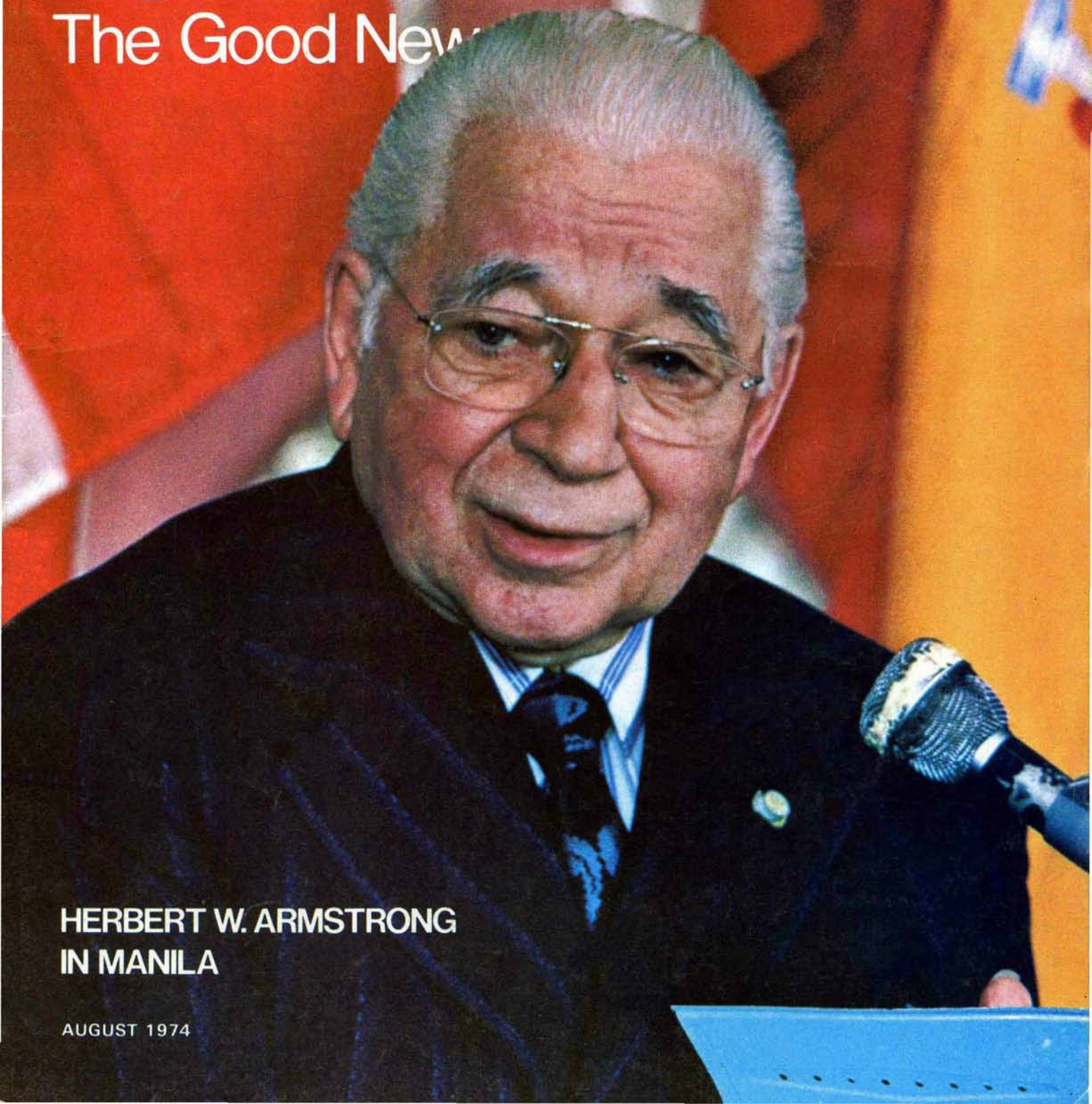


GN

The Good News



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
IN MANILA

AUGUST 1974



ABOUT OUR COVER

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong proclaims Christ's true gospel message in Manila — the first of the public appearance campaigns to be held in world capitals. A full report on the campaign begins on page 17.

Mike Hendrickson — GN

GN

The Good News

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“G’BYE, honey” — she dimly remembered the quick, perfunctory peck, resigned look and faint smell of that awful aftershave lotion he had used over her constant objections. Almost absentmindedly, she then began sorting through the small stack of mail taken out of their apartment mailbox when she let him out the door.

Thinking of the two lunches she had to prepare for the two boys, and little Mary, who was probably wet by now following her early morning feeding, she plodded back up the stairs to the first landing, let herself in, and shuffled to the kitchen for another cup of coffee, her third of the morning.

Hank was a good provider. They had a two bedroom apartment with most of the main appliances (but she had longed for a bigger refrigerator and at least a blender or mixer for months). They were paying on a small foreign compact, and Hank’s job was a good one, paying \$220 a week.

But since he had missed nearly five weeks of work that year from an injury (when he had been temporarily hospitalized with a badly bruised foot) and a bout with the flu, their day-to-day existence had taken a turn for the worse.

Setting the cup down, she began mechanically spreading out the ingredients for the boys’ lunches. Sacks neatly stapled and names printed on them, she sat down again. There would be about another 15 minutes before she would have to wake them up. Hank had to drive to the station to catch the commuter train, and that required him to leave no later than 6:15 each morning.

She picked up the stack of mail. Discarding the two obvious “junk mail” advertisements addressed to “Resident,” she opened the other three, knowing what she would find in advance.

The dairy bill was astronomical (the soaring prices of milk!) — and this was their usual “second notice” with the cozy little red sticker and the “Please, may we hear from you

soon?” added as a veiled threat that their milk and dairy products would be cut off unless she got a check out today!

Then there was the bill for that wool coat she had been unable to turn down (Hank was sweet about it, but she knew he didn’t like the coat — and didn’t like what it had cost even more); and, of course (she had known it was due today), the monthly reminder from the appliance store for the TV set.

She would *have* to get to the checkbook in awhile, after the boys were up and gone; Mary playing happily in her playpen after her bath, and after the bedrooms and kitchen were straightened out. The fleeting thought came, as it had so often, that all of society — the “system” — had somehow entrapped them.

They’d probably *never* manage to fight their way out of the drab “nowheresville” existence into which they had been forced.

Not that they hadn’t tried. Their excited, dreamy plans about vacations, trips, a cute, modest, ranch-style home on a few acres with a pond had somehow deteriorated into this walk-up flat. It was the only thing they could afford in a neighborhood they felt was safe enough, once the kids had come along, and close enough so that Hank could commute to the only job for which he had been really trained.

Good thing the Navy had finally made him a machinist’s mate second class just before his discharge, or no telling to what kind of low paying, manual labor he would be tied.

Suddenly, she felt stifled. She looked around the untidy kitchen, thought briefly of Hank, rattling along on that smelly, greasy commuter by now, looking through dirty windows at soot-smeared factories and smokestacks on his way to work, and, glancing at the clock, went to wake up the boys.

“WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS...”

by Garner Ted Armstrong

Sound familiar?

It should — it's a common, everyday segment of the ultimate "sit-com" of actual life as it's being lived by many, many millions of Americans, Canadians, Australians and Britons.

Day-to-Day Grind

The resigned defeatism; the stifling, "not-quite-enough" battle of day-to-day existence calls upon those who are honest to wage endless combat with the creditors; juggling checks to ensure the "squeaky wheel gets the grease," eking out an existence.

Dreams.

Doesn't everybody have them? By the millions, though we worry about inflation, joblessness, high interest rates, poor leadership, strikes, high food costs, we dream about that "somewhere-over-the-rainbow" time when all will be well; when hopes and dreams of "easy street" finally materialize.

But they never do, except in the movies.

But what's really *important* in life? Is it that proverbial pot of gold at the end of the rainbow? Is it get-

motorized bedspring you call an automobile? Is that why you make those inevitable, inflated monthly payments to pay for that mechanical monster? Is that why you pay hundreds of dollars every year to pour Mideast or domestic gasoline through the crud-incrusted carburetor of that air-polluting machine that sits grinning with chrome-plated satisfaction in your driveway?

Is your whole heart and soul addicted to the pursuit of wealth in a capricious and wildly fluctuating stock market? Does it really matter in the final analysis whether it was blue chip, green chip or purple chip? What's the point of it all; where does it all end?

In the great Depression of the thirties, dozens of investors and financiers threw themselves out of windows of their Wall Street offices because years of careful investments had gone down the drain. They had been sacrificed on the altar of financial futility.

But suppose you did make it to the top of the financial heap — what then? Will your steak taste any more succulent than that of the middle-

crease: this is also vanity [futility, emptiness]. When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and *what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes? . . . and what profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind?*" (Eccl. 5:10-16.)

Do you labor for the wind? Or Montgomery Ward? Or Sears? Or BankAmericard? It's all the same — it's all a kind of futility and frustration! There's nothing to show for it except a few more material goods, a little more temporary comfort, a few more steaks, and finally, an empty death. And remember the old cliché — you can't take it with you!

There's nothing so wrong with the picture of the frustrated middle-income housewife sending her husband off to work, except the mental approach and attitude!

If they knew the *true values* in life — if they deeply appreciated that little foreign compact (with higher mileage); the limited, but adequate appliances; those three lovely children; a steady job; *and* were following more of a *practical, workable* manner of managing their personal finances — the "not quites" of unrealized dreams, the juggling of bills to pay for impulsive buying, and the endless battles with creditors, plus a sprinkling of arguments among themselves, would not be present.

Millions play the game of impulse buying, fight the creditors and move away if the pressure becomes unbearable.

But it doesn't *have* to be that way!

There is a better way; there is a way by which you can obtain *eternal* dividends for a sound physical financial investment in this life!

God's Work

As we round the bend into what appears to be the closing decades of man's age, God has raised up a great Work. Whether you believe it or not at this point, you *have* come in direct contact with that Work!

This is not a Work of men; it is the Work of the living God, who gives you every breath of air you

"Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."

Proverbs 3:9, 10

ting "in the black" after years of struggling to meet the monthly avalanche of bills and payments? Can anyone ever really get permanently ahead in this credit-oriented society?

Your Best Investment

Jesus said: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:21).

Is your heart really in that popping, rattling, squeaking, lurching

income office worker who serves you? Will fine music sound any more pleasing to your ear than to the ear of a starving Indian peasant?

And what can anyone *do* with all the goods they might accumulate — except look at them, fondle them, think about them and perhaps boast just a little?

King Solomon, in his God-given wisdom, said: "He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with in-

breathe! It is the Work of the God who claims that "the silver and the gold are *mine*" (Haggai 2:8). It is the Work of the God who says you and I should be willing to give our *all* in His service.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1).

It is not unreasonable of God to even expect us to give our *entire beings* in sacrifice to His service. Should it be some great thing that God would then expect His people to support His Work materially?

Surely not!

A Short Work

Speaking of God's very Work on earth today, the Apostle Paul wrote: "For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a *short work will the Lord make upon the earth*" (Rom. 9:28).

Never before in all of history has it been more important to recognize and to support that Work of the living Christ!

As the world community continues to lose control of rapidly spiraling, runaway inflation, it is more urgent than ever that the great Work of the living God be accomplished while there is still time. As the eerie spectre of recession and possible depression loom ominously on the horizon, the words of Jesus echo down through the centuries!

"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: *the night cometh, when no man can work*" (John 9:4).

No activity on earth is more important than that of accomplishing the preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom as a witness and a warning to this end-time society! (Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20.)

Let's understand why!

The Eyes and Ears of the World

This worldwide Work of God is *daily* performing that globe-girdling

commission of carrying Christ's gospel around the earth in ever-increasing power.

And one of the integral parts of this God-ordained commission (the *now* job of every true Christian in this age) is found in Christ's warning to His followers in Luke 21:36: "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be *accounted wor-*

or describing the peaceful death of old age, or even the death of chance sickness. He was describing sensational cases of sudden, painful, tragic death under *violent* circumstances!

He had predicted the toppling of the very walls of the buildings of the Temple (Matt. 24:1, 2). He warned of impending national DESTRUCTION

"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Matthew 6:20, 21

thy to escape all these things [the global series of crises outlined in previous verses] that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

The context of this scripture makes it crystal clear that the term "escape" refers to a *physical salvation* from a terrible time of calamity soon to hit this whole earth (see also Isa. 26:20; Rev. 3:10).

That's right, PHYSICAL SALVATION!

Peter, at the conclusion of his powerful sermon (Acts, 2nd chapter) on the day of Pentecost, said: "Save yourselves from this untoward generation." He *knew* what Jesus had said about impending national calamities.

Peter knew someone was going to get hurt!

Jesus had told them about two sensational tragedies: one, involving the mass murder of a group of Galileans who had been butchered right along with their sacrifices; and another, the well-known deaths of a large group of people peacefully sitting in the shade of a big wall in Siloam (Luke 13:1-6).

He had said: "... Except ye REPENT, ye shall all LIKEWISE perish!"

Jesus wasn't speaking of the fact it is "given to all men once to die"

— which *did* occur nearly 40 years later.

Jesus knew drought, famine, pestilence, mindless tortures (according to the Jewish historian Josephus, the Romans impaled thousands!), and death by sword, spear and bludgeon would be the lot of those who did *not* repent, and who were not *watching* the development of events!

What to Watch

That's why Jesus said "WATCH ye, therefore." He said WATCH — NOT in some "spiritual" way, meaning staring out a candle-lit window in an attitude of "prayer" the way some might "spiritualize" this scripture away; but watching the weather patterns; the picture of public health; international, geopolitical maneuverings; military struggles; alliances and power blocs; WATCH WORLD NEWS!

He said *watch* so YOU CAN ESCAPE!

Escape is no "spiritual" kind of "rapture"!

Jesus plainly told those which "be in Judea" to FLEE when they saw armies beginning to surround Jerusalem. He said those would be the "days of vengeance" — and described bloody, mass MURDER!

Like it or not — unpleasant to

Increasing taxes, soaring inflation, more and more credit buying, rising costs of goods and services and other economic realities are rapidly taking their toll on the average American family.

Staggering personal and private debt is rapidly becoming a way of life in the United States. Skyrocketing interest rates and the high cost of "easy" credit are beginning to paint John Q. Public into an economic corner.

At the end of 1972 the average consumer debt per household in the United States was \$2,312. Of this amount \$1,869 represented installment credit.

Interest rates on such payments could be as high as 18-21% — in some cases even higher!

In January 1974 — according to the "U. S. Census Bureau Current Population Report: Consumer Income, Series P-60" — the average weekly earnings were \$147.13 per week. The average hourly wage was \$4.02. (A skilled construction worker could earn up to \$9.89 per hour and an apparel or textile worker as little as \$2.85 per hour.)

But inflation has seriously damaged the buying power of the dollar. In 1974 you would have to earn \$140 to equal the buying power of \$100 in 1967!

Taxes and inflation rates are even greater in many other countries. In spite of its devastating effect on the American consumer, the United States actually has one of the lower rates of inflation in the world community! Such nations as Japan, Australia, Sweden and even Great Britain suffer from enormously high taxation and mind-boggling inflation. Strikes and work stoppages deal devastating blows to the economies of such nations as Canada, England and France. Socialized medicine and the welfare state mentality push taxes higher and higher in countries already beset with major economic difficulties.

But this worldwide Work of God must continue! What better investment could there be for today's Christian than to support the very Work being done by the servants of the living God in these twilight years of man's age? □

The Economic Plight of the American Family

TREASURE *Continued*

think about or not — we are entering just such a time!

Now — you live in the time of mass murder! Now — you live in the time of beginning *race wars* (when racist, para-military organizations require the indiscriminate killing of another human being of a different race just as “initiation” rites!). Now — you live in a time of crises of government after government (the United States, Canada, Britain, Ireland, West Germany, France, India, Israel, Thailand, Chile, Portugal and Greece, just to name a few). Now — you live in a time of terrible inflation, and impending DEPRESSION, when money will be utterly WORTHLESS.

The day came, in pre-World War II Germany, when factory workers were having to be paid *by the hour* in useless “five billion marks” notes, and even higher denominations. It took three billion marks to buy a postage stamp, and five billion marks to purchase a loaf of bread!

Finally, the *paper* was more valuable than the multiple billions of marks it supposedly represented. Germany collapsed into a barter society where cigarettes were traded for milk; shoes for bread; gasoline for clothing; and the entire economy came tumbling down.

YOU ARE LIVING IN THE MIDST OF JUST SUCH POTENTIAL!

The half-dollar coins you casually used for change only a few years ago are now worth *two* of our coin-clipped half-dollars! The silver dollars of a few years ago are now worth *four* dollars, and more!

The Commission of God's Work

This great world-girdling Work is established as God's WATCHMAN to *see*, and *understand*, and *report* on these prophetic conditions; to “cry aloud, and spare not, and SHOW MY PEOPLE THEIR SINS.” And with Ezekiel, to cry, “TURN YE, TURN YE, for why will you DIE, O Israel?”

NOWHERE else will you find a voice of *alarm*, a voice of WARNING

about our impending *national calamities* unless we *repent* of our personal and national sins, just as Jesus said!

There is *no other commission any more important now!*

Jesus Christ is *Savior*, yes! He died to atone for our sins, and by His intercessory LIFE (Rom. 5:10) we are *saved*, spiritually, for eternity!

But Jesus also talked of a *way of escape* from all these things that shall come to pass — He warned those living in His day to *flee* for their lives when they clearly saw the events He predicted coming to pass.

Through His written Word, the prophecies of your Bible and Jesus' *own* prophecies, He warns us today to *watch*, and to *warn others* of impending calamities!

Christ meant for us to watch world conditions — not minor, local day-to-day events; but the big trends in major power blocs, the big economic struggles between nations, the major fluctuations in world religions.

In His famous Olivet prophecy (Luke 21; Matt. 24; Mark 13), Jesus was describing what to watch — long-range, overall world conditions (*now* beginning to intensify with fantastic rapidity!), which would lead up to His coming rule on this earth.

Just ahead of us is a global food crisis. We are right now, as of this moment, in a global governmental crisis. We have been in the throes of a global ecology crisis for nearly two decades; and the current potential for a global economic crisis is truly frightening.

But watching all of these many world conditions does *not* remotely imply a selfish “escape-hatch” salvation for those who have been called to perform God's Work.

We must be the advance news reporters who carefully analyze and digest the world scene, and then, coupled with Bible prophecy and the backdrop of recent history, GIVE OUT a warning and a witness such as this world has never heard before!

The Watchman

Ezekiel wrote of a “watchman” (Ezek. 33) whom God would inspire to foresee impending national calamities. The prophet issued the sternly worded warning that if the watchman failed to perform his God-ordained commission, the blood of the people dying in a cataclysmic death-dealing nuclear bloodbath would be on his head (verses 3-6). As modern Christians — having understanding of the mind-shattering prophecies for *this* day and age — how can we *fail to feel a sense of moral obligation to warn this society?*

What an awesome responsibility!

As I mentioned earlier, somehow God Almighty has caused you to come into contact with the very Work of the living God — a Work of watching and reporting on world events in their biblical context, showing how they dovetail with Bible prophecy — some even in minute, technical detail.

If we are readers of this *Good News* magazine, God challenges us (as He did Ezekiel) to *do our part* in this great and growing Work: “So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a *watchman* unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and *warn them from me*” (verse 7).

It takes *the combined resources* (financial and otherwise) of all those God has called (and more) to continually expand the work of getting the gospel out to this sick, chaotic, and fast-dying world in the powerful way it needs to go.

It is our collective responsibility! We dare not treat it lightly!

And make no mistake about it. It takes *enormous* sums of money to buy radio and television time (astronomically priced *prime TV* time is virtually out of our reach!); to publish and print competently written and graphically effective booklets and periodicals; to feed the ever-increasing flock God is continuously calling.

How Are We Financed?

But how has God chosen to finance this globe-girdling Work? What keeps the telecast on the air? What keeps the giant presses producing the *Plain Truth* and *Good News* magazines? How is this rapidly expanding, outgoing, ongoing Work of the living God supported?

For years the Work has been supported by the faithful, tithe-paying membership of the Worldwide Church of God. Following a practice which may be traced back to patriarchal times (Gen. 14:20-22; 28:20-22), members of the Church set aside *a tenth* of their incomes for the support of the Work which is being done by the combined membership of the Body of Christ.

Not only has this practice made possible the financing of this great Work, it has also resulted in many blessings for these faithful tithe payers! As God consistently blessed the ancient Israelites for tithing, so God has poured out His blessings on those New Testament Christians who have voluntarily chosen to practice this God-ordained principle (Mal. 3:10).

God always BLESSES the tither! We believe in, and serve, a LIVING God; the great Creator who *gives* us every breath, who blesses us with life itself, and every emotion, every joy, love, excitement, and wonderful moments of life. Through promising us an *abundant life, now*, and promising us His great PROTECTION in the horrible times to come (Rev. 3:10), and promising us ETERNAL LIFE for serving, and obeying, and fulfilling the very purpose for our calling — plus our humble and grateful acceptance of the shed blood of God's own Son for our personal sins — our Creator proves He is on the GIVING SIDE!

He *gives* to us ALL THINGS, *abundantly!*

Personally, I believe a *Christian* has a depth of ENJOYMENT of the simplest meals he eats; the sunsets he shares with loved ones; the moments of fun and laughter, the small things in life, like watching children play with a new puppy, or savoring

the company of others of like convictions — I believe a Christian receives a continuing, abiding, deep and fulfilling *reward* in THIS LIFE, NOW, that is totally *unattainable* by those of material riches, whose lives are empty!

God's Word plainly *commands* us to be on the GIVING side!

Any who might argue against the plain tithing principle of God's Word, and the clear and simple statements of Paul in I Corinthians 9 concerning the method God had ordained for the support of the preaching of the gospel, are missing the *whole point* of Jesus' plain and simple teachings!

Though the little widow woman gave forth her "widow's mite" even in the midst of the most "splendiferous" building on the face of the earth at that time, Jesus highly commended her for it. And He did not condemn the existence of the Temple. When the woman used precious ointment to anoint His feet, and Judas scorned such "shameful waste," Jesus gently rebuked him, and said the woman had worked a "good work"!

It's good and it's *right*, and it's *obedience* to the great Creator God to be on the GIVING end!

I want you to read a few of the letters, out of the great stack of literally *thousands* we receive as the years go by, from people just like you, who have found how wonderfully God *blesses* those who are willing to give, that others might hear the last-minute warning they so desperately need!

Income More Than Doubled

"Enclosed are tithe and offerings for this pay period, plus a special offering as I have just received my sixth raise in the last three years. In five years our income has more than doubled, and it is certainly true that a person cannot outgive God."

Mr. & Mrs. M.,
Seattle, Washington

Business Tripled

"I wanted to mention the blessings we've received since we started going

to Church and tithing. Our business is selling used cars. When we started going to Church, we could hardly pay our bills. Since then, business has tripled and we could even afford to give the Church a 1970-model bus free and clear. Hope our gift helps your work."

Mrs. R. W.,
Terre Haute, Indiana

A Free Car

"Every week from what my husband gives me (which isn't much because he doesn't make much), I take something and put it aside to send to God's Work every three or four weeks. The reason I'm telling you this is because when you give to God, He always gives you something you never even expected. Only this week my husband received a registered letter from my brother who has a business in New York. In the letter were registration papers and the keys for a car he was sending my husband. My husband was in need of a car, but he couldn't afford to buy one."

Virginia V.,
Aguadilla, Puerto Rico

Worry-Free Living

"Enclosed is my tithe. It is really amazing the change that has resulted from the time I have resumed giving my tithe and the time before. I make no more money, but it seems what I have lasts longer. What was once financial chaos is now worry-free living. I thank God for His assistance."

Michael N.,
Dallas, Texas

Income Tripled

"Enclosed are my tithe and offerings. I want you to know that prayers are being answered daily. I have been praying for a new job, and I just started it last month. My income tripled for the month of July. Keep up the good work, Mr. Armstrong. You and your son are continually in my prayers."

Joe B.,
Ashley, Pennsylvania

Running Out of Room

"You will find our tithe quite a bit larger than usual. We have been blessed again. We are receiving two carpets. We were given enough money to buy them, with some left over. We were also given some school clothes for our girls, including fall and winter coats. My husband has also had a little overtime on each pay check recently We have included a tithe of this amount with that of our paycheck. It definitely pays to tithe, and we are fast running out of room for all our blessings (Mal. 3:10)."

Grace J.,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Income Increased Twenty Percent

"I would like to say that since we have been paying our tithes, my income has increased 20%."

Almon M.,
Beebe, Arkansas

Tithing Pays

"I had been unemployed until Oct. 2, 1972. During the previous two years I had worked but nine months after graduating from college. In August 1972 I sent a voluntary contribution to the Worldwide Church of God as a result of my reading about how God promises to bless us if we tithe. Believe it or not, I had fourteen departments or employers call me for personal interviews, and two offers of employment, one of which I accepted. It is my pleasure to send you the first tithe and a little more of my first paycheck."

John B.,
Charleston, West Virginia

New Testament Principle

In the theocracy of Israel, the people paid tithes on their crops and cattle to the Levites, who in turn tithed to the priests. The priests ministered in the Temple, doing the Work of God in their day. The Apostle Paul wrote of this in I Corinthians 9:13-14:

"Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of

the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? *Even so* hath the Lord [Christ] ordained that *they which preach the gospel* should live of the gospel."

Paul showed that he and the other apostles had the power or authority to partake of their physical, carnal things — money — for the purpose of doing the Work! After all, who should be expected to finance his own ministry? What soldier ever went to war of his own charges (see verse 7) — at his own expense?

The Church is to preach and publish the gospel; that is the collective commission to the whole Body of Christ (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16, etc.). But not everyone in the Church is a preacher or an evangelist (I Cor. 12). Each member of the Body has a different gift, but it is the living, active, dynamic Christ who works in every one through the Holy Spirit to do His Work.

All Members Responsible

But all members, morally, philosophically and financially, are to support the Work of *the whole Body*. The preaching of the gospel represents the Church's relationship with the world — it is the way the Church provides the world with *light* and *truth*.

God *never* intended the Church of God to be self-serving and withdrawn — descending into an endless series of time-consuming, comfortable armchair arguments over the whys or wherefores of this or that minor doctrine. He raised up the Church (Matt. 16:18) to preach the gospel of the Kingdom and to set a right example before the world.

When Jesus was confronted by a rich, young nobleman who asked what he must do in order to inherit eternal life, Christ told him to keep the Ten Commandments (Matt. 19:16-19). This young businessman asserted that he always had kept them (verse 20).

But Jesus knew that he was very covetous of his vast material wealth;

more concerned with hanging on to what he had accumulated than following Christ.

"Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect [complete or fulfilled], go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions" (Matt. 19:21-22).

This young man was covetous, unwilling to sacrifice his material goods in order to follow Christ, who was doing the Work of His Father. He lived *only* for this life.

Why do we draw breath? Why do we work, labor and sweat in this life? Is it merely to perpetuate our own very temporary existences? Solomon said: "All the labour of man is for his mouth, and yet the appetite is not filled" (Eccl. 6:7).

God has given us a far greater reason for living than just feeding our faces every so often. He is working out a *purpose* on this earth through His Church. And that great purpose involves fiduciary and financial involvement!

Your Financial Priorities

Jesus Christ continually warned His disciples about the danger of overanxious concern regarding the physical necessities and staples of this life (Matt. 6:24-32). He pointed out *the one great priority* that would forever overcome the selfish materialism so instinctive to human beings: "*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these [material] things shall be added unto you*" (verse 33).

Notice the concluding, crux point to the parable of the unjust steward: "Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye [it — RSV] fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations" (Luke 16:9).

And then Jesus sternly warned: "If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon [money], who will commit to your trust the true riches?" (Verse 11.)

Boiling it down to the essentials, this scripture means just this: if you don't prioritise your monetary resources to help bring others the precious knowledge of personal entrance into God's Kingdom ("everlasting habitations" — "the true riches"), how can you ever expect to be there yourself?

The Give Way — What's in It for You?

Your Saviour said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

Giving in God's way is like throwing a boomerang with all of your might. Whatever you give comes hurtling right back to you in countless blessings (seen and unseen, known and unknown) of every sort and description.

Wise old King Solomon knew of this solid, time-tested financial principle long before the first Christian ever set foot on earth. He said: "Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: [and then as a direct consequence] so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine" (Prov. 3:9-10).

Centuries later, Jesus Christ of Nazareth absolutely guaranteed that the *give* principle would work out in the nuts and bolts of practical, everyday, "now" living. He said: "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom."

And then He spoke of another great cause-and-effect principle: "For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again" (Luke 6:38).

The Apostle Paul put the very same principle in different words: "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully" (II Cor. 9:6).

If you give generously (as you are truly able — Deut. 16:17), God will

bountifully bless you for that willing, giving attitude — firmly rooted in positive action.

God Loves a Cheerful Giver

Your *attitude* is easily the most important factor in your Christian stewardship! Paul wrote: "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver" (II Cor. 9:7).

Continuing with the scriptural context, the next verse absolutely affirms God's ability to abundantly reward this cheerful, outgoing, outreaching attitude of giving: "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, *always having all sufficiency in all things*, may abound to every good work" (verse 8).

Remember Jesus' words: "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal" (Matt. 6:19, 20).

Our Awesome Responsibility

We have been given the good work of preaching the gospel to a world *in desperate need* of a powerful warning and an unmistakable witness!

We are also charged with the awesome responsibility of defraying *the frightful costs* of spreading that gospel in an age of hypertechnical, supercomplex, incredibly expensive communication mechanisms (the gospel costs infinitely more in this technocratic space age than it did in a first-century world largely limited to personal evangelism).

Can we afford to simply shrug our shoulders and shirk our God-given responsibilities toward Christ's last-ditch efforts to disseminate God's final warning to this earth?

Can we afford not to be concerned for the multiple, seemingly *terminal afflictions* plaguing our

peoples around this earth — the global problems threatening our very existence as civilized nations? If we carelessly shuck our collective responsibilities, will God wink one eye and just look the other way?

"If thou forbear [neglect] to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; if thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?" (Prov. 24:11-12.)

As I wrap up this article, I have been interrupted time and again with our daily planning sessions for our upcoming campaigns, which are carrying the powerful *witness* and *warning* message contained in Christ's gospel to additional tens of thousands *in person*, in cities all around the United States and Canada.

I have taken time out twice to do daily radio programs, and, upon finishing these few lines, I am heading to the studio for yet another one on the terrible state of our economy!

I have seen, and helped edit, our "summer" one-hour color television specials — the televised campaign from Seattle — to be viewed by MILLIONS in many, many cities (I hope YOU will be able to see them!) all over the United States and Canada.

NEVER have we lived in any more urgent times in which to FINISH THIS GREAT WORK lying before us! I feel a critical need to really cry out as never before for our national REPENTANCE, and a recapturing of the spirit of *forgiveness* and *humility* for our people!

We are facing a crisis of the SPIRIT!

It's not too late for our peoples — but it's much later than we think!

I thank God daily for those whose hearts are as concerned as the rest of us in this great Work; and for those who are giving generously so I may continue to give out this last warning! □

QUESTION: "In the Lord's prayer, the plea 'lead us not into temptation' must surely be a mis-translation. James 1:13 says: '... For God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man.'"

Thelma B.,

Birmingham, Alabama

ANSWER: You are right. In these verses, the word "temptation" comes from the Greek word *peirasmos*, which means a "test" or a "trial" (Arndt-Gingrich lexicon). *The Good News for Modern Man* translates Matthew 6:13: "Do not bring us to *hard testing*, but keep us safe from the Evil One."

Of course, God does allow our faith to be *tested* (see Gen. 22 and Job 1, 2).

Q: "I would like to know how to become a co-worker."

Mrs. K. Z.,

Temple City, California

A: God has always had disciples, helpers and "co-workers" to aid His leading ministers in carrying out their commission of preaching and publishing the gospel.

God's Work *today* is growing in power and effectiveness.

How?

It has been made possible only through the combined efforts of thousands of co-workers whom God



has called to help financially support this great Work.

In the earlier days, our editor in chief, Herbert W. Armstrong, was able by himself to reach only a handful of people. But as the number of dedicated co-workers who voluntarily gave their contributions and tithes and offerings increased, so did the scope and power of God's Work.

Now, just what is a co-worker?

To find the answer, notice some New Testament scriptures, beginning with II Corinthians 6:1: "We then, as *workers* together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain."

In context this scripture clearly shows that *all* true Christians should be *workers together with Christ* in reaching the unconverted world with His message.

Whether in helping, housing, or feeding a true minister of God, or sending him on his way with food and money (this type of help was especially needed in the time of the first-century Church), God has *always*

given many others the privilege and opportunity of being *direct helpers* in carrying out His Work.

The Apostle John encouraged those called in his time to receive and support the true servants of God: "... That we might be *fellow-helpers to the truth*" (III John 8).

Again, Paul beseeches: "And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my *fellow-labourers* [co-workers], whose names are in the book of life" (Phil. 4:3).

So, as in apostolic times, God has today raised up a growing family of co-workers — laborers together with Christ — who are helping out financially and with their moral support, and in their faithful, fervent prayers for this Work of God.

These co-workers, who give their lives (Rom. 12:1) here and now as *living sacrifices* in carrying out God's Work, are certainly laying up treasure in heaven! Jesus said: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:21).

After a person has voluntarily of his own free will expressed a desire to help financially with this great Work — or voluntarily begun to contribute donations — he or she, in effect, automatically becomes a co-worker. □

How your Good News subscription has been paid

Jesus said, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached [and published — Mark 13:10] in all the world for a witness unto all nations" (Matt. 24:14) at this time, just before the end of this age. A price must be paid for this magazine, the Correspondence Course, booklets and other litera-

ture. But how? Christ forbids us to sell it to those who receive it: "Freely ye have received, freely *give*," said Jesus to His disciples whom He was sending to proclaim His gospel. "It is more blessed to *give*," He said, "than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

God's way is the way of love — and that is the way of giving. God expects every child of His to give freewill offerings and to tithe, as His means of paying the costs of carrying the gospel to others.

We, therefore, simply trust the Living Christ to stir the minds

and hearts of His followers to give generously, thus paying the cost of putting this precious gospel truth in the hands of others.

The faithful, tithe-paying members of the Worldwide Church of God and our ever-growing family of co-workers gladly give of their incomes that we may give this precious gospel to an ever-widening number of readers.

The living, dynamic Christ Himself enables us to send you this *Good News* magazine without charging a price. God's way is right — the way of giving to others.

The agonizing possibility of another Middle East war frightens world leaders. Are Mideast events leading swiftly to the long-prophesied "Armageddon"? What will happen to Egypt, Syria, Israel and other countries in the area? And how will the Mideast affect Europe? Can we know what is about to happen in the very near future?

WATCH THE MIDDLE EAST

by Raymond F. McNair



THE NATIONS of the world will literally be dumbfounded when they see what will really happen in the explosive Middle East. Few realize what the outcome will be of the long-protracted and intense struggle between Israelis and Arabs.

Why do world leaders repeatedly say that the Mideast is the most explosive spot on this earth? Why are famous diplomats continually negotiating with heads of government in this unsettled area? It must, they



claim, be watched very carefully if it is not to ignite World War III.

Since the dawn of history, man has fought thousands of wars. But until quite recently, mankind had not invented weapons of mass destruction which could erase all life from this planet.

Then, in 1945, thousands of lives were vaporized in the instantaneous destruction of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The world was jolted into the realization that science had ushered mankind into

Below, Black Star
Right, UPI



an age of potential human annihilation.

Since 1945 the nations have been working feverishly to develop more devastating weapons — weapons which can erase vast populations in a matter of seconds. The word “overkill” has earned its place in our modern vocabulary. The nations have already spent many millions developing brands of super laser weapons. Besides the United States and Russia — France, Britain, China and India (and who knows how many other nations?) also have nuclear weapons in their arsenals.

Nearly two thousand years ago, Jesus Christ foretold this terrible era of potential mass destruction — this end time when man would possess the capability to annihilate all life on this planet: “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. *And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved [alive] . . .*” (Matt. 24:21-22).

Who Can Know the Future?

There is a Creator God who knows the past and can fathom the future. He has given us in His Word, the Holy Bible, many hundreds of

prophecies which foretell future events.

The Creator says: “. . . For I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure” (Isa. 46:9-10).

It is God who knows the end from the beginning. His Word, if diligently studied and rightly understood, reveals to mankind many of the major events about to occur in the Mideast.

Amazing Future Prophecy

The Prophet Daniel prophesied that four great world-ruling empires would arise one after the other (see Daniel 2 and 7). These empires would dominate this earth up until the end time when the “stone” (the Messiah or Christ — see Daniel 2:45 and Ephesians 2:20) would demolish and supplant all human governments.

The longest prophecy of the Bible, the eleventh chapter of Daniel, specifically concerns the Middle East. Most of this lengthy prophecy has already been fulfilled. The first four verses of this chapter proph-

esied that “a mighty king” (Alexander the Great) would rise up and defeat the Persians. He would die without “posterity” to rule on his throne. His kingdom would be “divided toward the four winds” (by his four generals).

Then we come to the very detailed prophecy concerning a prolonged struggle between the Seleucid kings of “the north” in Syria and the Ptolemaic kings of “the south” in Egypt.

History shows how accurately the detailed prophecies of verses 5-39 were fulfilled. (For a description of the historical fulfillment of these verses, write for our free article entitled “The Middle East in Prophecy.”) But verses 40-45 are yet to be fulfilled. They reveal that startling events are yet to take place in the Mideast.

As foretold, after the death of Alexander the Great his four generals divided up his kingdom. Cassander ruled Greece and Macedonia. Lysimachus was given Asia Minor. Seleucus (Nicator) ruled Syria and Babylonia as far as India. Ptolemy (Soter) ruled Egypt, part of Ethiopia (including the modern Sudan), Judea and part of Syria.

The kings of the north and south

ISRAELI soldier stands guard at Wailing Wall in Jerusalem.



referred to in this chapter were the Greek rulers of Egypt and Syria who for centuries struggled over control of Palestine. The Bible always speaks from the focal point of the Holy Land. Syria was north of Palestine, Egypt was south.

The "king of the north" continued to be Syria up until 65 B.C. (see box on page 15). From that time on the "king of the north" represents the Roman Empire.

Rome is the fourth and last of the world-ruling empires which Daniel prophesied would dominate this world (Daniel 2 and 7). The Roman Empire would meet catastrophe and be revived again and again. It would continue to reappear until the Messiah appears on the scene and destroys all human kingdoms and governments, and establishes the Kingdom of God.

The Seven Heads

The ancient Roman Empire fell to the Heruli and their allies in A.D. 476. Then Justinian revived the Roman Empire in the West in A.D. 554. It was, in our time, revived by Benito Mussolini. *Il Duce*, the leader, ruled the sixth major revival of the Roman Empire.

According to the prophecies of your Bible, there were to be seven major "heads" (leaders) or seven revivals of the Roman Empire, beginning A.D. 554 when the "deadly wound" was healed by Justinian (Rev. 13:3-5). The other "resurrections" of the Roman Empire include those of Charlemagne, Otto the Great, Charles the Great (of the Hapsburgs), Napoleon and Mussolini-Hitler. (These first six revivals are being described serially in the *Plain Truth* magazine under the continuing title "Europe, Catastrophe and Revival.") The seventh and final revival is yet to occur.

Students of biblical prophecy generally understand that the fourth kingdom mentioned by Daniel (depicted by the legs of iron, and feet part of iron and part of clay) is the Roman Empire (Dan. 2:32-45). "And in the days of these kings [ten

**"For I will gather
all nations against
Jerusalem to battle
Then shall the Lord go
forth, and fight
against those nations,
as when he fought
in the day of battle."**

Zechariah 14:2-3

kings represented by the "ten toes"] shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces [smite the image on its feet and toes of iron and clay] and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (Dan. 2:44).

The seventh chapter of Daniel lists four beasts: lion, bear, leopard and a "fourth beast, dreadful and terrible," unlike any beast known to mankind.

Daniel was inspired to foretell the destruction of this fourth beast (the Roman Empire): "... I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame" (Dan. 7:11).

Then follows the coming of the Messiah to this earth in power and glory: "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed" (verses 13-14).

Very few understand that the Roman Empire is to exist, quite literally, at the coming of the Messiah, and once again will wreak great havoc in the name of peace — just before the establishment of the prophesied Kingdom of God on this earth.

For many years the *Plain Truth* and *The World Tomorrow* broadcast have been warning that these Bible prophecies foretell the coming of a United States of Europe.

United States of Europe

Immediately after World War II, Winston Churchill, in a speech at Zurich, urged the creation of a "United States of Europe." Since that time, many steps have been taken toward achieving this goal. Although at this date all nine members of the European Economic Community are not in favor of forming a politically strong United States of Europe — yet a New Europe is coming as certainly as the sun will continue to rise and set.

Many Europeans realize they will forever remain impotent as individual nations unless they can bind themselves together in a strong union. Only then can they speak with a strong, united voice and exercise their political and military power to utmost advantage.

The recent war in the Mideast painfully underlined Europe's weakness in international disputes. The nations of the EEC were forced to stand by as the United States and Russia made the important decisions concerning the October '73 Middle East struggle *without even consulting them*. Europeans charge that they were not only *not* consulted, but they were only informed belatedly — after the international situation in the Mideast had deteriorated to the point where the United States felt impelled to put her forces (including those on European soil) on full alert.

Europeans now are demanding a bigger say in what goes on in the world — including the Middle East, where their umbilical oil line could be severed without either their knowledge or consent.

In order to have more freedom to maneuver in future crises, Europeans are continuing to consider steps to bring about their own political and military independence from United States control and influence.

Daniel prophesied over 2500 years ago that Europe will sooner or later end up with a strong central government (like that of the ancient Roman Empire).

This strong United Europe is foretold in the seventeenth chapter of Revelation: "And the beast [the final manifestation of the Roman Empire] that was, and is not, even he is the eighth [head], and is of the seven [of the seven heads of Daniel 7:4-7], and goeth into perdition" (Rev. 17:11).

The Coming Beast

Now notice that "the beast" (the leader of this final revival of the Roman Empire) will have under his control and direction the full power of "ten kings" or ten rulers who will give him full allegiance: "And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These [the beast and the ten kings] shall make war with the Lamb [Christ at His coming], and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings..." (verses 12-14).

This battle, to occur near Jerusalem (see Zech. 14:1-4), is described in chapter 16 of the book of Revelation:

"... The kings of the earth and of the whole world [are marshaled by the demon world]... into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon" (verses 12-16).

For thousands of years, Megiddo has been a most strategic place, the very crossroads of the Middle East. These kings and their armies meet at Megiddo, then move south to the valley of Jehoshaphat (near Jerusalem) where the climactic battle actually takes place. "And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him [the returning Christ] that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false

prophet... These both were cast alive into a *lake of fire* burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse... and all the fowls were filled with their flesh" (Rev. 19:19-21).

As we read earlier, this same annihilation of the beast is described in Daniel: "... I beheld even till the beast [the human head of the coming ten-nation combine] was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the *burning flame*" (Dan. 7:11).

In the Bible a king often represents the kingdom (see Daniel 2:38-39; 7:17, 23). So these "beasts" are human governments or kingdoms which have plundered and destroyed the nations down through the centuries. They have acted like wild beasts. That appears to be why God compares them to ravaging animals.

Now return to the eleventh chapter of Daniel.

We have seen that the king of the north was Syria — until that nation was swallowed up by Rome and became part of the Roman Empire. From that time forth, the successive kings of the north were the successive leaders of the Roman Empire.

We have also seen that the Roman Empire would have seven heads or revivals, beginning with Justinian in A.D. 554. The seventh (last) head of this Roman Empire is yet to arise — maybe sooner than we think!

The Mussolini-Hitler kingdom was the sixth head of the beast. The next leader to unite the peoples of Europe will constitute the "beast" mentioned in Daniel and Revelation. He will also be the "*king of the north*" mentioned in Daniel 11:40-45.

End-Time Prophecy

Why will this "king of the north" become involved in the Middle East? Because the Mideast is of great importance strategically. It is at the very geographical center of the earth — the vital crossroads between three continents. Also, it is

very important because it boasts over 50 percent of the world's proven oil reserves.

Now let's pick up that part of this prophecy that has been fulfilled in just the last 80 years: "And at the time of the end [this was in 1895-1896] shall the king of the south [Ethiopia] push at him [Italy in Eritrea]; and the king of the north [Italy under Mussolini] shall come against him like a whirlwind [from the air with fighter planes and bombers], with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over" (verse 40). Mussolini fulfilled verse 40 — but not verse 41. Mussolini as "king of the north" did not enter into Palestine. He was stopped in Egypt.

Which countries is the coming "king of the north" prophesied to enter? Which nations will he conquer? Verse 41 shows that he will move into what has been called Palestine: "He shall enter also into the glorious land [the Holy Land], and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon."

What about Egypt? Will it be subject to the coming "king of the north"? "... And the land of Egypt shall not escape" (verse 42).

Verse 43 says that "the Libyans and the Ethiopians [meaning the Cushite peoples of the Sudan and probably Ethiopia] shall be at his steps."

But at this point in time, the "king of the north" is going to hear some alarming news — probably a military threat from Russia and those nations allied with her. "But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many" (verse 44).

Beast and False Prophet in Jerusalem

Notice how this king will move his headquarters to Jerusalem:

“And he shall plant the *tabernacles* of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him” (verse 45).

He will set his palace in Mount Zion, which is situated between the Mediterranean and Dead seas.

We have already seen that the beast of Revelation 17 and 19 will fight the Messiah at the valley of Jehoshaphat — near Jerusalem. But a “false prophet,” a great false religious leader, will also move his headquarters to Jerusalem. This is strongly indicated in II Thessalonians 2:1-8.

This same “false prophet” is called the “man of sin” and the “son of perdition” (II Thess. 2:3). He is described as one “Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God” (verse 4).

Jerusalem — Under the Gentile Heel?

The “king of the north” is going to move to Mount Zion, and he will be joined there by the false prophet who will work great miracles. This king of the north (also called the “beast”) will at a later date take half of the people of Jerusalem into captivity.

The “beast” and “false prophet” will both be in Jerusalem to oppose Christ when He returns to this earth in dazzling power and glory. The horrible punishment of these two evil leaders is described in Revelation 19:20.

Now notice Jesus’ prophecy regarding Jerusalem at the time just before His second coming: “And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains For these be the days of vengeance For there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people” (Luke 21:20-23).

Verse 24 has certainly not yet

been completely fulfilled — even though it was partially fulfilled in A.D. 70 when Jerusalem was destroyed by Roman armies: “And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.”

God tells of a coming great battle

“And this shall be the plague wherewith the Lord will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes [sockets], and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth” (Zech. 14:12).

The mighty power of God will bring about this instantaneous

THE KING OF THE NORTH

The king of the north was Syria under the Seleucid dynasty. In 65 B.C. Pompey reduced Syria to the status of a Roman province, despite the pleadings of Antiochus XIII. The line of Seleucus continued in the kings of Commagene, who continued to rule until A.D. 72 when it too was extinguished by Rome. The son of the last king, Caius Julius Antiochus Epiphanes Philopappus, served as a Roman consul in the

year A.D. 100. Thus Rome swallowed up the western Seleucid empire, utterly abolishing it. The eastern area broke up into independent kingdoms under local rulers. Rome also took Macedonia and Greece, renaming it Achaia. In the celebrated story of Cleopatra we note that Egypt too fell into the Roman sphere, but Ethiopia remained an independent area continuing the traditions of the “king of the south.”

to occur near Jerusalem: “For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle” (Zech. 14:2-3).

When will this take place? It will be at the second coming of Christ. “And his feet [Christ’s] shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives And the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee” (verses 4, 5). (Compare I Thessalonians 4:14-17, I Corinthians 15:51-54 and Revelation 11:15-18.)

Then occurs the terrible destruction which will befall those who fight against Christ at Jerusalem:

death. It even sounds somewhat like what happened at Hiroshima and Nagasaki!

Lasting Peace Prophesied for Our Time

Prophecy reveals that there will continue to be further strife and bloodshed in the Middle East. Neither the United Nations nor any other power or nation will be able to find a workable solution to today’s vexing Mideast impasse. There will be more talks, more truces — and more bloodletting. Bible prophecy shows that no human government will ever be able to bring lasting peace to this volatile part of the world.

Only the ushering in of the ruling Kingdom of God under the leadership of the returning Jesus Christ will bring a permanent peace to the Middle East — and the world. □

UPDATE
UPDATE
UPDATE
UPDATE





Manila, Philippines

THE first overseas personal appearance campaign conducted by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong was a resounding success. Thousands attended the three nights of dynamic speaking (May 17, 18 and 19) held in the Araneta Coliseum at Quezon City.

The personal appearance campaign was the culmination of many meetings with government officials in the Philippines, and at least two of these officials gave Mr. Arm-

strong's presentation their heartiest personal endorsement.

How It Began

Events which led to the campaign began in September 1970. At that time Mr. Armstrong had the privilege of meeting with President Marcos and was guest at a dinner hosted by Secretary of Labor Blas Ople.

During the last four years, Mr. Armstrong has revisited the Philippines many times, establishing a

firm friendship and rapport with Mr. Ople and other officials.

As a result of these trips, Mr. Armstrong became acquainted with many other government leaders, education officials and responsible members of the community. His words were listened to with respect, and his counsel was honored by those with whom he came in contact.

Secretary of Social Welfare Estefania Aldada-Lim was especially impressed, and she quickly became

a firm friend. When she heard of the possibility of a campaign being conducted in Manila, Dr. Aldada-Lim remarked that it would be a great service to the Filipino people if Mr. Armstrong would reveal to them the missing dimension in modern living.

Prior to Mr. Armstrong's campaign, the Work had some radio, television and publication exposure in the Philippines. Our office was established in Manila in 1962, and we have also had local Church con-



gregations in the Philippines for some years. But this was the first real in-person effort to bring the true gospel to the people of the Philippines. (It was most fitting that Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong was the first to do so. It was also meaningful that these campaigns by Mr. Armstrong should have had their beginning in the Philippines.)

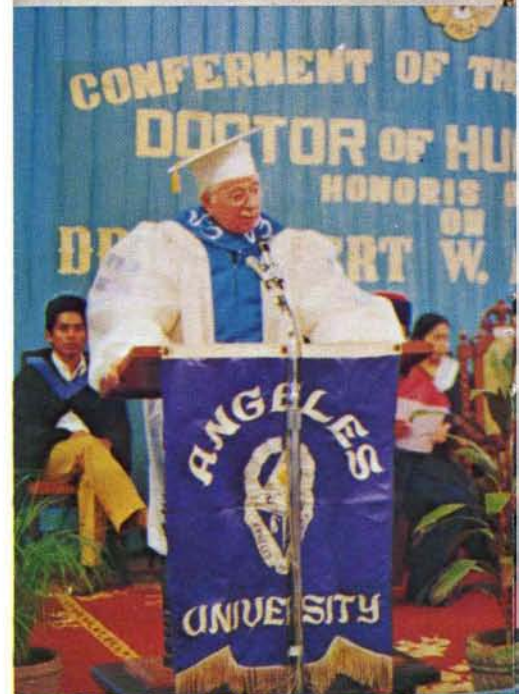
Campaign Postponed

After many preliminary arrangements, the campaign was originally set for March 1, 2 and 3.

In the last week of February, Mr. Armstrong arrived at the Manila International Airport to a warm welcome from government officials and friends. Mr. Leslie McCullough (director of the International Division of the Worldwide Church of God), his wife, and my wife and I were also there to greet him. He was interviewed in the VIP lounge by a local television station, and the newspapers carried extensive coverage of his arrival and campaign plans.

A few days later, with deep regret, Mr. Armstrong had to cancel the campaign and fly back to Pasadena on urgent business. On leaving the airport he referred to the famous words of General Douglas MacArthur: "I shall return!" He was genuinely sorry to have to leave the Philippines, but was determined to return as soon as possible to fulfill his commitments.

On April 20 we received the good news that Mr. Armstrong would



Left (top to bottom): On arrival at Manila Airport, Mr. Armstrong is presented with a lei. A government highway patrol car and motorcycle escorts Mr. Armstrong's party from airport to hotel. Mr. Armstrong, guest of honor at Kiwanis Club luncheon, is presented bronze plaque. Center (clockwise from top left): Mayor of Manila presents Mr. Armstrong with key to the city (left is Osamu Gotoh, overseas campaign director; at right, Stanley Rader, legal counsel for Ambassador College). Mr. Armstrong speaking at Knights of Columbus luncheon. Re-

conduct the campaign on May 17, 18 and 19. Mr. Osamu Gotoh, our overseas campaign director, flew to Manila to arrange the details and begin the publicity effort. Around eighteen thousand *Plain Truth* readers in the greater Manila area received letters inviting them to hear Mr. Armstrong.

A Week of Activities

On May 11, Mr. Armstrong (accompanied by Stanley Rader, legal counsel of Ambassador College, and other staff members), flew into Manila International Airport for the second time in three months.

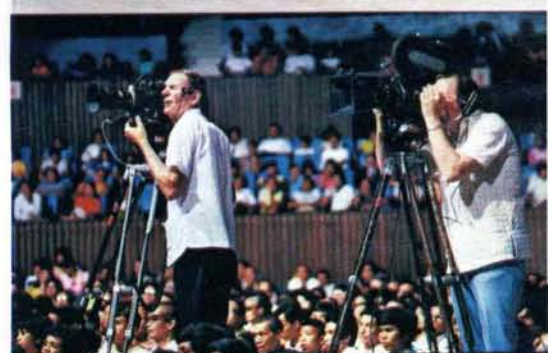
That day Mr. Armstrong spoke to the Manila congregation of the Worldwide Church of God.

The next day, Sunday, he spoke before over 200 members of the Knights of Columbus and the Daughters of Isabella at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. In the evening he was an honored dinner guest, along with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and an Associate Justice, at the home of former Philippine Vice-President Lopez.

On Monday morning, May 13, Mr. Armstrong visited the office of Mayor Bagatsing of Manila, where he was presented with the symbolic key to the city. This was followed by a luncheon meeting and press conference at the Manila Hilton. That evening Mr. Armstrong hosted a dinner for Mrs. Josefa E. Marcos, mother of the President, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

At 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Mr. Arm-

ceiving an honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities. Meeting with President Marcos. Commencement procession before receiving honorary degree (left of Mr. Armstrong is Dr. Barbara Y. Angeles). Philippine dancers entertain at residence of former Vice-President Lopez. Right (top to bottom): Dr. S. F. de la Cruz, president of the University of the East, introduces Mr. Armstrong. Part of entertainment program at the University of the East. Ambassador College camera crew films personal appearance. Press conference at Manila Hilton.





ARANETA Coliseum at Quezon City, where personal appearances were held. Billboard asks the question: "Why world crisis?"

strong left Manila and traveled north to Angeles City to visit Angeles University, where an honorary doctor's degree in humanities was conferred upon him. Mr. Armstrong spoke to the assembled crowd concerning the missing dimension in education.

After lunch he was interviewed by television's Channel 2 at the Hyatt Hotel. He had dinner that evening with the president and general manager of the *Times Journal* of Manila, Mrs. Rosario Oliveras.

A busy round of activities continued Wednesday. Mr. Armstrong spoke at a luncheon at the Kiwanis Club in the Manila Hilton. Later in the afternoon he departed for the University of the East to attend a convocation. Then he was interviewed for a Channel 13 public affairs program.

On Thursday, May 16, Mr. Armstrong attended a luncheon with Secretary Francisco Tatad of the Department of Public Information.

On Friday, President Ferdinand Marcos very warmly received Mr. Armstrong at Malacknang Palace.

The President had already seen the June-July *Plain Truth* and had even read the cover story about the Philippines — which seemed to please him. He heartily endorsed Mr. Armstrong's campaign to the people of the Philippines.

Opening Night

After resting and preparing his lecture Friday, Mr. Armstrong headed for the Coliseum at 6:30 p.m.

My wife and I had arrived there a little after 6 p.m. and found an excited group of ushers dressed in bright uniforms. The men wore red jackets and white pants with large red bow ties; the ladies wore white dresses with red vests. Most of these young people were members of the Manila Church of God Choir. Their neat, clean-cut appearance and friendliness made everyone feel welcome.

As the public arrived, they were given packaged envelopes containing the June-July *Plain Truth*, a brochure about the campaign, Mr. Armstrong's biography, tickets for the following night, and a copy of the child-rearing booklet.

A little after 7 p.m., Mr. Armstrong came on stage — followed by Mr. Gotoh, Mr. Rader, Mr. and Mrs. Santiago de la Cruz (he is president of the University of the East), Mrs. Marcos (mother of the President), and Mr. Emmanuel Angeles (executive vice-president of Angeles University).

Mr. Gotoh was the master of ceremonies and gave a short history of how the campaign had come about. He then introduced Mr. Angeles, who formally welcomed Mr. Armstrong to the Philippines.

President de la Cruz spoke next. In his speech, he mentioned how he had met Mr. Armstrong a few months before and had had the pleasure of attending the opening ceremonies of the Ambassador Auditorium in Pasadena. He praised Mr. Armstrong as a unique individual and read a portion from Mr. Armstrong's autobiography, giving

a short explanation of the seven laws of success.

After this introduction, Mr. Armstrong began his lecture. The large crowd fell silent as he began to speak.

In his opening sentences Mr. Armstrong spoke of the state of the world, with its crime, population explosion and war. He remarked about what a paradox it is that man can accomplish amazing things, even sending men to the moon and back, and yet mankind can't seem to solve his problems here on earth. He asked why man is as he is and also forcefully stated that the world is headed into the *supreme crisis* at the end of this age.

Survival is the number-one problem. He spoke about the events of 1973, the toppling of governments, the conditions within the United States, and his own personal talks with heads of state. He mentioned that human beings had worked for peace for 6,000 years and yet were no nearer to it today than before, because they do not know *the way* to peace.

Mr. Armstrong then spoke of his personal study to find the answers to life's questions. He pointed out how he found those answers in the Bible, answers which are ignored in the educational establishments.

The right answer, he said, is found in the opening chapters of Genesis. He then proceeded to expound on the creation of man and explain briefly what the "spirit" in man is. He stressed forcefully that humans are not — and do not have — immortal souls, but are composed of physical, mortal matter.

Mr. Armstrong showed how God taught our first parents, Adam and Eve, how to live. God instructed them about what *love* is, but they rejected that way. The rejection of God's Word is the reason for the missing dimension in knowledge. He concluded his lecture by telling the audience that he would reveal the true values to them the following night.

On Saturday evening the au-

dience was even larger. Mr. Gotoh introduced Mr. Rader, who spoke briefly about future campaign plans.

Second Night's Lecture

As Mr. Armstrong began his lecture, I studied the audience to observe its reactions. For the most part, people were listening attentively and seemed eager to hear Mr. Armstrong expound more of the purpose of life.

He began by briefly summarizing Friday evening's lecture and then drew a comparison of conditions in Noah's time to the world situation today. He stated dogmatically that the true gospel had not been preached to the world in an organized manner for 18½ centuries and read from Malachi 3 and Mark 1 to show that the way for Christ's return is being prepared. He explained what the true gospel *is* — and what it is *not*.

Next, Mr. Armstrong took the audience back in time to the original creation, showing the origin of Satan and how God's government was at one time ruling the earth. Many in the audience heard for the first time the account of the re-creation of the earth. He concluded the second night's lecture by explaining the difference between human and animal brain; how the spirit in man functions; and how Satan broadcasts his attitudes into the human mind.

Final Night

The largest audience of the three nights was on Sunday, May 19. Before Mr. Armstrong began his talk, he was honored by the International Academy of Leadership as an outstanding educator and world spiritual leader. This institute has honored such famous people as Franklin D. Roosevelt, Carlos P. Romulo, General Douglas MacArthur and many others.

Following the invocation prayer, President Marcos's mother (who attended all three nights of the campaign) presented Mr. Armstrong with a copy of a Filipino poem dedi-

cated to the President and the First Lady.

Mr. Rader then briefly thanked the Filipino people and nation for their hospitality and told them Mr. Armstrong hoped to return at some future date to speak to them again. Mr. Rader then introduced Mr. Armstrong for the last time.

After recounting the pertinent points of the previous evenings, Mr. Armstrong continued to expound on the purpose of life. He spoke out strongly as he cut through cherished beliefs and traditions which have no basis in fact in God's Word. He explained again what love is and how God's government is based wholly on that principle.

Citing John 3, he told the audience how all human beings can be born again into the family of God. The seven-thousand-year plan was explained briefly, and also how all human beings are free moral agents with freedom of choice. Mr. Armstrong explained who Christ is and read the scriptures pertaining to the throne of David and Christ's earthly rule (Isaiah 9:6; Luke 1:30-33).

The parable of the pounds (Luke 19) was expounded, along with the promise to the saints of rulership on earth at Jesus Christ's second coming. Mr. Armstrong closed by stating how much more wonderful is the knowledge God reveals in the Bible than that taught by science, religion, or education.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Gotoh explained to the audience that they were welcome to write to our office in Manila for any literature or additional information.

As Mr. Armstrong was leaving the stage, many people rushed up to get his autograph. In the lobby area some of the ushers were asked questions by people interested in learning more.

The vast majority of the audience, regardless of their personal creeds, sat attentively throughout all three nights.

The Ambassador College television crew videotaped the campaign all three nights. An edited summary



AUDIENCE listens attentively as they hear answers to present world troubles, and the way peace is going to come.

film will possibly be available for showing in different Church areas.

Mr. Armstrong was very pleased with the campaign and voiced the opinion that he wished he had had six nights to speak instead of three.

On Monday morning, May 20, Mr. Armstrong went to Malacknang Palace to say goodbye to Mrs. Josefa Marcos before leaving for Bangkok, Thailand.

Follow-up

As I write this (two days after the campaign), the Manila office is still receiving phone calls and personal visits from people requesting more literature. There has hardly been a moment when the reception area has been empty.

Follow-up Bible studies are planned, along with a direct-mail campaign to those who attended the meetings.

The brethren in the Philippines are looking forward to good growth as a result of Mr. Armstrong's very successful first campaign overseas.

— Colin Adair



DATELINE:

San Diego, California

The beautifully situated, historical city of San Diego was the site of a successful and well-received personal appearance (on May 2, 3) by evangelist C. Wayne Cole.

The first night (Friday), 1383 San Diegans turned out to hear Mr. Cole expound the real significance of the current wave of interest in the occult, satanism and exorcism. Satan was described as the god of this present evil world (II Cor. 4:4) and the archdeceiver of the majority of mankind (Rev. 12:9). As we look at society, we see the results of this progressive deception — pollution, overpopulation, violence and danger. We are confronted with a jungle of crime, religious and moral confusion, as well as political intrigue.

Mankind looks at the false messiah of science to provide a way out — yet leading futurists envision the future as no more than a “grotesque extension of the present.” But what human being or nation of humans can truly be trusted with the future of the race? Man must look elsewhere — to God and to His Word.

On the second night, Mr. Cole showed by vivid examples that man is looking to the wrong gods for guidance. Yet millions ignore the true *living* God while turning to gods of stone and wood or even technology.

Wayne Cole also drew a striking parallel between the now-famous statement General Douglas MacArthur made in the Philippines in 1942 — “I shall return!” — and an earlier promise of Christ to return to this earth (John 14:1-3; Zech. 14:1-4; II Pet. 3:3-4; II Thess. 2). He showed that it is Jesus Christ alone who holds out *real* hope for this devil-deceived world — not the false gods of stone worshipped in the East, or the technology of modern men of science.

The musical program for the campaign was conducted by John D. Schroeder, who directed the Worldwide Church of God Choir

from Pasadena in several moving numbers. Solos were provided by Mike Lord, who delivered an inspiring rendition of “One Little Candle” as well as several other fine numbers.

The week following the campaign, Mr. James Friddle, pastor of the Church’s San Diego congregation, conducted a follow-up Bible study attended by 75 zealous members of the campaign audience.

Mr. Cole’s campaign may be described as an unqualified success. A substantial segment of the San Diego population heard the gospel preached with power and conviction!

Houston, Texas (March 30-31, April 1)

An audience of over 4,000 attended Sherwin McMichael’s three-night personal appearance campaign in Houston, the largest city in Texas and headquarters for NASA. Held in the Music Hall of the new Houston Civic Center in downtown Houston, more than 2,200 persons were present who had never before attended a Worldwide Church of God service.

Mr. McMichael’s messages stressed current world crises and the need to turn to God and to personally and nationally repent. Sunday night Mr. McMichael dealt with a subject currently of major interest — spiritism and exorcism — and showed the realness of Satan, demons and spirits. He gave graphic examples of demon possession and demonic occurrences. The only way to resist such influence and be protected from Satan is to totally turn to God.

The chorale from the Big Sandy, Texas campus of Ambassador College, directed by Ray Howard, was bussed to Houston to musically accompany Mr. McMichael’s campaign. Ruth Walter was the pianist and Mike Lord the soloist.

Eight follow-up Bible studies followed the campaign.

Charleston, West Virginia (April 27-28)

The capital city of "almost heaven" (West Virginia) — Charleston — hosted the ninth campaign of 1974. The speaker was Ronald L. Dart. It was Mr. Dart's first campaign of the year.

Attendance at the Charleston Municipal Auditorium the two nights totalled over 1700, of whom 1100 had never before attended a Worldwide Church of God service.

Mr. Dart's messages were very effective and very powerful. Saturday night he explained God's Kingdom: the need for it and how to be part of it. Sunday night's topic was of significant interest, dealing with the April 30 call for national prayer, humiliation and fasting. Mr. Dart related the need to respond to the call and to repent individually and nationally.

"I'm afraid not to respond to that [national call]," Mr. Dart said, "because I feel it's a test for our people. I don't know if Mark Hatfield or the assembled Senate who went through and passed that resolution really fully realized what they were doing."

Music for the personal appearance was provided by the local Church choir of Charleston, directed by Carl Dayhoff. Soloist was Bronson James, who gave very sensitive and moving renderings of "You'll Never Walk Alone" and "O Brother Man." Pianist was Leslie Reid.

Coming Personal Appearances

Rochester, New York (August 2, 3)
— Sherwin McMichael
San Jose, California (August 23, 24)
— Sherwin McMichael
Victoria, British Columbia (August 24, 25) — Dean Wilson
Hamilton, Ontario (August 29, 30)
— David Jon Hill
Toronto, Ontario (September 5, 6)
— Leslie L. McCullough
Paris, France (October 11, 12) —
Dibar Apartian



SAN DIEGO campaign. C. Wayne Cole (opposite page), speaker. Worldwide Church of God Choir from Pasadena (above) sings a stirring number (Mike Lord, soloist, at extreme left). Steve Martin (center), emcee. Young people from the San Diego Church (below) serve at literature display booth offering free booklets.



Photos by Ken Evans



THE PARABLES OF JESUS

Part Four:

“WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?”

by Brian Knowles

AFTER THE great Galilean ministry, Jesus began to travel outside the province. His journeyings to preach the gospel took Him to the north to Caesarea Philippi (Matt. 16:13), and then back to Galilee again. Later he went south to Judea and Jerusalem (John 7 and 8). This period is generally called the “later Judaeen ministry” by commentators. At some point during this Judaeen period, Jesus gave the parable of the good Samaritan.

If you have studied a little of the history of Israel, you will recall that the northern ten tribes of the House of Israel were taken captive by the Assyrians in the years 721-718

B.C. The bulk of the House of Judah (with parts of Benjamin and Levi) did not go into captivity until the Babylonians conquered them in the year 585.

After the northern House of Israel had been carried away, the Assyrians replaced them with Gentile peoples from

five cities of the area of Babylon: “And the king of Assyria brought men from Babylon, and from Cuthah, and from Ava, and from Ham-



ath,
and from
Sepharvaim, and
placed them in the cities
of Samaria instead of the
children of Israel: and they pos-
sessed Samaria, and dwelt in the
cities thereof" (II Kings 17:24).

These Gentile peoples still popu-
lated Samaria in Jesus' day. They
were called *Samaritans*. They
adopted many of the religious cus-

oms of the
Jews and even
claimed to be de-
scended from Joseph
— when it was ex-
pedient to do so (see
Josephus, *Antiquities of
the Jews*, 11:8:6).

A spirit of antagonism de-
veloped between Jews and Sa-
maritans. This spirit is reflected in
John's account of Jesus' discussion
with the Samaritan woman whom
He met at Jacob's well. She said to
Jesus: "How is it that thou, being a
Jew, askest drink of me, which am a
woman of Samaria? for the Jews
have no dealings with the Samari-
tans" (John 4:9). Obviously there
was little or no social contact be-
tween the two groups.

With this understanding, we may
now look at the parable of the good
Samaritan.

The subject in
question here is
"What shall I do to
inherit eternal life?"
(Luke 10:25.) The
question had been
asked by a lawyer — a
man expert in Mosaic law. But
the lawyer had no practical inter-
est in the question. To him it was a
theoretical test question — he was,
in a sense, baiting Jesus. He was
testing His theology.

Law Divided into Two Parts

Jesus knew the man was familiar
with the Scriptures, so He re-
sponded by asking the lawyer a
common rabbinic question: "What
is written in the law? how readest
thou?" (Verse 26.)

The lawyer then paraphrased
from the Torah or Pentateuch — the
first five books of the Bible, com-
monly called "the Law." He said:
"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God
with all thy heart, and with all thy
soul, and with all thy strength, and
with all thy mind; and thy neigh-
bour as thyself." This was somewhat
loosely quoted from Deuteronomy
6:5 and Leviticus 19:18.

This simple statement summed
up the entire Law, which was di-

vided into two parts: 1) love toward God, and 2) love of neighbor.

Jesus confirmed that the lawyer had indeed answered correctly.

But the man wanted to vindicate his own stand, which obviously did not square with the latter aspect of the commandment. He tried to imply that the answer was not as simple as Jesus had indicated. He then presented a technicality: "But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?" (Verse 29.)

This was the crux of the whole situation. To the religious Jew of that day, this was a crucial technicality. What if one had to deal with a Gentile, a Samaritan, a publican, or a sinner? There were many classes of people with whom devout Jews would have no dealings.

But Jesus trapped the lawyer at his own game. He then launched into the now-famous parable of the good Samaritan.

The Good Samaritan

Christ described the story of a man (most likely a Jewish merchant) traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. Possibly he had sold some goods there and was now returning home with the money. The journey from Jerusalem to Jericho was a lonely, dangerous twenty-one miles of desert road. Bandits frequented the route hoping to rob those traveling alone.

The man was attacked by thieves, who even took his clothing. Left badly beaten by the side of the road, the man was half dead and urgently in need of help (verse 30).

By coincidence a Jewish priest came by where the man lay. He would have been familiar with the law quoted earlier, but perhaps he justified himself with the same technical question: "Who is my neighbour?"

Rather than stopping to help the wounded man, the priest merely looked and then quickly passed by on the other side. He didn't want to "get involved."

Shortly after, a Levite came by,

stopped, looked at the suffering robbery victim, and also passed by on the other side. Neither of these Jewish religious leaders had wanted to take the time and effort to assist the injured man.

But then a Gentile Samaritan came along. When he saw the injured traveler he was immediately moved with compassion for the man. He rendered assistance by disinfecting the man's wounds with wine, keeping them moist with olive oil, and binding them up with bandages. The Samaritan then put the man on his own beast and took him to an inn for much needed rest and recuperation.

The particular type of "inn" being referred to here did not charge for lodging, only for food and sometimes entertainment. The Samaritan gave the host enough money (two pence — about two days' labor — compare Matthew 20:2) to pay for the victim's food until he himself returned. He left strict instructions that the injured man was to be properly cared for in the meantime. Should the amount exceed what the Samaritan had given the innkeeper, he promised to make up the difference upon his return.

This was a shining example of compassion on a fellow human being. The Samaritan certainly went "above and beyond" in caring for the man. He did *more* than would normally be expected.

With this indicting example burning in the mind of the lawyer, Jesus then asked the penetrating question: "Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?" (Verse 36.)

What could the lawyer say? The priest and the the Levite had rendered no assistance whatsoever. Only the Samaritan had shown any concern — and then he had gone overboard to help the man. But even at that the lawyer still didn't want to say the word "Samaritan"! He merely replied: "... *He* that shewed mercy on him..." (verse 37).

The lawyer was now completely cornered. He had no comeback, no legal technicality to fall back upon. And while he was in that position, Jesus administered the coup de grace: "GO, AND DO THOU LIKEWISE"!

What This Parable Should Mean to You

This parable is not merely a quaint and interesting story of a first century "put down." It conveys one of the most important lessons of Christianity. It is axiomatic to real Christianity that the true Christian must be compassionate and impartial in rendering assistance when it is needed.

Paul said: "*As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith*" (Gal. 6:10). And: "See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to *all men*" (I Thess. 5:15).

God is no respecter of persons. He is not partial to one race or the other when it comes to showing compassion, hearing prayers and rendering help. God inspired Paul to write: "There is neither Jew [typical Israelite] nor Greek [typical Gentile], there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for *ye are all one* in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28).

With God there is no racial prejudice, no status or social caste system, no "male" chauvinism. All people of all races, sexes and social levels may be Christians. And it is the duty of all Christians to help all people who need help, whenever they have the opportunity to do so.

The meaning of the parable of the good Samaritan may be summed up by simply quoting a single proverb: "Withhold not good from them to whom it is due [your neighbor!], when it is in the power of thine hand to do it" (Prov. 3:27).

In short, a *true Christian* gets involved! □

and for all

The Faith Once Delivered

The New Testament book of Jude is a short but vivid account of what was happening in the first century Church of God. But it also contains a timely and powerful message for today's Christian!

by Robert E. Gentet

I FEEL COMPELLED to make my letter to you an earnest appeal to put up a real fight for the faith which has been once and for all committed to those who belong to Christ" (Jude 3, Phillips translation).

Many scholars believe that Jude's words were written relatively late in the first century A.D. Perhaps all of the original apostles except John were now dead. Jude's first intent was to write a letter about the common salvation given to Christians, but a newly developing situation had forced him to change his plans.

Jude had become aware of the great need to earnestly appeal to Christians to contend or fight for the faith which had been delivered to them. Apostasy was fast setting in; men were turning to error and leading away disciples after themselves. The Church was being divided.

What Is the Faith?

Let's note carefully the meaningful words Jude used. He was urging them to defend the original faith they had been given. Many of these people had been converted by the preaching of Christ's apostles. Some may have even heard Christ Himself. They got the truth first-hand — directly from the apostles

who had obtained it from Christ who had faithfully delivered it from God the Father. There was no question about what the faith was. It had been faithfully given to them!

This faith, meaning in this sense the body of beliefs and practices handed down by the apostles, forms the essence of the meaning of God's Church. Together with the prophets, the apostolic teachings form the foundation of God's house — Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone (Eph. 2:20). Any superstructure not built upon this foundation is false; it will not stand (I Cor. 3:10-15).

So, then, the faith which must be earnestly held on to and defended is that original set of beliefs handed down by Christ's apostles. Paul's writings are full of warnings of false teachers who sought to mislead the people of God.

Paul was often amazed at how easy it was for the false teachers to deceive the ones he had nourished in the faith. He told the Galatians that he marveled at how soon they were removed from Christ's gospel and had accepted another (Gal. 1:6). The New Testament Church was constantly being harassed by false brethren who sought to mislead God's people.

So we see that in just a few years the New Testament Church was facing great internal problems. It is no wonder that by the time Jude wrote his epistle, perhaps in the 70s or 80s, he had to urgently remind them to stand up for the truth which they had received from the apostles.

The Apostles' Teachings

But one may ask: What about us today? How can we know the truth?

This world is filled with various religions, and even Christianity is divided and subdivided many times over. Upon what can we base our faith today?

The answer is given by Paul, who told his fellow minister Timothy: "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the faith and correcting error, for resetting the direction of a man's life and training him in good living" (II Tim. 3:16, Phillips).

To get back to the faith, to know and come to understand that faith, one must study the writings of the apostles and the prophets. It is the purpose of Scripture to give us insight into that original set of beliefs. God has not left us without a witness today.

If Jude were alive today, he would say the same thing to us as he did to those first-century Christians. Stick with the teachings of Scripture. Don't follow contrary ideas; don't follow a man (I Cor. 3:21). The scriptural principle is to prove all things and hold on to only that which is good (I Thess. 5:21). It is in this vein that Jude urged: "... Build yourselves up on the foundation of your most holy faith and by praying through the Holy Spirit keep yourselves within the love of God" (Jude 20, Phillips). We have a personal responsibility to attend to our own salvation (see also Phil. 2:12).

Principles of Error

While Jude's writings do not give a listing of the specific false doctrines he was combating, he does give us many categories and analogies which fit such false teachers. By wisely studying the rest of the Bible,

we can understand the context of Jude's statements.

Jude likens these ungodly men to 1) the unbelieving Israelites who were destroyed in the wilderness, 2) the evil angels who rebelled against God, and 3) the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah which perished because of their sexual sins (verses 5-7).

Then in verse 8 he says: "Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities." Here Jude appears to reverse the order of verses 5-7. They "defile the flesh" like the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah. They despise government like the angels who rebelled against God. And they "speak evil of dignities" like those Israelites in the wilderness who continually rebelled against Moses.

So here we have three main characteristics of those who were trying to introduce error into the Church.

One: sexual sins. But as God views them, they are analogous to wrong relationships between His people and the world. James wrote: "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (James 4:4). And is it not significant that the false Christianity of this world has political intercourse with the nations of the earth?

Two: despising government. The evil angels were the first to attempt to usurp God's authority. Just as Satan tried to influence Eve to listen to him rather than God, so these false teachers tried to replace the authority of God. Jude had earlier plainly said that they "disown Jesus Christ, our only Sovereign and Lord" (Jude 4, last part; see Weymouth, *The New English Bible*, Phillips, Moffatt and other modern translations of the Bible). They set themselves up as authorities in place of God and the teachings of Christ.

Three: they speak evil of dignities. The wanderings of the Israelites in the wilderness is a chronicle of rebellion against Moses. In like

manner, these false teachers set themselves up against the Moses of the New Testament: Jesus Christ. Moses himself foresaw the coming of the great Prophet of the New Testament who would be like himself (Deut. 18:15). And Peter, on the Day of Pentecost, verified that Christ is that Moses (Acts 3:20-23).

These false teachers sought to take the place of the Rock (Christ — I Corinthians 10:1-12; Deuteronomy 32). It is now Christ who is leading His Spirit-begotten people into the Promised Land (His Kingdom), and He is capable of doing this without fail: "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen" (Jude 24-25).

Three Examples of Error

Jude also uses three vivid examples from the Old Testament to clarify what type of individuals were worming their way into the Church.

"Woe to them! for they have followed in the steps of Cain: for the sake of gain they have rushed on headlong in the errors of Balaam, and have perished in the rebellion of Korah" (Jude 11, Weymouth.)

First: Cain. Cain is notorious for the slaying of his brother. In like manner, such false teachers are haters of the brethren and, as such, are murderers in the sight of God. The Apostle John, who lived to see the apostasy at the end of the first century, also vividly described these false teachers when he said: "Little children, let no man deceive you . . . For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother . . . we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding

in him" (I John 3:7, 11-12, 14-15).

By their false doctrine these false teachers were dividing the Church. And the true Christians were put out of the visible Church and the visible Church *persecuted* God's people. Already in the days of the Apostle John, at the end of the first century, an apparent elder by the name of Diotrephes cast out of the Church any of his people who would have fellowship with the disciples of John (III John 9-10). This trend continued and eventually many were following the errorists (II Pet. 2:1-2).

Second: Balaam. The king of Moab hired the prophet Balaam to pronounce a curse upon the Israelites (Num. 22-24). Balaam lusted after the great wealth that the king wanted to give him if he would but curse Israel. Although God used him to utter inspired prophecy, Balaam led the Israelites into sexual sin and was later killed (Num. 31:8, 16). In like manner, these false men of the New Testament were after the money of the Christians for their own gain. Peter said they, like Balaam, "loved the wages of unrighteousness" (II Pet. 2:15). God's true ministers serve because they love the people.

Three: Korah. Korah was jealous of Moses and sought to usurp his leadership (Num. 16). In the same way, these false ministers sought to usurp the leadership of the New Testament Moses: Jesus Christ. The Scriptures continually point out how Christ — and not any man — is the Head of His Church. We read that "God has placed everything under the power of Christ and has set him up as head of everything for the Church. For the Church is his body, and in that body lives fully the one who fills the whole wide universe" (Eph. 1:22-23, Phillips).

And later Paul also says: "We are not meant to remain as children at the mercy of every chance wind of teaching and the jockeying of men who are expert in the crafty presentation of lies. But we are meant to hold firmly to the truth in love, and

to grow up in every way into Christ, the head. For it is from the head that the whole body, as a harmonious structure knit together by the joints with which it is provided, grows by the proper functioning of individual parts to its full maturity in love" (Eph. 4:14-16, Phillips).

How great a contrast to these false teachings which would enslave men to men! How much greater it is to recognize Christ as the living, active Head than some mortal man!

Like Korah of old, these men set themselves up as equals of the New Testament Moses — Jesus Christ. But this Moses Himself prophesied of them: "In 'that day' many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we preach in your name, didn't we cast out devils in your name, and do many great things in your name?' Then I shall tell them plainly, 'I have never known you. Go away from me, you have worked on the side of evil!'" (Matt. 7:22-23, Phillips.)

For Us Today

The 1900 years since the writing of Jude has seen the apostasy grow and overwhelm the world. Many of the original teachings of Christ and the apostles have been forgotten in a parade of man-originated customs and doctrines.

Now is the time to return to the faith which was truly once and for all delivered by Christ and the apostles. And the only true remedy is a sincere and willing heart coupled with a diligent searching of the Scriptures to see whether these things be so.

In the final book of the Bible, Christ is pictured as standing in the midst of the seven candlesticks (Rev. 1:13). So we would be sure to understand, Jesus interprets the meaning of the candlesticks for us in verse 20. They represent the seven churches of Revelation 2 and 3.

It is to these seven churches that the message of Revelation is addressed. In the time of the Apostle John, these seven churches existed in the Roman province of Asia (now Asia Minor in western Turkey). And

to these churches — and to future Christians — Christ addressed some dire warnings.

Taken as literally applying to the seven extant churches at the time of John, we can only draw the conclusion that many were already showing growing signs of corruption and apostasy. But taken in the future sense, it bears a warning to Christians today to be alert and hear what Christ inspired John to write to the seven churches.

And in this connection, note *the manner* in which Christ appeared in the midst of the seven candlesticks: "His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; and his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength" (Rev. 1:14-16).

It is a God of power and might who stands in the midst of His churches. Risen from the dead, alive forever more, Ruler of the kings of the earth, from whose mouth issues a sharp two-edged sword! Such a graphic description of Christ was surely meant to inspire faith in His leadership, and by implication is a warning against those who would follow false doctrine and apostasy.

But in spite of problems, we need not fail if we will but put our trust and hope in our Leader, the Moses of our exodus out of sin and into the Kingdom of God: Jesus Christ.

"Moses was certainly faithful in all his duties in God's household, but he was faithful as a servant and his work was only a foreshadowing of the truth that would be known later. But Christ was faithful as a son in the household of his own Father. And we are members of this household if we maintain our trust and joyful hope steadfast to the end

"You should therefore be most careful, my brothers, that there should not be in any of you that

wickedness of heart which refuses to trust, and deserts the cause of the living God. Help each other to stand firm in the faith every day, while it is still called 'today' and beware that none of you becomes deaf and blind to God through the delusive glamour of sin

"Let us then be eager to know this rest for ourselves, and let us beware that no one misses it through falling into the same kind of unbelief as those we have mentioned. For the Word that God speaks is alive and active; it cuts more keenly than any two-edged sword . . . it exposes the very thoughts and motives of a man's heart. No creature has any cover from the sight of God; everything lies naked and exposed before the eyes of him with whom we have to do" (Heb. 3:5-6, 12-13; 4:11-13, Phillips).

It is this two-edged sword of His written Word which is still with us today, ready to weed out error in doctrine and to reset our direction. It is the only means whereby we can know, and be sure that we know, the faith which was once and for all delivered to God's people. □

Personal Counsel

Many hundreds have written asking if we have representatives in their areas to counsel with them personally and to answer their questions. The answer is yes, we do.

The Worldwide Church of God stations ordained ministers in most communities in the United States and British Commonwealth. These men of God can visit you, *if invited*, directly in your own home.

So if you do have questions, please feel free to write us and request a private appointment. Or if you would prefer faster service, please dial this toll-free number in the *continental* United States: 800-423-4444. (Readers in California, Nevada, Alaska and Hawaii should call 213-577-5225 collect.)

part two:

games christians play with the Bible

In the first article of this series we saw how people play games with their fellowman and with God by acting God-fearing and Christ-obeying in appearance, but not in fact. But the best — or rather worst — is yet to come as we take a look at another facet of the spiritual sport of hypocrisy.

by D. Paul Graunke

GIVE a football to a quarterback and he will attempt to score a touchdown. Give a baseball to a pitcher and he'll try to strike out the batter. Give a Bible to a Christian and he may play games with it too! He also will try to score points — points measured in feelings of self-righteousness and superiority.

The Bible does not naturally lend itself to this exaltation of the human ego. It thrusts and parries at our follies and frailties, exposing human nature for what it really is. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged

sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Heb. 4:12).

But in the hands of a game-playing Christian, the sword of the Lord can be blunted or even wielded on other people instead of being applied personally. The rules for doing this are few and simple:

1) Forget or disbelieve that the Bible is true and factual revelation. "Thy word is truth," said Christ (John 17:17). But this must be overlooked.

2) Don't approach the Bible with humility, and don't fear to misuse or misinterpret it. "... To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word," says God in Isaiah 66:2. But that's in the *Old Testament* — and hasn't that been done away with?

3) Forget that God gave the Bible to instruct, correct and change people — and *you* are "people," too. Disregard such scriptures as II Timothy 3:16, 17: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."

So easy are these rules to follow that anyone can play. And, sure enough, most do at one time or another. So as you read about these games, don't point the ferreting finger of fault-finding at someone else. That, as you may remember, is playing the games of "Blemish" and "Comparison Shopping." Apply the games *personally*.

Ignore-Amos (And the Rest of the Bible, Too!)

The first game professing Christians play with the Bible is to *ignore* it altogether. "Ignore-amoses" darken the doors of their church more often than they read the Bible. They can tell you the top five teams in the National League, but can't

tell you the first five books of the Bible — in either Testament. Yet they have little or no doubt that they are genuine Christians who will be reckoned with the sheep, and not the goats, at the Judgment.

The next worse thing to avoiding the Bible altogether is to use it in "Prop." This game is played by being seen with the Bible in public — but avoiding it in private. What counts is not how well you know the Bible — but your ability to show it off.

A typical "Prop" game is played once a week on the way to church. The player carries the Word of the Lord conspicuously to be seen of men — and reverently to be seen of God — on his way to services. However, he must be careful: someone on earth or in heaven may notice that the Bible looks as new as when it was purchased ten years ago. Experienced players avoid this embarrassing *faux pas* by thumbing through the pages during services to give it that dog-eared, well-worn, well-read look. Or even better, the Bible is given to the baby to play with during the week.

"Display"

"Display" or "Part of the Furniture" is similar to "Prop," but is played at home. The Bible is strategically placed on the coffee table or nightstand for the benefit of guests or visitors. The conclusion they will form about their host's piety is, of course, unmistakable. But like an original piece of Louis XIV furniture, it is there to be looked at — not to be used. Its sole value lies in its prestige. "Display" is also seen at formal occasions such as weddings, installations, anniversary parties, etc. — where a Bible is needed to lend an air of spirituality to the event.

As any good Bible salesman knows, the feelings of spiritual superiority are directly proportional to the weight, size and cost of a Bible. Extra pseudo-spiritual points can be won in "Display" when:

- 1) The Bible covers at least two square feet when opened to the 23rd Psalm (10 points)
- 2) It weighs at least ten pounds (20 points)
- 3) It comes with gold lettering, genuine leather cover (preferably white), indexing, twelve pictures of the Holy Land, and a reproduction of the "Lord's Supper" by Leonardo da Vinci (30 points)
- 4) It costs at least \$50.00 (50 points)
- 5) It has been a family heirloom for at least three generations (100 points)
- 6) It is a Gutenberg original (1,000 points!).

Read the Book

Could you be an "ignore-amos" or a "Prop" player to one degree or another when it comes to the Bible? Is your Bible only a prop or a piece of furniture? Or is it something you continually read — and live by?

Here's a quick test to find out. It never fails to divide game players from real readers: Does the book of Josiah precede or follow Nahum? If you aren't sure or have to look it up — you need to write for our free booklet *Read the Book*. It gives the antidote for being a Bible "ignore-amos."

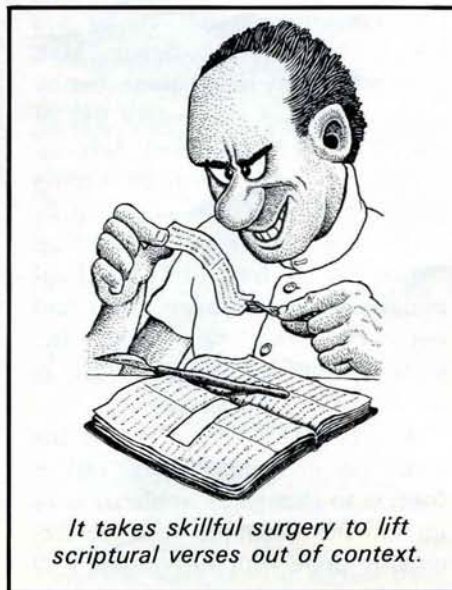
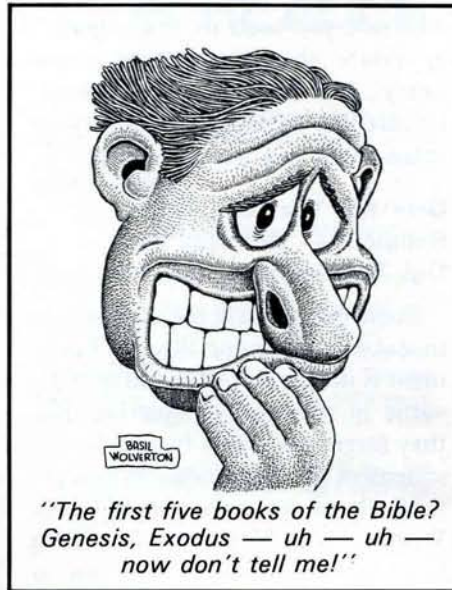
The "Knowbody"

Let us pass on to the game players who *do* read the Bible, who give the appearance of sinking their teeth into the "meat of the Word." But, remember, in all games, appearances are deceiving. For while these people may be readers of the Word — they are not doers (James 1:22-25). Spiritually speaking, such a person is a "knowbody" — someone who is more concerned about impressing himself and others with what he knows about the Bible than actually *obeying it*.

Here are some of the games they play.

"Shelf-Righteousness"

Some players measure their spiritual and intellectual prowess by the



volume and density of Bible commentaries, dictionaries, translations, pamphlets and articles amassed on their shelves. They become very "shelf-righteous" about this outward display of apparent biblical knowledge. (Not that there is anything wrong with a good collection of reference books — it's how they are used!)

Perhaps some have forgotten what Paul said: "Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth" (I Cor. 8:1); and "Though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge... and have not charity [love], I am nothing" (I Cor. 13:2). What they need is *shelf-restraint*, or better yet, *shelf-abasement* (most of their books should be relegated to the basement!).

"Ivory Tower"

In the same league with the shelf-righteous are the players of "Ivory Tower" or "Pious Pedestal." They preach faith, hope and charity to their fellowman, but are woefully short on practicing it themselves.

This game was vividly demonstrated recently in an experiment conducted at Princeton University. Two researchers placed 40 aspiring theologians in a test situation similar to the parable of the "Good Samaritan." They told the students to walk to a nearby building and dictate an impromptu talk — some on the parable of the Good Samaritan, others on their career concerns.

Along the pathway was planted an actor who, as the unsuspecting student approached, groaned and slumped to the ground. How did they react? Sixty percent walked right on by! Some, who were to talk on the "Good Samaritan," literally stepped over the slumped body as they hurried along!

"It Ain't Necessarily So"

This is one of the most popular games of all time. It is played by atheists, agnostics, liberal theologians — anyone who feels uncom-

fortable taking the Bible *literally*. If they come across anything in the Bible that doesn't agree with *their* thinking, it has got to be in error. On paper and in pulpits they immediately strike up a refrain of "It Ain't Necessarily So." They would rather change the Bible to fit *their* ideas, than change their ideas — and lives — to conform to the Bible.

On the flip side of the coin is the game "The Bible Says . . ." Whereas in "It Ain't Necessarily So" the goal is to read out objectionable parts of the Bible, the goal in "The Bible Says . . ." is to read *into* the Bible ideas, words and sentences that aren't there! Thus, "the Bible says that heaven is the reward of the saved"; "the Bible says the soul is immortal"; "the Bible says Sunday is the Lord's day." *But the Bible says none of these!*

Undoubtedly, this statement will send some scurrying to their Bibles to prove otherwise. Good. We have made these statements hundreds of times on the air and in our literature to shock people out of taking their God and their Bible for granted and to start doing what the Bereans did with the preaching of Paul: "These were *more noble* than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and *searched the scriptures* daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

Before you send us your "proof" to refute these statements about heaven, the soul, and the Sabbath, be sure you are not guilty of playing these games:

Give Me That Old Time Religion — But Not the Old Testament

Some people have the sincere, but mistaken, notion that the Old Testament is done away with and is of no value in establishing doctrine. But they forget that when Paul made his statement (quoted earlier in this article) about the usefulness of God's Word ("profitable for doctrine") the New Testament canon was not in existence! He was referring to the Old Testament Scriptures. So was Christ when He said to Satan: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by *every* word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4).

Mirage: This involves seeing things in a verse that aren't really there. For example, people read "mansions" in John 14:2, 3 and automatically see "heaven." (To find out what these "mansions" are, write for our free booklet *What Is the Reward of the Saved*.)

Scalpel and Forceps: This is the technique of lifting a verse out of context to change its application or intent. For example, this is frequently done with Revelation 1:10 ("on the Lord's day") to prove Sun-

day-keeping. (The biblical meaning of the "Lord's day" is explained in our booklet *The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last*.)

Plastic Surgery: The person tries to rework the verse to make the meaning more agreeable to his thinking.

Stack the Deck: Like a cardsharp fixing his deck in order to win, some people try to select the scriptures that "support" their argument, and leave out those that don't.

An invaluable help to using the Word of God is our booklet *How to Study the Bible*. It shows how to stop playing games with the Bible — and start to study it and understand what it *really* says. Be sure to write for your copy!

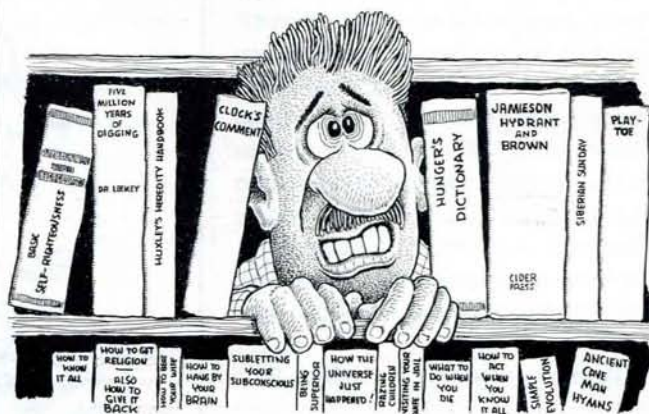
"Prove All Things"

The Bible exhorts every person who thinks he is a Christian to "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (I Thess. 5:21). Otherwise, you might be a game-playing Christian, a sham, a hypocrite. Your "religion" may comfort you now — but when Christ blows the whistle on the games "Christians" play and starts to divide the sheep and goats — are you sure you'll be on the right side?

Don't play games with God or His Word. Find out what true Christianity is all about. Read the Book — and *live* by it! □



"Give me that old-time religion! It was good enough for my sainted horse-stealin' grandmother, and it's good enough for me!"



A shelf-conscious person can be in trouble.

WHAT OUR READERS SAY

Strong Meat

The April issue of *The Good News* was exceptionally good. I am referring especially to Brian Knowles' article on "strong meat." There are some of us who hunger for this kind of reading, and frankly this is the very type of teaching that is almost impossible to find. We are privileged library customers here, with mobile service at our door; therefore, we have read hundreds of books. Almost all of them are only full of words — no real meaning, and little understanding of the Scriptures. No meat — and very little milk.

Mr. and Mrs. C. P. S.,
Reno, Nevada

Acknowledging editor's note inviting comments: April issue, *Good News* magazine. Subject: strong meat. Your statement: "We hope to improve with each issue." Wow! I thought this issue was just perfect.

I drank milk, so to speak, most of my adult life until I came into the knowledge of the truth through Ambassador College and Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, with Jesus Christ guiding me. The strong meat gives strength, and gives the mind new activity for the day. It takes the mind from dull routine and leaves a light and thankful heart knowing that Christ really did struggle to open my mind. Milk is fine, but it does not have the sustaining power for those real hard knocks in life. Every once in a while milk is good, but strong meat is needed for our very survival. Thank you so much for strong meat. Keep it coming.

Ethel W.,
Chicago, Illinois

Meat Is Too Strong

Please cancel all mail to me — *Plain Truth* and *Good News*. You are right. The meat is too strong. No religion that is just 40 years old can be the one Christ started. Some articles are extremely good — those, especially, on moral values. But someone else could benefit more from this, and I hate to keep costing you money when I cannot agree with your beliefs.

Mrs. Ernest C.,
Eunice, Louisiana

• *Jesus said: "... I will build my church; and the gates of hell [Greek: "hades," meaning "the grave"] shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18). The true Church has always existed; Jesus never permitted it to die out. However, the real work of proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom of God to the whole world had lost momentum by A.D. 70. It is only in the last 40 years that the gospel has begun again to be announced with real power around the world.*

Good News Complements the Plain Truth

Before I began receiving *The Good News*, I thought the *Plain Truth* was the only magazine which made the truth clear. *The Good News* answers some of the questions which the *Plain Truth* asks. The one magazine complements the other. *The Good News* describes and explains in detail the

most shattering but most elusive evils of the day... evils for which there seems to be no solution and which man alone cannot rid the world of.

Mr. Daniel B.,
Bonteheuwel, South Africa

Don't Preach "Smooth" Things

The Good News magazine is a real eye opener as far as biblical problems are concerned. As a young man living in a world of confusion, I always find myself floating from end to end without a real purpose in life. I therefore hope that with the *Plain Truth* and *Good News* magazines by my side, I will build enough courage to face the complexities of life. I must congratulate you for being frank and not trying to give people what you think they would like to hear, like most ministers are doing.

P. S.,
Fort Beaufort, South Africa

The Work in Britain

Thank you for sending me the new magazine, *The Good News*. I think, to use an expression, "This is more like it." One gets little chance to hear or read much good plain truth now. Good ministers seem to be almost nonexistent; in fact, I feel a bit dismayed that other parts of the world seem to get radio and TV programs, and personal appearances of the like of Mr. Armstrong, and this country, Britain, seems to be so cut off. I hope you will continue to send me the GN. I am enclosing a card for the same. I realize the great effort and cost that goes into God's Work. I will continue to try to play my part in offerings and prayer.

S. W.,
Nottingham, England

• *Members of the Worldwide Church of God (and our faithful co-workers and donors) are continually praying that God will open bigger doors in the United Kingdom. Personal appearance campaigns will begin again in earnest this year.*

Update: Black Africa

Thank you for the two most wonderful magazines in the world today, *The Good News* and the *Plain Truth*. God is truly working with and through the writers of all the articles in these two magazines. There are so many heartrending articles that bring joy some times and tears at other times, namely the article by Mr. Roland Sampson, "Open Door Through Black Africa." It brought joy to know that God hasn't forgotten our black brethren in these far-off places; tears to learn of the hardships some are suffering. Other articles by God's inspired writers make one joyfully happy that God has seen fit to open our eyes to His wonderful truth at this time.

John G.,
Gary, Indiana

Update: Personal Appearances

I would like to tell you how interesting *The Good News* magazine has been to my family and I since we first received it in December 1973. I especially enjoy the "Up-

date" section because it gives facts about the personal appearance team, new things that have been added, and most of all — the list of towns and cities where personal appearance campaigns are coming. I hope they come to a nearby town so my family and I may attend them in person.

Melissa M.,
Yorktown, Texas

Preparation for Marriage

I am writing to thank you for your kindness in sending me the booklets I requested. The booklets — *Modern Dating* and *What Is the Best Age for Marriage?* — have not only been very interesting but very useful. They were timely and helped to prepare me and my former fiancée for marriage. We are both indebted to your instructions and are living now as husband and wife. My fiancée had put to me several questions whose answers I couldn't give, but the booklet answered them to her delight.

Jerome S. M.,
Mezam, Cameroons
Africa

Too Dogmatic!

I have received your magazines for quite some time. Much of their message I have enjoyed. I thank you for them. However, there are two very dominant characteristics about them I dislike: 1) your dogmatism on the Sabbath day; 2) your claim to be the one true Church, and, as such, the sole depository of the entire truth. Accordingly, please do not send me any more of them.

Archie A.,
Lake San Marcos,
California

• *Any reader can write for the booklet "Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?" and then make his own decision. And we do not claim to be the sole depository of the entire truth. The Bible is the real source of spiritual truth (II Tim. 3:16-17, John 17:17).*

Managing Personal Finances

Thank you so much for your free booklet on personal finances. After reading it from cover to cover, something of a change occurred to me in the area of spending money. Instead of exhausting my finances as I did in times past, I did my best to see that I managed my finances with particular care so as not to go begging and borrowing because of careless spending.

Ojechi O.,
Onitsha, Nigeria

• *Another booklet, "Ending Your Financial Worries," is also available free of charge upon your written request. The struggle to make ends meet is getting tougher. Prices and interest rates have soared. Most people are unaware of one vital biblical principle which, if applied, could effect a remarkable improvement in their personal finances. This digest-size publication clearly explains this very practical principle in technical, scriptural detail. To request your copy see the inside front cover of this magazine for the address of our office nearest you.*

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tween "grace" and "works."

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