

SEPTEMBER 1985

The Good News

OF THE WORLD TOMORROW



**'And this gospel of the kingdom
will be preached in all the world...'
Matthew 24:14**

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SEPTEMBER 1985

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Getting
There
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COVER: God's Church preaches the Gospel of the soon-coming Kingdom of God to the world as a witness (Matthew 24:14). The 1,000-year rule of that Kingdom on earth is pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles, the sixth of God's seven annual festivals. This *Good News* focuses on the Feast of Tabernacles (Sept. 30 through Oct. 6 this year) and the wonderful world tomorrow. Photo courtesy NASA.

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Robert H. Armstrong

The Anticipation Cannot Equal the Realization

Recently I sat down and allowed myself to reminisce for a few moments on my life.

It has been a RICH life, full of the joys of accomplishment and also full of opposition and bitter persecution.

My mind went back to age 19, when I had a job just a few miles north of Biloxi, Miss., one of our more than 80 Feast sites this year, then age 23 to 30 in Chicago, Ill., then in Oregon and Washington and finally, at age 34, my conversion and start in GOD'S WORK.

Looking forward to the Millennium

But then I was AROUSED from this thinking of the past to LOOK FORWARD into the upcoming FEAST OF TABERNACLES, and the Millennium on earth it pictures.

No matter how joyful is your anticipation of the soon-coming world tomorrow in the Kingdom of God, your anticipation falls far short of the realization you will experience!

THINK OF THIS! A time when we who have God's Holy Spirit will be changed to immortal spirit beings — actually BORN sons of GOD. In fact we shall then BE *very God*, except God the Father will be supreme in authority, and Christ the Son, next under the Father, in supreme command over all of us.

But THINK OF IT! Marvelous as

this human body is, it does have its aches and pains and discomforts. Then, composed wholly of SPIRIT, we shall suffer no physical pain, but experience continually supreme HAPPINESS and JOY!

We shall have supreme FAITH in the righteous power of Christ. There shall be NO SATAN around anymore! We shall be converting the unconverted mortals who live into that glorious Millennium, delighting in seeing them accept and EXPERIENCE repentance of sin and FAITH in Jesus Christ, discovering the glories of living GOD'S WAY of outflowing LOVE!

We shall be immune from accidents or injuries. We shall be exuberant in glowing perfect HEALTH and WELL-BEING! We shall be thrilling to rich accomplishments, looking back over great accomplishments and looking FORWARD to NEW projects to make the world peaceful, happy, filled with delights. There will never be a dull moment — always we shall be participating in making others happy and joyful IN PERFECT PEACE!

And now the 1985 Feast

In just a few weeks we shall attend the 1985 FEAST OF TABERNACLES, enjoying a foretaste of the glorious Millennium, with many hundreds of brethren of like faith and anticipation.

I believe this year's Feast will be the most wonderful and enjoyable since God's Church of our time began keeping this Festival


at Belknap Springs, Ore. My wife and I had been keeping the seven annual Sabbath days for 14 years before that — the first seven years alone by ourselves, and the next seven with the parent church of the Church of God for our time and era.

We must remember, however, that just like when the servants of God came together to worship Him in the days of JOB, Satan came also among them. I have to WARN YOU — Satan also is looking forward to this year's Feast, so he can come to different Feast sites and cause us any trouble he can, but if we PRAY with our whole hearts for Christ's protection, He is more powerful than Satan and can restrain Satan from attacking us. So BE SURE YOU BEGIN PRAYING FOR THIS FESTIVAL RIGHT NOW — and keep it up until the Feast is over.

Begin now to pray for angels to accompany our thousands of members, most of whom will drive to the Feast site that they attend. Pray for GOD's protection over all our brethren.

Many have been working long hours for a long time already to make this the most inspiring and joyous Festival so far.

Be sure to add your PRAYERS to their efforts — for God's special protection and His blessing — and we shall all return home with our spiritual batteries recharged to the FULL. THERE WILL BE NO SHORTAGE OF GOD'S SPIRITUAL RECHARGING! □



CENTURY

What Will It Be Like?

*Will the next decade or two bring human EXTINCTION —
or will century 21 dawn on a NEW WORLD
OF PEACE, with incredible scientific achievements?*

By Herbert W. Armstrong

SUDDENLY this world has become different! It was never like this before.

Look at the change in the last 85 years — then look at the change in the last TEN. What will *another* 10 years be like — and WHAT by century 21?

When I was a boy, our family transportation was a horse and buggy. Horse-drawn streetcars had just been replaced with the little trolley-car “dinkeys.” Telephones were rare, hanging on walls.

Only a few downtown streets in cities were paved. Automobiles were a curiosity — we called them “horseless carriages.” They were steered with a stick instead of a steering wheel.

Gaslights dimly illuminated city streets. A man, riding horse-

back, rode past with a lighting stick to turn them on at dusk, and again to turn them off at dawn. Our home was dimly lighted by kerosene lamps.

No man had ever flown. Orville Wright’s first 12-second, 120-foot flight did not occur until after I was four and one half months into my 12th year. Radio and television were unheard-of. And milk in cities cost five cents per quart.

What about the last 10 years?

Now look at the startling “advances” of just the last decade.

They said MORE KNOWLEDGE would solve all the world’s ills. So, in the last 10 years the world’s sum of KNOWLEDGE *has more than doubled* — mostly in fields of technology, electronics, medicine and various branches of science.

But the world’s problems and

troubles HAVE MORE THAN DOUBLED ALSO! In that same 10 years!

But look how 10 short years have changed YOUR LIFE. It was not like this a single decade ago.

TODAY it is unsafe to walk on streets — in city or in town. Your house or apartment may be broken into if you’re away. Crime now is rampant, even in residential areas.

Unhappy marriages — increasing divorce — juvenile delinquency and other problems among young people. Family and home life, the FOUNDATION of any flourishing civilization, falling apart. Police report more homicides in homes, due to family quarrels, than any other source. WHY this sudden breakdown of family life?

Then there’s mounting international strife, mass demonstrations, riots, terrorism, widespread mass VIOLENCE. And threat of

all-out, world-girdling NUCLEAR WAR!

Again I ask: WHAT will this world be like in *another* 10 years? And *what* by century 21?

What scientists prophesy

Scientists picture two opposite extremes ahead:

1) Science, technology and modern industry are teaming together to produce a magic push-button Disneyland dream-world for our near future. They plan to bring happiness to humanity by reducing work hours to an unheard-of minimum. Now they are talking about a six-hour day, a three-day work week, four-day weekends, three-to-four-month vacations, higher net incomes and retirement at age 49.

They plan to make us all happy by producing a dazzling array of gadgets, laborsaving devices, amusement and entertainment mechanisms such as our wildest anticipations have not envisioned. And medical science plans to replace breaking-down human organs to lengthen lives.

2) Conversely, other world-famous scientists see a far sterner picture of the future — one that reverts to the opposite extreme. They see — today — the starving, uneducated masses in Africa, Asia, South America — more than half the world's population in the depths of ignorance, poverty, squalor and degradation; the population explosion and the coming food war; the breakdown of family life, the very BASIS of a progressive and thriving society; the spiraling increase in crime; the fast-spreading breakdown of law and order, and increasing widespread violence; the proliferation and stockpiling of nuclear weapons that can blast all life from this earth *50 times over*; and then the mounting crescendo of strife and hostility between nuclear-power nations!

All this they see, and view a future of gloom and doom and hopelessness. They tell us humanity's one great problem, now, is the QUESTION OF SURVIVAL.

Other scientists, educators and

writers envision the next few years in this manner: The present trend will continue — only it will accelerate. As these authorities see it, the world will be as it is now, only *more so*!

That is, *more* dazzling inventions for the *few* who can afford them; increasing millions of poverty-stricken, starving people in backward areas; accelerating increase in the population explosion; increasing immorality, breakdown of marriages and family relationships; *more* crime; *more* terrorism; increasing violence; *more* sickness and disease; *more* mental breakdowns; *more* unrest, distrust and tensions between nuclear nations until they reach the breaking point. They see these worsening conditions speeding up.

Ask these sober scientists HOW LONG we may continue in this present trend, at the rate we're going. Some will guess, perhaps 10 more years — others think less than 10 — some give us, perhaps, a little more.

But that's only relative. It's still a question of SURVIVAL!

Neither of these makes sense

But humanity *WILL* SURVIVE! There is GOOD NEWS for the future. It is reported by a major news source most people — and most scientists — have utterly overlooked.

There is a master plan already being worked out. And *before* century 21, it will bring to this earth PEACE!

There is a master plan to solve the vast problems of illiteracy, starvation, poverty and squalor. It entails vast agrarian reforms, economic reforms, reforms in governments and *practical* plans to bring about disarmament and world peace.

Many scientists and world leaders know, in general, what it will take to bring this solution. Today, many farseeing leaders put their fingers on the one great change that can now save humanity alive. What they don't know is how to implement it.

With one voice, these men say

the solution now demands a WORLD GOVERNMENT. Winston Churchill said, "A world super-government is the only solution to man's ills." Said Dr. Charles E. Osgood, "What we need — and that most urgently — is world government." Others, as if with one voice, say the same.

There is just one thing wrong with this solution — and it's the ONLY one advanced. That world supergovernment would have to be given the power of a world police force to enforce its laws, and it would have to maintain the ONLY military force in the world — all nations would have to surrender their armies to this one SUPERSTATE.

ONLY solution — but won't WORK

In a word, *every* nation would have to surrender its national sovereignty absolutely. And WHAT MAN could be accepted by all as WORLD RULER? It would, mind you, be a world POLICE STATE.

* Would the Soviet Union give up its struggle to harness the whole world with communism, and accept an American as their world ruler? No, I'm afraid, not in a thousand years!

Would the United States accept a Russian from the Kremlin? Or perhaps a Cuban or a North Korean? NEVER!

There is only one way the nations could get together on a world supergovernment.

Within nations, each individual has to be willing to give up his personal sovereignty. He must submit to the laws of his government, or suffer the consequences. Of course, individuals in all countries are given certain personal liberties, not prohibited by law.

So it must be with NATIONS — *if* there is to be a world supergovernment — *if* humanity is to survive! IF there is to be the world supergovernment that Winston Churchill envisioned, all individual nations must first give up their private, selfish goals, their dreams of world conquest — of spreading *their* particular kind of government around the world.

One important newsmagazine

Illustration by Sid Bingham

said this can happen only if there is "a strong hand from someplace" that would intervene.

So there is the world's dilemma. All leaders are agreed the world's only hope is a world supergovernment. At the same time, all leaders confess frankly that world supergovernment is absolutely unfeasible and utterly IMPOSSIBLE!

And where does that leave you? Does that leave you with nothing but gloom and doom for the future?

On this world leaders are agreed: The *ONLY* SOLUTION is IMPOSSIBLE!

Yet there IS good news

Isn't it just about time we heard some GOOD news for a change?

Yes, there is, after all, a GREAT NEWS SOURCE the world leaders and scientists have left out of the picture. There *is* a *major* world news source most have overlooked. It reports tomorrow's news today! It reports world news before it happens! It's news of a gigantic MASTER PLAN for a world supergovernment. There *is*, after all, that needed "strong hand from someplace."

Two alternatives and ONLY two

You *have* to face it — either there is now no HOPE — either all humanity soon will be erased from this earth (to use an expression spoken by the late U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower) — or there does exist that "strong hand from someplace" with supernatural power to INTERVENE in world affairs — to literally take control from the human great powers of this world and to SAVE humanity from itself!

Every reader needs to *wake up* — and to realize this means *YOUR* LIFE — and the lives of your children, your family, your friends and neighbors. The one great problem facing every one of us is HUMAN SURVIVAL. And the only alternative to extinction — SOON — is world government — so say the leaders.

I sat in the press gallery in the

Opera House at the San Francisco Conference in 1945, when world leaders were drawing up the charter for the United Nations. There I heard the leading statesmen of the world warning that this United Nations they were forming was "THE WORLD'S LAST HOPE."

One hour, in plenary sessions, they were uttering this solemn warning; the next hour, in group conferences with other leaders, they were fighting savagely for their own special advantage.

The United Nations has proved futile — except, perhaps, as a propaganda sounding board for the Soviet Union. There have been more than 150 wars, which the United Nations has been impotent to stop, since 1945. The United Nations is NOT a world government.

This is REAL — it involves YOU

Hiding your eyes from the existing facts won't save your world for you — and YOU alive in it! This directly concerns the life of every reader of *The Good News* — and the other millions who *ought* to be reading it.

This is REAL! It's HERE! There isn't much more time! It's now far later than you think. And — yes, I realize it — this is the ONLY VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS of today's desperate situation that dares to SPEAK OUT!

THIS YOU MUST FACE. There are now ONLY two alternatives:

1) Either the Creator God — who has been utterly ignored by this world's education, who has been TOTALLY FORSAKEN by this world's rulers and its governments, who has been discredited in the thinking of vanity-filled world leaders and educators — either that very eternal, almighty GOD exists, and will *soon*, now, step in and INTERVENE in this world's affairs, and SAVE ERRING HUMANITY FROM ITSELF — or:

2) Any one of several existing causes will ERASE HUMANKIND FROM THE EARTH, possibly in this decade or the next — and *most certainly prior to CENTURY 21!*

The person who is unwilling to

consider that the Creator GOD is a real, living, all-wise, all-knowing, all-powerful personal BEING has only the CERTAINTY of existing world conditions fast closing in upon him!

But for the reader who is willing to wake up and listen, I give you not only your *ONLY* HOPE of survival, I give you your one *SURE* HOPE.

World's most accurate newscaster

First, notice the published report of the world's No. 1 newscaster. This newscast was a FORECAST. And it's CERTAIN.

I know, very few have ever realized that Jesus Christ came as a NEWSMAN — reporting NEWS for the future. He spoke of 20th-century world conditions — and WORLD GOVERNMENT to come. The world has misunderstood, perverted, maligned His unique message.

The word *gospel* means "GOOD NEWS." And His was news for the FUTURE.

He described today's violent, chaotic world. In the pivotal prophecy of the New Testament of the world's best-selling book, He graphically described the international chaos into which the world is rapidly plunging right now. He said the violence would explode into a world trouble so great, that unless God intervened, no human would remain alive.

Yet, He promised, the all-powerful God would intervene supernaturally to cut short this world chaos (Matthew 24:21-22).

NEWS — past, present, future

No book has so great a sale as the Holy Bible. No book ever was so misunderstood, maligned, distorted, misrepresented. Those who profess to use it as the source of their religion promulgate doctrines diametrically opposite from its teachings. They quote (or misquote) only a fraction of its verses.

Few know that a whole third, approximately, of that book is devoted to FUTURE NEWS of world

happenings. News about various governments. News about the great MASTER PLAN for solving all this world's troubles. News of the now soon-coming peaceful and happy WORLD TOMORROW — on through CENTURY 21.

It's the BEST NEWS you ever read!

We look, now, at one pivotal NEWS DISPATCH within this volume, which covers dramatically a panorama of the dominating governments, past, immediate present and future — on into CENTURY 21.

Advance news report

You never thought of this panoramic look ahead as a NEWS REPORT? It's time we recognized it for precisely what it is! And it's exciting!

Incredible though it seems — and would-be discreditors to the contrary notwithstanding — the evidence has demonstrated conclusively that this world-news report was written between 500 and 600 years before Christ.

It concerns the king of the *first* world empire. His name was Nebuchadnezzar. His capital was the ancient glamour city and world capital, Babylon.

One night this king dreamed a remarkable and frightening dream, as reported in Daniel 2. It was one of those rare dreams that remain indelibly impressed on the mind after awaking. He thought it must have meaning.

So Nebuchadnezzar called in all his astrologers, his religious leaders, magicians, his chief advisers, his wisest men. He determined to test their clairvoyant powers.

"It was a terrifying dream, yet it's gone from me," he told them. "I want you to tell me what I dreamed. If you fail, I'll know you are fakes and phonies, and I'll have you all put to death."

But even with their lives at stake, his wisest men could not tell Nebuchadnezzar what he had dreamed.

Now among other nations that had been conquered by this great Chaldean king was the kingdom of Judah, whose capital city was

Jerusalem. These Jews had been taken as captives and transported from their homes in their cities, towns and countryside to the land of the Chaldeans, where they were made slaves. But four outstandingly brilliant Jewish lads had been inducted into important government positions in Babylon. Among them was Daniel.

These four Jewish lads were seized, to be put to death along with the sorcerers, magicians and Chaldean "wise men." Daniel asked for time, promising that he would be able to tell the king his dream and its meaning.

The four Jewish lads prayed to their God for the answer. That night it was revealed to Daniel in a vision.

Report on "what is to be"

"Are you able to make known to me the dream and its interpretation?" asked the king when Daniel was ushered into his presence. "No wise men can show the king the mystery," replied Daniel, "but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to you what is to be."

"You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening. The head of this image was of fine gold, its breast and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

"As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it smote the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces; then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth."

But what did it MEAN? Its MEANING was a NEWS forecast leading to the present world turmoil, and its imminent and SURE outcome!

It is NEWS that vitally affects

the life of every reader of *The Good News!*

"This," continued Daniel, "was the dream; now we will tell the king its interpretation. You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory, you are the head of gold. After you shall arise another kingdom inferior to you, and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth."

Here was NEWS of the future. It was news reported in advance. And it happened!

After the Chaldean Empire, the Persian Empire arose. It was inferior as a world empire intellectually, morally and in honor and splendor and glory — even as silver is LESS VALUABLE than gold. But, as silver is harder than gold, so was the Persian Empire stronger in military might.

Humanity was deteriorating. The Persian Empire fell before the onslaught of young Alexander the Great, with his Greek and Macedonian army. Alexander expanded his empire farther east and west and south — greater in military strength, more in quantity — greater in area and population ruled — but inferior in quality, even as bronze is of less value than silver, yet a harder metal.

Alexander wept because he had no more worlds to conquer. He died young in a drunken debauch. His empire was divided into four divisions, each ruled by one of his four top-ranking generals.

Now continue this most unusual form of NEWS REPORT.

The Roman Empire came

"And," continued Daniel, "there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron."

This was the Roman Empire, which swallowed up all four surviving divisions of Alexander's Greco-Macedonian Empire, and spread out farther besides. It was the strongest military power in world history up to that time. And the two legs symbolized the *two divisions* of the mighty Roman Empire — with the east-

(Continued on page 24)

Never has there been a time like the 20th century — a time so fraught with fear and uncertainty!

This century has experienced widespread unrest and turmoil. It has been plagued by a host of perilous political, economic and social problems. Crisis has followed crisis.

Turn time back, for a moment, to the Great Depression, and imagine the scene:

In many countries, economic disasters are fueling political pandemonium and social chaos. Unemployment is skyrocketing. Bank failures are increasing. Industrial production is declining. To despairing millions, the years ahead look dark and gloomy.

But amid the chaos, a voice is screaming out, offering an elusive hope to frustrated millions, declaring that better times lie ahead, that peace and prosperity are on the way. That voice declares that a new government will soon bring order out of chaos. And that government, it boasts, will rule the earth for 1,000 years!

The time is the early 1930s, and the voice is that of Adolf Hitler.

Hitler's grandiose promises seduce millions. His play for power succeeds. January 30, 1933, the former corporal and frustrated artist becomes chancellor of Germany. The "Third Reich" has begun.

Appropriating a biblical concept, Hitler declares that his accession to power marks the beginning of a glorious thousand-year Reich — a Millennium.

Hitler's grand scheme

Few today — five decades later — realize that Adolf Hitler envisioned himself as the one who would personally bring to pass the long-awaited Millennium — the thousand-year Reich.

Hitler's thousand-year Reich was the revival of an age-old theme. The German *Reich* ("Empire") was the oldest surviving

COMING SOON

A New World Order!

God Almighty has a master plan for global peace and prosperity. Beware of counterfeits!

By Keith W. Stump

political institution in Europe, the bulwark of European civilization for some nine centuries.

It was in the year A.D. 962 that Pope John XII crowned the powerful German king Otto as Emperor. That event marked the beginning of the *Sacrum Romanum Imperium Nationis Germanicae* — the "Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation."

With Germany as its power center, the Holy Roman Empire bore rule over Europe of the Middle Ages. It was regarded as God's chosen political organization, the "Kingdom of God" on earth, with a mission from God to protect Christianity.

Centuries later, in 1806, Napoleon finally swept away the moribund Holy Roman Empire. But following the German victory in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71, Germany once again emerged as the dominant force in European affairs. Through the efforts of Otto von Bismarck, the German states were again united into a single Reich, or Empire. But this Second Reich, successor to the medieval Reich inaugurated by Otto the Great, was to last a mere 47 years, until Germany's bitter defeat in 1918.

In 1933 Adolf Hitler, using

Germany's growing economic crisis as a stepping-stone to power, gained control of Germany, inaugurating the Third Reich of German history.

It quickly became clear that Hitler's geopolitical aims far transcended his own country's borders. Hitler held an unshakable conviction that his German Reich would one day rule all of Europe — and from there seize the leadership of the world! He dreamed of a "new world order" that would remake the political face of the earth, with himself at its helm.

In 1939 Hitler began in earnest his struggle for the mastery of the world. At the outset of war, Germany seemed almost invincible. Not since the days when the Roman Empire was at its height had one man ruled such vast expanses in Europe.

A different order is on the way

But during those years, another voice was crying out — with a radically different message.

"Adolf Hitler has a 'thousand-year plan' — his 'New World Order' — which he says he is commissioned by destiny to establish on earth," wrote Editor

Herbert W. Armstrong in a major front-page article in the May-June, 1941, issue of the *Plain Truth* magazine. "He has said it will decide the fate of the world for a thousand years to come. It is the most amazing plan for world rule ever envisioned by man... its purpose is to remake and reshape the political and economic systems of all the earth."

Mr. Armstrong continued: "The Nazi Thousand-Year Plan — Hitler's 'New World Order' — proposes to harness on the world a single gigantic union of nations in bondage. Hitler conceives the German, or Aryan, race to be chosen by destiny to rule the world with National Socialism for the next thousand years... the whole world will be completely reorganized, according to German genius for organization and efficiency."

But, as that *Plain Truth* article went on to explain, God had something completely different in mind. True, there would one day emerge a "new world order" on earth — but not Hitler's order!

Man's failed utopias

Adolf Hitler was not, of course, the first to nurture

dreams of global dominion. Since ancient times, leaders have sought to carve out great empires for themselves. Their stories have been written in blood across the pages of history.

Not all who have envisioned world government, however, have been power-hungry madmen. Many people of reason and integrity have postulated schemes for ideal societies.

In 1516 English statesman Sir Thomas More penned a now-famous description of an ideal commonwealth governed entirely by reason and free of crime, poverty, injustice and other ills. The name More gave to his imaginary society of ideal perfection was *Utopia*, from the Greek meaning "nowhere." And well-named it was, for there certainly was no such place anywhere in the world — then or now.

Since then, the name of More's fictitious society, *Utopia*, has been applied to all such idealistic social schemes. Some reformers have even attempted to put their theories into actual practice, gathering followers and organizing "utopian" communities. But all of these efforts

failed. Hitler, too, ultimately failed to give Germans the Millennium. His ephemeral thousand-year Reich lasted a scant 12 years, bombed to ruins by Allied forces.

But Bible prophecy reveals that man's dreams of world empire are not yet dead. There will yet arise a final ill-fated attempt to gain control over the world. But that, too, will fail totally.

The lesson of nearly 6,000 years of human history is clear. Humanly devised "utopias" and "millennia" cannot succeed. They are doomed to failure.

But make no mistake: A millennial utopia *is* on the way — but not one of human making.

World government under God

As Herbert W. Armstrong declared in his 1941 article: "Almighty God also has a *thousand-year plan* for the destiny of earth's nations... and so it
(Continued on page 24)

Hitler dreamed his German Reich would rule 1,000 years. Inset photo: Model of Hitler's proposed capital in Berlin; planned Great Hall (top) was to be seven times as large as St. Peter's in Rome.



Illustration by F. Bruce Dean; photo courtesy Speer Archive (from Inside the Third Reich by Albert Speer)

Are the Holy Days to Be Kept Today?

Were the festivals given to ancient Israel intended only for the Old Testament and abolished by the New? Which days, if any, should we observe today? Here's the truth, straight from the Bible!

By K. Neil Earle

“Why do you observe all those strange festivals?” members of God’s Church are often asked.

“Weren’t those Old Testament Holy Days abolished by the New Testament Church? I thought the Holy Days were just for the Jews.”

“Why don’t you keep the same holidays the other churches keep?”

Good questions! For centuries, critics have challenged God’s annual Sabbaths and disdained His Church for observing them (Acts 20:29-30).

Yet, as this article will show, the true Church of God’s basis for observing the festivals of God outlined in Leviticus 23 — the Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day — is rooted firmly in the New Testament as well as in the Old.

The plain truth is that God’s

Holy Days were actively observed by Jesus Christ and the New Testament Church, and true Christians are to be actively observing them today.

The role of anti-Semitism

Attacks on God’s Holy Days are nothing new. Early in the history of the New Testament Church, some of the Church’s gentile membership began to disparage God’s Holy Days. Eventually, most such gentiles came to consider the Holy Days merely Jewish observances. Those who retained the Passover, Pentecost and the Feast of Tabernacles were labeled “Judaizers.”

Why was this line of attack successful? For the simple reason that two ill-fated Jewish revolts against Rome, in A.D. 66-73 and A.D. 132-135, made Judaism extremely unpopular throughout the Roman Empire.

After these two bloody and protracted struggles, the Romans held everything Jewish in contempt, especially the characteristic earmarks of Judaism — the weekly Sabbath, Passover, the Jewish New Year (Feast of

Trumpets) and Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement). Only a decade after the death of the apostle John (about the end of the first century), Ignatius of Antioch wrote, “If we are still living according to Judaism to this day, then we are admitting that we have not received grace” (*The Early Christian Fathers*, page 43).

Anti-Jewish bias, then, became a catalyst for false teachers to encourage the abandonment of the Sabbath and the Holy Days (Acts 20:29-30, II Corinthians 11:13). Early in the second century, the spurious “Epistle to Diognetus” denounced “the superstition of the Jews.”

Thus, the Bible prophecies foretelling that the Church would be betrayed from within (Matthew 7:15, II Peter 2:1, II Timothy 4:3) came to pass. Anti-Semitism was an excuse for Latin Christianity to jettison the Sabbath and God’s feast days.

By the A.D. 90s Victor I, Bishop of Rome, threatened to excommunicate whole churches in Asia Minor still holding to the Passover. By A.D. 154 Polycarp of

Smyrna, John's disciple, disputed with the bishop of Rome about keeping the Passover on the 14th of Nisan. Rome was busily implementing Easter Sunday as an annual commemoration of the resurrection, in place of the Passover, which commemorated the death of Jesus.

When Emperor Constantine (A.D. 306-337) allied himself with the Roman church to use it as a politically unifying force, state pressure compelled any "Judaizers" in the empire to abandon Passover and the true "Lord's Day" (the seventh-day Sabbath).

Thus, 1,260 years of constant persecution began for those remnants of God's Church still keeping the Holy Days (Revelation 12:6). Those who would keep God's festivals were driven underground. Only a precious few knew the essentials of God's plan of salvation, which can be fully understood only through observing the Holy Days.

For more information on the individual Holy Days and their meanings, write for our free booklet *Pagan Holidays — or God's Holy Days — Which?*

Christ's example

To whom — to what authority — should a Christian turn for enlightenment on the issue of which days to observe as religious festivals?

Why not begin with the very founder of Christianity? Some forget the obvious fact that Jesus Christ was a Jew (Hebrews 7:14). He was reared in a home faithfully obeying the Old Testament commands: "His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast" (Luke 2:41-42). From earliest childhood Jesus Christ kept the Passover and the seven-day Feast that followed, called Unleavened Bread (verse 43).

These Days of Unleavened Bread were first observed by the Israelites immediately after escaping the slavery of Egypt. (By the way, if you think one has to

live in Jerusalem to celebrate God's Holy Days, see Exodus 12 and 13 and Leviticus 23. The Israelites were nowhere near Jerusalem in either case.)

So we see that the Bible tells us plainly Jesus Christ observed the Holy Days during His early life. But did Christ annul these Holy Days during His ministry? Did He supersede them with new days like Good Friday, Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday? Notice: "Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Passover. . . . And He sent Peter and John, saying, 'Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat'" (Luke 22:1, 8).

Here was Jesus' perfect opportunity to cancel the Passover and introduce Easter or some other festival. But He did not! Jesus commanded His disciples, the foundation stones of the Church of God (Ephesians 2:20), to prepare the traditional Passover the Jews always observed.

"And when the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. Then He said to them, 'With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God'" (Luke 22:14-16).

Not only did Jesus observe every detail of the Passover on the 14th of Nisan, the first month on God's sacred calendar, but He clearly taught that the Passover would be observed in the Kingdom of God!

What an amazing, eye-opening truth!

All Jesus changed were the Passover symbols. Now Christians take bread and wine that night instead of eating a lamb. The bread-and-wine ceremony is part of the New Testament Passover, an ordinance of remembrance — a commanded memorial of the death of our Savior (Luke 22:17-20).

All four gospels command this Passover observance as an act of obedience to Jesus Christ of Nazareth (Matthew 26:19-29, Mark 14:12-25, John 13:1-17).

What about the other Holy

Days? What about the Feast of Tabernacles, the annual family highlight of God's Church today? Is this also binding on the New Testament Christian? Yes indeed. John's gospel proves this beyond a doubt.

Evidence from John

The fourth gospel dates to about the last decade of the first century. Internal evidence indicates it was composed after the Roman clampdown in Judea in A.D. 70. For instance, John uses the Roman manner of counting time common after A.D. 70, and only he of all the gospel writers labels the Sea of Galilee the "Sea of Tiberias," another Roman innovation.

The early church historian Eusebius records that John governed the churches in Asia Minor "after the death of Domitian." Domitian was assassinated in A.D. 96 (*Ecclesiastical History*, 3.23.1).

At that time, in the late first century A.D., heresy abounded. Doctrinal aberrations about the nature and authority of Jesus Christ proliferated. Some teachers urged adopting Sunday and abandoning the Saturday Sabbath to escape the stigma attached to everything Jewish.

All of this John, the last remaining apostle, counteracts in his gospel. John mentions "the Jews" almost 70 times. It is John who records Jesus' statement, "Salvation is of the Jews" (John 4:22). John's book pivots around Christ's last Passover; eight of his 21 chapters narrate the events of Jesus' last day on earth, the 14th of Nisan.

Now you can understand why John, in several places, carefully records Jesus Christ, Head of the true Church, scrupulously observing the festivals found in Leviticus 23.

"Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem" (John 2:13).

"Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name" (verse 23).

"After this there was a feast of

the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem" (John 5:1).

"Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand" (John 7:2).

John painstakingly records Christ's dedication to observing the Holy Days!

At the time of His last Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus could not go up publicly, because He knew that His enemies would be watching for Him. Nevertheless, He did attend the Feast, traveling there in secret, and His enemies sought to take Him (verses 8-11).

How did Jesus observe the New Testament Feast of Tabernacles? "Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught. . . . Then Jesus cried out, as He taught in the temple . . . on the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out" (John 7:14, 28, 37). (Be sure to read the article entitled "The Last Day, That Great Day" beginning on page 29 of this issue. It explains God's seventh annual festival, the Last Great Day.)

Jesus Christ, active Head of His Church (Colossians 1:18), kept the Feast of Tabernacles by instituting powerful preaching services. Even His adversaries were impressed. "No man ever spoke like this Man!" they exclaimed (John 7:46).

God's Church keeps the Feast of Tabernacles in the same way today. The Feast of Tabernacles in particular revolves around convocations where God's people listen to inspired preaching from God's ministers.

In spirit and truth

Those who argue against keeping God's Holy Days sometimes claim that Levitical law specified that the Holy Days could only be kept in Jerusalem.

Yet Jesus said, "Believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. . . . But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is

seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:21-24).

How Satan would like to ensnare us (Ephesians 4:14)! The important thing for New Testament feast observers is not to observe the festivals in Jerusalem, but to observe them in spirit and in truth — in other words, drinking deeply of the awesome significance of these Holy Days in the plan of salvation.

The Church of God's Feast sites at the Festival of Tabernacles — of which there are more than 80 around the world — do indeed portray the spiritual truth of God's plan for all people everywhere (Malachi 1:11).

Jerusalem is not the only place to celebrate the Holy Days. God's Holy Days were actually first celebrated, as far as we know, in Egypt while the Israelites were coming out of bondage (Exodus 12:1-2). How obvious that God's Church may meet in any geographic region for the festivals. The restriction to Jerusalem only applied under the Levitical priesthood. We worship under the Melchizedek priesthood of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 5:5-10).

"I can see that," some have argued. "Obviously Jesus kept the Holy Days, but didn't He only do that to fulfill the law as the prophecies said? How can we know if these festivals are for the Church today?"

Remember two things:

1) Jesus Christ is our example, our standard, our pattern (1 Peter 2:21). What He did, we must do.

2) Jesus commanded His own disciples to observe the Passover, Unleavened Bread and the Feast of Tabernacles (Luke 22:8, John 7:8, 14:15). These men were part of the very foundation of the New Testament Church. What were they supposed to teach us?

Jesus Christ's last command to His disciples tells us: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things

that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).

Jesus commanded His disciples to observe the Holy Days. The disciples, in turn, taught Holy Day observance to the Church (1 Corinthians 11:23-28), the same Church that still exists in this end time.

Has Jesus changed His mind on doctrine? No. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

The early Church's practice

The book of Acts documents that the early Church observed the Holy Days. Luke's inspired account of the young Church in action shows how faithful the early Christians were to God's annual festivals.

Acts 2:1 says: "Now when the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place."

Pentecost is a Greek word meaning "count 50." It refers to the counting of 50 days beginning with the Sunday that falls during the Days of Unleavened Bread. At this precise time during that spring festival, firstfruits were offered in the Temple (Leviticus 23:15-17). Fifty days later was the Feast of Firstfruits, at the end of the early summer barley harvest in Palestine.

That is the same 50th day, Pentecost, that we find Christ's disciples observing in Acts 2:1.

Years later, around A.D. 57, Paul, whom many assume opposed God's laws and "Jewish" festivals, "was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost" (Acts 20:16). He even wrote to his gentile converts in Corinth, "I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost" (1 Corinthians 16:8).

What powerful testimony that the gentile Christians in Corinth knew the exact time for Pentecost. Of course, as we have seen, the wave-sheaf ritual directly connects Pentecost with the Days of Unleavened Bread. It is significant, then, that the book of Acts clearly documents the early

Church observing the Days of Unleavened Bread.

Notice: "Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread" (Acts 12:3).

"But we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread" (Acts 20:6).

Yet the plainest evidence that the early Church observed the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread is embedded in that same epistle cited earlier for its mention of Pentecost, Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

Paul, rebuking the Corinthians for their spiritual shallowness, writes: "Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?" (I Corinthians 5:6).

Any Jew would have understood the reference to leaven. After all, they observed seven days of eating bread with no leaven (Exodus 13:6). Yet the Corinthian church was primarily a gentile church, founded by the "apostle to the Gentiles" himself (Romans 11:13).

Paul admonishes these same Greek converts, "Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump" (I Corinthians 5:7). This analogy is easily understood by those keeping the Days of Unleavened Bread — "since you truly are unleavened."

Paul is explaining that although the Corinthians had de-leavened their houses physically, they had to also purge themselves of spiritual leaven — sin.

Christ kept and was the Passover

Paul continues, "For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us." Yes, that same Jesus Christ who *kept* the Passover *became* the perfect Passover sacrifice, "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

"Therefore let us keep the feast," Paul commands in I Corinthians 5:8, "not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

"Let us keep the feast," the

apostle to the gentiles told his gentile converts. Could anything be clearer?

By contrast, professing Christianity cannot find even one clear scripture to command Christmas, Easter or Lent. (Information on the true origins of these observances is available in our free booklets *The Plain Truth About Christmas* and *The Plain Truth About Easter*. For copies, mail the request envelope in this issue or write to our address nearest you.)

In I Corinthians 11:23-26 Paul gives a succinct review and outline of the Passover service, showing that Christ's death must be commemorated at night, "when the hour had come," as Luke 22:14 shows. Yet why do professing Christians observe a bread-and-wine ceremony on Sunday mornings instead of "on the same night in which He was betrayed" (I Corinthians 11:23)?

Fall festivals kept, too

Luke, in Acts 18:21, records Paul as saying, "I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem." Paul was probably referring to the Feast of Tabernacles in A.D. 52.

Luke also records Paul's active awareness of another Holy Day when he notes, "Much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because the Fast was already over" (Acts 27:9).

Even the staunchly Protestant *Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary* admits that "the Fast" here refers to the Day of Atonement, first commanded in Leviticus 23:27. It is Paul, after all, who explains the ultimate meaning of the events performed on the Day of Atonement. Check it in chapter 9 of Hebrews.

Even the one festival of Leviticus 23 not directly named in the New Testament — the Day of Trumpets (Leviticus 23:24-25) — is obliquely referred to in Colossians 2:16, where Paul counsels gentile Christians to ignore critics accusing them of misconduct on "a festival or a new moon or sabbaths."

The outstanding "new moon"

of the Jewish calendar was the first of Tishri, the beginning of the Jewish civil year, known today as the Jewish New Year (Psalm 81:3). This new moon was a vital key to calendar computation in Judaism, and still is.

Incorrectly observing or noting the new moon of Tishri could cause the other Holy Days to fall on the wrong days, too. The Day of Trumpets was such an obvious and significant part of the calendar — part of the "oracles of God" committed to the Jews (Romans 3:2) — that the other festivals hinged upon it.

How could the early Church have missed it? They observed all the others!

In force now

Obviously, the Church of God need not feel defensive about so-called Jewish festivals. The evidence is unanimous. The gospels, the book of Acts (the main inspired account of early Church history) and the epistles — the bedrock title deeds of the Church of God — teach and reiterate the Holy Days of Leviticus 23.

It was Christ's custom to observe the Holy Days (John 5:1), and Paul said to imitate him as he imitated Christ (I Corinthians 11:1). Paul clearly observed the Holy Days (Acts 24:14) and taught them to the gentiles (I Thessalonians 2:14). Peter knew that Christ set the example and that the Church of God "should follow His steps" (I Peter 2:21).

Peter condemned the hypocrites in the first-century Church who corrupted themselves "in their own deceptions while they feast with you" (II Peter 2:13). What feasts did Peter, James and John, Paul, Andrew and Jude grow up observing? None but those mentioned in Leviticus 23 (II Timothy 3:15-16).

Years later, Jude referred to the heretics in his day as "spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you" (Jude 12).

Surely we know by now what feasts these were! They are to be kept by God's true people today! □

Keeping God's Feasts

YESTERDAY and TODAY

Many have regarded the feast days merely as Old Testament customs — archaic curiosities from way back in “Bible times.”

But God's festival celebrations are always up to date. Here's how to keep them in the 20th century.

By Ronald D. Kelly

Sometimes it's hard for certain people to see the Bible as up to date. To many, the Bible seems so old-fashioned — so “long ago.”

Take, for example, the Feast of Tabernacles. Most people in the professing Christian world have never even heard of the Feast of Tabernacles. Those who have heard of it associate it only with ancient Jewish traditions.

Few have realized what a marvelous celebration, with deep

spiritual meaning, the Feast of Tabernacles is. Yet those who keep it today have found it the highlight of the year. It is a time of family togetherness, a time of learning, of joy, a time to understand more fully the plan God is working out on this earth.

Other articles in this special Fall Feast edition of *The Good News* explain *why* God's feast days should be kept today, and *what* the feast days picture. In this article we would like to show *how* the feast days were kept in ancient times and *how* they are kept today.

There is no greater joy than the

Feast of Tabernacles, and we want our readers to understand.

A time to rejoice

When God first instructed the nation of Israel to observe the annual feast days, He gave special instructions on financing the festivals so every family could properly rejoice. There were to be seven feast days observed in three festival seasons.

Notice God's instruction: “You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year. And you shall eat before the Lord your God, in the place where He





God's people rejoice at Feast of Tabernacles worldwide. Left column of photos, from top: Feastgoers pack Biloxi, Miss., convention center (photo by John H. Kirstein), children at Feast in China (Hendrickson and Sykes), teens at Niagara Falls (June Quinn). Center column, from top: Jekyll Island, Ga. (Elijah Johnson), Naga City, Philippines (Ric Perez), boat ride at Wisconsin Dells, Wis. (Robert Zimmerman). Right column, from top: beach at Norfolk, Va. (Paul Gibowski), members in Bermuda (Matthew Faulkner), choir performs in Holland (Thomas C. Hanson).



every head of household to save for the feasts, take the family and rejoice.

And that is exactly what God wants us to do today!

Read further what God instructed in Deuteronomy 16:13-15: "You shall observe the Feast of Tabernacles seven days, when you have gathered from your threshing floor and from your winepress; and you shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter, your manservant and your maidservant and the Levite, the stranger and the fatherless and the widow, who are within your gates."

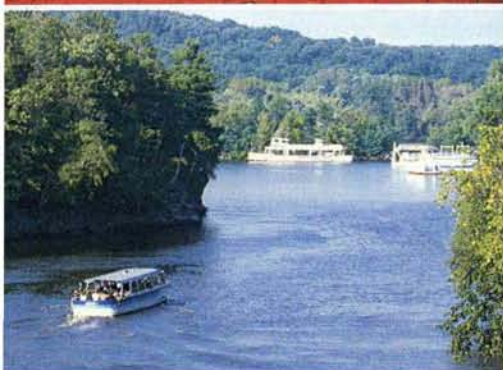
"Seven days you shall keep a sacred feast to the Lord your God in the place which the Lord chooses, because the Lord your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you surely rejoice."

Feast-keeping in the Old Testament

As we just read, the Israelites of old were told to keep the feasts where God instructed. At that time the feasts were observed in Jerusalem.

Families would save for the feast seasons, and those who lived in other areas would travel to Jerusalem. The spring Feast of Passover, the early summer Feast of Firstfruits and the fall Feast of Tabernacles would find Jerusalem filled with families from all over the nation.

The autumn Feast, which the Jewish people called Succoth, was the most special. By Jesus' time, the Jewish historian Josephus describes Jerusalem swelling to three times its normal size at the



chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstlings of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always.

"But if the journey is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, or if the place where the Lord your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, when the Lord your God has blessed you, then you shall exchange it for money, take the money in your hand, and go to the place which the Lord your God chooses.

"And you shall spend that

money for whatever your heart desires: for oxen or sheep, for wine or similar drink, for whatever your heart desires; you shall eat there before the Lord your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your household" (Deuteronomy 14:22-26).

Some professing Christian ministers have actually said that keeping the feast days is a curse, a yoke of bondage. But from reading the law God gave Moses, it certainly doesn't sound like God intended the feasts to be a yoke of bondage. It is evident God gave Israel His feasts to be times of family joy. He instructed

feast seasons. In order to stay for the festival week, people would make out of palm fronds temporary housing units on the flat roofs of Jerusalem's houses. Here families would sleep at night; during the day they attended Temple services and visited with their friends and relatives.

It was at the Feast of Tabernacles season that Joseph and Mary came to Jerusalem, in the days of the Roman taxation. There was no room at any of the inns, so when it was time for Mary to deliver the baby, Jesus was born in a nearby stable and placed in a manger for the first few days (Luke 2:1-7).

Later, when Jesus was 12 years old, He came to Jerusalem for the spring Passover Feast, as the family custom was every year (verse 41). Even though only 12, the young Jesus spent the days "in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions" (verse 46).

Thus we see the feasts were a time for family trips, hearing the way of God and rejoicing in song, meals and fellowship.

But what about today?

Up to the time of Jesus, the feast days were observed in Jerusalem. But that was not the only place where God would choose to place His name.

Later in His ministry, Jesus said to the Samaritan woman, "Believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain [where the Samaritans held worship services], nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father" (John 4:21).

The time would come when Jerusalem would not be the only place to worship God and observe His festivals. The New Testament Church would grow and spread throughout the world and observe God's feasts in other geographic regions.

Many have falsely concluded the Holy Days are not to be observed by the New Testament Church. This concept is utterly false. True Christians are to be keeping God's festivals today —

they were instituted forever. Be sure to read the article "Are the Holy Days to Be Kept Today?" beginning on page 8 of this issue.

But how are God's feasts to be kept today?

In the Old Testament, sacrificial rituals were an important part of Holy Day observance. But since Christ was the Passover lamb and the sacrifices were a picture of His sacrifice for our sins, we do not continue to offer animal sacrifices today.

The Holy Days, however, did not picture Christ's sacrifice (except the Passover, which is still observed as a memorial of His death). The festival seasons picture something altogether different — the plan of salvation God is working out on this earth through humans.

And that is the primary reason to keep the feasts. Without an understanding of the annual Holy Days, one cannot understand what man is nor the reason for human life.

One of life's greatest joys

The first and most important part of festival observance today is the spiritual understanding of God's plan. God's ministers give in-depth sermons of understanding and inspiration to help keep God's people motivated to the high calling we have in Christ Jesus.

But we have also seen how God designed the festival seasons as times of family togetherness — of fun and relaxation. That's the way they should be kept today.

God showed that His feasts would be kept in the place where He would place His name (Deuteronomy 14:23-24). Today God has led His Church to some of the most beautiful and educational resorts and convention centers in the world.

In such environments God's people can live apart from their everyday world and work. Thousands can assemble to hear inspiring sermons, and in periods of free time visit cultural and educational sites, enjoy fine food, relax

on beautiful beaches or hike through alpine meadows.

Satan the devil has attempted to counterfeit God's festivals by instituting a whole system of pagan celebrations and calling them Christian.

Yet at Satan's so-called holiday seasons more traffic deaths, murders, suicides, sicknesses and heartaches occur than at any other times of the year. There is more crime, drunkenness and going into debt, as well.

Yet if one today chooses not to observe these pagan holidays and to instead observe the Holy Days that God commands he is viewed as weird, odd and maybe a little bit crazy.

But once someone has stepped out in faith, set his mind to obey God and keep His feasts and saved a tithe of his income for these wonderful occasions, he will wonder how he ever made it without observing the Holy Days.

My children have been reared all their lives with a knowledge of God's festivals. Now that some are grown, many of their fondest memories are of keeping the Holy Days. We have saved for trips to England and Australia. By observing the Holy Days with God's people, we have traveled as a family throughout most of the United States and Canada.

And through it all, we have never been in debt purchasing excess gifts we couldn't afford.

We have grown each year in spiritual understanding and have profited from the education of travel.

No one can ever tell me keeping God's feasts is a yoke of bondage and a burden.

Many of our new readers may not have known much about these Holy Days before reading this issue of *The Good News*. But we have tried to show the plan and purpose of God as revealed in the Holy Days.

Keeping the Holy Days is one of life's greatest joys. If you would like to know more about the festivals and what they mean, write for our free booklet *Pagan Holidays — or God's Holy Days — Which?* □

THE ABUNDANT END-TIME HARVEST

Jesus Christ foretold the global impact of His end-time work when He said that His servants would do even greater works than He. This article shows the worldwide scope of God's work today.

By Richard Rice

Picture a long line of farm trucks filled to capacity with the abundant produce of the wheat fields.

As each truck pulls up to a giant grain elevator, workers rush to unload the freshly reaped wheat. By the day's end, countless tons of grain will be safely stored away.

If you have ever observed a scene like this, then you will better understand why Jesus Christ described the ultimate goal of the work of God as a great and abundant harvest (Matthew 9:37).

As this present evil age draws to a close and the Kingdom of God — pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles — is about to dawn, the harvest is greater than ever.

The Gospel is going out

For more than 50 years now, Christ has been sowing the seeds of God's Word through His apos-

tle, Herbert W. Armstrong. Through the *World Tomorrow* program, the *Plain Truth* and *Good News* magazines, booklets and other modern media, the Gospel of the soon-coming Kingdom of God has been going out powerfully as a message of light to a darkened world.

And just as wheat grows when given water, nutrients and sunshine, so the seeds of the King-

dom, through God's power, have been growing and ripening for more than half a century. Now the harvest is indeed bountiful and overflowing.

And little wonder, for God declares: "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11).

Our part in the harvest

From the beginning of Christ's ministry with just 12 disciples to the thousands of laborers and co-workers today, God's work has spread worldwide. The Gospel is going into virtually every nation. But God's work will grow even larger until God's truth covers the earth as the waters cover the sea (Isaiah 11:9).

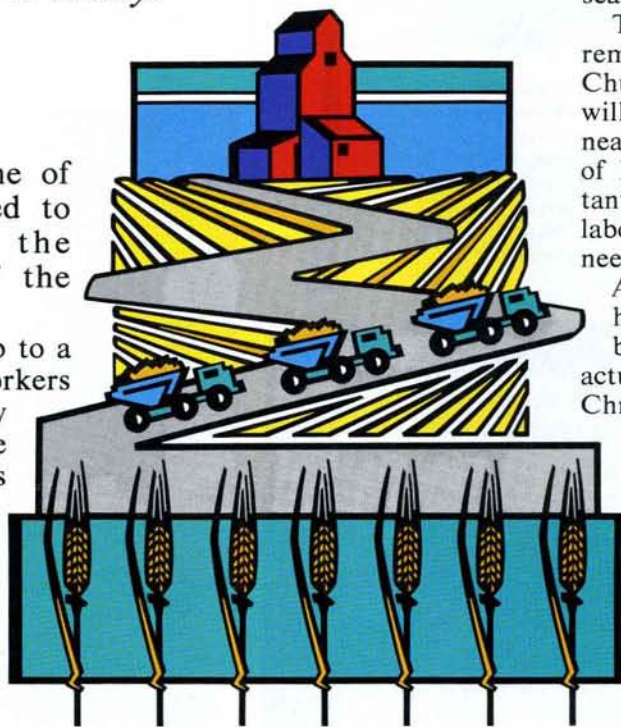
This means that much work remains to be done. Even the Church's current massive efforts will no doubt be dwarfed in the near future. God has called each of His people to play an important role. Our prayers for more laborers, tithes and offerings are needed as never before.

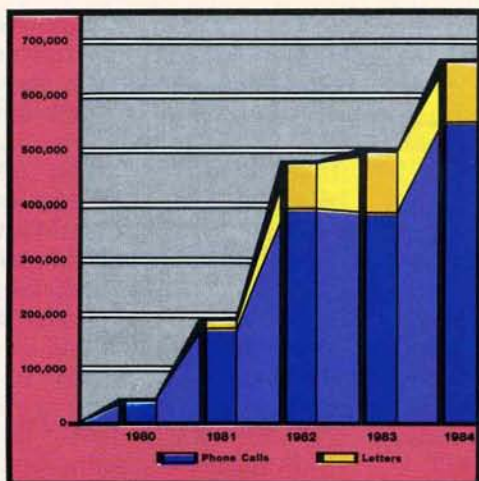
As we faithfully and wholeheartedly do our part, God will bless our efforts and we can actually help hasten the day of Christ's coming (II Peter 3:12).

Let's rejoice that the glorious Kingdom of God and the world tomorrow, as pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles, are just around the corner!

Those who work at the Worldwide Church of God's headquarters in Pasadena, Calif., and in international offices around the world have the privilege of seeing, firsthand, the tremendous harvest being reaped daily and weekly. Each week, thousands of letters and telephone calls pour into our offices from people responding to the Gospel message.

We would like to share with you the wonderful harvest of God's work over the past five years, as shown on the next two pages.





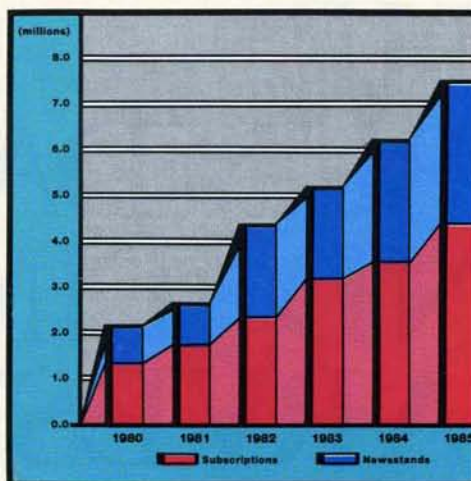
U.S. Television Responses, 1980-1984
(Phone calls and letters)

Never has the true Gospel been televised so widely as in the last five years. Television stations airing *The World Tomorrow* increased from 69 in 1980 to more than 400 today, reaching millions worldwide.

In the United States, television responses have increased from 36,000 in 1980 to nearly 700,000 in 1984. More than 800,000 responses are expected in 1985.

This year, approximately 15,000 people call each week in response to *The World Tomorrow* programs. Another 2,500 write in.

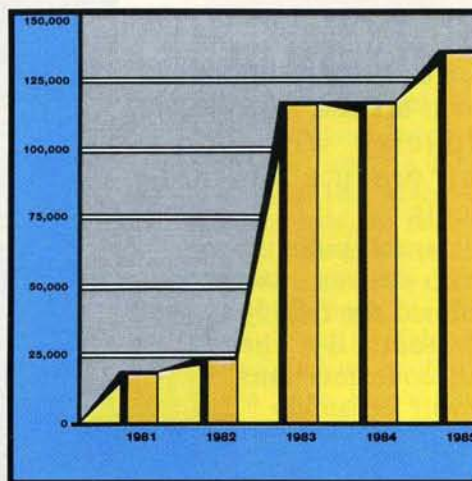
God's work in the United States now has 220 WATS (Wide Area Telephone Service) toll-free lines. Our offices in Canada, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, West Germany and South Africa are also beginning to use the phone for incoming requests.



Worldwide Plain Truth Circulation, 1980-1985
(January figures)

Almost eight million copies of *The Plain Truth* are distributed worldwide each issue.

An average of 50,000 people become new subscribers each week — about two-thirds in the U.S. and the rest in other nations. Some international offices have doubled their subscription lists in just one year.



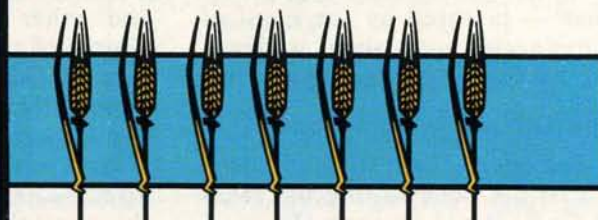
Worldwide Youth Magazine Circulation, 1981-1985
(January figures)

Editor-in-Chief Herbert W. Armstrong's keen interest in serving and educating young people led to the inception of the *Youth* magazine in 1981. Beginning with a circulation of 18,000, the *Youth* magazine now has almost 220,000 subscribers.

Mr. Armstrong's Books/Booklets Sent Worldwide

More than 40 million copies of the books and booklets written by Herbert W. Armstrong have been distributed around the world. Each of the following 10 publications has been requested by more than one million people. These are only a few Mr. Armstrong has written.

Title	No. of Copies
The United States and Britain in Prophecy	4.8 million
The Seven Laws of Success	2.7 million
Why Were You Born?	2.5 million
The Wonderful World Tomorrow — What It Will Be Like	2.2 million
The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last!	2.1 million
Does God Exist?	1.9 million
The Plain Truth About Christmas	1.9 million
Never Before Understood — Why Humanity Cannot Solve Its Evils	1.3 million
What Is Faith?	1.2 million
The Missing Dimension in Sex	1.0 million

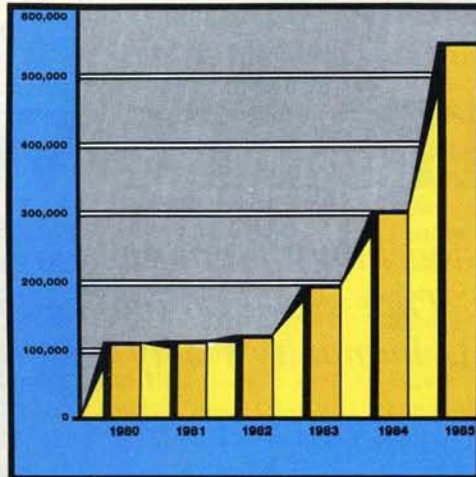


1984 All-Time Records

Several all-time worldwide records were set in 1984 for this era of God's work:

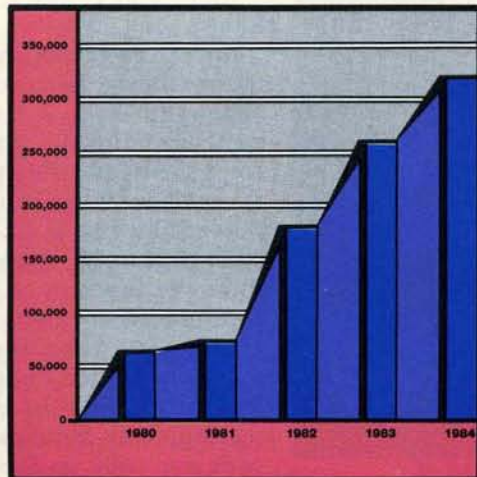
- *Plain Truth* circulation reached 7.5 million.
- *Good News* circulation passed 500,000.
- 6.1 million booklets, books and reprint articles were requested.
- 2.7 million new names were added to our files.
- Correspondence Course enrollments reached 322,000 for the year. (More than two million students have enrolled in the course since its beginning.)
- TV stations increased to 264 in the U.S., and 414 worldwide.
- 7.7 million letters and cards were received.
- The number of calls in response to the *World Tomorrow* television program was 553,000. Total calls, including those in response to radio and other media, were 791,000.
- Festival attendance around the world reached 126,000 for the first time in this era.

Many of these records have been broken in 1985.



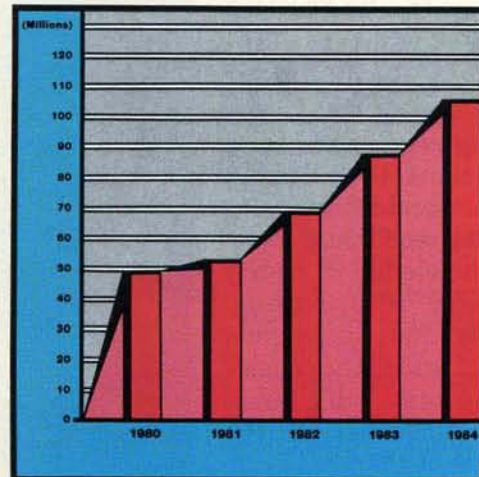
Worldwide Good News Circulation, 1980-1985
(January figures)

The *Good News* magazine has enjoyed sky-rocketing growth. In 1980, slightly more than 100,000 people subscribed to *The Good News*. Now, more than 700,000 copies are published each month in five languages — English, Spanish, Dutch, French and German.



Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course New Student Enrollments Worldwide, 1980-1984

The number of students enrolling in the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course worldwide increased from 63,000 to 322,000 in five years. Students are now being added in record numbers, with an average of more than 1,000 new enrollments worldwide each working day.



Total Publications Mailed Worldwide, 1980-1984
(Including magazines, booklets, letters, etc.)

Since 1980, the Church has sent out more than 361 million pieces of mail (magazines, books, booklets, reprints, lessons, letters, etc.) worldwide.

If this mail were loaded onto a train, it would fill 620 large railroad boxcars stretching more than six miles. If placed in a single stack, it would tower 450 miles high!

Picture the world-famous Rose Bowl stadium in the city of Pasadena, Calif., which seats just more than 100,000 people. We now send out enough mail each day to give three pieces to each person in a Rose Bowl filled to capacity.

Education for the World Tomorrow

God's Church pioneers in living and teaching the unique way that will soon bring peace to the world. That system of education, which extends to every facet of life, is humanity's only hope!

By Dan C. Taylor and John A. Halford

The world that you live in is breaking down — what is happening in it no longer makes any sense!

Wherever you look there seems to be progress — wonderful inventions and technical marvels. Knowledge in nearly every field is increasing. It seems that, if he puts his mind to it, there isn't anything man can't do.

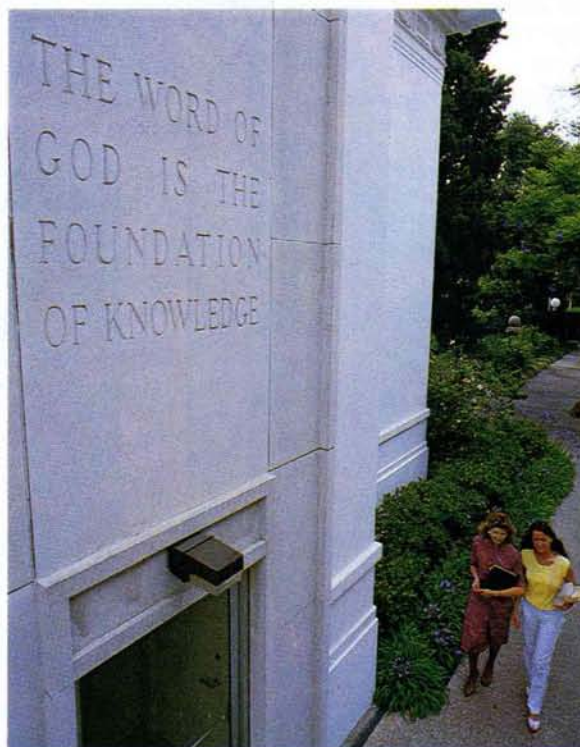
Until you look at the other side of the coin!

Never before have we faced so many problems — divorce, depression, suicide, broken families, frustrated young people — and, on the world scene, conflicts, coups, assassinations and the continual threat of global annihilation through nuclear war.

Man, it seems, can't get anything right. Is there any way out?

The missing dimension in education

For 6,000 years, humans have



wrestled with the problem of surviving on this planet. They have tried every type of society, every form of government, every system of law (except one!). Man has done whatever seemed right to him. But, as the book of Proverbs points out, that way ends in death (Proverbs 14:12).

Humanity urgently needs to

learn a way that will lead to life, not death. But what is that way, and who can teach it?

Scientists, theologians and philosophers grope to discover a purpose and meaning for life. They can't teach what they don't know.

In the Western world, it has begun to be recognized that there is a missing dimension in the approach to education. People are taught how to make a living, but not how to live.

The result? People can solve the problem of how to produce vast amounts of energy by fusing hydrogen atoms together, but can't solve the difficulties that are tearing their families apart.

Men can walk on the moon, but can't live happily on earth.

A group of 27 educators in the United States issued a report that zeroed in on this missing element in education today. The authors warned that educators have "bypassed the critical issue of . . . character."

Character — the part of a person's makeup that guides him or

her in making right decisions — is not part of education today. Yet without this vital missing element, any education is dangerously incomplete.

What the world needs now to solve its problems is not bigger and better inventions, scientific advances or medical breakthroughs. It needs men and women in all walks of life with right character — who have been taught to know right from wrong, and who choose to do what is right.

But this world can't teach that — it doesn't know that way!

Jesus Christ *does* know, and He is soon going to return to this earth and begin to rebuild society from the ground up. He will go even deeper than that — He will give it a new foundation. That is the Gospel — good news — the Bible and this magazine proclaim (Mark 1:14-15).

A wrong foundation

No matter how beautiful or well built a building appears, it is never going to be right if it is built on shaky foundations. Society began to be built on a wrong foundation when Adam and Eve chose to decide for themselves what is right and wrong rather than rely on God to teach them.

Without God's direction, humans cannot know right from wrong or good from evil. The world has gone wrong ever since the first humans made their wrong choice.

Certainly, some good things have been invented, some good music composed, some good books written. In every age there have been some basically kind, generous, well-intentioned people who have sincerely tried to do what they thought was good.

But without guidance from God, under the influence of Satan the devil, this world is overwhelmingly evil!

Jesus Christ was a builder and carpenter. A builder knows that when a structure is unsound in its foundation, it has to be torn down and started again.

Contrary to what most people have been taught, Jesus Christ is

not trying to save *this* world, nor is He trying to make it better. But when it collapses under its weight of sin, misery and ignorance, He is ready to start an entirely *new* world built on a sound foundation — the Word of God — the foundation of all true knowledge.

There is more to that Word of God than you might think.

More than just religion

Although the Bible is one of the best-selling books of all time, most people — even religious people — are surprisingly ignorant of its contents. Oh, they know that the Ten Commandments are in there somewhere, along with stories about Jesus, David and Goliath, Daniel and the lion's den and the journeys of the apostle Paul.

They may have been taught that the Bible teaches Jesus was crucified on Good Friday, rose on Easter Sunday and is now trying to save you, so that if you "accept" Him and get "born again," you will go to heaven instead of hell when you die.

They are absolutely astonished when they learn that the Bible actually teaches nothing of the kind.

What the Bible does teach is a way of life — an integrated pattern of laws, principles and examples that, if practiced and obeyed, would solve every problem the human race faces today.

God has given us more than just a religious book. In the world tomorrow, when the Word of God becomes the foundation on which all knowledge is built, Jesus Christ will use that Word to reeducate all nations and peoples in the way of life that works (Isaiah 2:2-4).

When God brought the children of Israel out of captivity in Egypt, He realized that they had lost the knowledge of His way. They needed more than just a new religion.

He had to teach them what they could eat and what was unfit for human consumption. He had to instruct them in basic rules of hygiene. They didn't even know

what day of the week it was. So, as God prepared them for life in the promised land, He gave them, through Moses, a thorough set of rules. These practical regulations covered all aspects of daily living, based on the overall principle of loving one's neighbor as oneself.

A building code prevented unsafe, slipshod construction. Laws on the sale and inheritance of land safeguarded property. Economic laws guaranteed a measure of prosperity for all willing to work. Even the indolent and incompetent were treated in such a way that their families wouldn't suffer. Widows and orphans were given special consideration. No one was forced to be destitute.

Other laws governed the use of agricultural land and the care of fruit trees. Even nesting birds were protected.

It was a beautiful system and, if followed, would have produced an ideal society. But ancient Israel chose not to obey, and they paid the penalty.

But would it work today?

Today those rules are considered, at best, a historical curiosity. They are interesting, but surely not practical for the modern world, are they?

Nothing could be further from the truth. It is this world, following a way of life that definitely doesn't work, that is impractical.

In the world tomorrow, when every nation has a clean start, these "ancient laws" will be seen in a startling new light. They will be regarded as an exciting, practical, "state-of-the-art" way to do things.

Man is quite capable of solving technical problems, but even these solutions must be based on the foundation of God's law. Thus even an architect or engineer should be thoroughly grounded in the Word of God, reminded of how God's laws apply to his or her profession, before even picking up a pencil or wrench.

If there is an automobile industry in the world tomorrow, it will be governed by the laws of God. The product will be safe and of quality construction. The buyer

will be prepared to pay a fair price, so that the manufacturer will have a fair profit and still be able to pay a fair wage to employees. Those employees will give a fair day's work and will take pride in their craftsmanship, so that the buyer will feel he has value for his money.

That, to put it mildly, is not the way cars are built today. They can't be, in a world built on a foundation of competition and greed.

We shouldn't just pick on the automobile industry. The same is true for the retail trade, entertainment and media, the law, farming, transportation and sports — every facet of life.

When the Kingdom of God is established, every area of society will be regulated by men and women who have been thoroughly educated with right knowledge.

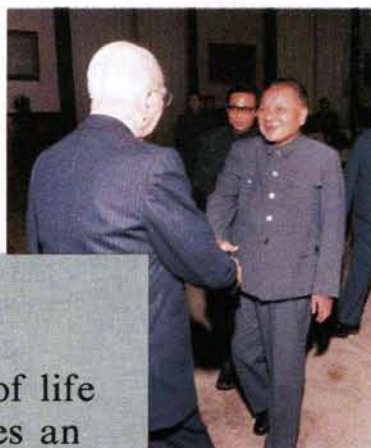
Starting out right

Such education will begin in the home. That is where children should begin to learn true values. Today, many parents have ignored the teaching of character and values, or left such teaching to the schools. Teachers, however, should not be expected to teach undisciplined, resentful, turned-off children who have no desire to learn.

God lays the responsibility firmly on the parents to lay a foundation of right character: "And these words [God's commandments, statutes and judgments, written in the Bible] which I command you today shall be in your heart; you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up" (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

Once the parent-child relationship has been restored, the school can concentrate on fulfilling its

proper function. Working in close cooperation with parents (something most teachers crave today), the school can impart further knowledge. All education, up to the very highest level, will be based on the foundation of God's



God's way of life encompasses an integrated pattern of laws and principles that, when practiced and obeyed, will solve every problem the human race faces today.

law. With one worldwide standard of right and wrong, the nations of the world will have a basis for cooperation. Without conflicting ideologies and prejudice, problems that arise between people can be resolved peacefully.

Will it work? Can Christ really build a new world on laws and statutes revealed thousands of years ago? It's a nice dream, but is there any practical evidence that it can be done?

Engraved in the wall over the southwest entrance of Ambassador Hall, on the Pasadena, Calif.,

campus of Ambassador College, are the words "The Word of God Is the Foundation of Knowledge." Since it was opened in 1947, the college has endeavored to live up to that.

The name *Ambassador College* was chosen after careful consideration. "As most colleges today claim to train students for their part in the world . . . to become a part of the world, AMBASSADOR COLLEGE has a diametrically opposite purpose," writes Chancellor Herbert W. Armstrong. "It is to teach students to come out of this world and be separate . . . to live by

every word of God, instead of the ways and customs of the world . . . and yet, while not being of this world, but rather strangers and foreigners in it, we shall train them to be AMBASSADORS for Christ. We hope, therefore, to train every

student to be an AMBASSADOR for Christ and His coming Kingdom, which we represent."

Ambassador was founded as a liberal-arts college rather than a Bible school or religious seminary, because Mr. Armstrong had learned that all education, not just "religious" education, must be founded on the Word of God.

That way of doing things is carried through every aspect of the work of God today, as God's Church strives to fulfill its God-given commissions.

Two millennia ago, Jesus Christ gave His disciples the commission to "preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

The Worldwide Church of God takes this commission seriously. For more than half a century, the *Plain Truth* magazine has kept readers abreast of world news in light of Bible prophecy. Yet there is no subscription price. The same

is true for *The Good News* as well as all other literature published by the Worldwide Church of God.

Since 1934, this work has distributed more than 658 million *Plain Truths*, more than 29 million *Good News* magazines and more than 57 million books and booklets, all free of charge.

Why?

When Mr. Armstrong first conceived of the idea, in 1927, of publishing a magazine called *The Plain Truth*, he believed it had to be different. It would have no outside advertising and no price. Mr. Armstrong learned that God's Word says that we should "buy the truth, and do not sell it" (Proverbs 23:23), and that Jesus Christ had taught, concerning that truth, "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8). Mr. Armstrong took God at His word and found it worked.

Building bridges

In addition to being involved in giving the world the good news of God's coming Kingdom, Mr. Armstrong has been privileged to help build bridges of friendship and understanding between many people in all parts of the world.

As an "ambassador without portfolio" for world peace, he has had personal meetings with dozens of heads of state and hundreds of leaders in government, commerce and education around the world. Mr. Armstrong discusses with these leaders the causes and ultimate solutions of the problems they face.

Mr. Armstrong, when talking to leaders and educators, invariably reminds them that peace and prosperity will not come through human efforts. God must intervene, take charge and enforce His perfect laws before this world can be made really fit to live in. But if

only one aspect of a nation's way of life can be genuinely improved, it is a small but effective demonstration of the right way to solve problems.

Years ago, the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador



diences with charm and talent. As a finale to each performance, the Little Ambassadors were joined on stage by American children, to sing together a specially composed song, "Children Were Made for Love." There were few dry eyes in any house. It was unforgettable — a glimpse into the world tomorrow, when all people will live in friendship and mutual understanding.

After the performance in Washington, Mr. Armstrong commented on the spontaneous affection that had sprung up between the children of two very different cultures: "You see,

hatred, jealousy and prejudice have to be taught," he remarked. "Those children haven't learned it yet."

Education based on the Word of God shows the way

out of the world's problems. This system of education will be the foundation of the wonderful world tomorrow. It is this system that the Worldwide Church of God pioneers in all its work today!

Every little bit counts

We have all been victims of this world's wrong education. It has left us woefully ignorant of the right way, whether in sports, art, music, romance, food, agriculture — every aspect of life.

When the Kingdom of God is established on the earth, all people will have the opportunity for total reeducation. Jesus Christ will undo the effect of 6,000 years of living the wrong way. A new world will be built on a right foundation.

Great nations will forget the past and join together in cooperation. The strong will help the weak. Art, music, industry, sports, education, entertainment — all will be carried out in harmony with the laws of God.

Only then will we have peace! □



God's Church pioneers
God's right knowledge
in all its work —
in talks with world
leaders, in publishing
and broadcasting, in
service projects
worldwide and at
Ambassador College.

College began to participate in carefully selected educational and humanitarian projects around the world.

For example, last year God's work sponsored a tour of children from the People's Republic of China to perform in North America. These young dancers and musicians were the first children from China to perform in the United States. In Pasadena and San Francisco, Calif., Washington, D.C., and Seattle, Wash., these "Little Ambassadors of Shanghai" captured their au-

Photos: Warren Watson, Greg Achtemichuk, Hal Finch, Nathan Faulkner

The World Tomorrow Is for Young People

*You have the opportunity to help
usher in a whole new age!*

By Frank W. Nelte

The Feast of Tabernacles pictures the soon-coming 1,000 years of peaceful rule over this earth by Jesus Christ. It will be the time we often refer to as “the wonderful world tomorrow.”

Christ will return to take up His position as supreme King over the whole earth. Those “dead in Christ” will be resurrected to spirit life. And the true Christians who are still alive at that time will be changed into spirit beings to live and reign with Christ.

Yes, Christians have a fantastic future to look forward to!

But wait a minute.

What about their children? And what about teenagers who are associated with God’s Church? Since they are not converted and baptized, they are not going to be changed into spirit beings, right?

Right.

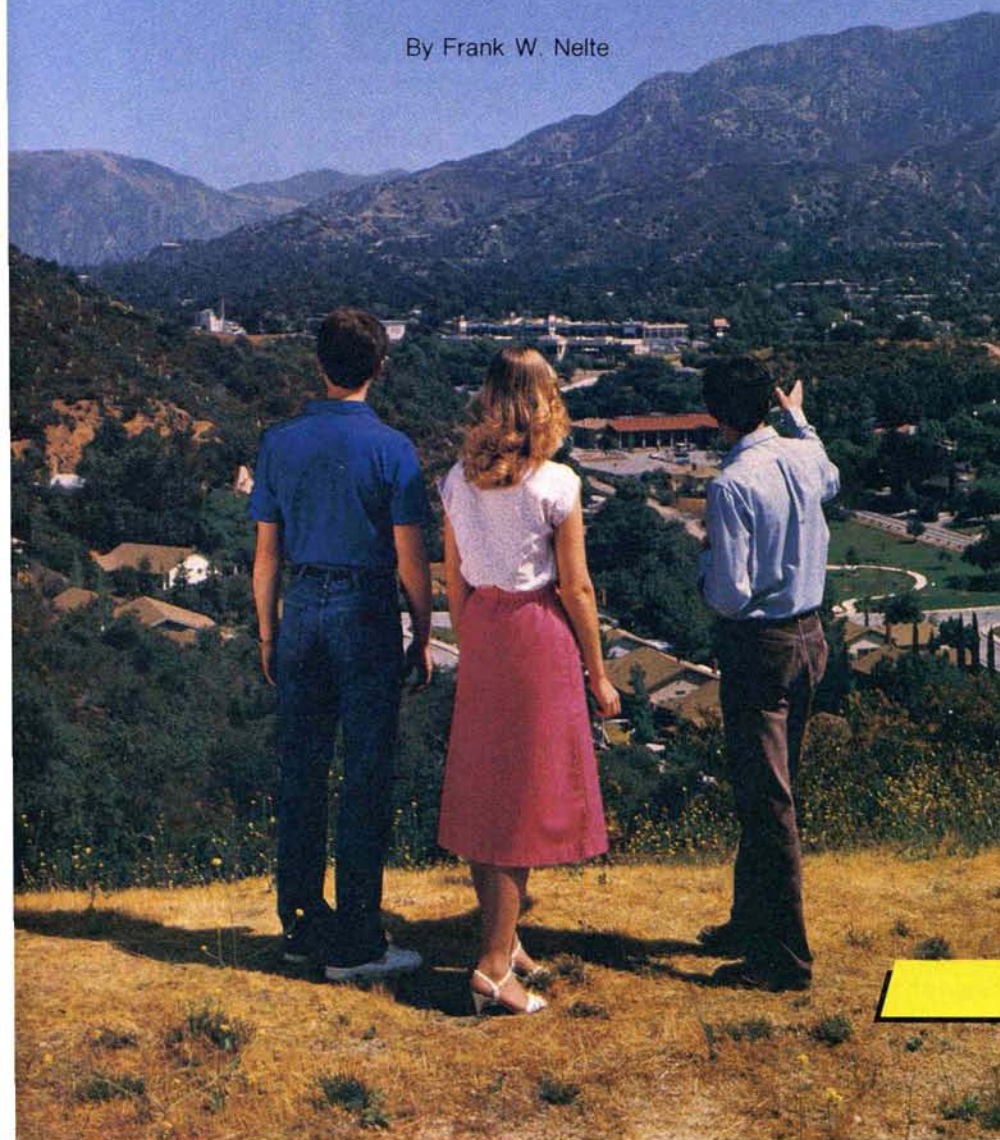
These young people may be the children of Church members. Or they may have started studying God’s truth by themselves — perhaps their families are even hostile to God’s Church. Many of you reading this article right now may be in just such a situation.

Does God care about young people? And if so, just what does He have in store for them? You need to know!

The coming world tomorrow

When Jesus Christ returns, true Christians will be changed into spirit beings to reign with Christ as kings and priests (Revelation 5:10). So what does that make their children? Well, the children of kings are known as *princes* and *princesses*!

So likewise, the children of true Christians can look forward to being looked up to and honored on the human level by other humans. The same would apply to young people who are seeking to learn God’s will, but whose par-



ents will not necessarily be in the first resurrection.

And what a wonderful society it will be under Christ's rule: no sickness, no crime, no pollution, abundant crops, perfect weather patterns, no wars, no armies, no hostile animals, happy families.

But if you are a member of God's Church today, have you stopped to realize that that wonderful world tomorrow, that perfect society, is not for you?

That's right — the world tomorrow is not really for members of God's Church. It really is for our children.

The members of God's Church will then be spirit beings. We'll be part of God's Family, assisting Jesus Christ in governing and teaching that perfect world. We will see to it that Christ's instructions are carried out to the last detail. But we will not be the ones to do the physical building of that society, nor will we be the ones to benefit most from the ideal physical environment.

The actual restoring of the old wastes, the planting and reaping of bumper crops and the building of beautiful homes and cities will be carried out by humans. And the teenagers from God's Church are destined to be among the leaders and beneficiaries of that society.

In Zechariah 8:23 God talks about that time: "In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.'"

When other people at the beginning of the Millennium find out that a teenager's father or mother is now a member of the God Family — when they discover that the teenager attended God's Church or studied the Church's teachings in this age — then they will look up to that teenager to show them the way.

Those teenagers who strive now to learn God's way are then going to be in high demand!

The surface of this earth will be dramatically changed. Moun-

tains will be brought low. Land will appear in many areas now covered by oceans. Deserts and polar ice caps will become fertile and habitable. The surface of this planet will receive an incredible face-lifting.

And then God will need thousands to be pioneers! Have you ever envied the pioneers of yesteryear — like Christopher Columbus, Marco Polo, Vasco da Gama, Captain James Cook and David Livingstone, to name just a few? Well, the achievements of the pioneers of tomorrow, who are being trained today, will pale into insignificance anything accomplished in past ages.

Farmland will have to be opened in new areas where no human has set foot. With Christ's guidance, cities are going to be built that would boggle the minds of today's architects and town planners. Industries and commerce need to be developed in ways that are foreign to today's economists.

Some will have to set the example in establishing happy family units that practice God's way of life. Some will have to set the example by living in accordance with all of God's health laws. With guidance from God, thousands of inventions are just waiting to be "discovered." Recreational activities will not be based on competition, vanity and laziness as they are today.

Trendsetters will be needed!

A unique opportunity

Adam rejected God's ways. Since then humanity has been cut off from God. Today's teenagers are the first generation in the history of this world with the opportunity to build a perfect society. No generation since Adam has had that chance.

That's a big responsibility. God is very selective in the foundation He builds. The teenagers associated with God's Church today are being offered a part in that foundation. God is not going to make any mistakes. So teenagers in God's Church are being tested

as to whether God will be able to use them.

Let's face it: Today, young people who try to live God's way face many tests. Peer pressure to conform to the world's standards seems at times impossible to overcome, especially in such matters as dress, personal appearance, drinking, smoking, drugs and sex.

Often the teenager may be the only one in the whole school who knows about God's truth. To reject the ways the other kids do things means to be rejected by them, and none of us want to be rejected or ostracized.

Yes, it's often tough. But it boils down to this: Either they seek the approval of other kids by being just like they are, and face a future without hope — or young people seek God's approval and possibly face a certain amount of persecution, but they then look forward to pioneering God's way of life in the incredible future.

When Daniel was taken to Babylon, he was only a teenager. When pressured to compromise his observance of God's standards, he and three other young princes resisted. God blessed these four teenagers and they became leaders in the empire of Babylon. You can read the whole account in chapters 1 and 2 of the book of Daniel.

Solomon wrote, "Even a child is known by his deeds, by whether what he does is pure and right" (Proverbs 20:11). Solomon further wrote that there is a purpose for everything, including trials (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

In past ages God sometimes protected whole families because of the obedience of one member of that family. For example, Noah's wife, his three sons and their wives were all spared from the Flood because of Noah's obedience. But it won't work like that in the time just ahead.

Of that time God says, " 'Though Noah, Daniel and Job [three men known for their right living] were in it [this end-time society], as I live,' says the Lord

Photo by Hal Finch

God, 'they would deliver neither son nor daughter; they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness' " (Ezekiel 14:20).

So young people are not going to have opportunities for leadership positions in the world tomorrow simply because of how their parents have lived.

When a teenager's parents come into God's Church, the teenager already is familiar with many of this world's ways and attitudes. Through his parents he now receives access to positive teaching from God. He also has access to a certain amount of shielding from Satan's influence. This is what the Bible refers to as being "sanctified" or "holy" (I Corinthians 7:14).

The decisions at first are strictly the parents' — it wasn't the teenager's idea to come into the Church. But somewhere along the line, as the teenager gets older, the decisions must become his or her own. He or she must show God a real desire for God's way of life. And each time he or she makes a right decision, the young person draws a little closer to God.

For the teenager who starts to study God's truth on his own incentive, without parental involvement, the whole process may even proceed at a faster pace.

The need to qualify

God is soon now going to establish a whole new society, and He will use thousands of young people to pioneer in every area of life.

So God is looking for teenagers who, like Daniel, don't bow to peer pressure. He needs those who can swim against the stream. He wants those who are prepared to live by His laws and who don't apologize for their high moral standards. And He wants teenagers who look upon hard work as a challenge.

Teenagers, you are standing at the brink of a new age! God plans to use you to pioneer a perfect society. What a mind-boggling challenge! That is God's goal for you.

How will you respond? □

World Order

(Continued from page 7)

stands revealed that Hitler's 'New World Order' is only the devil's *counterfeit* of the thousand-year reign of Christ!"

Few today realize that the Gospel or good news of Jesus Christ was — and is — a message about government. Jesus' message was about a government that will soon rule this world for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:4-6)! His Gospel is the "political platform" for His coming Kingdom — a world-ruling, all-powerful government.

Throughout history, this world's political leaders, cut off from God, have not perceived the way that leads to peace (Isaiah 59:8). They have devised their own imperfect governments based on competition and strife, greed and vanity, exploitation and aggression. All have failed. All were fatally flawed. All were counterfeits of God's great plan for world government.

But God will not fail. The message of the annual Feast of Tabernacles is that a millennial utopia will be successfully established on earth — soon now! Jesus Christ will return to the earth and rule with righteousness as King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 19:11-16).

Be sure to read this entire issue of *The Good News* for more about this wonderful God-ordained autumn festival and its great meaning.

This magazine, along with *The Plain Truth*, is proclaiming to all nations the good news of soon-coming global peace, prosperity and happiness. The counterfeit utopias that mortals have sought to create through human power will all fail. Only when nations begin to seek God's ways and to obey His law will peace and a true utopia at last fill the earth.

For an advance look into this world's awesome future, send for our free book *The Wonderful World Tomorrow — What It Will Be Like*.

What a picture. And it is real! □

CENTURY 21

(Continued from page 5)

ern capital at Constantinople (today called Istanbul, Turkey), and the western capital at Rome.

But Daniel continued: "And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay."

There are three other specific prophecies — FUTURE NEWS REPORTS — one in the seventh chapter of Daniel, and one in the 13th and one in the 17th of Revelation, which also depict the future NEWS of this same succession of world empires. Putting all four prophecies together, it becomes plain that the toes of this image represent a last, final resurrection — or rebirth — of the Roman Empire in our time!

Soon-coming United States of Europe

There is not space for details in this article. But the two prophecies in the book of Revelation report clearly — *long in advance* — the fall of the original Roman Empire in A.D. 476, its restoration by Justinian in 554 and its history as "the Holy Roman Empire" up to the fall of Napoleon in 1814.

Then Revelation 17:8 shows the partial revival of this empire under Mussolini — after he took Ethiopia, adding it to Italian Somaliland, Eritrea, Libya and Italy — officially naming it "the Roman Empire."

These prophecies depict detailed ADVANCE NEWS of one more, last revival of this Empire, yet to occur, by a union of 10 nations in Europe.

This coming "United States of Europe" is the dream of many leaders — not only within Europe, but in Britain and America. The Common Market is its beginning.

Every indication is that in possibly this decade or the next, this ADVANCE NEWS will be *current* news. And it will completely

STUN THE WORLD! Yet *The Plain Truth* has reported this news in advance for the past 51 years!

More powerful than U.S. or U.S.S.R.

Once political-military union is achieved out of the Common Market in Europe — combining 10 nations — it will present before the world a THIRD POWER probably even stronger than either the United States or the Soviet Union.

Can you envision what that will mean in the world's balance of power?

But these nations will not cling long or loyally together. The 10 toes of Nebuchadnezzar's image pictured millennia in advance this United Europe. They will not cleave together for long, even as iron and miry clay will not.

Then what shall happen?

This prophecy — and others — give you the NEWS long in advance!

Then finally — WORLD government

Continue Daniel's explanation to King Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 2: "And in the days of those kings [these 10 soon to unite in Europe!] the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall its sovereignty be left to another people, and it shall stand forever. The great God has made known to the king what shall be hereafter. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure."

This is just one of several ADVANCE NEWS REPORTS that explicitly affirm there WILL BE a world government that shall bring this war-weary earth PEACE AT LAST. Not by the help of men, or of their human governments — but in spite of them! Other prophecies report, centuries and millennia in advance, almost every detail of today's rapidly worsening conditions.

Humanity WILL SURVIVE! There will be a happy WORLD TOMORROW. Mortal humans do have a stern lesson to learn first. Human bungling will bring accelerated world trouble before God-

ignoring humanity will be willing to learn. But WE SHALL LEARN!

Few realize that 90 percent of biblical prophecy pertains to OUR TIME, and the very few years immediately ahead. And approximately a third of the Bible is prophecy! It has been neglected utterly. It has been terribly misunderstood. It is tremendously important! Especially now!

Earlier in this article I said Jesus of Nazareth was the world's greatest NEWSCASTER. Many, deceiving and being deceived, have represented His teaching as a sentimental religious teaching having no relation whatever to this life, this world, its nations, its governments, its society. THAT CONCEPT IS FALSE!

Jesus' Gospel (and remember *gospel* means "good news") was actually His ADVANCE NEWS REPORT of the KINGDOM — the GOVERNMENT — of GOD, soon now to bring us world PEACE.

The KINGDOM of GOD is, simply, the world-ruling GOVERNMENT of God. It is absolutely *not* a sentimental, ethereal, imaginary something "set up in the hearts of men." It is REAL! It is SOON COMING!

And Jesus Christ was born to be the KING of that WORLD GOVERNMENT (Luke 1:30-33, John 18:36-37, Revelation 19:11-16, 11:15). As General Douglas MacArthur promised the Filipinos he would return, so Jesus promised His disciples He would return — and now, SOON, to RULE THE WHOLE EARTH!

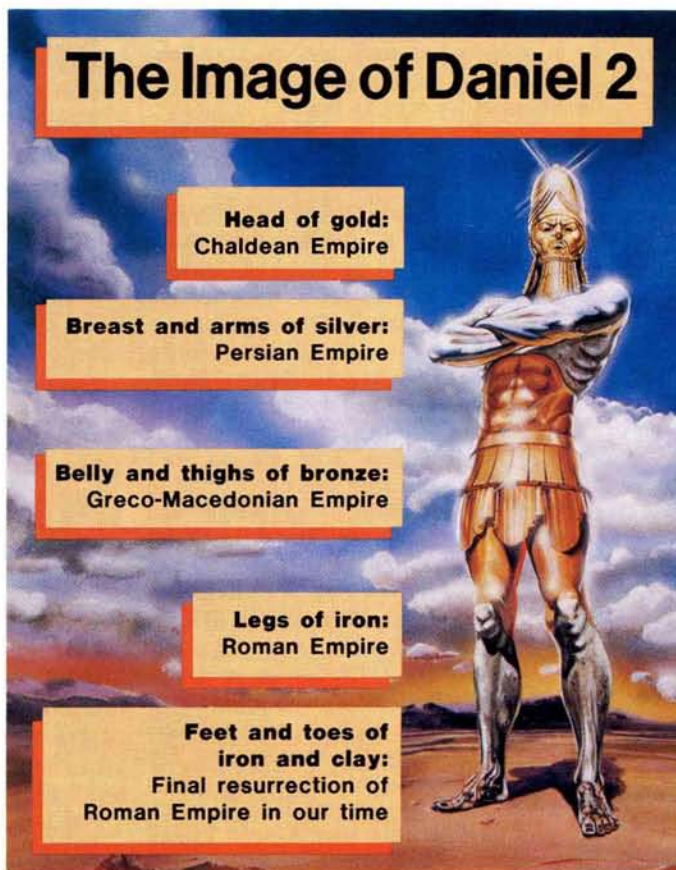
If the reader would like an exciting, graphic description of the coming WORLD TOMORROW — a world governed by the eternal Creator God, a world under perfect divine rule, organization and direction — you may have, free, a full-color book *The Won-*

derful World Tomorrow — What It Will Be Like.

It gives you many details. It gives you the system of organization — even THE NAMES of world-famous men who will occupy tremendous offices of power — the very names of men who will have executive rule over Britain, over the United States, over Russia, over Germany and others.

It will describe the new world's system of education. It will name highly experienced men who probably will head the world's new monetary system, the building of gigantic new public works, the new agrarian reform. It will show how strife between nations will be settled IN PEACE, with all nations happy and prosperous.

You've never read anything



like it. It is absolutely amazing — and it pictures humanity's one great and sure hope.

To request your free copy of *The Wonderful World Tomorrow — What It Will Be Like*, just mail the request envelope in this issue or write our address nearest you. □

LETTERS

Appreciate Mr. Armstrong's articles

We just received the June-July *Good News*, and I read "Why Trials and Troubles?" and also "Is God Fair?", which I enjoyed.

The human race are slow learners to have experienced almost 6,000 years of troubles and still not be willing to listen to God our Father. We pray "God's Kingdom come" very soon.

Mr. and Mrs. Emery French
Plant City, Fla.

Thanks to Herbert W. Armstrong for the nice article on co-workers, "Blood, Sweat and Tears" (May). It's nice to be thanked.

Florence Behnke
Schiller Park, Ill.

Enjoyed your article on "Blood, Sweat and Tears." It is truly a miracle and credit to the whole staff that you have been able to run an organization on tithes and offerings for over 51 years.

Daniel Cortes
Simi Valley, Calif.

All the credit goes to God. As Jesus Christ Himself said, "The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works" (John 14:10).

I was reading the article on "Blood, Sweat and Tears" and decided of my own free will to send this little offering. Your magazine has done a lot for me, so I decided to send what amount I could to help out the millions of people and myself who subscribe. Please accept this small amount. I am pleased to send it.

Reader
Washington, D.C.

"Do You Have Time . . . ?"

I think of all the articles I have ever read in *The Good News* or *The Plain Truth*, the one in the May issue of *The Good News* titled "Do You Have Time . . . ?", by Graemme J. Marshall, must have been the best! At least I think I needed it the most.

In the last part, the writer asked the question, "Have you observed that often what you postpone you abandon anyway?" Well, doesn't that say that if we postpone prayer and Bible study, we will abandon them altogether? The two most important things in our lives?

Thanks a lot for that article! It opened my eyes to help me make better use of

my time. (And this was one thing I was praying for. I needed help.)

Mrs. George W. Arledge
Landrum, S.C.

This is the first letter I have written to you. I started attending church services just after the 1981 Feast of Tabernacles. Right away I realized that this Church was different from any other I had so far attended. I was not a regular church attender until I started attending God's true Church. Since then I have attended every week possible.

During the first week following my first Sabbath services, I was tested on obeying the Sabbath. My then-boyfriend asked me not to attend Sabbath services the very next Sabbath and stay with him. I told him I could give him my time but not God's time. Because of this, he left.

I'm happy to say that I was baptized in August, 1982. It was by far the best thing I have ever done in my life. I have read *The Plain Truth* and *The Good News* since I started attending church.

In the May *Good News* two articles really impressed me. First, the article "What Was Jesus Like as a Human?" by Clayton D. Steep. It was fascinating to have a picture painted of the real Jesus instead of how the world pictures Him.

And also the article "Do You Have Time . . . ?" by Graemme J. Marshall. That was very timely for me. I am a housewife with two small children ages 2 and 2 months. I have found a lot of the advice really works for me. I'm happy to say that my time is used much more wisely now.

I thank God that He called me when He did. He gave purpose to my life. My prayers are with you and the work.

Member
New Mexico

Taking mothers for granted

I love reading *The Good News*. It's very enlightening and informative.

However, I was a little disturbed when I read "Sharing: It's Nice to Be Needed, But . . ." (May). I felt like your wife was taken for granted by the family. I feel that husbands and children should try to help out with the housecleaning and other domestic duties every now and then. Mothers need their families, too.

It's not easy being a housewife, and I feel a husband should do all he can to make his wife feel appreciated by pitching in every now and then. You all seemed totally helpless! Why?

I feel sons make caring husbands when

they learn how to cook and clean up after themselves. Your teenage daughters should have been able to run that household smoothly in Mom's absence. That's good practice for future homes.

It's much better when Mom's around, but not as a maid (at least maids get paid!). Why help only when Mom is sick or absent? Why not help Mom because she's loved?

Reader
Baltimore, Md.

Jesus as a human

I am very glad for the May *Good News*, particularly the articles on "What Was Jesus Like as a Human?" and "Did Jesus Have Long Hair?"

They opened up to me things that I didn't even know about Jesus. I have read right over them before and never even noticed them.

They have done a great deal in helping me understand the Bible more, because now I take my time and look for what each verse means and also what it means in conjunction with the verses before and after the verse I'm reading.

Richard L. Lamb
Akron, Ohio

"Why So Many Denominations?"

I have just finished the article "Why So Many Denominations?" (May) by Herman L. Hoeh. I really enjoyed and appreciated this article very much. I have also wondered all my life why there were so many denominations and so many different teachings. This article really opened my eyes to the truth about the different religions.

Mrs. Owen G. Lee
Lampe, Mo.

Astonished at the truth

Thank you for the *Plain Truth* and *Good News* magazines. I have never seen any magazines that are so informative and so true. God has truly blessed you. I cannot begin to tell you how much I enjoy these magazines and all your booklets. As I read an article, whenever I see an offer for a booklet, I quickly write the name of the booklet and send it in as soon as possible. I love them all.

I have learned so much that I am absolutely astonished at myself not knowing how much I can learn just by reading your material in the magazines and booklets. I am also enrolled in the Ambassador College Correspondence Course.

Luis Rivera
Philadelphia, Pa.

An Exciting Preview of God's Coming Kingdom!

Jesus Christ came to earth more than 1,900 years ago to announce the good news of the coming Kingdom of God. That Kingdom will rule over all nations, and the supreme ruler will be Christ Himself.

But Christ will not rule all by Himself, while spirit-born saints take an eternal vacation. The Bible shows they will rule with Him.

Spirit-begotten Christians are now preparing for exciting responsibilities in the coming government of God!

In this study we will discover what they will be doing in the world tomorrow. We'll learn how Christ and the saints will establish and maintain world peace after Christ's return. Then we'll see what utopian conditions will result from their righteous rule.

1. Where did Jesus Christ go after His resurrection? Acts 1:11, Revelation 12:5. Will He return to earth? John 14:3, Acts 1:11.

2. Until when will Christ remain in heaven? Acts 3:20-21. Will He come with power and great glory? Matthew 24:30, Revelation 19:11-16. How will Christ be forced to begin His rule on earth? Revelation 11:18, 17:12-14, 19:15.

The glorified Christ is coming to restore the rule of the government of God over all the earth. God's government ceased to be administered on earth when the archangel Lucifer (now Satan), whom God had made ruler over this planet, led a rebellion of one third of the angels. Satan attempted to dethrone and replace God as ruler of the entire universe (Isaiah 14:12-14)! The only place on earth where God's government is administered today is in God's one true Church.

However, when Christ returns, many rulers of nations will refuse to yield to Christ's authority and will actually try to fight Him. Christ will therefore be forced to subdue these nations with His great power.

3. Will Christ be the supreme ruler in the coming government of God on earth? Revelation 19:16. Where will He establish His throne? Jeremiah 3:17.

In the coming Kingdom of God, government will be from the top down, with Christ reigning

supreme. From His headquarters in Jerusalem, Christ's rule will spread over the entire earth.

4. Will the spirit-born members of God's Family — those Spirit-begotten Christians who faithfully obeyed God and proved their loyalty to Him during their mortal lives — assist Christ by reigning with Him in the world tomorrow? Revelation 2:26-27, 3:21, 5:10, 20:4. What did God inspire Daniel to prophesy? Daniel 7:13-14, 18, 22, 27. Will many be mayors over cities? Luke 19:16-19.

5. In addition to being rulers, will the children of God also be priests? Revelation 5:10, 20:6. What is the function of a priest? Malachi 2:7.

Just as ancient Israel's priests taught God's way, spirit-born members of God's Family will also teach God's way of life, helping to bring the knowledge of the way of salvation to everyone in the world tomorrow.

6. As the nations begin to see the positive results of the righteous and loving rule of God's government, will they seek Christ and ask for instruction in God's way of life? Micah 4:1-2. Will people learn the way to peaceful productivity? Verse 3.

In addition to being the supreme King over all nations, Christ will also be the supreme Educator. To bring mankind to repentance, Christ and His assistants will reeducate the world to God's way of life — the way of God's law of love — so people may, of their own free will, decide to follow His way.

Reeducating humanity to God's way of life will receive top priority. Under Jesus Christ, the Kingdom of God will restore the laws and rule of God to the entire earth.

7. How successful will the spirit-born saints be in teaching God's way to the world? Jeremiah 31:34, Isaiah 11:9. As a result, will the world tomorrow become like one great feast of rejoicing? Isaiah 25:6-7.

No religious confusion will exist during the Millennium because Satan will have been completely restrained at Christ's coming (Revelation 20:1-3). The devil will no longer be the "god of this age" (II Corinthians 4:4), who

deceives the world, influencing all humanity to sin (Ephesians 2:2, Revelation 12:9). Once the spiritual blindness that Satan has cast upon mankind is removed, humans will become teachable — their eyes will be opened to God's revealed truth.

As the world becomes reeducated, people will begin to experience the blessings that come from obeying God's law of love. There will be peace, cooperation, good health, prosperity and joy.

This peaceful, happy millennial world is pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles, observed every year by the Worldwide Church of God.

Let's take a brief look at the utopian conditions that will exist in the world tomorrow.

8. What will the cities of God's world be like? Amos 9:14, Zechariah 1:17, Isaiah 60:18. Will these cities of the world tomorrow be filled with happiness and joy? Jeremiah 33:10-11, Zechariah 8:4-5.

After Jesus Christ returns, today's cities, many of which will have been destroyed by nuclear warfare, will be rebuilt according to God's standards (Ezekiel 36:33-35, Isaiah 61:4). Gone will be the vast, pollution-laden, overpopulated metropolises filled with every kind of evil that we are so familiar with today. Tomorrow's cities will be peaceful and beautiful, promoting healthy, happy family life.

9. Will the old waste places be made fertile, and will beautiful forests spread in the Millennium? Isaiah 41:18-20, 35:1-2, 6-7.

Most of the earth's land surface will become productive during the coming millennial age. Beautiful forests, agricultural areas and fish-filled lakes and streams will be found all over the world, with no more polluted rivers or ravaged landscapes.

10. Confusion of languages is one of the major barriers to cooperation between peoples. Can you imagine what a world of one language would be like? Think what a huge step forward it would be if people everywhere could speak, read and write the same language. Will God indeed give the world one language so all can serve Him with one accord? Zephaniah 3:9.

In the world tomorrow, Christ will usher in an era of worldwide literacy and education through one pure language.

11. Will people own property in the Millennium and reap the just rewards of their own labor? Micah 4:4, Isaiah 62:8-9.

12. Upon what condition has God always promised to bless people materially? Malachi 3:10-12. Will God cause the laws of nature to function for the benefit of the obedient in the world tomorrow? Ezekiel 34:26. Will there be great rejoicing over the abundance of crops and

livestock God will bestow? Jeremiah 31:12. Will there actually be a superabundance of food? Amos 9:13.

As people learn to obey God, He will bless them for their obedience, causing ideal weather conditions. No longer will farmers worry about upset weather, droughts, floods, insect damage or agricultural diseases.

13. What about health in tomorrow's world? Will the blind, deaf, lame and dumb be miraculously healed? Isaiah 35:5-6. Will all types of sickness and disease be healed? Isaiah 33:24, 58:8, Jeremiah 30:17.

In the world tomorrow, the miraculous healing of all diseases and the teaching and practice of God's laws of health will result in vibrant health for everyone.


14. Will God cause the natures of wild animals and poisonous creatures to become peaceful and harmless in the Millennium? Isaiah 11:6-8.

15. In the Bible, God speaks of man's heart as symbolic of man's mind. What is man's mind like today, as influenced by the god of this world? Jeremiah 17:9. Is man's mind naturally submissive to God and His law? Romans 8:7.

16. What does God say He will add to the minds of people in the Millennium to change their basic attitude or nature? Ezekiel 36:26-27, Joel 2:28-29. What characteristics of God's nature will God's Spirit impart to people? Romans 5:5, Galatians 5:22-23.

God has promised to place His Spirit within repentant mankind during the Millennium. People will then express outgoing love and concern for fellowman, and will obey God. God's Holy Spirit is the key ingredient that will make the wonderful world tomorrow, God's Kingdom, the utopian paradise pictured by the joyous Feast of Tabernacles!

In this brief study we've seen only a glimpse of what the exciting world tomorrow will be like. To learn more, request your copy of our free book *The Wonderful World Tomorrow — What It Will Be Like*. □



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'The Last Day,

That GREAT Day'

That's what the Bible calls it. It represents one of the most important and exciting steps in God's plan for humanity. And yet, amazingly, most people have never heard of it!

By Clayton D. Steep

Uncle Earl? He was one of the most terrific people you would ever want to know. Always jovial and good natured, he would bend over backward to help anybody in need. He was a hard worker, a real asset to his community.

But Uncle Earl was not a Christian. He couldn't get interested in the idea that hundreds of disagreeing church denominations could represent God. So he died without ever "accepting Christ."

Think about it. Surely you know one or perhaps several individuals just like Uncle Earl. By normal standards, they are "good" people. Yet they make no claim to be Christians. After they die, exactly what happens to them for all eternity?

Will God toss them into an ever-burning hell and punish them forever merely because they were disenchanted by what the world calls Christianity?

And what about some who, before this day is over, will starve to death in Ethiopia? In all their lives many of them haven't even heard the name of Jesus Christ. Are they forever lost?

Remember, before you answer, that the Bible says there is no other door into the Kingdom of God except through Jesus (John 10:1-12). "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other

name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

God's plan thwarted?

Where does that put all the billions of humans who have lived and died through the ages without becoming Christians, most without ever so much as hearing the only name by which they must be saved? They constitute the majority of mankind.

Yet the Bible talks in terms of God saving — not losing — the majority of mankind: "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world [not just a little

fraction of it — the world as a whole — at least a majority] through Him might be saved" (John 3:17).

God is "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9).

Consider the ancient Israelites. If you've read the Bible to any extent, you are aware that God chose Israel to represent Him and to be an example of righteousness to all the other nations on earth. But the Israelites, with few exceptions, stubbornly rebelled against God, rejected His ways and through the centuries refused to surrender to Him.

But that's not the end of the story. Whereas many theologians would tell you all those Israelites are forever doomed, the apostle Paul wrote that eventually "all Israel shall be saved" (Romans 11:26).

Yes, *all* Israel — the overwhelming majority of Israelites — will be saved.

How about that? Can God accomplish His goal? Is He mighty enough to save the world?

Jesus said: "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many [the majority!] who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few [the minority!] who find it" (Matthew 7:13-14).

Why did Jesus say that? Is Satan so clever and powerful that he is able to thwart God's plan and cause the majority of man-

kind to be lost forever? These are questions most theologians prefer to avoid altogether. They have no adequate answers. "I think" or "This is the way I look at it" is not sufficient. Yet an explanation is definitely called for.

If people can be saved apart from accepting the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, of what value or necessity is His sacrifice? On the other hand, if it is essential to be a Christian to be saved, as the Bible says it is, most humans who ever lived are lost, and God's plan certainly falls far short of being a huge success.

Most now blinded

Traditional Christianity has assumed that God is frantically trying to save the world now. Nothing could be further from the truth, as surprising as that may seem!

Notice what Jesus declared when His disciples asked Him why He often spoke to the multitudes in parables: "To you [the small group of disciples] it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside [the great majority of people], all things come in parables" (Mark 4:11).

Why? To make Jesus' teachings easier for the multitudes to understand, so that they would be converted? No! For exactly the opposite reason: to make the truth difficult to understand and to keep the multitudes from being converted.

Jesus spoke in parables "so that 'Seeing they may see and not perceive, and hearing they may hear and not understand; lest they should turn [repent], and their sins be forgiven them'" (verse 12).

Did you ever wonder why Jesus, even though He was God in the flesh, was rejected by the masses and only had a little more than 100 followers at the end of His ministry? And this was in spite of the miracles and other evidences that He was the Messiah. The apostle John revealed why: "But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him . . . they

**When will God have
mercy on those
billions of people
blinded throughout
history? God's
Holy Days reveal
the answer.**

could not believe, because . . . He [God] has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart" (John 12:37-40).

God can use human nature or Satan himself to accomplish this blinding (II Corinthians 4:4), but it is God who is clearly in charge and responsible for allowing it to happen.

It all started with Adam and Eve. They chose the way of disobedience to God and His holy laws, rather than the way of obedience. Ever since then, for almost 6,000 years, mankind has been cut off from its Creator and blinded to the great spiritual truths. For more information, send for our free booklet *A World Held Captive*.

The only exceptions to this spiritual blindness have been the few persons God has called down through the centuries and whose eyes He has opened (John 6:44). These are the "few" who have followed the strait and narrow way that leads to eternal life.

The rest of humanity — the thousands of millions — have been allowed to do what seems right in their own eyes, to form their own governments, to wage and die in their own wars, to create conditions of misery, suffering and unhappiness — in short, to make a mess of everything until they know deeply and for sure that disobedience to God's laws never pays.

Then, just when humanity is on the very verge of destroying itself in one final war, God will

intervene directly in human affairs.

God is dealing with all humanity in the same way He dealt with the ancient Israelites who rebelled against Him, for "God has committed them all to disobedience." Why? Not that He might condemn them all, but "that He might have mercy on all" (Romans 11:32).

When? When is God going to have mercy on all those thousands of millions of blinded individuals? When is He going to have mercy on the wretched inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah? When is God going to have mercy on the deceived masses living at the time of the Babylonian Empire, the Roman Empire, the Middle Ages or even today?

When will God have mercy on all who have spent a brief lifetime on this earth doing what seemed right in their own eyes (Proverbs 14:12) — individuals small and great, mighty and weak, rich and poor, learned and illiterate, blinded to the truth of God?

Yes, when is God going to have mercy on Uncle Earl?

Revealed in the Holy Days

The answer is revealed in the Holy Days God gave to His Church. They are a reminder of the major steps in the plan He is working out here on earth.

You will find these Holy Days listed in time order in Leviticus 23, but they are mentioned many times throughout the Bible. The world, including traditional Christianity, does not observe God's Holy Days — His feasts — and for that reason does not understand how God is working out His plan.

We are now approaching the season of the last four feasts of this year, according to God's sacred calendar. They are: the Feast of Trumpets (Leviticus 23:23-25 — September 16 this year, by the Roman calendar), the Day of Atonement (verses 26-32, September 25), the Feast of Tabernacles (verses 33-38, September 30 through October 6) and one final feast called "the last day, that great day" in John 7:37

(Leviticus 23:36, October 7). What do these Feasts portray? The sequence of future events outlined in the prophecies of the Bible, especially in the book of Revelation, shows us. Our free booklet *Pagan Holidays — or God's Holy Days — Which?* offers a detailed study, but briefly, here is what they mean:

The Feast of Trumpets portrays God's direct intervention in world affairs. It will be announced by angels blowing trumpets (Revelation 8 and 9). When the last trumpet is sounded, Jesus Christ will return to earth and the relatively small number of saints from down through history will be resurrected (Revelation 11:15-18, I Thessalonians 4:16-17).

The Day of Atonement depicts the reconciling of humanity with God. Satan, the author of sin, will be bound in a "bottomless pit" for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1-3).

This 1,000 years, commonly known as the "Millennium," a time of happiness under the government of God, is portrayed by the seven-day Feast of Tabernacles (verse 6). All the people on earth during the 1,000 years will know God's truth. They will be taught it. They will live it. And world peace and prosperity will result.

Now, what about the final Feast, the one called "the last day, that great day," or simply the "Last Great Day"?

The second resurrection

God's plan does not end with the Millennium. Thank God for that!

If it did, the small number of people whom God converted during 6,000 years of human rule would indeed be in His Kingdom. And the huge harvest of persons who will be converted during Christ's millennial rule would be in God's Kingdom.

But the majority of humans who ever lived — the thousands of millions who, from the time of Adam, were blinded and had no chance for salvation — would be left out. They would remain in the cold silence of the grave. For

them, death would indeed be ultimately victorious.

But that's not the way God planned it, and that's not the way it will happen.

After the 1,000 years, "the rest of the dead" (verse 5) — the thousands of millions — will live again. They will be resurrected. "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all [note it — all!] shall be made alive" (I Corinthians 15:22).

What wonderful news this is! This remarkable event is described in Revelation 20:11-13.

John, in vision, saw God on His throne. "And," he wrote, "I saw the dead, small and great, standing [in a resurrection] before God, and books [Greek *biblia*, what we call the "Bible"] were opened [they were no longer sealed shut to the understanding of these multitudes]. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life [they all have an opportunity to receive eternal life]."

This second resurrection is not a "second chance" for these masses to have salvation. They didn't have a chance before. This is the first (and only) chance these people will have to understand God's way and to receive His Holy Spirit!

Continuing, "And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books."

They are "judged" — not "sentenced" — "judged." This "judging" covers a period of time

The second resurrection is the first (and only) chance the majority of humans will have to understand God's way.

during which these people have God's truth revealed to them.

Hebrews 9:27 clearly says, though few have noticed it, that "it is appointed for men [mankind in general] to die once, but after this [after they have died and are brought back to life in a resurrection] the judgment." Isaiah 65:20-25 indicates that everyone, from babies to the elderly, who is resurrected to this period of judgment will be given 100 years to learn to live by God's laws.

If you have not yet read our reprint article "Is This the Only Day of Salvation?" be sure to request a free copy.

An exciting time

What a tremendous event this climax to God's plan for humans will be!

Masses of people will be brought back to life. It will seem to them but a moment ago that they died, though thousands of years may have passed. Some died in wars, some died from illness, some were murdered, some committed suicide, some died in accidents or in concentration camps.

Suddenly there they all will be, alive again, standing before members of the God Family, an enormous variety of cultures, languages and backgrounds.

Those who were blind or crippled all their lives will see and walk for the first time. Those who died in bondage will now be free. How surprised they are going to be when they realize what has happened. All these masses are going to have to be organized and taught God's ways. This will be a joy-filled, action-packed time.

After this judgment is over, a few, the minority, who throughout history will have seen and known the truth, and who will have purposely rejected it, will be destroyed in the "lake of fire" (Matthew 25:41). But the majority of persons will join those already in God's Kingdom.

They will share whatever magnificent plans God has in mind for the rest of eternity — thanks to God's mercy shed upon them in "the last day, that *great* day"! □

Getting There

“Are we almost there yet?”

Oh, no, I think to myself. We just left home for the yearly Feast of Tabernacles an hour and a half ago, and Amber, my 9-year-old daughter, is already asking if we’re almost there.

“No, dear,” I reply. “And you other two girls sit still in the backseat and relax. Mom and I want to get there quickly, too. But it takes time, so be patient.”

“Now, dear,” my wife Arlene pipes in, “don’t be too hard on the girls. They are just excited because it’s Feast of Tabernacles time.”

“I know, dear,” I reply.

And then I begin to think to myself that I really should be more patient. I can’t blame the kids. After all, the Feast is such a wonderful time.

Our spiritual journey

The Feast of Tabernacles is one of the seven annual festivals that God, in the Bible, commands that we keep. It pictures the millennial reign of Jesus Christ on this earth, a wonderful time of abundance — a spiritual and physical utopia. God commands that we observe this time together in an attitude of rejoicing so we can have a foretaste of that wonderful world tomorrow.

These days are so important that God’s people save money the entire year long, so that during this time all will have plenty and not have to skimp. If we want a nice meal together as a family, we buy it and rejoice.

Of course, my kids have been keeping the Feast since they were born, so when Feast time comes

they get excited. And when the trip to the Feast location begins, they get impatient.

I guess it is somewhat the same with our spiritual journey to God’s Kingdom. Sometimes we would like it if Christ’s Kingdom would come right away. So, I really can’t blame the kids, but...

“Dear,” my wife says, her voice interrupting my thoughts, “I’ve been looking at the map and I think we’re lost.”

“Lost? You must be kidding. I’ve been watching for signs all the way, and I couldn’t have made a mistake,” I confidently pronounce in return.

Nonetheless, I pull off the road and unfurl the map. While doing so I wonder out loud to my wife how the map could have gotten so wrinkled so quickly under her loving care. She is not amused.

“Well?” she asks.

“Well, dear, I think we’re lost,” I confess.

And we are lost, all right. But not too badly. I only have to turn around and make a left about two miles back where I made a right the first time. Now we are again on the right track.

As I turn the car around and put us on the right course, I can’t help but again compare this trip to the Feast with our spiritual journey through life toward God’s Kingdom. One of the biggest parts of our journey is to see our sins and mistakes — that is, look at our spiritual road map, the

Bible, and see how we have gotten off the right spiritual track — and then admit our mistakes and turn around. Life sometimes seems like one big series of course corrections.

A life of trials

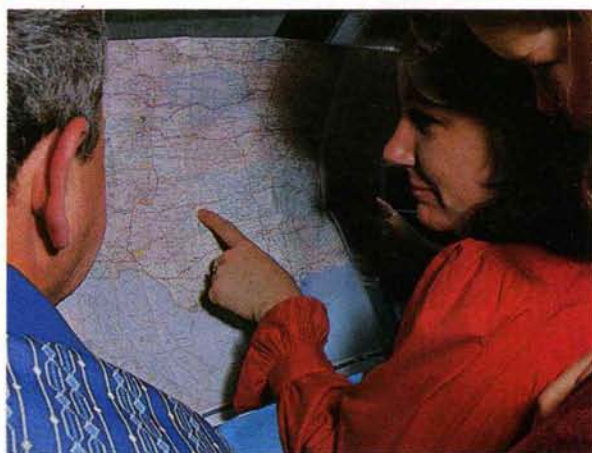
But just as my mind is developing that theme, another voice breaks the silence — mine.

“Uh-oh,” I groan.

“I know what I mean when I say uh-oh,” says my wife, “but what do you mean when you say uh-oh?”

“I mean uh-oh, I think we have a flat tire. And if we do, we are in trouble, because the spare is out of air,” I sigh.

Well, the tire is flat, and we are



in trouble. For a few minutes I think it will ruin the trip. What to do?

One of the girls (I have three, ranging from 7 to 13 years old) suggests we pray. We do. A few minutes later a tow truck “just happens” by. The driver has an air compressor on the truck. He fills the tire and even mounts it, for almost nothing. Once again

we are on the road, the crisis over. And I am musing about how foolish I felt — how quickly I became discouraged by a simple little thing like a flat tire, and how I panicked when I remembered the spare was out of air. I even won-

ing is not broken by an interrupting voice. In fact, the silence is irritating. Everyone in the car is sleeping — everyone but me, that is! I am driving.

I, it seems, am doing all the work and everyone else is just along for the ride. I wonder if they appreciate it.

Staying the course

But then I think again. The reason they are sleeping is that they have already done their part of the necessary work. My wife packed the clothes. Crystal cleaned the guinea-pig cage and took Domino (the guinea pig) to the neighbors. Amber and Coral swept out the car

together. Countless other chores of preparation were done.

They are tired. They have done their part. This, the driving, is my part. And I am happy to do it. For we are a team, a family, together on the road to the Feast just as surely as we are together on the road of life. I, as the husband and father, am steering the course. That's the way it should be. We help each other.

Still, I'm not too unhappy to hear my wife stir a bit and blink herself awake. I yearn for some company.

"Get a good rest?" I inquire.

"Yes," she replies. "Was I asleep long?"

"Pretty long," I say. "Honey," I go on, "would you do me a favor? Get the map and take a look."

She does.

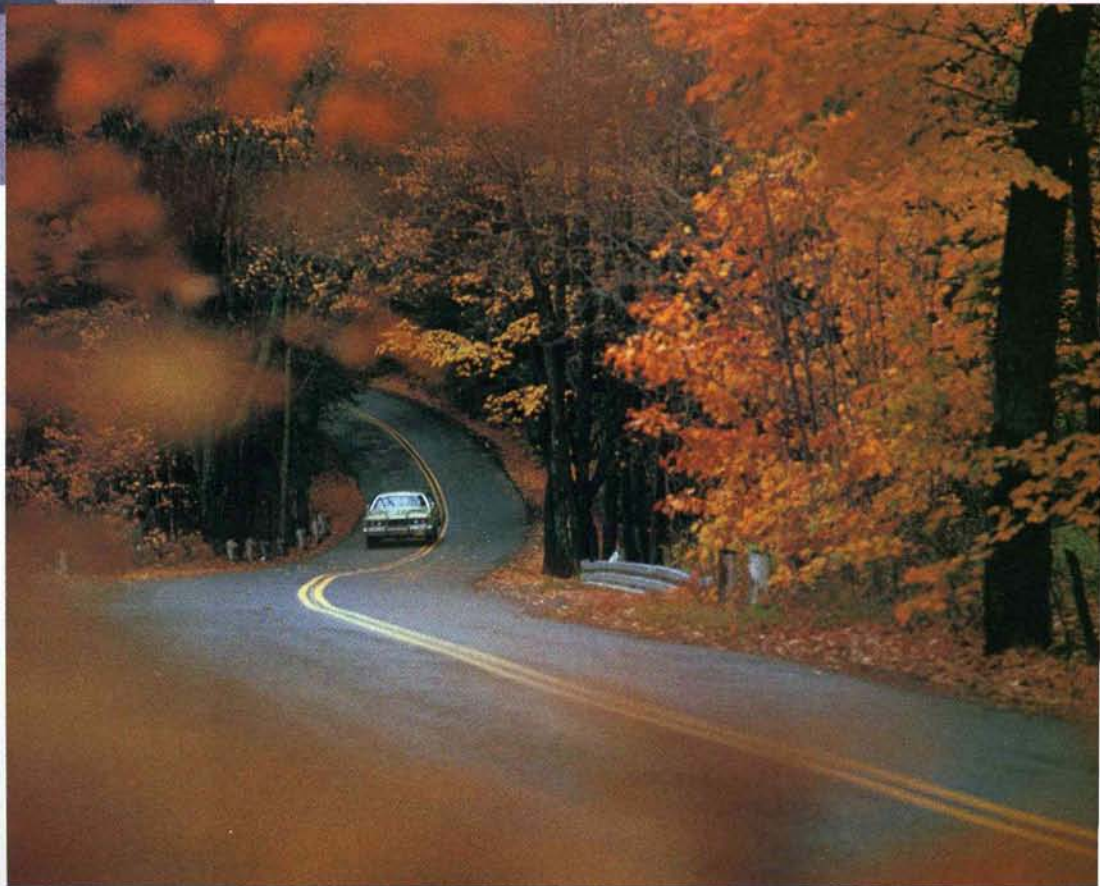
"Honey," I moan, "are we almost there yet?" □

Photos: Hal Finch; Comstock, Inc.

dered, Why me? Why would this happen to me — and now, of all times?

And yet, looking back, the whole thing was over in a few moments. And even though I couldn't help myself by simply changing the tire (because of my own carelessness in not pumping up the spare), how wonderful it was that God helped us out of the jam when my daughter suggested we pray about it. This flat-tire incident is just one of the many trials we face every day in our personal lives in our journey through this world.

But this time my mus-



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