slow mail delivery in the Philippines, some brethren received my letter only a day or two before Mr. Armstrong arrived, and had just enough time to pack up and leave — for some must travel two full days to reach Manila! This was a really big event in their lives. And there was no doubt that the visit of God's servant was a great spiritual boost to the Philippine Church.

Mr. Armstrong Departs

Next morning, at 10:00 a.m., the G-II carrying Mr. Armstrong and party took off in wet weather. Several of us were at the airport to say good-bye. Mr. Armstrong commented that his knuckles were a little sore after shaking hands with so many people on the previous day!

On behalf of the Philippine Church, I would like to say "Thank you, Mr. Armstrong for taking the time out of your busy schedule to visit the brethren in this part of the world. Our prayers go with you for your safety and protection on your travels. We eagerly look forward to seeing Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong sometime soon, God willing!"

Sequel

Life is full of surprises! The following Sabbath after Mr. Armstrong's visit, I received word at 11:30 a. m. from Mr. Ortiguero that Mr. Armstrong was back again and would be at the service! So we were blessed to have him two weeks in a row — surely something that had never happened in any of God's Churches outside the three campuses! En route from Singapore to Japan, Mr. Armstrong felt it would be good to spend the Sabbath with God's people in Manila, rather than stop over in Hong Kong. We were certainly glad he did!

Thank you once again, Mr. Armstrong! □

Born to Serve



Exciting growth and development are taking place at Ambassador College in England! Here is a report covering some of the outstanding achievements and opportunities of God's College at Bricket Wood, and **HOW** it is fulfilling its vital part in our Great Commission.

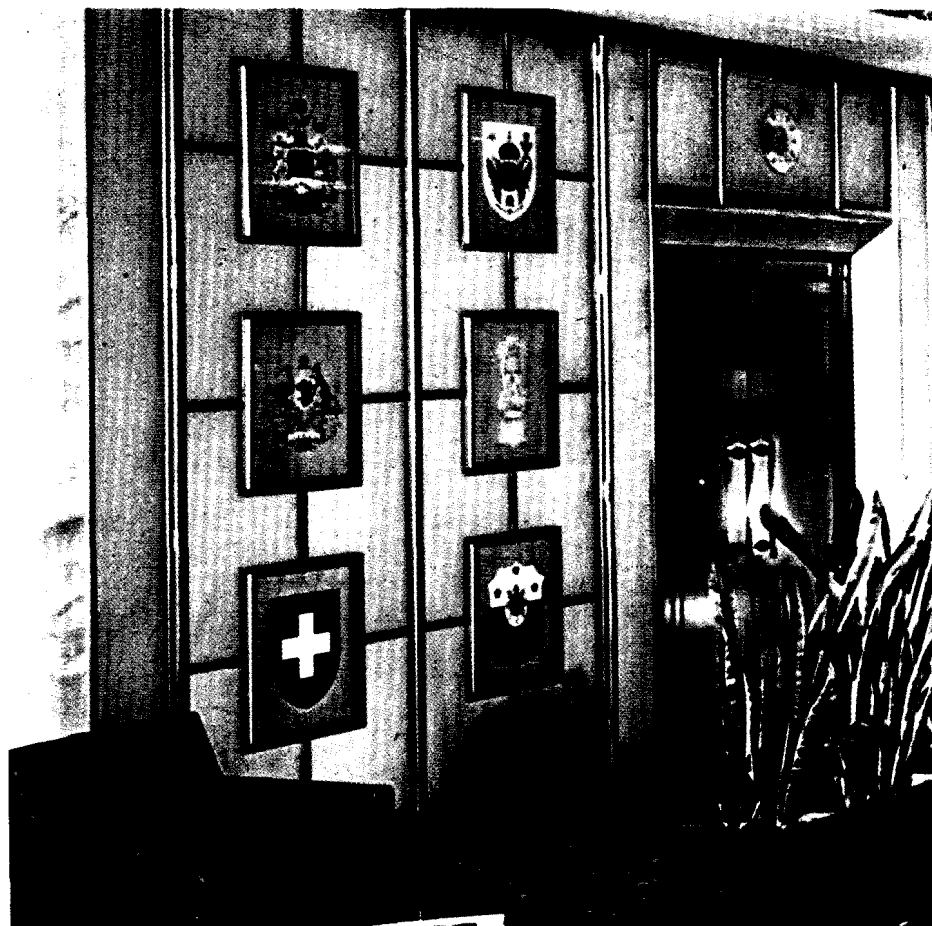
by Raymond F. McNair and Robin G. Jones

Bricket Wood, England

AMBASSADOR College — just five miles north of Greater London — has recently completed ten very fruitful years. It was conceived in 1959 and born in the autumn of 1960 — *born to serve!*

Graduates from Bricket Wood are helping to man our offices, colleges, Imperial Schools and Churches of God worldwide. The sun never sets on those graduates. They are true emissaries — pacesetters of the Wonderful World Tomorrow!

Several Bricket Wood graduates are now in charge of overseas offices: New Zealand — Mr. Graemme Marshall; South Africa — Mr. Robert Fahey; The Philippines — Mr. Colin Adair; Jerusa-



Ambassador College Photos

Above: Spectacular floodlit Bricket Wood Gymnasium by night. Right: Emblems on the International Lounge wall represent the United Kingdom and Canada, Australia and India, Switzerland and The Philippines.

lem — Mr. Richard Frankel; and Geneva — Mr. Colin Wilkins.

Many others are also serving in responsible posts in our colleges and schools, and in the ministry in America, Canada, Europe, Britain and the far-flung corners of the Commonwealth. Still others are employed behind the scenes in many other vital areas of God's Work.

A Second Ambassador College

As early as 1947, Mr. Herbert Armstrong had thought of establishing a European college — in Switzerland. But God had closed all doors to opening a college there.

Then in the summer of 1959, God gave Mr. Armstrong the vision to see that He wanted His second College established in Britain to train labourers for the ripening harvest of this earth. Mr. Armstrong informed me (I had been sent to England to be in charge of God's Work here in July, 1958) that he wanted Dr. Martin and me to begin looking immediately for a suitable location for a college in the Greater London area.

After much searching in and around London, God led us to purchase the present college grounds, located in the beautiful, forever-green Hertfordshire countryside — in the outskirts of a small, quiet English village called Bricket Wood.

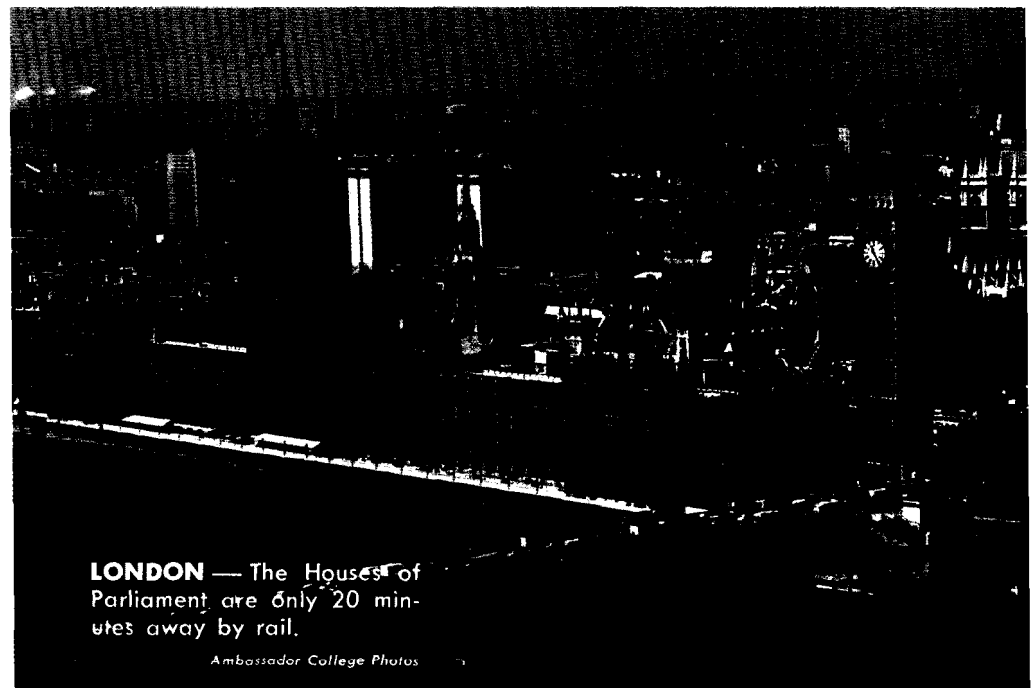
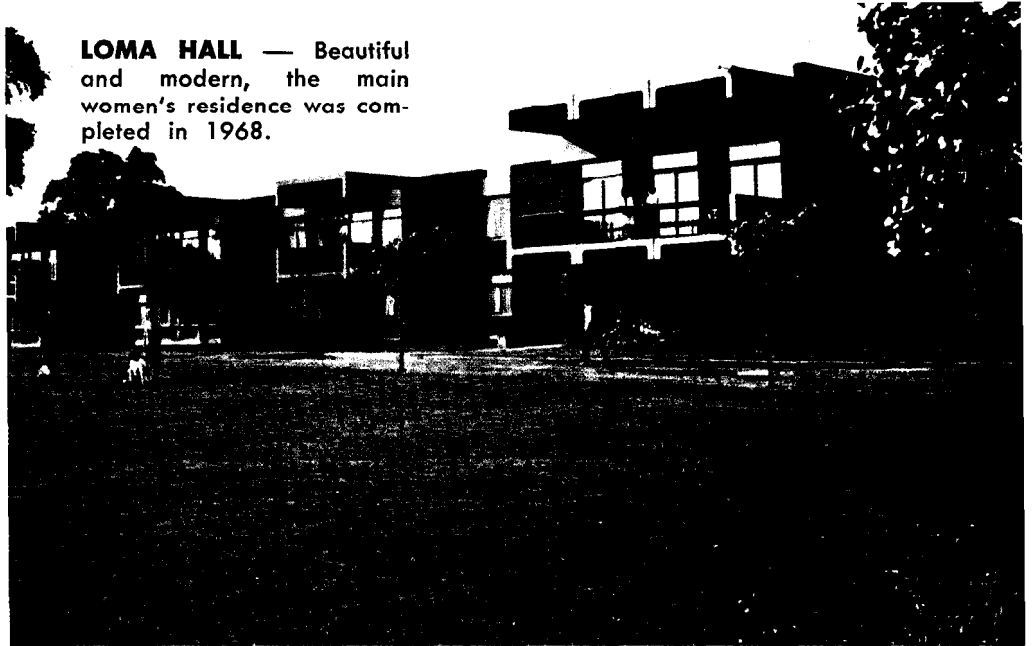
Ideally Located

But why did God choose *Bricket Wood*?

There are many reasons why this site is ideal for God's College. Our campus is only five miles from two main cities, St. Albans and Watford, which makes it very handy for shopping. Here in the country, we have an abundant supply of *fresh air* — no soot, smoke or smog problems. We also have broad, spacious beautiful grounds which would be impossible to duplicate in London itself.

Furthermore, the Bricket Wood campus is ideally located for ministers, students and college personnel who need to travel in Britain. At the very time we purchased the college grounds, Britain's first expressway or motorway (the M 1) was opened. Passing just a mile from the college, the motorway

LOMA HALL — Beautiful and modern, the main women's residence was completed in 1968.



LONDON — The Houses of Parliament are only 20 minutes away by rail.

Ambassador College Photos



LOMA HALL — Elegant Loma Hall Lounge.

gave easy access to Britain's principal cities — Birmingham, Manchester, and Liverpool. This super highway network on our doorstep now extends through most of England.

London airport is only forty-five minutes by automobile from the college, and the large, jet-capacity airport at Luton is only twenty minutes away. This makes it very convenient for Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, Mr. Ted Armstrong or other visitors to land at Luton and be whisked to the campus. It also enables the college here to perform another service. From this base Mr. Armstrong can fulfill his many commitments in Europe and the Middle East. Brussels is just a few minutes by jet — Israel, a few hours!

Pattern for Tomorrow's Education

Ambassador College in England is like an *oasis* in the desert of the British educational system. Long ago, most schools and colleges in England began teaching the abominable doctrine of *evolution* — of creation without a Creator. By turning their backs on God, they destroyed the only foundation that would have given them any basis for true education. The result? British education has become hopelessly bogged down in the quicksands of agnosticism, materialism, and rank atheism.

So widespread is this infectious doctrine of agnosticism and atheism, that hundreds of British churches have had to close their doors. Many have had to be sold because church attendance figures were so low. It is not at all uncommon in Britain for just a very few (often as not, just a couple of elderly women) to attend a church service.

But the timely arrival of Ambassador College on the scene in 1960 brought a breath of fresh air into British education. Britain has indeed been blessed by God to be chosen as a site for this different, progressive, yet soundly based institution of higher learning — the pattern for the educational system of the World Tomorrow!

A Beacon on a Hill

Many times when driving out from London to the College on the A 5 high-

way, I have looked across to the west and have seen the bright lights of Ambassador College situated like a *beacon on a hill*, shining out to the surrounding countryside.

And this is the way the teachings of Ambassador College shine out to the peoples of Britain, like a beacon on a hill, showing Ephraim the true ways of God — showing the British people how to live healthy, prosperous, happy and successful lives.

Already, many visitors have come to the College — some of high rank, others of lower station. Whether royalty or just commoners, they are all impressed with the beauty, orderliness, peace and happiness of Ambassador College in England — where the faculty and students are genuinely happy because they possess the priceless knowledge of the real purpose for man's existence!

Bright Islet

Perhaps you have noticed that our British address is: "Ambassador College, Bricket Wood, St. Albans, Herts., England." What is the significance of the names *Bricket Wood* and *St. Albans*?

Bricket means "bright islet." Anciently, Bricket Wood used to be surrounded by waterways — a sort of island. The River *Ver* (which means "truth") flows along the southern boundary of the campus. It has been pointed out that in Roman times, Caesar's ships used to row up the Colne River — just a few yards south of the College.

During the last few years, archaeologists have excavated elaborate Roman villas within a stone's throw of the college grounds. The St. Albans area was the main center of Roman operations in Britain. The ruins of the old Roman city astride the River *Ver* (*Verulamium*, which means "city of truth") near St. Albans are known worldwide.

What many do *not* know is that, anciently, *Britain* was often called "Albion" ("white"), meaning white land, or white island. This name was due to the fact that people crossing the English Channel to England would often see first the white cliffs of Dover.

On a clear day, these white cliffs are visible from the French coast.

The name *St. Albans* ties in with the work which God is doing through His College in England. *Albans* means "white" or "bright" (as *albino*) and is related to such words as "Laban" or "Lebanon" which also mean white or bright in the Hebrew language. Mount Lebanon was called "white" because of the snow which covered it.

Isn't it significant that God chose *Bricket Wood* ("bright islet") on the river *Ver* ("truth") near *St. Albans* ("holy brightness") as the very location from which His *light*, His *truth* and His *brightness* would emanate today?

Isn't it significant that the College in England is now sending out the truth to five of the six continents — to well over one hundred nations around this earth?

Physical Plant Improvements

There are a number of exciting changes taking place at this important nerve center of God's Work overseas. The College in England has now expanded to over *two hundred acres* of verdant Hertfordshire countryside, situated in the beautiful "green belt" which surrounds London's eight million inhabitants.

On these grounds are situated a large number of beautiful college buildings — including the present library and classroom center (called Memorial Hall, in memory of Richard David Armstrong who first pioneered the British Work in 1954), Lakeside (the men's dormitory), Loma Hall (the main girls' dormitory, named after Mrs. Herbert W. Armstrong), the Administration Building, Dining Hall, Music Hall, Student Center, and the new ultra-modern Gymnasium and swimming pool complemented by the very fine Olympic-standard quarter mile track.

So outstanding is this Gymnasium complex that the British Olympics Committee chose it to represent the nation's sports facilities in a photographic display at the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City.

Recently, the College has acquired two formerly privately owned residences which were located inside the College grounds. One of these homes is being remodeled and will soon be occupied by

the Dean of Students — providing him a home large enough to properly entertain students. The other newly-acquired building has now been converted into a wonderful, charming Student Center — a much appreciated and long-awaited addition.

Work has just begun on a badly-needed classroom complex which will become our main lecture building when it is finished this spring. In addition, a beautifully engineered perimeter road has been constructed to encircle the picturesque ornamental lakes.

The new Loma Gardens, gracing Loma Hall, Lakeside and the new classroom building, is a most unusual fruit tree arbor surrounded by immaculate lawns. A mirror pool and many dwarf evergreens colorfully offset by rugged grey Westmorland stone and purple heather complete the setting. Trees, shrubs and flowers of every sort create a year-round picture of perpetual beauty.

One reason our gardens are so beautiful and greenery so rich is the *English climate!* Although the subject of many jokes, it is truly a benefit. Extremes of heat or cold are seldom reached. Instead, an invigorating medley of spring and autumn showers, light winter snows, warm and sunny intervals, and fresh winds all combine to keep Ambassador gardens resplendent and lush.

Unique Experience Opportunities

The students and faculty of all three Ambassador Colleges are afforded outstandingly unique, inspiring and rewarding opportunities. What are some of these opportunities and blessings at Bricket Wood?

Firstly, with a small enrollment of only 265, each student can really get to know every other student in the college. This makes for a real *family* atmosphere.

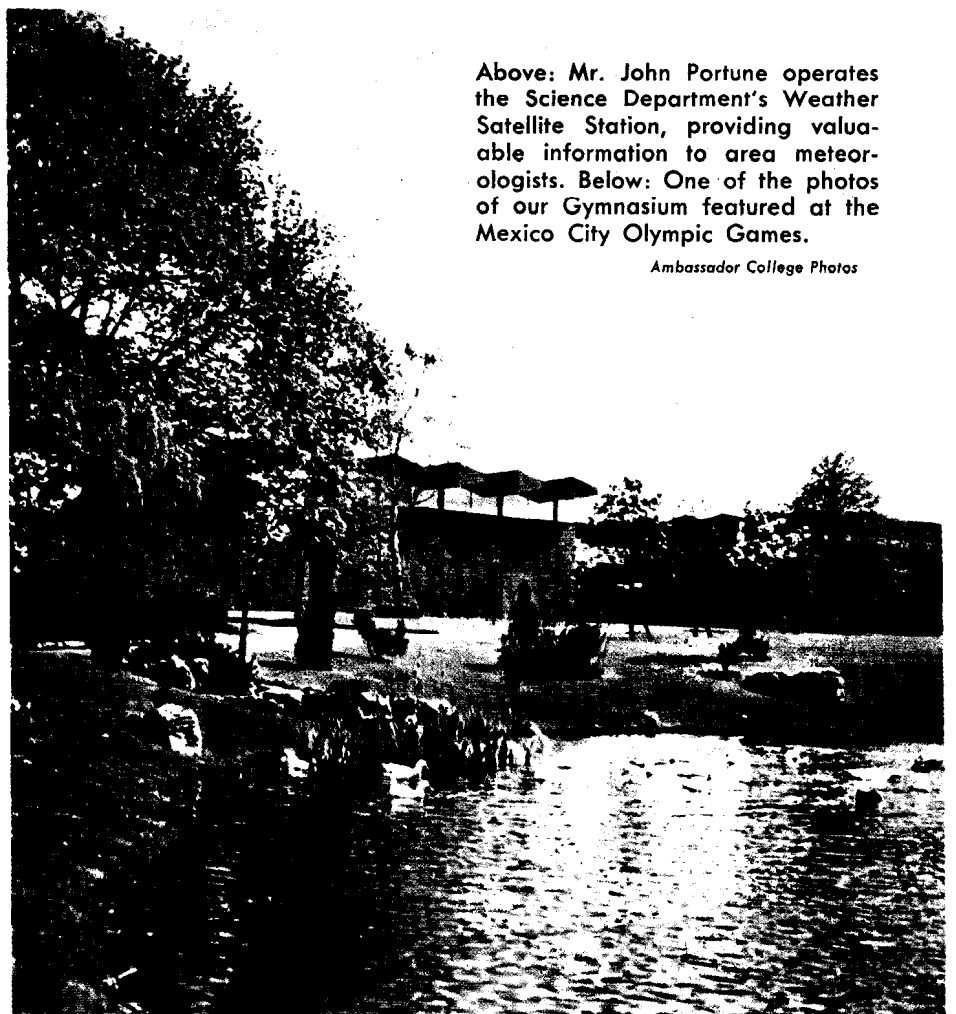
Secondly, Ambassador at Bricket Wood is perhaps the most *cosmopolitan* college on earth. Less than 25% of the enrollment is actually English! No less than 30 different countries have been represented (though students come primarily from Britain, the Commonwealth and the United States).

This multi-national student body



Above: Mr. John Portune operates the Science Department's Weather Satellite Station, providing valuable information to area meteorologists. Below: One of the photos of our Gymnasium featured at the Mexico City Olympic Games.

Ambassador College Photos



gives the college here a distinct *international* flavor and helps to broaden the outlook and horizons of the students. It is fascinating to learn the customs, ways, accents and backgrounds of students from the far-flung corners of the world.

Because of this cosmopolitan or international flavor, we named our large, beautifully decorated student lounge the "International Room." Emblazoned on one of the walls are the *seals* of twelve countries — which help to remind the students that we live in a world made up of many different races, nationalities, languages and cultures.

A further opportunity for students is the *College Chorale*. Every year the Chorale performs a major oratorio at the Watford Town Hall. Last year's *Elijah* was a stunning success, complimented by the local press. When the Chorale "says it with music" one thing is certain — more goodwill for Ambassador College is created.

So Convenient for Travel

Students also have unique travel opportunities. Mr. Armstrong has emphasized many times that travel is a very important means of broadening one's education. Furthering this aim, numerous mid-semester and summer tours are organized by various faculty members. They not only tour all over historically-rich Britain, but they are easily able to travel to many parts of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. Most of the Continent's leading cities are only about an hour's flight away.

The annual *senior trip* to the continent of Europe is an educational highlight for the graduating seniors. This trip usually lasts about eight or nine days, and is taken during the spring break immediately after the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread, well ahead of the more crowded peak tourist season.

This year's trip will take the seniors through five countries: Holland, Belgium, West Germany, Luxembourg and France. They will visit many of Europe's famous cities, as well as our Düsseldorf office. On the Sabbath, they will meet with the Dutch brethren in Utrecht. The climax of the tour will be

Paris — filled with historic and scenic interest. It should truly be an enjoyable, educational and memorable experience.

London — a World Center

One of the chief advantages of having the British College so near London is that this is one of the most interesting and beautiful cities of the world.

London is famous for world-renowned museums, libraries, theatres, galleries, botanical gardens, and many other places of historic interest. History lies around every corner! It is also still one of the world's *financial* and *cultural* centers. And when it comes to news — it is the *news center* of the world! The British radio and press usually give thorough *world news* coverage, especially when anything really big is taking place.

Internationally oriented Britain — one-time center of the world's greatest empire, now the hub of the Commonwealth — often plays host to the great of the world. Since God's Work began in Britain in 1958, many of the faculty members and ministers have been able to see most of the world's top leaders who have visited the city of London. These included such men as De Gaulle, Nehru, Nixon, Kosygin and most of the world's major political and religious dignitaries.

Many of us have been able to meet personally with Prime Ministers, Presidents, Members of Parliament, Kings, Princes and other notables. And this opportunity of seeing world figures is by no means limited to the faculty. Many of the students of the college attend lectures and meetings in London where they see and hear international leaders.

Science Department Contributions

Ambassador College in Bricket Wood is making a noteworthy contribution to the academic world in Great Britain by involving itself in space-age technology through the development of a *weather satellite tracking station*. Designed and built by the staff of the college's Science Department, this compact collection of technical hardware receives daily pictures of the earth's fascinating cloud systems directly from a growing number

of American A. P. T. weather satellites.

One of the very first of its kind in Europe, Ambassador's station now provides a regular weekly service of pictures and forecasts to one of Britain's leading daily newspapers, *The Guardian*, and to the nationally circulated magazine, *Yachting and Boating Weekly*. This has provided useful publicity including television film coverage by the B.B.C.

Another important activity of the Science Department here is our cooperation with the Big Sandy campus in agricultural research. On our *experimental farm*, we have already obtained some amazing results by learning to work with "nature," producing plants and livestock in a natural and unpolluted way.

The Ambassador Press

Another growing area of God's Work in Britain is our large *press*, located at Radlett — just about one mile from the college. This new press complex is one of the most modern printing plants in all of Britain and prints many millions of magazines, booklets and other items each year.

Every month *half a million* copies of *The PLAIN TRUTH* and *TOMORROW'S WORLD* are produced. Last year alone, we mailed *over eight million* pieces of literature to *over one hundred nations* around the globe!

Soon we hope to be printing the French, German and Dutch editions of *The PLAIN TRUTH* as well. To accomplish this, we are creating a new art and layout department and a composing room so we will be able to handle these foreign editions from layout to distribution. This will provide an enormous boost to the Work since Bricket Wood is located so close to these particular nations, and many of our French, German and Dutch personnel are here — besides the proximity of the foreign offices. Expenses in mailing also will be lowered appreciably.

Through these and many other *services*, Ambassador College in Bricket Wood is helping to fulfill the purpose for its existence — to SERVE the people of *five continents*!

Ycs, the College here in England was indeed *born to serve!* □

Are you ready to take the Passover?

Another year has nearly passed! Soon the Passover will be here and another priceless opportunity to live through the panorama of God's annual Holy Days — His plan of salvation for you and for the whole world. Are you ready for this vital observance — are you ready to take the Passover?

by Albert J. Portune

IN JUST a short while YOU will be sitting down with a very select few people on this earth to partake of the PASSOVER.

The Passover is a memorial of the death of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. Partaking of the symbols of His broken body and shed blood means that YOU have been selected to know and understand God's purpose. Being chosen as one of the ELECT to know God's truth carries sobering responsibilities. We cannot approach this event lightly.

Prelude to the Holy Days

The Passover is the first event beginning again God's annual season of Holy Days which reveal His plan of salvation for the whole world. That plan, hidden from the world in general, reveals why YOU cannot take this event lightly.

That plan reveals that YOU have been called to know and understand God's purpose — AHEAD of the majority of mankind. Jesus said: "It is given unto

you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given" (Matt. 13:11).

The world is not being called now! Only the Elect are being called at this time. God's Holy Days, revolving around the harvest seasons in Palestine, show that WE are part of the *early* harvest — representing the Elect. The rest of the world will not be given their opportunity until Jesus returns and the Millennium begins — the *late* or fall harvest (see Leviticus 23).

The sobering truth is that we have been called in a special calling or time to qualify ahead of the world so we can be *used* by God and Christ to help bring knowledge and salvation to the rest of mankind.

God is vitally concerned with us as we approach this Passover, because of our important part in His plan. He is deeply concerned with our attitude. He wants to KNOW if we are totally surrendered to Him. Now is the time, just before the Passover, to examine our-

selves to see whether we are truly RIGHT with God and in harmony with Him and His plan.

Self-examination

Do you realize that at this coming Passover you *could* eat and drink DAMNATION?

God inspired the Apostle Paul to write: "Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, *unworthily*, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man EXAMINE HIMSELF, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh *unworthily*, eateth and drinketh *damnation* to himself, not discerning the Lord's body" (I Cor. 11:27-29).

Brethren, this warning wouldn't be in God's Word if there were not mortal danger for YOU. This coming Passover is a vital time, whether you have taken the Passover many times or if this is your FIRST time.

What does it mean to discern the

Lord's body? How can we eat and drink *unworthily*? How can we eat and drink damnation to ourselves? Let's understand.

Getting Into Focus

God wants us to isolate a very basic and elementary perspective each year at the Passover. He wants us to focus on that elementary concept as we begin again to relive His plan of *salvation* for mankind. That elementary concept is *salvation*. That's what His plan is all about, whether it relates to us or the world.

Therefore, brethren, the Passover is a time for us to once again get down to the elementary precepts of our OWN salvation — our OWN relationship to God and His Work. It is a time to examine OURSELVES. A time to look at YOU.

We can get so absorbed in our work or in the "deeper things," the seemingly "important" things, that we can forget WE have to *get* and *keep* OURSELVES right with God. That's what the Passover is all about.

There is never a time we can allow ourselves to get so busy or so important in our own eyes that we no longer need to get deadly serious about the elementary concepts of salvation that we so intimately associated with the Passover.

The Elementary Principles

No matter how long we have been in God's Church or how spiritual we have become, we are *still* human beings with human nature. Not one of us will ever come to a place in this life when we can afford to forget *what* we are. Just before the Passover we should take another look — a long, good look!

What is man like?

"The heart [of man] is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9.)

"The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is *not* subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Rom. 8:7).

Yes, this *is* the kind of *nature* all human beings have! And this is the time of year to especially remember that fact. It is also a time to rehearse and reaffirm what you have done with the knowledge that you have that kind of nature.

The truth of the matter is, human nature is *alien* to God and to His ways. Man's heart is wickedly inclined. He is *deceitful*, totally opposed to the ways of God. Most men have never seen themselves this way. Most men do not have the slightest awareness they have this kind of nature — but it's true. Satan, in hiding this truth from mankind, has done his work well!

Environment, Too

Not only is man's nature this way, but his environment is virtually totally alien to God. Mankind does not know that this world is not GOD's world — yet. God is allowing Satan to rule this world for a time. He is allowing Satan to seduce man through man's mind and fleshly pulls to want and to imbibe of all the evil things of this world.

Satan is the present ruler of this world and he is blinding men's minds to the truth that *you* have been given the privilege to understand. "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" (II Cor. 4:3-5).

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is NOT of the Father, but is of the world" (I John 2:16).

So, in our examination, let's realize what kind of basic nature we have and what kind of a world we live in.

Light in Darkness

For us who are the Elect, light and understanding has come by the calling of God's Holy Spirit. Through God's infinite mercy YOU were called as one of His Elect to see yourself and your environment as THEY REALLY ARE!

This was a miracle in your life! Do you still realize it?

God sent His Holy Spirit to open your mind to real knowledge. By it He opened your mind to see YOURSELF! You were led to see what human nature was like — what YOU were like. And you were led to see how Satan has influenced you along with all mankind.

You didn't like what you saw!

You wanted to be different. So you came to repentance — a *change* in yourself — because that's what repentance is. The words of the Apostle Paul became your words: "For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth NO GOOD THING: O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" (Rom. 7:15, 18, 24.)

So you came to repentance and you were baptized. You went through an outward SYMBOL of death. Baptism is a picture of death, burial and resurrection. You were immersed in a watery grave and brought up in a type of a resurrection. But a resurrection to what?

"How shall we, that are *dead to sin*, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore are we buried with him *by baptism* into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE" (Rom. 6:2-4).

Having seen yourself for what you really were, you wanted to stop being God's enemy. You wanted to stop being deceitful and wicked. You wanted to have all the past evil deeds and thoughts taken away. You wanted to become a NEW — a different person. You saw that Jesus Christ died for you. You saw *why* He had to die — to pay the price for *your* sins and for *your* hostile mind. So you acknowledged Jesus as your own personal Savior. You asked God to accept the sacrifice of Jesus' life for YOUR sins and carnal mind. You openly before God showed Him by your baptism what you TRULY wanted — for your evil carnality to *die* and to be changed into having the kind of nature that is no longer God's enemy.

When God saw this genuine, heartfelt attitude, He put His Holy Spirit *within* you and begot you as His own child.

But that isn't the end of the story!

Not the End

Now began what is perhaps the hardest part of all — for every one of us. Having crucified, in a sense, the "old



nature," we each soon found that the old nature wasn't dead. Though we wished for it to be destroyed, we found it still had life and vigor.

AND THAT'S JUST THE POINT!

God intended it this way for a vital purpose. God wants us to comprehend the REAL DEPTH OF THE EVIL, WICKEDNESS AND DECEITFULNESS that is in us. God is allowing us to live on WITH our fleshly natures and in an alien environment to teach us how really and *profoundly* EVIL we have been — and how often we still fall short.

We know that we have crucified the old man to the intent that the body of SIN (our very nature) might be destroyed (Rom. 6:6). We know that once we are resurrected or changed at Jesus' return, we will be freed from this kind of nature (verse 7). But, *until* that time comes, we must reckon ourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, and living the righteous life (verse 11). The struggle then begins to "let not sin therefore *reign* in your MORTAL body, that you should *obey it* in the lusts thereof" (verse 12).

When we are first baptized, we are called "babes" in Christ. Notwithstanding the fact that we have come to miraculous and profound knowledge at baptism, we still are just *beginning* a life of overcoming. We need to grow

HUNGRY! — When we are first baptized, God looks upon us as "newborn babes" which must be fed the "milk" of His Word in order to grow spiritually.

and mature in understanding and perspective. "... As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may GROW thereby" (I Peter 2:2). "But grow in GRACE, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (II Peter 3:18).

As we grow in a deeper and more profound knowledge of spiritual things our ability to see *ourselves* becomes more acute. We see things about ourselves and our natures that *we never saw* at baptism. This is right! It is progress! It is what God intended.

When Paul received God's Holy Spirit and began to grow, he found that his more profound knowledge of God's spiritual law made sin appear to become *exceeding sinful* (Rom. 7:13). And so it is with us. The longer we live with ourselves in this flesh the more our knowledge of God's perfect spiritual law (that we are *privileged to understand*) convicts us of the exceeding sinfulness of the carnal human nature.

So, as we approach the Passover, we have had one more year to live with ourselves. God is now asking us once

again to partake of the broken body and shed blood of Christ. Has this past year convinced you that you have come to the place that you no longer *need* the sacrifice of Christ? Or rather has it convinced you that you need it *EVEN MORE PROFOUNDLY* than ever before?

THIS IS ALL INCLUDED IN "DISCERNING THE LORD'S BODY."

Certainly you have grown in personal overcoming of sin. Certainly you have grown in Bible understanding and spiritual knowledge. But have you grown in personally knowing *YOU* need Jesus Christ *more than ever before*? And have you grown in completely TRUSTING HIM — whether for healing, by means of His broken body, or for salvation through the value of His blood that once coursed through that body, or in any kind of day-to-day need in which He is our Advocate to intervene in your behalf?

Ready for the Passover?

Each year God commands us to live through again His Holy Days which picture His plan of salvation for the world. Each year we begin again with the primary beginning — the Passover — the acceptance of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Each year we should be observing God's Holy Days with greater desire for the fulfillment of His plan because we should have seen the need for it more profoundly than ever before — for ourselves and for the world.

As we start the Holy Days again, it should be with a *renewed* eagerness. It should be with a *more* fervent desire to take those precious symbols because we know far more deeply their meaning to us and to the world.

It's not with a humdrum routine approach that we begin each year. We cannot come up to these days with a half-hearted, apathetic approach. If we do we may eat and drink "unworthily" — eat and drink damnation unto ourselves. No one is "worthy" — a "worthy" person. Totally understanding how *unworthy* of Christ's great sacrifice we are, makes us ready to partake of the Passover with full understanding. This is the *only* way we can partake of it

"worthily," that is, in a worthy *manner* and *attitude!*

God wants His people to approach the Passover with the most earnest and heartfelt desire for the forgiveness of Christ — individually and ultimately for the world. No other attitude demonstrates a true Christian who has grown as he should through the year.

Are YOU READY TO TAKE THE PASSEVER?

No man who has lived another year in the flesh with the presence of the Holy Spirit can approach the Passover without a deeper and more sincere NEED for the sacrifice of Christ. No man can thus take the unleavened bread of Jesus' broken body and the red wine of His shed blood without, in spirit, falling at the foot of the stake before Jesus' bleeding, dying body and saying "For me, for me, Oh God, He died!"

"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is GIVEN FOR YOU: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is SHED FOR YOU" (Luke 22:19-20).

These words should be more living and personal for you than ever before. ARE THEY?

The Big Picture

Having thus seen the profound need for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ in our *personal* lives, we should also have a deeper and more acute desire for the same light and understanding to come to this lost, sin-sick world. Not just in theory, but in fact.

We begin again, with the Passover, picturing God's plan of salvation for the world. It's not just a personal salvation for you alone. There are a lot of human lives going down the drain all around us. The utter hopelessness of a dying civilization sends its groanings up into our consciousness every day.

We, who have been given the knowledge of the ONLY way out for the world, ought to groan within ourselves for the time they, too, can be delivered from the bondage of corruption of which we have been made so acutely aware. Each new year of Holy Day

observances should be from a higher level of awareness, with a greater sense of earnestness for their fulfillment.

There is only ONE WORK truly working toward that end . . . THIS WORK. And you are a part of it.

Has this past year brought you to a deeper dedication? Are you behind God's Work with your *very lives* and all that your lives can produce? Or, are the annual Holy Days to you just another humdrum routine again?

"God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). "He that believeth on him [in His purpose] is not condemned: but he that believeth not [in His purpose] is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (verse 18).

If you truly believe in God's purpose through Jesus Christ and are going ALL OUT for that purpose in YOUR LIFE, then you are properly discerning the Lord's body and are eating and drinking eternal life unto yourself. But if your life and actions show a half-hearted, lethargic support and dedication to His Work — you are eating and drinking damnation to yourself — not discerning, not understanding the full meaning of the Lord's body.

EXAMINE YOURSELF!

Make It Personal

Brethren, there is still time to examine yourself and make this Passover a personal thing between you and God. Look deeply into your life. Have you been just coasting? Were you going to let this just be another routine Passover? If this is true, then you desperately need the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the *lethargy* which God's Holy Spirit has led you to see in yourself — just as you should have been led to see many other things about yourself this past year.

For every growing Christian each Passover should be a more profound experience in which our Savior and our God grows more personal, more precious, more wonderful.

ARE YOU READY TO TAKE THE PASSEVER — WILL YOU BE READY?

During supper that Passover evening

Jesus rose and girded Himself with a towel and began to wash the disciples' feet (John 13:2-5). Peter, impulsive and naïve, didn't want to let Jesus "stoop" to washing his feet. But Jesus said to him, "If I wash thee not, THOU HAST NO PART WITH ME!" Peter, of course *did* want to have a part with Christ and consented.

Jesus then said: "Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, YOUR LORD and *Master*, have washed your feet; ye also OUGHT TO WASH ONE ANOTHER'S FEET. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his Lord; neither he that is *sent* greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye IF YE DO THEM" (verses 12-17).

We will wash one another's feet on the Passover. But again it is an outward symbol of an attitude and action in our lives — one of serving the brethren and being willing to give ourselves in HUMILITY for the purposes of God.

Do you have a part with Jesus Christ? Are you in a foot-washing attitude ALL YEAR? That's what the outward symbol of foot-washing you will partake of truly means. Are you discerning the Lord's body? Or, are you perhaps like Peter — not wanting to let the purposes of your God be to take the form of a servant. A growing, discerning Christian knows his God has called him to humble himself as a servant of brethren and mankind.

The Time Is Now

So, brethren, the time is NOW. The Passover is just ahead of you. You have had another year to live, experience and grow. The panorama of YOUR LIFE is there before you along with the tableau of the sacrifice of Christ.

"He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. . . . Surely he hath borne OUR griefs, and carried OUR sorrows. . . . But he was wounded for OUR transgressions, he was bruised for OUR iniquities: the chastisement of OUR peace was upon him; and with his stripes WE are healed" (Isa. 53:3-5).

Be READY to take the Passover! □

How do you **HATE SIN?**

Do you minimize sin? Do you justify the wrong you do by comparing your sins to someone else's? What attitude should we have toward sin? As the Days of Unleavened Bread approach, we need to seriously review these questions.

by Leon Walker



“YES, I realize Johnny lied, and I know he shouldn't have done it,” said Mom. “But, after all, it isn't as though he had murdered someone.”

Johnny told Mom he had no homework. Certainly it was just a “small” lie. Nothing like murder or theft. Nothing to get worked up about, she thought. Her Johnny isn't as bad as the other children in the neighborhood. He doesn't do all the bad things *they* do.

How many of us would agree with her reasoning? How many of *us* justify our “small” sins by comparing them with the “big” sins of others?

How Do YOU Look at Sin?

What is your attitude toward sin, brethren? As the Days of Unleavened Bread draw near — which picture the putting of sin out of our lives — we need to remind ourselves of the “exceeding sinfulness of sin”!

Take this simple test to see what your attitude is toward sin.

Which sin is *worse*?

- a) To borrow from your second tithe *in an emergency*.
b) To embezzle from your employer.
- a) To marry an uncovered person.
b) To flee the scene of an accident in which you were involved.
- a) To speak evil about someone behind his back.
b) To kill someone in cold blood.

What were your answers? All “b's”?

If so, your attitude toward SIN is the same as that of Johnny's mother. It is a *wrong* attitude! Let's understand why.

How Does GOD Look at Sin?

It is obvious that certain sins hurt people more than others. Adultery, for example, clearly inflicts greater and more lasting damage to more people than forgetting an appointment.

On the other hand, we must realize the evil of what many people may consider to be “small” sins. After all, *sin is sin* — wrong is wrong — evil is evil, no matter what the degree. To ask which of two sins is worse is about like asking which was more sinful — Sodom or Gomorrah?

Regardless of how “minor” or “small” men may think some sins are,

God says: "For the wages of sin is death . . ." (Rom. 6:23). That's death in the lake of fire! No sins, therefore, should be trifled with, tolerated, or secretly harbored. The ultimate penalty for ALL sin — whether large or small — is the same: **ETERNAL DEATH!**

That some sins exact an immediate penalty is clear. But the damage done by some "small" sins over a period of time can also be *devastating*. To compare one's own sins with those of other people, to *minimize* one's own sins, and in the process to seek *justification* for them is exceedingly foolish and spiritually dangerous!

The Apostle James warns: "For whosoever shall keep *the whole law*, and yet offend in *one point*, he is GUILTY OF ALL" (James 2:10). Our attitude as converted Christians should be to seek out and eliminate *every* sin — *every* wrong thought — *every* evil way. We should not be hanging on to our "small" faults just because they do not *seem* to be as serious as certain obviously great sins.

The Danger of Self-deception

The most obvious characteristic of the Pharisees was their self-righteousness. Jesus Christ exposes this attitude very clearly in Luke 18:9-14:

"And He spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves *that they were righteous*, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, *that I am not as other men are*, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess."

Here was a man who had committed no "great" sins. At least he didn't think so. Whatever sins or faults the Pharisee had, he certainly did not consider them to be as evil as those in other people. In fact, he prided himself on his obedience to God's laws. He was SURE that he was *righteous* before God.

But what about the publican?

"And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God *be merciful to me a sinner*."

The publican, quite opposite from the Pharisee, *knew* his sins. He did not minimize them. He made no comparison with anyone else. He did not say his sins were not quite as bad as those in someone else. And though perhaps guilty of greater obvious sins than the Pharisee, the publican was the one who was justified rather than the Pharisee because he had a *repentant attitude*.

"I tell you," said Jesus, "this man [the publican] went down to his house justified rather than the other [the Pharisee]: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

What was the difference between these two men? Although the publican had committed serious sins, *he was repentant* — he wanted to change and to overcome. But the Pharisee blinded himself to his sins. In his sight he had never done anything wrong. He had the attitude, "I'm all right, Jack." Therefore, in his own mind, his faults had ceased to exist at all.

Through self-righteousness the Pharisee had fallen into the trap of thinking that the sins of other people were worse than his. By comparing himself with them he seemed pure. "After all," he probably thought to himself, "I haven't committed the horrible sins these others have!" As a result, he never comprehended his own total wretchedness in the sight of God.

There is a great lesson in this parable for us, today. Are *we* modern-day Pharisees? Do we seek to justify our sins by comparing ourselves with others and concluding that we aren't so bad after all?

Don't Compare Sins!

Christ exposed more of the true colors of the Pharisees in Matthew 23:

"But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, *hypocrites!* for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in . . . ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess . . . within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity . . . ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell [gehenna]?" (Matt. 23:13, 25, 28, 33.)

If you are tempted to compare sins, then ask yourself this question: Which was worse — the sin of extortion (as perhaps with the publican) or the sin of being responsible for preventing someone from entering the Kingdom of God — causing them to lose out on salvation and eternal life? Put that way, the Pharisee's sins did not compare very favorably with the publican's, did they?

Actually, no sin should minimize any other sin. *Sin is sin* — and *all* sin results in DEATH!

It is beside the point whether or not your sins seem *as great as* your neighbor's. You may say you haven't murdered anyone. Fine. That's good. But do you occasionally tell lies? If so, that is the sin which *you* need to repent of. If you don't repent of it, it will claim *your* life just as murder will claim someone else's life.

We must not allow ourselves to think that the sins other people commit somehow diminish the seriousness of the sins *we* commit. Overcome *your* sins and faults and let God deal with everyone else. Follow the perfect example of our Saviour Jesus Christ. His should be the *only* standard for comparisons.

All Sins Are Serious

Let us return to the example given at the beginning of this article. Johnny's "small" lie may not seem too serious at first thought — especially when we *compare* it with murder. Granted, a "small" lie may not always have the dire results of murder. But in certain instances it could!

Lying is *always* a terribly serious sin! Why? Because lying reveals a fatal flaw in character — a fatal defect. Lying is *deception*. Lying can reflect an attitude of hate, disrespect, selfishness, and even murder. Satan is spoken of in the Bible as a "murderer" and the "father of lies" (John 8:44). A liar has no real character. He cannot be trusted. He is absolutely undependable.

God certainly does not consider lying a "small" sin. In fact, He says: "... ALL LIARS, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death" (Rev. 21:8, also 22:15).

Lying is a sin so serious *in God's eyes*

that He has set death as its penalty! How about Johnny's "little" lie, then? Anything to get worked up about? Yes! These "small" sins are so serious that if we want our children to grow up as responsible, trustworthy adults, we had better eradicate these sins NOW, realizing how detrimental they are to the formation of holy, godly character!

We also need to be vitally *concerned* about ALL sins! Some sins may not *seem* too great, but ALL are the antithesis of the righteous and perfect character of God! And all, unrepented of, lead to the lake of fire!

David's Example

David's approach to sin was totally different from that of most people. Therefore, he is called "a man after God's own heart." Notice his attitude: "I hate and abhor lying; but thy law do I love" (Psalm 119:163).

Earlier, in verses 104 and 128 of the same Psalm, David said: "... I hate every false way." David's desire — because he had the mind of God, the approach of God — was to eradicate ALL sins from his life. Even though he sinned, he never sought to justify himself. He never excused the wrong in himself by comparing himself with worse examples.

A member of God's Church who really abhors lying — who looks at lies as *God* does — will feel like David, and he will strive to overcome this great sin, and every sin, in his life. He won't be minimizing its seriousness by saying that "it is not as bad as..."

Proverbs 28:13 admonishes us: "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." You can never succeed in hiding your sins. God sees them. Why not take the best way out — admit them, admit their seriousness, repent, change and seek God's forgiveness?

Don't be like those described in Proverbs 30:12: "There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness." Look at *your* sins, then repent of them as David did. Don't fall into the trap of comparing yourself with certain bad examples you see around you.

Your Reaction to Sin

What type of person are you? Are you *shocked* and moved by the SIN that exists in the world today? The violence, the crime, the pornography, the wars, abortions, racial bigotry and conflicts? How do you feel about the conditions that constitute our society today?

Do you think sin isn't really so bad, after all?

The Church at Corinth well illustrates a point. In I Corinthians 5 the Apostle Paul writes about a man in the Church who had committed fornication. He also rebukes the other members of that Church for their attitude toward that sin. "And ye are *puffed up*, and have not rather *mourned*, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you" (I Cor. 5:2).

On the other hand, the Prophet Ezekiel describes those whose attitude toward sin is entirely different: "And the Lord said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem and set a mark [for their protection and salvation] upon the foreheads of the men that *sigh* and *cry for all the abominations* that be done in the midst thereof" (Ezek. 9:4).

The Corinthians weren't sighing and crying for all the abominations done in the city of Corinth, which was notorious throughout the entire Roman Empire for its sexual licentiousness. The Corinthians in the Church had *grown up* in that society. They tended to take it *for granted*. They tended to "co-exist" with the heinous sins around them.

We today live in a society very much like that of Corinth — and in many respects *even worse*. And we, like them, have become hard to shock. We have seen too much violence and bloodshed on television — too much of Vietnam. Most people aren't revolted by open displays of perverted sex and/or nudity on the stage, cinema and television. And we have come to regard the taking of drugs almost as commonplace as drinking beer.

Don't Become Hardened to Sin

Brethren, we need to RENEW OUR GUARD against all the sins around us — all the rottenness of this evil, degenerate, filthy world!

The Apostle Paul warns us: "Take

heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you *be hardened through the DECEITFULNESS of sin*" (Heb. 3:12-13).

Have some of *us* begun to take sin for granted? Is sin merely a "religious" word? Or do we see and HATE the awful results that follow the violation of God's wonderful laws?

Some are no longer with us because they didn't fear to lie. Others have thought that to borrow from second tithe *in an emergency* was no great sin. Others have left the Church through dating, then marrying, an unconverted person. None *intended* to leave the Church at first, but that was the inevitable result of an attitude and action which *minimized sin*!

Check up on yourself. Do you minimize your sins? Are you "coexisting" with certain "small" sins in your life? Don't allow yourself to be blinded to the seriousness of even the "SMALLEST" sins in your life — because if you tolerate them, they will eventually lead to the lake of fire!

The perfect approach to *all sins* was given by the Apostle Peter: "For he that will *love life*, and see good days, let him *refrain his tongue from evil*, and his lips that they speak no guile: let him *ESCHEW EVIL*, and *do good*; let him seek peace, and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the *righteous*, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord *is against them that do evil*" (I Peter 3:10-12).

This is the attitude we should have if we want to live forever!

The more we overcome sin, and live righteously before God, the more He can bless us and use us in His Work — and the greater reward we will receive in His soon-coming Kingdom. Therefore, let's abhor *all* sin, brethren — let's FLEE from sin, and cleave to righteousness with all our heart and strength!

In this Passover season especially, let's be reminded of the horror of sin, and diligently *PUT IT OUT* of our lives, even as we put the leavened bread out of our homes during the Days of Unleavened Bread! ■

WHAT IS THE WORLD'S DEADLIEST WEAPON?

Chemical warfare, nerve gases, biological toxins, atom bombs and thermonuclear warheads are lethal weapons. But there is another weapon which has destroyed the lives of far more people than all of these put together!

by David L. Antion

WHAT is the world's most devastating weapon? Most people would probably say the H-bomb. Some might say the cobalt bomb. Others may point to a rumored laser bomb, a doomsday device, or even chemical and biological weapons.

But none of these is right!

There is another weapon that every man carries around with him daily. It is with him when he gets up in the morning and shaves. It is with him when he goes to sleep at night.

This weapon is not just some theoretical device which has never been used. In the history of mankind, it has been responsible—directly or indirectly—for the deaths of multiplied millions!

But men have no monopoly on this weapon. Women also use it quite consistently — often to devastating effect.

The Worst Weapon in the World

What is this horrible weapon? It is the HUMAN TONGUE! Men have misused the tongue. They have turned it into a "*world of iniquity*."

Notice what God's Word says: "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a *world of iniquity*: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell [*gehenna* — or the lake of fire]."

"For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: but the tongue can no man

tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be" (James 3:5-10).

The tongue, as these verses show, does not *have* to be a deadly weapon. When used correctly, it can be a wonderful *tool* for great good!

But unfortunately, too few people have learned how to properly control it! Most often the tongue is used as an unguided missile which explodes upon the object of its aim with deadly effect.

How This Weapon Is Used

There are many wrong uses of the tongue. But perhaps the most dangerous

and harmful of all is *gossip*. Gossip can do more damage and create more division than nearly any other activity.

Why do people gossip? Do women gossip more than men? And is gossip damaging to those who do it? These are some questions to which we in God's Church should know the answers.

In a study by Theodore Isaac Rubin, M.D., entitled *What Gossiping Reveals About You*, some interesting answers are brought to light. Doctor Rubin found that women have no priority on gossip! Men gossip just as much. "In fact, nearly everyone gossips to some extent, but some people carry it too far. To them, gossip becomes a chronic way of life that cannot be altered *without psychiatric help*."

But why do people gossip? Dr. Rubin explains that some men and women are "chronic mouthmovers." They must either *eat* or *talk*. And many times they gossip just to keep their mouths moving — spouting a steady stream of words.

Dr. Rubin points out another major reason for gossip. "Boredom and apathy also breed gossip. Idle talk becomes a filler to compensate for empty hours. *Lonely people* whose lives have become dull and devoid of interests use gossip as a form of reaching out or relating. Because they are not sufficiently involved with current events or issues they cannot talk about them, and they feel that talking about themselves is dull and useless — so they gossip about others. . . . All these lonely, bored people are so involved in gossip that they don't always realize they are telling tales or exaggerating. In short, they believe their own fabrications."

God's Word shows *idleness* to be indeed one of the major causes leading to gossip. Speaking of younger widows, Paul says, "And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but *tattlers* also and *busybodies*, SPEAKING THINGS WHICH THEY OUGHT NOT" (I Tim. 5:13).

Idleness breeds much mischief. An old adage says, "An idle mind is the devil's playground." Even so, we might say an unguided tongue might be called the devil's *mouthpiece*. An idle mind leads to idle words — and com-

bined they do the work of Satan, not the work of God! An idle person's thoughts degenerate from fabrication to fantasy, and finally, almost without exception, to *malice*.

Malicious Gossip

"Repressed anger is perhaps the most common cause of malicious gossip," says Dr. Rubin. He goes on to explain that many people cannot admit their anger toward someone else. So they disguise it. They release their venom in the form of deadly gossip — hatred and *murder* (I John 3:15) in the form of words! They seek to *destroy* through the spoken word!

God's Word bears this out: "*He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool*" (Prov. 10:18). Also God says, "*He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up deceit within him*" (Prov. 26:24). And again, in verse 28 of the same chapter, "*A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.*"

Have you ever been angry at another — hated another — but tried to conceal it?

Jealousy and envy are also common motives for gossip. Says Dr. Rubin, "The object of gossip is to put down that person so as to remove the craving for what that person owns." When we put down another person, we think we are raising ourselves. This is sheer vanity!

Have *you* ever envied another person? Have *you* been jealous of the things someone else possessed or the prestige of his position? We would all have to admit that at some time we have. When we did, we found ourselves tempted to speak evil of others. We wanted to impute motives and make insinuating remarks. We tried to excuse our stations in life in comparison with theirs by implying evil — gossiping. Subconsciously we wanted to "put them down" verbally — thus exalting our own self-image.

Tales CAN Hurt!

"Sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me." You have heard this little saying and perhaps have said it yourself as a child.

Parents usually quote this jingle when little children are hurt by something another child says. Thus, most of us grow up thinking that words won't hurt us. We try to harden ourselves against the words of others.

But the Bible plainly tells us that words *can* — and often do — cause damage. Notice: "Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth" (Prov. 26:20). In verse 22 God says further, "*The words of a talebearer are as wounds*, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly."

Yes, words can hurt — they can hurt one's reputation; they can hurt a person's health; they can hurt friends; and they can hurt the one who misuses them himself!

God certainly minces no words here. He tells us plainly how *destructive* the use of the tongue can be. Its use in spitting out thoughtless or mischievous words may cause irreparable damage to someone's *entire life*!

The misuse of the tongue can cause serious *offense*. Notice what Solomon wrote: "A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city. . ." (Prov. 18:19).

How often have *you* "let fly" with your mouth and offended somebody else?

An Incredible Paradox

How can men praise God — stand in Church and sing praises to God, and lead in prayers over their family table and in Church — and at the same time speak evil from motives of repressed anger or envy of their brothers in the Church? Blessing and cursing comes from the same mouth. God says these things ought not to be! (James 3:10.)

"SPEAK NOT EVIL ONE OF ANOTHER, BRETHREN. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge" (James 4:11).

Brethren, God has given His Church a great commission to perform! That commission is to proclaim THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S WORD to the world. We are all part of a great *team* organized to carry out that purpose. There-

fore, we should *speak* the pure Word of God!

But how many of us are speaking *evil* of our brothers? How many are using their tongues for a wrong purpose while claiming to belong to the body of Christ to help proclaim God's Word to the world?

Again, God commands, "Wherefore *laying aside* all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, AND ALL EVIL SPEAKINGS . . . *grow . . .*" (I Peter 2:1-2).

This is the way to preserve your life. God explains, "For he that will love life, and see good days, LET HIM REFRAIN HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL, AND HIS LIPS THAT THEY SPEAK NO GUILE" (I Peter 3:10).

We cannot be God's true people — His true servants — and speak evil one of another. We must not tolerate gossip and the tearing down of our brothers through malicious, evil words. "If any man among you seem to be religious, and *bridleth not his tongue*, but *deceiveth* his own heart, THIS MAN'S RELIGION IS VAIN" (James 1:26).

Brethren, there is FAR TOO MUCH GOSSIP in God's Church! There are far too many talebearers! There are too many people repeating stories that do not concern them!

What Not to Say

Some will say that they do not gossip — they merely tell "the truth." Thus, they feel that in telling "the truth" they are justified! But they fail to realize that the Bible defines a gossip as one who not only speaks lies, but also repeats evil — even if it is "the truth" — when and where it is NONE OF HIS BUSINESS or the business of the listener!

You don't always have to tell something just because you know it! MANY things are far better left unsaid, even though they are true. For instance, in motion pictures today producers make the assumption that because certain deeds (adultery, fornication, homosexual acts, etc.) *are done*, it is all right to discuss them and show them on the screen!

They couldn't be more WRONG!

There are many things which are better forgotten. Says the Apostle Paul: "For it is a shame even to speak of

those things which are done of them in secret" (Eph. 5:12).

Whenever you repeat any information about an evil deed to someone *who should not be involved and has no business knowing*, then you are gossiping. When you talk about anyone's faults to someone who can do nothing about them, you are gossiping. Even when you repeat the truth — whether that truth is about an evil deed or sin — to a person who is merely a bystander, you are gossiping.

Gossip, naturally, also takes the form of *misinformation*. To imply motives, or to insinuate untruths, is gossip and lying. Hopefully, most of God's people are not involved in this type of gossip — but many of God's people *are* involved in *speculations* and *repeating matters!* This kind of gossip is absolutely forbidden in the Bible because of its devastating effects. "He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; BUT HE THAT REPEATETH A MATTER SEPARATETH VERY FRIENDS" (Prov. 17:9).

How to Conquer Gossip

What can you do about gossip? How can you overcome this abominable habit in yourself? There *is* something *you* can do personally.

You can begin an active campaign against gossip by *stopping it at its source!*

Here's how. First, learn to recognize gossip in your own conversation. There will be many times when you will be so absorbed in conversation that you will not realize you are actually gossiping. However, after the talk is over, you can look back and see where you gossiped.

Once you apply your mind to analyzing your own words, you can catch yourself while talking. Then, as you are conscious of your words — which we certainly should be, since we are going to be judged by them — you will finally begin to *think* BEFORE you speak! (Prov. 15:28.)

Second, REPENT of gossip. Don't take it lightly. You will never overcome gossip until you are deeply convinced of its evil. Most people, after they've gossiped, just shrug their shoulders saying, "Well, I guess I really should not have said those things, but. . ."

Go to God on your knees. Realize the

seriousness of gossiping. Ask God to forgive you for *your attitude of heart* which may have been the spirit of murder, or at least the spirit of carelessness and unconcern. Realize that Christ had to *die* to pay the penalty of THAT sin, too!

Third, don't REPEAT gossip. If you've been gossiping — CHANGE! Put an END to gossip in your life!

You know how empty you feel after an unprofitable conversation centered around gossip. So decide not to do it again! Determine in your mind not to tear down yourself and others by your words. Instead, be positive — use words profitably to uplift and build up others as well as yourself.

Once you recognize gossip and repent of it, and henceforth stop repeating the pattern of conversations that lead to it, you will not be a gossip. But remember. Don't lend your ear to gossip, for this encourages others to gossip. And it is just as wrong.

A gossip needs an ear. He must have someone to listen to his talebearing. But if he finds no one to listen, then he can't gossip. So simply don't listen to gossip!

God's Word condemns the *listener* just as much as the gossip. Yet many of us actually encourage others to gossip. We egg the gossip on, delighting in the tidbits of poison he pours forth. We want to mind other people's business. We want to get the juicy evils that come from gossip.

Have you ever noticed that people tend not to be as excited to hear *good news* as to hear bad news? Have you ever noticed how slowly good news spreads and how *quickly* bad news gets around?

Why?

Because of human nature!

By nature we *want* to listen to gossip and spread it.

But you can stop it! Just DON'T listen! And don't gossip yourself.

Judged by Our Words

There is a Judgment coming. And God's Word plainly tells us that we will be judged by how we use our tongues. God says, "A fool's lips enter into contention, and HIS MOUTH CALLETH FOR STROKES. A fool's mouth

is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul" (Prov. 18:6-7).

Jesus put it right on the line when He said: "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? FOR OUT OF THE ABUNDANCE OF THE HEART THE MOUTH SPEAKETH. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, THAT *EVERY IDLE WORD* THAT MAN SHALL SPEAK, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. FOR BY THY WORDS THOU SHALT BE *JUSTIFIED*, AND BY THY WORDS THOU SHALT BE *CONDEMNED*" (Matt. 12:34-37).

Can anything be plainer? Jesus tells us we will have to *give account* for our words. We will be *judged* by what we have said!

Words are not empty. Words are much more powerful than we might imagine. We all feel — humanly, that is — that after words are spoken, they're forgotten. But words are not forgotten. And although the sounds of words fade and the vibrations stop — those words can linger on and face you in the future.

What are the fruits of *your* words? Have your words separated friends? Have they hurt the reputation of another? Have your words caused strife? If so, you will have to give account.

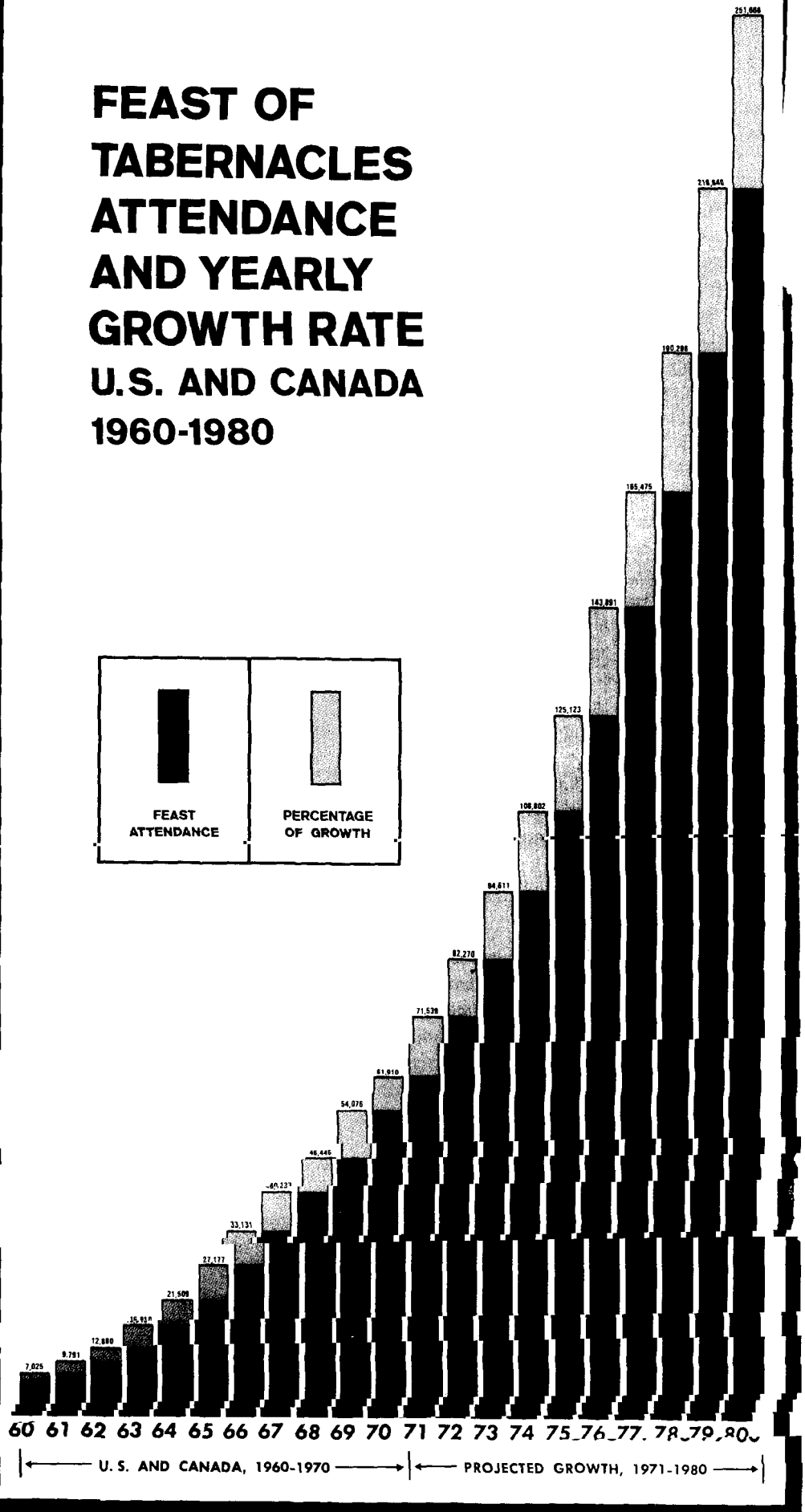
Brethren, we are in a Work that is spreading *good* news! Is it right that we should spread *evil* news to one another? Of course not.

Let's repent of gossip! Let's get rid of its cancerous growth from our midst!

Let's really believe — and practice — the instruction of Psalm 15:1: "Lord who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and *speaketh the truth in his heart*. He that *backbiteth not with his tongue*, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour."

Determine *now* that you will not disseminate gossip and not spread it. Determine in your own heart and mind to spread news of good events! □

FEAST OF TABERNACLES ATTENDANCE AND YEARLY GROWTH RATE U.S. AND CANADA 1960-1980





Just what IS the Feast? Have you ever stopped to ask yourself this question? Read, in this behind-the-scenes article by the Festival Director of God's Church, exactly what it takes to make God's Feast of Tabernacles so different and successful.

by Leslie L. McCullough

THE Feast of Tabernacles is many things to many people.

To the motel owners and businessmen approached for the *first time* by Festival Office personnel who are preparing for the opening of a new Feast site, the Feast has often been an enigma — a giant question mark.

But to the local communities which already know and respect us, the Feast is a very welcome boost economically at a normally slack time. It brings thousands of adults and children who, for some inexplicable reason, are far less a problem than a few hundred adult business conventioners who have literally *invaded* their area in the past!

To the members of the Church of God, the Feast is crimson and gold Pocono forests, the soaring majesty of Squaw Peak and Granite Chief in Squaw Valley, the ruggedness of Blackheath or the sparkling beauty of the Indian Ocean off George, South Africa. It's the thrill of preparation and the trip to Minehead, or the joy and anticipation of meeting for the first time with fellow Christians at Praz-sur-Arly, France.

The Feast is a time for education and travel. It's a time of renewing old acquaintances and establishing new ones. It's a time for fellowship and songs and sermons which show the real purpose for man. In seventeen places around this earth, it's a time when

God's Church, over 60,000 strong, meets to worship its Creator.

But the Feast is much more!

A Marvel of Cooperation

An executive of a prominent nationwide organization recently expressed his amazement at the logistical problems of providing housing, parking and auditorium space for more than 60,000 people. His amazement turned to open-mouthed incredulity when he found we weren't speaking of several small conventions scattered throughout the year, but one huge convention taking place simultaneously in seventeen different locations.

To most of those with experience in organizing conventions, the complexity of such an undertaking is staggering. Upwards of fifty percent of their delegates never show up. Those who do show up find fault with their accommodations, don't like the food and are generally disagreeable.

How can we of God's Church guarantee a specific number of people and then meet the guarantee? How can we act as though we expect a basically trouble-free time of harmony — and actually get it? How can we, apparent novices in this business, carry out something so complex?

The answer is: COOPERATION!

The Feast is a marvelous example of cooperation. It is successful because of the complete cooperation of God's

people. Members are eager to help and willing to tolerate inconveniences for the success of the Feast. How else could we assemble congregations the size of small cities and expect everything to run smoothly and harmoniously for an eight-day period?

After each Feast, many heartwarming and deeply satisfying comments are received from motel, hotel and restaurant owners. Here is what one motel manager in the Lake of the Ozarks region wrote regarding last year's Feast:

Again we pay tribute to the wonderful spirit and cooperation of the members of the Worldwide Church of God. It is difficult to believe that almost 12,000 people could come far distances to this area and live for eight days in somewhat different surroundings than they are accustomed to at home and yet exude a feeling of good fellowship, display patience, and reflect the teachings of your church so impressively.

In these times of social turmoil and with forces attempting to tear down our family structure and our country's foundation of freedom, it is heartening to know that the Worldwide Church of God demonstrates the right way and that their numbers increase each year.

And here's another from the Squaw Valley area:

In appreciation of the courteous and considerate attitude of your 56 adults and 47 children, whom it was our privilege to host . . .

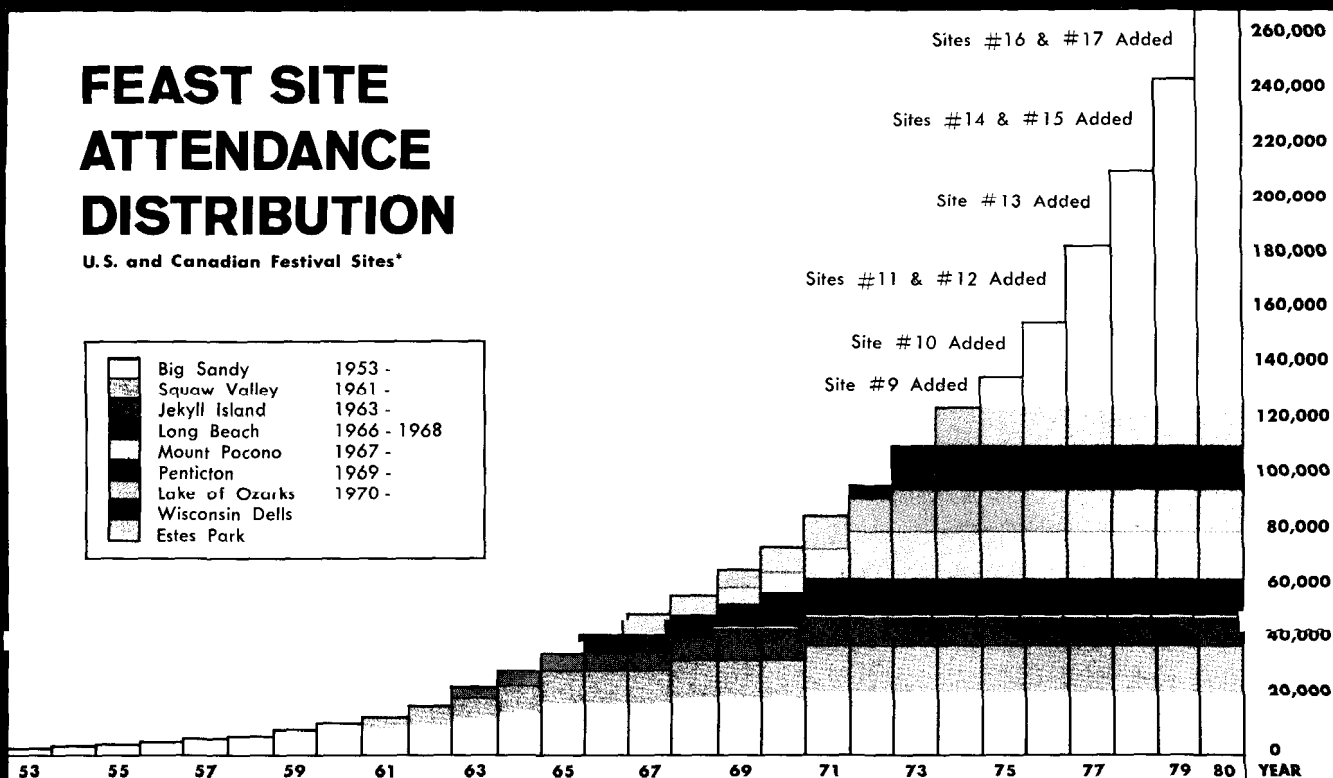
Any member of your Organization, properly identified, shall receive a 10% discount on our spring, summer, and winter rates.

With our sincere thanks for your

FEAST SITE ATTENDANCE DISTRIBUTION

U.S. and Canadian Festival Sites*

Big Sandy	1953 -
Squaw Valley	1961 -
Jekyll Island	1963 -
Long Beach	1966 - 1968
Mount Pocono	1967 -
Penticton	1969 -
Lake of Ozarks	1970 -
Wisconsin Dells	
Estes Park	



*Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong began observing the Feast of Tabernacles alone in 1927. From 1945 to 1951 the Feast was held at Belknap Springs, Oregon and in 1952 it was held in Seigler Springs, California. This chart shows Festival attendance growth and distribution after our own facilities were used.

highly valued patronage and assuring you of our desire to be of future service, we are....

Responses such as these attest to the shining example set by God's people "living by every word of God."

The Feast is *cooperation* ... and a great deal more.

The Festival Office

Another important ingredient which goes into making a successful Feast is the vast amount of hard work and planning that takes place in the Festival Office.

The overall direction of the Feast always comes from Headquarters and Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. However, in the past year the immediate responsibility for the supervision of all the Festival work has been transferred to the Big Sandy campus. This is where the Festival Office now does the year-round work and daily planning and scheduling for all the Feast sites in the United States and Canada.

Do not confuse this operation with the Festival Construction Operation headed by Mr. Raymond Cole. His

group of construction men also works year-round designing and developing each Feast site, and building the necessary buildings. Mr. Cole is preparing an article to be published in a future issue of *The GOOD NEWS* which will show you the inside story of this vital part of the whole Festival program.

In the past year, we have completed construction of the Feast Administration Building at Big Sandy. It is a replica of those in the Poconos, the Ozarks and the one soon to be built in the Wisconsin Dells. It is here the full-time Festival employees work to prepare the plans for each coming Feast of Tabernacles.

Behind-the-Scenes Planning

The work of the Festival Office definitely isn't over at sundown on the Last Great Day. After you are home, there are mountains of bills for us to pay and heaping piles of correspondence for us to handle. Reports from each of the Feast sites must also be analyzed to determine if those attending actually stayed at their assigned motels.

Then there is the planning for next

year. Improved methods are suggested and discussed. Where must we draw the boundary lines for the coming Feast? How many will we have in attendance at each site? Will we have enough chairs? This planning begins immediately.

A time schedule must be prepared to insure that every operation will be completed on time. There are forms to evaluate and contracts to write. Application forms and various letters of instruction must be printed. Then comes the correspondence with ministers, motel owners, realtors, monitors, Festival advisors and members who wish to change areas next year.

And what about the year after next, and the year after that, and the years on beyond? Even now we are carefully planning, if God should so decree, for 1972, 1975, right on through to 1980! Potential future sites are being investigated in conjunction with projected growth of the membership.

This is only a part of what the Festival Office does once the Feast is over. It calls upon and utilizes the skill of

pressmen, typists, computer operators, truck drivers, carpenters and numerous others. All must make a concerted *team* effort to accomplish "the best Feast yet."

The Computer and Housing

Back in 1956, the first year I attended the Feast, we received a handwritten letter from Mrs. Roy Hammer confirming that camping space 104 (I think that was the number) was reserved for the McCullough family. Mrs. Hammer used to sit at her kitchen table and assign *all* the housing and camping spaces for the entire Feast of Tabernacles. Gone are the days . . . !

And long gone are the days when Mr. Portune and I contacted all the motel owners, signed the contracts for Blythe Arena, opened the letters and banked the money, planned the menus, worked with the caterers, as well as assigning all the accommodations for the first Feast in Squaw Valley. All this was sandwiched in between teaching classes and all our other responsibilities — and it was all done in a single ten-by-twelve-foot office!

The Feast is a *much bigger* operation now than it was in those days.

Today, in order to properly assign housing, we must feed all the available information into a modern computer. We give the computer the exact details for each room in each motel. We must provide information telling the computer if there is a kitchen, if the room will accommodate a rollaway, how many beds are in the room, whether there is an additional charge for children, etc.

Upon command the computer then prints out a continuous line of labels showing the description of each room. When the festival applications are received the job of personally evaluating each member's circumstances begins. Trained housing representatives begin matching your specific housing application with the computer generated labels. The index number on your application is matched with the index number on the label and both are fed into the computer.

Then upon command and at the prearranged schedule, the computer prints out your housing accommodation confirmation. On this confirmation is listed

the name of the motel or realtor, the facilities available and who, if anyone, is to share the house or room. Included also is the amount the assignee has deposited and the balance to be paid.

Camping Preparations

For some members of the Church of God it wouldn't seem like a real Feast of *Tabernacles* if they weren't camping. And there is indeed something about a tent and camp stools which seems to dissolve a lot of natural reticence toward making new acquaintances. Conversations come more easily over a cup of coffee brewed on the camp stove. Sharing mutual problems of setting up a tent, outwitting a balky stove, and carrying water from afar seems to produce warm friendships easily. And for lovers of the out-of-doors, it's hard to beat the gentle serenity of a balmy fall evening with the family gathered around.

Therefore, the Feast often involves providing adequate camping facilities — camp spaces, sanitary buildings and water.

Water, which we take for granted in motels, can be quite a problem. Last year in Big Sandy we had 9,000 people camping. The water treatment plant had to process for EACH of them an average of *thirty gallons of water per day!* Now maybe that doesn't sound like very much water. But to illustrate, imagine how much it would be if you had to carry thirty gallons of water per day for each member of your family from the spring out back. If there are only four in your home, it would mean *twenty-four trips* from the spring with a five-gallon can of water in order to supply your family needs for the day.

Of course, there is no spring out back. It's a water faucet down the road. And the bathing is done in the bathhouse. Nonetheless, producing over two million gallons of potable water is no small undertaking. It requires twenty-four-hour-a-day efforts on the part of the water plant crew to insure that the faucet down the street *works!*

Then there is new camping equipment for those who camp. Last year Worldwide Church of God members purchased more than \$80,000 worth of

sleeping bags, tents, stoves, coolers and lanterns, plus numerous other items — most at less than dealer's cost. In addition, the Coleman Corporation provided transportation for the new equipment, plus free service at each of the Feast sites. These savings help in making camping dollars go further.

But there is still more to the Feast.

Organization for Service

The Feast is also organization. Without organization, much of the cooperation and effort of thousands of members would be wasted.

There are literally dozens of crews which perform the myriad tasks of producing a successful Feast. Each job, from Festival Elder to housing monitor to parking lot attendant, is necessary and important.

Suppose, for example, there were no traffic and parking lot attendants. On the first evening of the Feast thousands of cars would begin to converge on the Feast site. Each driver would have the common thought of entering and parking on the grounds in time for the opening service. But imagine the confusion when each one tried to drive in the direction he wanted in order to reach the parking spot he had in mind. Imagine the bent bumpers, the jangled nerves, the *strained* patience, the confused parking lots, and the late horde!

No responsibility is unimportant — especially at the time it is needed!

Each responsibility forms a link in the chain of organization which makes the Feast function. Some of these links are in transportation, shipping and receiving, registration, communications, ushering, parking, camping, recreation — others in motel monitoring, tent erecting and janitorial work. Each has its part. Each serves an important function.

Can you imagine the difficulties which occur if a few mistakes are made?

Here is an actual case where someone "dropped the ball." A crew assigned to set up chairs had been asked to report for duty at eight o'clock in the morning. But the cleanup crew had not been scheduled to begin work until two *the following day*. So the first crew had to

sweep the auditorium. Then it was discovered the roof where the chairs had been stored had leaked and some of the chairs had rusted. So all the chairs then had to be washed before they could be used for the evening service.

But people arriving just prior to the opening service give little thought as to how the chairs came to be set up, or the song books available, or the parking arranged. These things are just accepted as background to the Feast. They are appreciated only because they are there. But they involve much behind-the-scenes work, planning and tightly knit organization.

The organizational chart used to outline the key personnel in charge at each Feast site is a maze of lines and boxes. A Festival Elder (and usually an assistant) is appointed by the Festival Office to help select those who will direct the many different work crews. Then specific areas such as ushering and parking are assigned to local churches and the necessary helpers chosen from those churches.

There are always plenty of jobs for everyone!

Costs

Of course, all these behind-the-scenes operations cost a great deal of money. This is the reason for the "tithe of the tithe." It became obvious by 1964 that all the costs of operating the Feasts could no longer be taken from the general operations budget of the Work of God. When it became apparent that we would have to construct completely new facilities for the thousands of new members being added to the Church, another way of financing such construction was found.

In a series of meetings, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and the executive group of ministers in Pasadena found the way, in principle, revealed in the Bible. God commands all His people to save a second ten percent of their salary (Deut. 14:22-27) to enable them to observe the Feast Days. Since this money is specifically for God's annual Feasts, it became apparent it could be used to help provide the facilities which would enable us to hold the Feast.

We then asked the membership to send a tenth, or a tithe, of that special

tithe saved for the Feast, to help pay for the costs of construction and operation of the Festival sites. The plan has worked beautifully thus far. To date we have constructed and completely paid for the operation in the Poconos, the Ozarks and the portion of the work having to do with the Feast in Big Sandy, as well as beginning the new development in Wisconsin Dells. We have also purchased the property and begun some of the preliminary work in Estes Park, Colorado. Wisconsin Dells is to be finished and ready for use in the fall of 1972, with Estes Park coming along in 1974.

The responsibility for proper use of this money is a heavy one. Each year careful plans are made and the "T of T" income, as it is called, carefully budgeted. From each dollar approximately 40 cents is used for site development, 21 cents to operate the Feast, 14 cents to assist widows, fatherless, newcomers and the ministers to attend, 11 cents, to maintain and improve existing sites, 3 cents for miscellaneous needs during the other Feast Days of the year and 11 cents is held in reserve for future development.

As you can see, your tithe of the tithe dollars are VERY IMPORTANT! If you haven't sent your tithe of the tithe to Headquarters yet this year, *please do so as soon as possible!* It is needed to pay for the work currently being done so that these expenses will not have to be paid from the general operating fund, which should be used for the fulfillment of Matthew 24:14.

The Feast, as we know it, would be impossible without the "tithe of the tithe" faithfully given by God's people.

Most Important of All

What else is the Feast?

THE FEAST IS — GOD'S FEAST!

Leviticus 23 clearly establishes that the Feast Days are ordained of God. All seven of them are to remind us of God's plan of salvation for mankind. To understand the plan fully, we must observe each Feast at its appointed time in the year. "The Feast," as we have come to call the Feast of Tabernacles, has become the most prominent because it occurs during the great fall harvest season and represents the time when the

whole world will be following the way of God.

Why has the Feast of Tabernacles become the most enjoyable time of the year for God's people?

The biggest reason isn't the organization, work, housing or cooperation. The biggest reason for the success of the Feast is *GOD'S SPIRIT!* Although we must add the *human effort* and energy needed to provide the physical requirements for thousands to enjoy the Feast, without the inspiration and power of God's Spirit there simply couldn't be a successful Feast!

Most of all, therefore, the Feast is God's Feast, where His people gather together to worship the Creator of the universe! It is a time of special worship, prayer, instruction from the Bible and drawing CLOSE to Him!

Unlike the "feasts" of the world, which are usually little more than out-and-out orgies, parties, and revellings, and which generally result in an aching hangover — unlike the world's feasts, which usually end in degeneration, sickness, and exact an enormous penalty in the lives of people, the Feasts of God have the *exact opposite* effect. For those who rightly observe the Feast, it is a time of rejuvenation, thrilling inspiration for the days and months ahead, a time of stoking the spiritual fires, of replenishing the spiritual reserves, of spiritual GROWTH, progress and development of character!

The Feast lays a FOUNDATION for spiritual growth throughout the coming year. Thus the end result of God's Feast is righteousness, holiness, happiness and spiritual GROWTH!

Think of *all* that the Feast is, and think of what it is in God's sight. It's not merely an annual vacation away from your home — it's a time of spiritual rekindling, schooling, instruction and character development so we can all ENTER God's promised Kingdom when Christ returns. It has tremendous meaning and significance.

Let's all treasure God's Feast of Tabernacles greatly, and do our utmost to make it a wonderful, inspiring success each year by doing our part the best we possibly can! If we do, God will make it even MORE of a blessing to us all! □

Success Thru Second Effort!

Sometimes you hear a sermon or sermonette you wish earnestly the **WHOLE Church** could hear. Such was the case in the Norwalk A.M. Church a few Sabbaths ago.

As **Business Manager** — dealing with the financial matters for this great Work — the reactivated and enlarged building program is for me, as it is for all of us, a most urgent and priority activity.

The success of this program for the vitally needed facilities for the growth and completion of God's Work hinges on our **FINANCIAL ABILITY** to carry it through to completion. The simple equation of that success is the **Building Fund**. As goes the **Building Fund** income, so goes the building program. It's as simple as that.

Mr. Ted Phillips, Local Elder in the Norwalk Churches, showed the brethren in his sermonette how elementary the equation is; how it is our individual and **PERSONAL** responsibility; how we should become personally involved; and how "**SECOND EFFORT**" can be the difference between failure and total victory.

I wanted you all to share in that message, because I think it can make the difference.

— Albert J. Portune

by Theodore G. Phillips and William F. Dankenbring

"**SECOND EFFORT**" involves some things which are becoming very rare today. It involves sacrifice, determination, and character!

You may have watched collegiate or professional basketball games in which one team, late in the game, was behind by as many as 16 or 20 points, yet came from behind to win. Such an exciting game was played in Los Angeles not long ago.

The UCLA team, champions of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, was trailing by nine points in a crucial game with their crosstown rivals from the University of Southern California. There were only a few minutes remaining. The game looked hopeless. Every shot taken by their opponents seemed to fall through the hoop, while the UCLA team had to work hard for every basket.

But did they give up? Did they quit when the going got rough? Did they throw in the towel? **NOT AT ALL!**

Coach Johnny Wooden had built a rare combination of elements into his

team — the elements of discipline and character. When the going got bleakest, they didn't fold up. Instead, with confidence and determination, they *redoubled their efforts*, tightened their defense, and carefully watched for the best shots on offense. They didn't panic. They didn't become nervous and jittery and throw the game away. They began to apply more pressure than ever to their opponents!

What happened?

In the last several minutes of the game, UCLA held the opposition to just *one point* — a free throw! Meanwhile, the champions rattled off 14 points and finally won by four!

That was "second effort"!

Mr. Armstrong's Letter

Mr. Herbert Armstrong recently wrote a letter to the members of the Church of God in which he gave us some of the most important news of the past decade — or even of all modern times. He said, in part: "We are planning, now, to **RESUME** our long-post-

poned **BUILDING PROGRAM** — including the new TV studios.

"Also, *IF* the day-to-day income for God's Work — and **ESPECIALLY** if the **SPECIAL PROPERTY-BUILDING FUND** is revived, and increased sufficiently — we hope to break ground by July on the long-awaited auditorium building here on the Pasadena campus."

Brethren, we all want to do our part to insure that we can proceed with the building program, so these direly needed buildings can be built. All of us in God's Church want to get behind Mr. Armstrong and shoulder the burden with him so the Work of God can be completed with impact and **POWER!**

During the past year, those of us who were able gave emergency offerings to the Work to help it weather a recession-caused financial crisis. With help and sacrifices from **YOU BRETHREN**, the Work came through with flying colors! For this, Mr. Armstrong has been very grateful and has expressed his deep, heartfelt thanks to all of you brethren!

But from time to time all of us need

to be reminded and encouraged not to let up, not to flag, not to let down in doing our part for God's Work. All of us need to learn the secret of **SECOND EFFORT** — as it applies not only to our personal overcoming of sins, temptations, or trials, but also to the Building Fund.

"Second Effort" Needed

God's Work came through the recent recession in good financial shape. But in the meantime, brethren, the needs of God's Work — as Mr. Armstrong has said — have continued to grow. As he wrote in his letter, a new library building is badly needed by the College. We also desperately need a new radio and television studio, with an Editorial and Administration annex. Our present radio and television quarters have *already* been outgrown, and our Editorial Department is very cramped for space.

But as Mr. Armstrong mentioned,

definitely **CANNOT** proceed with the imperative building program **UNLESS** there is a substantial increase, starting now, in the offerings earmarked for the Building Fund.

The preliminary response shows that the average family offering for the Building Fund has increased over last year. That's good, brethren. It's a good *beginning*. But, unfortunately, it is not *enough* if we are to continue with the building program as we need to and get the job done!

In order to go "over the top" with the building program, we need to put forth more of that ingredient called "SECOND EFFORT!"

Second Effort in the Bible

Putting forth "second effort" is taught by scriptural principle. Our forefather Jacob set an example in second effort. When he wrestled all night with the One who became Jesus Christ, he *never* gave up. Even when Christ wrenched Jacob's thigh out of joint, he did not relent. He had bulldog tenacity. He said to Christ, "I *will not* let you go, except you bless me."

Jacob exerted more "second effort." He kept coming back for more, *wrestling all night*.



fellowmen. There was a widow in the town who kept coming to him, saying, "please protect me from the man who is trying to ruin me." And for a long time he refused. But later he said to himself, "Although I don't fear God and have no respect for men, yet this woman is such a nuisance that I shall give judgment in her favor, or else her continual visits will be the death of me!"

"Then the Lord said:

"Notice how this dishonest magistrate behaved. Do you suppose God, merciful as he is, will not see justice done

wasn't about to let anything stand in her way!

We can — and must — apply that fine example of effort to our own lives and the needs of the Work of God, today. In particular, we need to be thinking about the Building Fund *daily*, and making second, third, fourth and fifth EFFORT — as we are able — to GO ABOVE AND BEYOND what we put on our "statement of intention cards." Unless we do, brethren, we may yet not be able to complete the building program and have the new auditorium

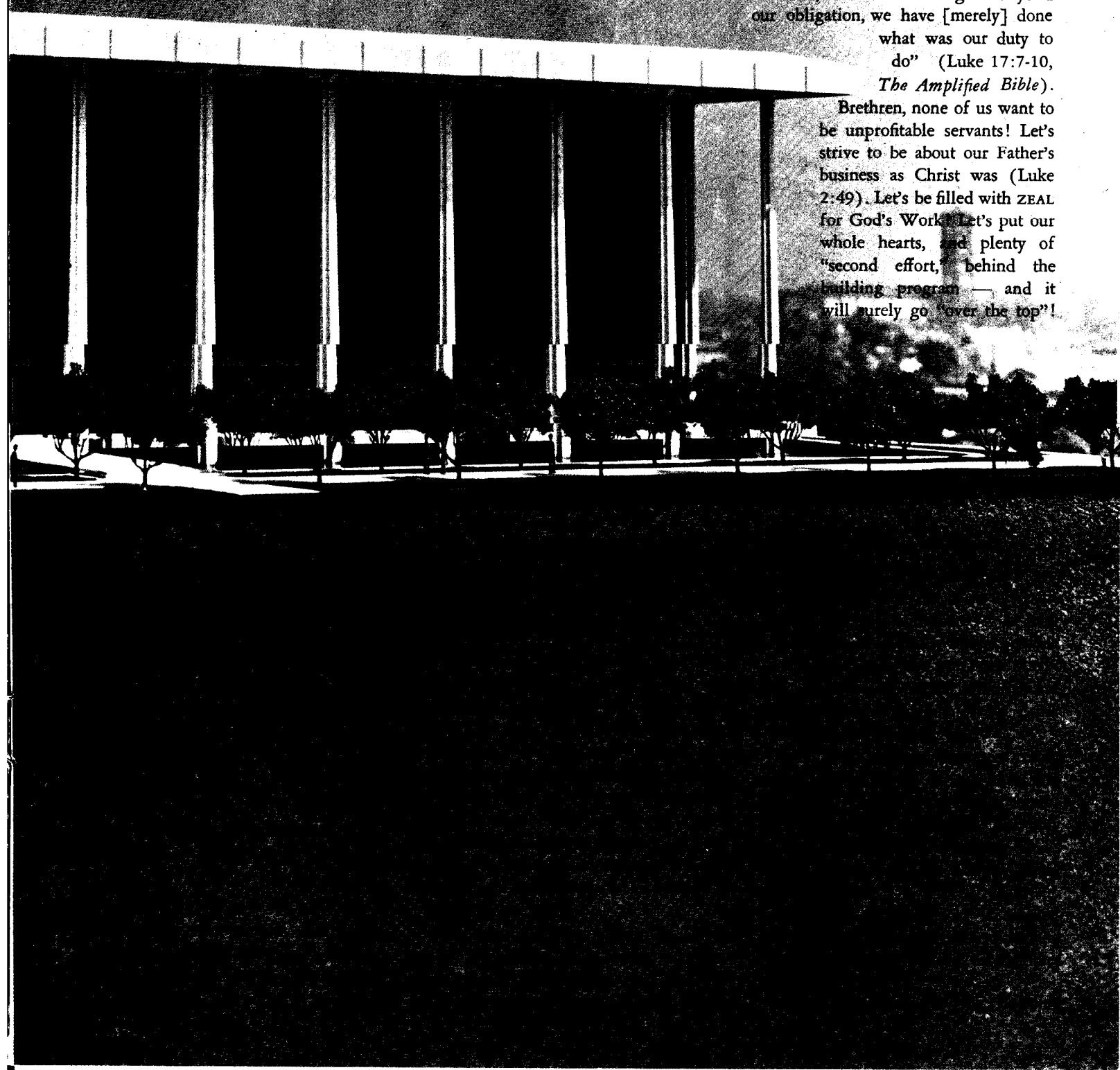
any man of you, who has a servant plowing or tending sheep, say to him when he has come in from the field, Come at once and take your place at the table? Will he not instead tell him, Get my supper ready, and gird yourself and serve me till I eat and drink: then afterward you yourself shall eat and drink? Is he grateful and does he praise the servant because he did what he was ordered to do? Even so on your part, when you have done everything that was assigned and commanded you, say, We are unworthy servants — possessing no merit, for we have not gone beyond our obligation, we have [merely] done

what was our duty to

do" (Luke 17:7-10,

The Amplified Bible).

Brethren, none of us want to be unprofitable servants! Let's strive to be about our Father's business as Christ was (Luke 2:49). Let's be filled with ZEAL for God's Work! Let's put our whole hearts, and plenty of "second effort," behind the building program — and it will surely go "over the top"!



Fund, OVER AND ABOVE my regular offering and tithes . . ." Now we are beginning to see "second effort." Now we are beginning to be "PROFITABLE servants."

" . . . the special amount of \$. . . per month for one complete year."

What was going through your mind at the moment you read your statement of intention card, brethren? Were you thinking: "I can't afford to give more," or "My budget is strained to the utmost now"? If so, we understand. We realize that many of you really sacrificed last year for the Work of God. Perhaps some of you still feel burdened with debt, or are in tight personal circumstances, and therefore did not put down as much on the statement of intention card as you wanted to.

We surely don't expect anyone to give that which he simply cannot afford — beyond his means. We don't want, or expect, anybody to sacrifice to the extent that he suffers unnecessary deprivation. Not at all! Like the Apostle Paul, we desire not yours, but you (II Cor. 12:14) — we desire that YOU receive a wonderful reward in the coming Kingdom of God, because your heart is really in God's Work right now!

But perhaps some of you lost your statement of intention card, misplaced it, or somehow forgot to return it. Perhaps somehow you became sidetracked, and in the hustle and bustle of activities, you accidentally overlooked it and forgot about it. It can happen to anyone. If this happened to any of you brethren, please take appropriate action as soon as possible. Some have thought it unnecessary to send in the statement of intention card they received recently because they filled out a card for 1970. Please note that a new card MUST be sent in for 1971 if you intend to contribute to the Building Fund this year! Otherwise, Mr. Armstrong will not have a true picture of how much you brethren will be able to give to the Building Fund every month.

But what about the rest of us? What can we do? What can ALL of us do so the Building Fund will go "over the top"?

A Few Facts and Figures

The statement of intention cards received thus far indicate that the brethren

have substantially increased the average amounts, *per family*, over that which they contributed for this purpose a year ago. But in order to go "over the top," brethren, we must *increase our efforts* still more — we must put forth "SECOND EFFORT"!

There is a way to do it! It involves the "widow's mite."

If the average family contributed merely ONE dollar a month *more* to the Building Fund, it would mean \$12 a year per family — or approximately \$300,000 extra for the year!

There is a way that 2, 3, 4, or MORE dollars can be scraped up every month!

Does this sound impossible? Not if we set our wills and exert "second effort" as Jacob did, and ask for God's help to persevere!

Most of us have small change which we often spend for little things such as a cup of coffee at work each day, a doughnut or roll, or other items. If each family in God's Church, and single people as well, set up a jar for collecting some of that change, and put in a few nickels and dimes *regularly*, it might be just enough to put us over the top for the Building Fund. For example, twenty cents a day, not counting weekends, would amount to a dollar a week, or \$52 in a year. You can see how it quickly adds up!

If every family in God's Church did this much, faithfully, it would mean an increase in the Building Fund of at least \$1,300,000 during the year!

Fantastic, but true!

This is one way in which we can all go "ABOVE AND BEYOND." Even children can participate. It can become a united *family* effort. You can use your ingenuity to think up other ways to help bolster the Building Fund.

Think about it. Get the whole family involved.

A word of caution, however. Generally, the ones already sacrificing the most are the ones who are moved to do more. Although all of us occasionally need reminders of the needs of the Work (and this is one reason for the Co-Worker letters), we don't want those of you who are already doing all you can and *more* to cut yourselves short.

Some, we know, may not be able to

put in extra nickels or dimes daily. But for those who can, this is one way in which you may exhibit "second effort" and help the Building Fund "go over the top"!

Second Effort in PRAYER

Financial "second effort," of course, is only half the picture. Also needed at this time is "second effort" in heartfelt, fervent, earnest PRAYER TO GOD, before His Throne of Grace.

God promises to provide for the needs of His people and His Church (Phil. 4:19). But we must do *our part*. The Apostle Paul tells us in Hebrews: "Let us therefore come **BOLDLY** unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:16).

James reminds us: "The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes TREMENDOUS POWER available — dynamic in its working" (James 5:16, *The Amplified Bible*).

"Tremendous power"! It goes hand in hand with fervent, earnest prayer. When you pray with fervent zeal for God's Work, the result is multiplied POWER made available for the Work!

Moffatt puts this verse: "The prayers of the righteous have a POWERFUL EFFECT."

Let's put forth "second effort" in our prayers on behalf of God's Work, also, brethren. Never were they more needed. It can be truthfully said that *it yet remains to be seen what God's people can accomplish, together, as they unitedly pour out their hearts before God in earnest entreaty and selfless intercession on behalf of God's Work!*

Let's take these needs of God's Work as a personal challenge, brethren. These things do constitute a *challenge* — a challenge we can meet, and overcome — if we put forth SECOND EFFORT! □

GOOD NEWS!

Since the writing of this article, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong has given the go-ahead to break ground for the new House for God on June 1st of this year! He also announced that plans are being drawn up for the new Library Building. This is a *good beginning*, brethren. But "second effort" in prayer and offerings will still be needed to COMPLETE the projected building program!

— Editor



Springtime Is Garden Time

Gardening is a lost art for most individuals today. Lost also are its many advantages and benefits. Here are basic guidelines to help you recognize and RECAPTURE these benefits.

by Dale L. Schurter

ONCE upon a time — when the trees began to bud and the birds began to sing and the feel of spring was in the air — the thoughts of our parents and grandparents turned toward planting a garden.

But today, most of us — their “sophisticated” children — might ask, “Who wants a garden?”

And believe it or not, some will even ask, “What is a garden?” and “What’s it for?”

Purpose of a Garden

The most obvious purpose of a garden is the produce it provides. But in addition it can produce inspiration, purpose, family togetherness and character.

The germination and growth of one tiny seed portrays the awesome wonders God built into His creation. Even in the concrete jungle of a sprawling city you can be brought closer to creation and the Creator by observing the miracle of growth. “For ever since the world was created, his invisible nature, his ever-

lasting power and divine being, have been quite perceptible in what he has made” (Rom. 1:20, Moffatt).

At creation God set the laws of life in motion: “And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind” (Gen. 1:12). God ordained that every form of life would produce *after its kind*. The growth of every single plant reproducing itself *proves* again the existence of God!

In our sophisticated society of the seventies, the average person is uneducated to the benefits which can be derived from a family garden. With de-emphasis on rural living, and increased migration to urban centers, gardening has been sadly neglected. The trend in society is to point people away from God and from doing things which demonstrate His handiwork.

A leading U. S. official recently lamented, “The quality of life in this country has been deteriorating. Even

in our rural areas you find that many people who could easily do so no longer even grow a vegetable garden.”

Benefits of a Garden

Most people spend a large portion of their budget on food. Of the total, according to a National Commission of Food Marketing Report, about one sixth is spent on fruits and vegetables. Many willingly pay premium prices to get home-grown garden vegetables if they are available.

Why?

What makes the difference in home-grown vegetables?

FLAVOR!

“Today, by train, truck, and plane, we draw on the riches of half the world for food. The gain in variety has not been all gain, however, for in reaching afar we have lost *freshness*. We no longer have a ring of truck farmers around our major cities: today’s lettuce, tomatoes, cabbage and celery must travel thousands of miles to market. Most important has been the loss in flavor” (*Vegetables in Today’s Gardens*, Carleton, p. 2, emphasis ours throughout article).

A loss in flavor confirms a loss in nutrients. For freshness is also essential for the retention of vitamins and other food factors. So, for flavor and quality

HUNGER SIGNS IN PLANTS

Not Enough Nitrogen:

1. A sickly yellowish-green color.
2. A distinctly slow and dwarfed growth.
3. Drying up or "firing" of leaves, which starts at the bottom of the plant, proceeding upward. In plants like grains and grasses, the firing starts at the tip of the bottom leaves and goes down the center or along the midrib.

Not Enough Phosphorus:

1. Purplish leaves, stems and branches.
2. Slow growth and maturity.
3. Small, slender stalk in grass; in small grains, lack of stooling.
4. Low yields.

Not Enough Potash:

1. Mottling, spotting, streaking or curling of leaves, starting on the lower levels.
2. Lower leaves scorched or burned on margins and tips. These dead areas may fall out; leaving ragged edges. In grains and grasses, firing starts at the tip of the leaf and proceeds down from the edge, usually leaving the midrib green.
3. Premature loss of leaves.
4. Plants falling down before maturity due to poor root development.

A lack of major elements in the soil may generally be determined by plant growth as indicated here. In most cases the addition of good manures put on the soil between the rows and watered in will correct the problem.

in foods, an ideal source of supply is your own garden.

Some, of course, are not able to have a garden at all. But almost *everyone* can have something — if only a window box for growing a few salad greens.

Herb gardens, nut gardens and cucumber gardens are all mentioned in the Scriptures. The term "vegetable" garden, however, does not appear as such because the word *vegetable* came into existence only about 200 years ago, since at that time all of our everyday vegetables were known as HERBS — even such commoners as the beet and carrot!

God Himself prepared the first garden: "And the Eternal God planted a garden eastward in Eden..." (Gen. 2:8). Herbs (vegetables) have always been grown and eaten by God's people.

Much can be learned by properly and persistently applying basic laws and principles of agriculture in gardening. And the reaping of abundant, tasty produce can result. "For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God" (Heb. 6:7).

Some of you will be able to grow a few vegetables right in your flower beds. Simply alternate rows — one row of flowers, one row of vegetables, etc. Some vegetables, like cherry tomatoes and artichokes, can be used as decorative plants and be located beside the house, along the yard fence — almost anywhere you choose.

If you can adapt an area about six feet square, you should be able to produce enough salad vegetables for a family of four all summer. Those of you who are afforded the opportunity of a larger garden can accomplish much more.

A Family Affair

Gardening is an engrossing pursuit. To be thrilled and inspired by the birth and growth of just a single plant can be a satisfying and rewarding experience. So make garden planning, planting and care an exciting, enjoyable *family* project by including everyone in the family.

Dad's job, as overall manager, should include acquisition of any needed tools and fertilizers. Mom becomes project supervisor while Dad is at work. She

can also buy the seed. (There need be no large expense involved — seeds cost only a few cents, the few hand tools needed are usually in everyone's garage.) Teen-agers can care for the tools, help plant, weed and beautify. Usually, the very small children help most by watching, but those of school age can learn to help put out onion sets or other vegetables that are easy to plant.

A way to give your small child (children) a special treat is to mark off a one-foot square and tag his name to it. Let *him* feel responsible for "his plot." Help him prepare the soil and punch a few holes in it with his chubby little finger and drop in the seeds. He will literally sparkle and beam with excitement and accomplishment — especially when the first sprout begins to show!

Let *everyone* participate in the chores of the garden, as well as in its results. Having a common goal is a good way to help pull the family together and teach family responsibility.

Planning Your Garden

Success in gardening does not depend on guesswork or on the proverbial "green thumb." It comes from proper planning, timing, management and following God's natural laws of agriculture (Prov. 12:11).

A first consideration in planning a garden is its size. Where garden space and ample storage facilities permit, you can plant enough vegetables for daily use, and if you desire, some extra for canning and freezing.

If available, an area open toward the south (without shade from buildings or trees) is warmer (northern slope in southern hemisphere) and will enable planting two or three weeks earlier and encourage faster growth. If possible, plan your rows to run north and south for better utilization of sunlight by each plant. The site should *not* be close to trees. Tree roots reach out many feet in all directions and will rob moisture and soil nutrients from your garden.

Timing is also a very important part of planning your garden. There is a time to plant, and a time to harvest (Eccl. 3:2).

Planting and harvest times vary in different parts of the world. In many

VEGETABLE GARDEN PLANTING TABLE

arcas, especially the southern United States, a year-round garden is possible. Northerly areas and high altitude or mountainous regions usually have later and shorter seasons. The U.S.D.A. Home and Garden Bulletin #9, "Suburban and Farm Vegetable Gardens" gives guidelines as to which vegetables can withstand a light freeze and gives general freezing dates. It is available by requesting it from the Department of Government Documents, Washington, D.C. Also, the backs of most seed packages have planting instructions on them.

The chart included with this article offers suggested growing seasons to help you determine when to plant. A general guide for the last frosts in the spring is to notice when the little wild flowers are in full bloom in your area. Although the dates vary from year to year, these wild flowers do not blossom too early or too late. If frozen after they are in full bloom, they would not make seed and the species would die. Many guidelines can be learned from these little "miracles" around us.

Soil Preparation and Fertilization

Having selected the best possible location, you need to begin preparing your plot for planting. Strive to loosen and aerate the soil. A rake, hoe, garden harrow or roto-tiller is fine to assist in preparing the seedbed. Remember, your object is to loosen — not invert — the topsoil, which in some cases may be quite shallow.

The addition of organic matter (manures, grass clippings, compost, etc.) will help improve soil fertility and productivity. A healthy, fertile soil is a living soil. The organic matter provides food and an atmosphere to encourage the increase of micro-organisms, earthworms and other soil life. (Be sure to write for our article "The Worm and You.")

In some cases, adding a considerable amount of natural fertilizer to new home gardens is almost essential, since the condition of many backyard plots of ground is rather poor to begin with. For best results from the manure, compost, etc., it should be applied evenly on top of the soil and/or mixed in only an inch or two with a rake.

ASPARAGUS, Seed	1 in.	3 in.	18 to 24 in.	Early Spring	Autumn or Early Spring	1 oz.	1 or 2 yrs. (plants)
ASPARAGUS, Root	2 in.	18 in.	4 ft.	Early Spring	Autumn or Early Spring	65 roots	2 years
BEANS, BUSH	1-1 1/2 in.	2 to 3 in.	24 in.	April to July	Feb., Apr., Aug., Sept.	2 lbs.	42 to 75 days
BEANS, POLE	1-2 in.	4 to 6 in.	36 in.	May and June	Late Spring	1 lb.	65 to 90 days
BEET	1 in.	2 in.	12 to 18 in.	April to August	Feb., Apr. (Aug., Sept.)	2 oz.	45 to 60 days
BROCCOLI	1/2 in.	18 to 24 in.	36 in.	March and April	January to July	1/4 oz.	90 to 100 days
BRUSSELS SPROUTS	1/2 in.	12 to 16 in.	24 to 30 in.	May and June	January to July	1/4 oz.	100 to 120 days
CABBAGE, EARLY	1/2 in.	12 to 18 in.	24 to 30 in.	March and April*	October to December	1/4 oz.	90 to 110 days
CABBAGE, LATE	1/2 in.	16 to 24 in.	24 to 36 in.	May and June	June and July	1/4 oz.	110 to 120 days
CARROT	1/2 in.	2 to 3 in.	12 to 18 in.	April to June	March and April, Sept.	1/2 oz.	55 to 80 days
CAULIFLOWER	1/2 in.	14 to 18 in.	24 to 30 in.	April to June*	Jan. and Feb. (June)	1/4 oz.	95 to 110 days
CELERY	1/8 in.	2 in.	18 to 36 in.	May and June*	August and October	1/4 oz.	120 to 150 days
COLLARDS	1/2 in.	14 to 18 in.	24 to 30 in.	Late Spring	May and June	1/2 oz.	100 to 120 days
CORN, SWEET	1 in.	4 every 3 ft.	30 to 36 in.	May to July	February to April	4 oz.	55 to 90 days
CRESS, WATER	Water	Broadcast		April to September	Early Spring	1/2 oz.	80 to 90 days
CUCUMBER	1 in.	4 every 3 ft.	4 to 6 ft.	April to July	Feb. and March (Sept.)	1/2 oz.	50 to 70 days
EGGPLANT	1/2 in.	18 in.	24 to 30 in.	April and May*	February to April	1/8 oz.	125 to 140 days
ENDIVE	1/2 in.	12 in.	18 in.	April (July)	February to April	1 oz.	100 days
KALE	1/2 in.	18 in.	18 to 24 in.	Aug., Sept. (Mar., Apr.)	October to February	1/4 oz.	55 to 60 days
KOHL-RABI	1/2 in.	4 to 6 in.	15 to 24 in.	March to May	September to May	1/4 oz.	50 to 70 days
LEEK	1/2 in.	4 in.	14 to 20 in.	March to May	May to September	1/2 oz.	120 to 150 days
LETTUCE	1/2 in.	4 to 8 in.	12 to 15 in.	March to September	September to March	1/2 oz.	70 to 90 days
MUSKMELON	1 in.	18 to 24 in.	48 to 60 in.	April to June	February to April	1/2 oz.	85 to 150 days
MUSTARD	1/4 in.	4 or 5 ft.	12 to 18 in.	March to May (Sept.)	Autumn or Early Spring	1 oz.	60 to 90 days
OKRA	1 in.	24 in.	3 to 4 ft.	May and June	February to April	2 oz.	90 to 140 days
ONION, SEED	1/2 in.	2 in.	12 to 18 in.	April to May	October to March	1 oz.	125 to 150 days
ONION, SETS	1 in.	2 in.	12 to 18 in.	February to May	Early Spring or Autumn	1 qt.	100 days
ONION SEED FOR SETS	1/2 in.	1/2 in.	12 to 18 in.	April		1 lb.	90 days
PARSLEY	1/8 in.	3 in.	12 to 18 in.	Early Spring	Sept. to May-Sept.	1/4 oz.	65 to 90 days
PARSNIP	1/2 to 1 in.	3 in.	18 to 24 in.	March and April	February, March	1/2 oz.	130 days
PEAS	1 to 1 1/2 in.	1 to 2 in.	24 in.	March to June	September to April	2 lbs.	45 to 75 days
PEPPER	1/4 in.	15 to 20 in.	24 to 28 in.	May and June	Early Spring	1/8 oz.	130 to 150 days
PUJATOES	4 to 6 in.	12 to 15 in.	24 in.	Early Spring	Early Spring	7 lbs.	100 to 130 days
PUMPKIN	1 in.	84 to 108 in.	96 to 144 in.	May to July	April and May	2 oz.	75 to 90 days
RADISH	1/2 to 1 in.	1/2 to 1 in.	12 in.	March to September	September to April	1 oz.	20 to 75 days
RHUBARB, SEED	1/2 in. to 1 in.	4 in.	18 to 24 in.	Early Spring	Early Spring	1/2 oz.	1 or 2 yrs. (plants)
RHUBARB, ROOTS	3 to 4 in.	36 in.	4 ft.	Early Spring	Autumn or Early Spring	40 roots	2 or 3 years
RUTABAGA	1/2 to 1 in.	6 in.	18 to 24 in.	June-July	August and September	1/4 oz.	90 days
SALSIFY	1/2 oz.	2 in.	18 to 24 in.	Early Spring	Early Spring	1 oz.	150 days
SPINACH	1/2 in.	2 in.	12 to 18 in.	Sept. and early Spring	September to March	1 oz.	45 days minimum
SQUASH, SUMMER	1 in.	4 every 4 ft.	3 to 4 ft.	April to June	Spring	2 oz.	65 to 70 days
SQUASH, WINTER	1 in.	4 every 6 ft.	7 to 10 ft.	May to July	Spring	1 oz.	125 days
TOMATO	1/2 to 3/4 in.	36-48, 24 stakes	36 to 48 in.	May to June*	March-April	1/8 oz.	125 to 150 days
TURNIP	1/2 to 3/4 in.	4 in.	18 to 24 in.	April and August	August to October	1/2 oz.	45 to 90 days
WATERMELON	1 in.	4 every 6 ft.	8 to 12 ft.	May and June	March to May	1 oz.	100 to 130 days

Ambassador College Art

*START IN HOTBED FEBRUARY OR MARCH

This table provides vegetable planting information for most parts of the United States.

Choose Good Seed

Another important item of initial concern is your choice of seed. The old name varieties for home gardens have the best flavor. Many newer varieties are bred only for good looks, long storage and shipping ability. Flavor is a measure of quality and will bring rich dividends if proper selection is considered in planning. A good booklet, *Care of the Home Garden* by Joseph Harris Company, Rochester, N.Y., lists many good varieties.

Most major seed company catalogs advertise both hybrid and open-pollinated varieties. You should specify a preference for open-pollinated varieties when placing an order, especially

if you desire to save seed for the next season. (Seed saved from hybrid plants will not properly reproduce its own kind.) Open-pollinated seeds are also more likely to produce a higher-quality product in both flavor and nutritional value. Good seed can often be acquired from local gardeners or seed stores near you.

It pays to plan ahead and get the best seed possible. So ordering early will help insure the purchase of the seed you desire, since seed companies sometimes run out of top-quality seed once the planting season begins. You'll find that seed is quite inexpensive. Usually, one 10-25 cent package per vegetable will be ample for the average family.

Planting

You may plant in any artistic pattern that suits your taste. However, if you

desire nice straight rows, stretch a heavy cord or rope taut along the ground and walk on it. It will leave a good indentation in soft earth. The corner of a hoe or a pointed stake will make a suitable furrow for most seeds.

The rule of thumb is to cover each kind of seed with an amount of soil equal to three times the diameter of the seed (or just check the directions on the seed packet).

Start on one side of the garden, planting 30- to 45-day crops. After harvesting these, you can replant. Next to 30-day crops, plant 45- to 75-day crops. Then plant your 75- to 100-day crops. The number of days each seed requires to reach maturity will be printed on the back of the seed package. This method of planting produces a continual vegetable harvest.

The U.S.D.A. booklet mentioned earlier gives additional information on planting depths, characteristics of popular garden vegetables and other helpful points.

A garden can and should be beautiful as well as useful. A variety of flowers can be planted for borders and interspersed in rows throughout the garden to add color and beauty. Some flowers such as marigolds, chrysanthemums and pyrethrums also have helpful insect repellent characteristics.

Such garden vegetables as squash, cucumbers, pumpkins and watermelon should not be planted right next to each other because the wind will cross-pollinate them. Cross-pollination produces inferior quality and flavor, and mingled seed (Lev. 19:19). You can plant squash on one side or one end and cucumbers on the other, but not together. Cantaloupes will not mix and may be planted next to most any vegetable.

Cultivation

Care should be taken to cultivate your garden properly. Hoeing or cultivating too deeply, too often, or too close to the plants causes unnecessary loss of moisture and destroys many plant roots.

After the plants are well established it is wise to *mulch* your garden. Mulching is simply spreading a 2-to-4 inch layer of grass clippings, straw, hay, etc. between the rows and around the

plants. It will help control weeds, save labor and conserve moisture. A mulch also encourages earthworm activity, helping to create a balanced soil for future crop excellence.

If you have properly selected seed and have rich fertile soil, the plants should be, for the most part, insect and disease resistant. In a garden that is properly fertilized, beneficial insects such as ladybugs, praying mantises, lace-wing flies and orange and black spotted beetles will take care of the few destructive insects. Pest insects seem to have been created for the purpose of destroying weak, sickly and diseased plants. This is simply another way God has of telling us certain plants are unhealthy and not nutritionally fit for human consumption. These "bad" insects are only doing their duty. They were created to protect you.

One of the greatest concerns of governments today is a new accent on the understanding and care of our total environment: ecology. Each living thing exists in a delicate balance with other living things. You can learn valuable, first-hand lessons about God's web of life right in your own back yard!

Watering

Proper watering is another important consideration in caring for your garden. Too much moisture can contribute to unwanted fungus growth. Also, excessive watering retards root growth, because the roots do not have to search for moisture. As the root system enlarges, more plant food becomes available. The result is better production.

Watering is often a substitute for the lack of the blessing of rain in appropriate amounts at the right time — "in due season" (Deut. 28:12). A plant does not necessarily need water simply because the soil's surface looks dry. A lack of moisture is often indicated when plants begin to show a dark bluish-green color, beginning signs of wilting, or both.

It is best not to apply water directly on plant foliage during the heat of the day. This may encourage "burning" rather than "cooling." When watering is needed, a good gentle soaking once a

week does much more good than daily wetting of the ground.

Harvest Time

Vegetables should be harvested when they are ripe to obtain highest nutritional value. At this stage they are tender and easy to prepare. Nothing tastes as good as home-grown vegetables served at the table mere minutes after being picked from *your own backyard*.

However, you may desire to gather some items earlier, especially if you can refrigerate, can or freeze them. When vegetables become overripe they lose some of their valuable nutrients.

Certain crops which need to be dry to keep — such as kidney, great northern and navy beans — must be fully mature when harvested. This also applies to pumpkins and some types of squash.

After harvesting, it is beneficial to mulch or to plant a legume crop like clover, winter peas, rye grass, etc. on the garden area if winter crops will not be grown. This will help increase fertility and provide an environment for earthworms and other soil life to feed on and continue working. Ground cover is always good to consider as a necessary part of any soil program — even if it's only a three-foot wide area beside your sidewalk.

The Challenge Is Yours

In the World Tomorrow everyone will have his own plot of land to provide fresh foods for himself and his family. "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" (Micah 4:4).

In Tomorrow's World each family will be provided acreage large enough to support a small vineyard, fruit trees, a garden and perhaps a cow, a horse and a few chickens. In today's world, however, it is not possible for everyone to have such blessings.

But as your circumstances permit, whether a window box, a flower bed, a six-by-six plot or an acre, why not find out what an inspiring, enjoyable and educational experience gardening can be for the whole family? Get close to God by getting close to His good earth — see, feel and experience the miracle of life from the soil. ■

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN REMEMBER SCRIPTURES

"Oh, I just can't remember scriptures!" is the anguished cry of many brethren. Just how IMPORTANT is the ability to memorize hundreds of verses? And how can you develop and improve your ability to RECALL the scriptures?

by Brian Knowles

MANY have suffered needless frustration because of fruitless efforts to retain certain passages of Scripture in their memory. Perhaps *you* have tried and repeatedly failed to commit to memory important verses from our Maker's Instruction Book.

On the other hand, the ability to remember chapter and verse and to dazzle others with this skill becomes a FETISH with some! There are those who delight in "showing off" their capacity to quote from memory long sections of Scripture or even whole books of the Bible. Some might claim to have "the fastest Bible in the West" (or the East as the case may be!). On a moment's notice these individuals will fire a rapid series of scriptural verses at their helpless victims, hoping to *impress them* with their spirituality.

Is this a proof of spiritual mindedness? Or is it rather merely evidence of great, toadishly swollen *vanity*?

Is Memorizing Word for Word Necessary?

Let's be BALANCED! Let's understand that SALVATION DOES NOT DEPEND ON ONE'S ABILITY TO QUOTE CHAPTER AND

VERSE FROM THE BIBLE! If it did, it is conceivable that none of the original APOSTLES and authors of the New Testament would ever have qualified for the Kingdom of God!

Why? Because in the days of the twelve apostles and the writers of the New Testament, the Old Testament writings had not yet been divided into chapters and verses. In fact, it was not done until long after those men were all dead!

The sole exception to this was the Book of Psalms. The Psalms are actually songs. They were composed by a number of authors and originally intended to be set to music. Therefore it was necessary to divide them into chapters and verses for musical and poetical expediency. And as songs, of course, they were intended to be memorized. For ease of memorization the verses were sometimes arranged acrostically (alphabetically).

Now consider this fact: The New Testament authors quoted directly from the Psalms 116 times — yet in only ONE INSTANCE did they mention the *chapter* from which they were quoting! This one case is Acts 13:33: "... as it is also written in the *second psalm*..."

The remaining quotes from the Psalms make *no mention* of either the chapter or the verse.

Other than those from the Psalms, the New Testament contains 167 more direct quotations from the Old Testament and, of course, no chapter or verse is referred to in a single instance. In some cases, when quoting from the Old Testament, the speaker or writer did not even mention the name of the person or the book he was citing. Take, for example, the time when Jesus Christ was being tempted by the devil. Jesus *quoted directly* from the Book of Deuteronomy, which was written by Moses, yet he did not even mention the author or the name of the book! Check that for yourself in Matthew 4:4, 7 and 10.

In other instances where the prophets of old *are* referred to, they are simply mentioned by name, but, of course, no verses or chapters are given. For some examples, read Matthew 2:17; 8:17; Luke 4:17.

The Bible was not divided into chapters until about 1250 A.D. when Cardinal Hugo composed a Latin concordance or index of the Scriptures. Over 300 years later, in 1560 A.D., the first Bible translation *wholly* divided

into chapters and verses was produced in Geneva, Switzerland. It was known as *The Geneva Bible*.

It should be apparent, then, that the ability to quote chapter and verse from the Bible like a *human computer* is not necessary, and is in some cases nothing more than sheer VANITY! If, however, a person is gifted with an exceptional memory for scriptures, it is certainly to his advantage *if* he exercises his ability in right humility and for an honorable purpose. There is absolutely nothing wrong with having an excellent memory!

It IS Important to Retain Knowledge

We are told to “grow in grace and in knowledge” (II Peter 3:18). As Christians, we should be continually *increasing* our knowledge of God’s Word. Peter also instructs us, “. . . *be ready always to give an ANSWER to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear*” (I Pet. 3:15).

Memory is therefore one of the important attributes that God has given to humans. For most people, however, remembering does not come easy. It seems many have difficulty retaining even the *simplest* things! Perhaps YOU have that difficulty.

If so, then you can take heart from this fact: Even though most of the Bible was not originally written with chapters and verses, the Bibles we use today ARE! And since they are, we can certainly *take advantage* of this valuable aspect of modern translations.

The present chapter and verse divisions DO make it easier to locate the scriptures we need, and to do it in a *systematic* way without having to wade through whole books and sections of the Bible to find them. By *increasing* our memory of scripture locations, we can improve our overall knowledge of God’s Word and be better able to “rightly divide the word of truth” (II Tim. 2:15).

We should *stand in awe* of the authority of the scriptures inspired by the great Creator of mankind! We should *tremble* before the Word of the living God! (Isa. 66:2.) We should FEAR to misuse, twist, or *misquote* the

Bible! A fast, flippant answer, hastily given to “save face,” is often inaccurate and wrong! Therefore *it is important* that we come to REALLY KNOW OUR BIBLES and develop the ability to *use them* correctly as Peter said.

Understanding More Important Than Rote Knowledge

It may be impressive to be able to “rattle off” dozens of scriptures from the Bible. But it is MORE impressive and vastly more profitable to have a GOOD UNDERSTANDING of the Scriptures!

Of what value (spiritually speaking) is a man who has the capacity to cite from memory a large number of scriptures *without understanding*? Probably less than eight dollars! An inexpensive concordance may be purchased for about eight dollars and likely contains a *far greater* list of scriptures than any man could normally memorize.

Solomon, in his God-given wisdom, recognized the transcendent importance of gaining understanding. He said, “. . . lift up your voice [pray] for *understanding*. . .” “. . . HAPPY is the man that findeth wisdom and the man that getteth UNDERSTANDING.” He said we should “. . . get UNDERSTANDING” (Prov. 2:3; 3:13; and 4:5). There is a tremendous *joy* and a sense of *exhilaration* in realizing you have grasped and understood a spiritual principle for the first time!

Why is it so much more important to have understanding of the Scriptures than merely to be expert in locating and quoting them? Simply because the ability to cite verses and chapters from the Bible is merely a *mechanical* operation. But comprehending their meaning is a SPIRITUAL accomplishment! Read Romans 7:14 and I Corinthians 2:14 in connection with this.

Surely you can see that the important thing is to STUDY FOR UNDERSTANDING, and not merely to memorize by rote!

Of course, it is also fine to want to increase your skill and ability in rapidly locating and citing scripture verses. And since it is, here are some pointers that will help you — if you practice them habitually — not only to *understand*, but also to be better able to *recall* verses of the Bible.

Get the Overview of the Bible

Many have failed to recall the location of certain scriptures because they have thought of God’s Word as a disjointed and disconnected collection of thousands of unrelated verses. Therefore, you should strive to see the Bible as an organized whole. Get the Big Picture! Learn the BOOKS of the Bible first and try to have a GENERAL idea of what they are about. Become familiar with the basic divisions of the Bible, the types of books, and the general subject of each book. (For more information on how the Bible was put together, write for our reprint article “Do We Have the Complete Bible?”)

In order to get the overview of the Bible, you should at your earliest opportunity quickly *read* through the ENTIRE BIBLE from Genesis to Revelation. Studying just bits and pieces, here and there, will never enable you to grasp the broad picture — the panorama of the Bible.

To read the whole Bible through, you need to set up a program of Bible study. You should set aside a certain period of time each day to read perhaps five chapters. In order to be sure you don’t *bog down*, read rapidly to get the general idea of what each chapter is about. Don’t worry about little details. Skim more rapidly over genealogies and those areas where you may be tempted to lose interest.

As you read you’ll find the Bible coming alive with fascinating stories about the lives of godly men of old, gripping true exploits of Biblical heroes, and containing encouragement, exhortation, and valuable instruction in EVERY PART!

Study by Subject or Chapter

Many chapters in the Bible were made chapters because of a natural *subject* content. For example, I Corinthians 13 has been called the “love chapter” because it primarily deals with that subject. Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5 both discuss the Ten Commandments. Revelation 20, I Corinthians 15 and I Thessalonians 4 are concerned with the resurrection.

Hebrews 11 is known as the “faith” chapter. Psalm 51 is David’s psalm of

repentance after his sin with Bathsheba. Psalm 119 deals extensively with the Law of God. Isaiah 11 speaks in detail of the millennial reign of Christ. On and on we could go.

It is easier to remember the subject of an entire chapter than individual verses. But to really remember what is in entire chapters, you need to familiarize yourself with them by **STUDYING** and poring over them. Doing this will help your overall ability to retain Bible knowledge! And when you do learn the overall content of some of these basic chapters, you will begin to more rapidly locate individual scriptures on the subjects covered in them.

Be Impressed With the Verses You Are Studying

If you were driving a nail into a board and you tapped very lightly on it with the hammer, it would not penetrate the wood very deeply. Your mind is the same way.

Our minds adequately retain for instant recall only those things that have left a **DEEP IMPRESSION** on them. Unless you are sufficiently *impressed* with something the first time you hear or study it, chances are it will soon fade from memory. Therefore, you must allow the verses you are studying to make a **DEEP MENTAL IMPRESSION!**

If you merely read superficially over verses, simply skimming them, they will leave little or no impression! There is a proverbial saying to the effect that if you eat Chinese food, half an hour later you will wonder what you ate. If you *study* superficially, half an hour later you will wonder what you read!

It is imperative, therefore, that you *dwell on and* **CONCENTRATE INTENSELY** on what you are studying! Let the words of the Creator *sink deeply* into the innermost recesses of your mind.

Associate What You Study with Real-Life Situations

Do not allow your Bible study to be merely academic or impractical. Relate what you are studying in the Bible to actual situations in this life. Relate it to history or future events in world affairs.

When you study prophecy (about one third of the Bible deals with prophecy)

ask yourself, "Has this ever happened? Is it happening *now*? Or is it yet *future*?" Then, as you read the daily newspaper, and as things happen on the world scene, certain verses from the Bible will *spring to mind!*

When you study a section in the Book dealing with a law or some aspect of Christian conduct, ask yourself, "Am I obeying this? How can I *perform* this?" Then when you come up against a situation in daily life which involves that principle, the verse will come to mind.

If in your mind the Bible is *relevant to life*, both past and present, its verses will spring to **LIFE!** They will become **LIVING ORACLES** which have a definite **BEARING** on human life in general — and *yours* in particular! This will make them much easier to retain and recall.

Meditate and Think on the Verses You Have Studied

The old cliché "out of sight, out of mind" applies here. After you have closed the Book, unless you continue to mentally digest its words, they will tend to fade from conscious thought. They will be crowded out by other things.

The example of King David of Israel applies in this case. He said, "Oh how love I thy law! It is my **MEDITATION ALL THE DAY**" (Psalm 119:97). David's mind was perpetually on the things of God. Not to the *exclusion* of his responsibilities as administrator of the kingdom, but **INCLUDING** those principles in his rulership as well.

God's Word is **TRUTH** (John 17:17). We are admonished by the Apostle Paul to **THINK ON** (meditate on) the truth. (Phil. 4:8.) The more you do this, the more the verses and chapters of our Maker's Instruction Book will become real "**MIND STICKERS!**"

Drill Yourself in the Scriptures

To "drill" is to indulge in *mental exercise* aimed at perfecting facility and skill by regular practice.

Drilling yourself in the verses of the Bible is one of the finest ways of committing them to memory. Many have found the use of "flash cards" helpful in this respect. These can be made very

simply by purchasing a supply of 3x5 index cards and writing or typing the scripture out in full on one side, and then the chapter and verse location on the other side. Use these cards for key scriptures you wish to recall.

Go through the cards regularly by reading the quote and then trying to recall its location by chapter and verse. Then turn the card over and check on yourself. You could reverse this process by reading the chapter and verse first and then trying to recall its wording. Since every translation varies, don't necessarily try to memorize word for word, but just the key thought, subject, or point of the verse. This method will provide you with a helpful **REVIEW** of the scriptures and is a valuable means of aiding your memory.

Drill yourself also on the subjects of basic chapters such as those mentioned earlier in this article. You'll find that **REPETITION IS** indeed the best form of emphasis!

Ask God For Help

Jesus Christ promised His disciples: "But the Comforter (Greek *paracletos* — "one called alongside to **HELP**") which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall *teach* you all things, and bring all things to your *remembrance*, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:26).

God's Spirit is intended to help and assist you in both *understanding and recalling* to mind the words of Jesus Christ. **UTILIZE THAT HELP!** **ASK** God to help you apply the principles in this article daily. Practice them and work on them faithfully. Develop right study habits and stand in awe of the words of the living God. As you continue to submit to God and respect His Word, He will help you in your efforts to study and retain scriptures.

But don't become discouraged if you don't become a "walking concordance." Remember the ability to **UNDERSTAND** Scripture is vastly more valuable than the ability to merely *quote* it!

(For more information on how to make your Bible study more profitable and interesting, be sure to request the article "Twelve Rules for Bible Study.") □

The Bible Answers Your Questions

Just what is leaven? Which foods are to be avoided during the Days of Unleavened Bread?

God uses leaven to typify sin (I Cor. 5:1-8). Sin puffs up just as physical leaven puffs up (verse 2). Unleavened Bread is a *type* of an unleavened life.

To understand exactly what is included in the leaven we are to avoid during the Days of Unleavened Bread, let's first notice some of the Hebrew words translated "leaven" in the Old Testament. *Mechametz* refers to leavening agents — substances used to puff up or produce fermentation, causing dough to rise. Yeast, bicarbonate of soda (baking soda) and baking powder are such substances.

Another Hebrew word rendered "leaven" is *seh-ohd*. This literally means "sourdough," a naturally fermenting yeasty batter which was the most common leaven of the Israelites, and which is still often used to cause baked goods to rise and become light in texture.

These leavening agents cause foods to become *chametz*. This Hebrew word is translated "that which is leavened" in Exodus 12:19. It is also translated "leavened bread" in a number of places. It refers to all foods that leaven has caused to rise, including bread, cake, some crackers, certain cookies, some prepared cereals and pies. A few candies and other foods also make use of leavening agents. If you are in doubt about any product, check the list of ingredients on the wrapper.

Instead of eating leavened bread, we have the *positive* command to eat unleavened bread for *seven days* (Ex. 13:6). We may also eat *unleavened* pies and cereals together with all the meats, drinks, fruits and vegetables we normally consume.

If you would enjoy baking your own homemade unleavened bread, be sure to write for our booklet entitled *Recipes for the Days of Unleavened Bread*, if you have not done so already. However, most stores carry a variety of unleavened bread. These include Jewish and whole-wheat Matzoth, Rye Krisp, hard tack and a number of flat breads. Always check the ingredients on the label to be sure.

Some have asked about using egg whites in baking. Egg whites should not be used as a *substitute* for leaven, in a deliberate attempt to circumvent the spirit of the law. On the other hand, beaten egg whites used in meringue on pies and other desserts do not constitute a leavening agent. They have not been used to puff up any product baked of flour or meal.

Others have noticed the term "yeast extracts" on the labels of certain foods and have wondered if they should be avoided. These are derivatives of yeast that cannot be used as leavening agents. It would therefore be permissible to use a product containing yeast extracts provided, of course, that it does not contain any actual leavening agent. Some people also buy brewers yeast from health food stores. This form of yeast is totally dead and should not therefore be considered as leaven. It should also be mentioned that cream of tartar, by itself, is *not* a leavening agent either.

Occasionally a question comes up about beer or other fermented drinks. There is nothing in the entirety of Scripture to indicate any restriction on the *kind* of beverages we consume during the Days of Unleavened Bread — no mention of these being the "Days of Unleavened Beverages." The fact is that in all cases where the Days of Unleav-

ened Bread are mentioned, the reference is always to the example set by the children of Israel when they came out of Egypt without any leaven in their dough (see Exodus 12:39). There is *no* reference to the *invisible* yeast or result of it in either beer, wine or other beverages.

Naturally fermented wine was customarily consumed by the Israelites at God's Festivals. If God had intended a ban on fermented beverages during the Days of Unleavened Bread, it would undoubtedly have been mentioned. In fact, such mention *would have* been necessary. Yet the command adds no more than is found in Exodus 13:6-7: "Seven days thou shalt eat unleavened bread . . . and there shall be no leavened bread seen with thee, neither shalt there be leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters."

If you are unsure about any particular food and unable to find the answer, you should refrain from eating it, "for whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (Rom. 14:23).

We should all see to it that we do eat *some* unleavened bread during each of the seven Days of Unleavened Bread. Remember that it is a *positive* command. By eating the "bread of affliction" we are reminded of our having been in bondage to sin, from which we are now delivered.

If it occurs, as in all probability it will, that partway through the Feast you find some leavened product that had somehow escaped your scrutiny, put it off your property immediately. This is a type of those hidden sins that we don't always discover upon conversion. We must keep on putting out sin (leaven) until the process is complete, as is signified by the very fact that there are seven — the complete number — of Days of Unleavened Bread.

God intended the Days of Unleavened Bread to be a *type* to remind us that we are to be unleavening our lives spiritually by *putting out* the spiritual leaven of SIN — not for seven days only, but throughout our ENTIRE LIVES! "Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (I Cor. 5:8). □