



# CHURCH of GOD

## News

Southwest District

VOLUME I, NUMBER 1

AUGUST 1964

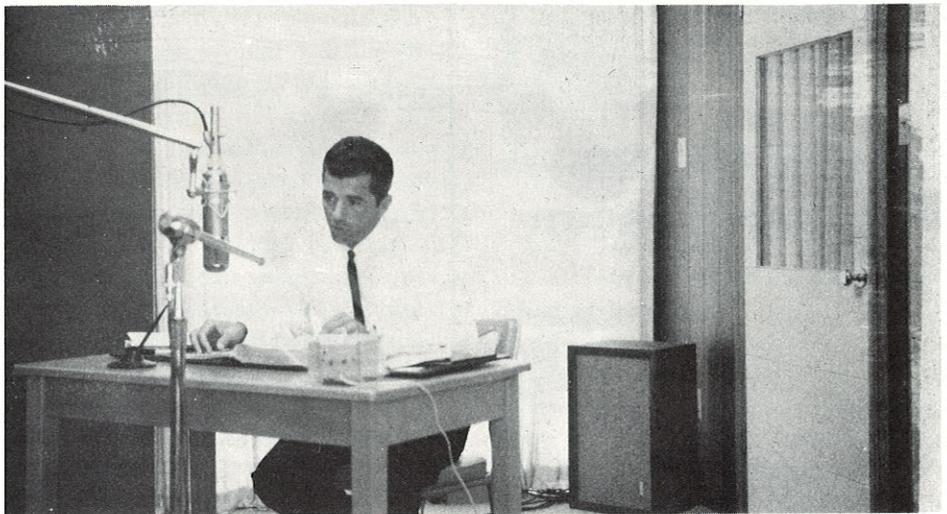
### AMBASSADORS READY GROUNDS

All over the United States summertime means *vacationtime*. A time to relax and take it easy. But deep in the heart of Texas there is one particular 1600-acre area that shows signs of *real HARD WORK!*

Thirty Ambassador College students are spending their summertime by helping prepare the campus grounds for the new college and for the annual Feast of Tabernacles.

**ALL OUT WAR** has been declared on bull nettles, poison ivy and other unwanted outlaw vegetation! A few battles have been lost to the enemy but the situation is now well in hand and *victory* is a **CERTAINTY!**

A major operation has been taking place in the pine orchard east of Booth City. Campers will find a *beautiful, spacious* area in which to pitch tents at the Feast. Gone will be the unsightly underbrush and dead pine limbs. Ample space and facilities are being prepared  
(Continued on Page 6)



Garner Ted Armstrong records **WORLD TOMORROW** Broadcast

### Big Sandy Recording Studios

"And greetings, friends around the world! This is Garner Ted Armstrong from Ambassador College, **BIG SANDY**, Texas, bringing you the **GOOD NEWS** of the **WORLD TOMORROW!**" Yes, as many of you have already heard, Mr. Armstrong is now making programs right on our own College grounds!

Because of his tight schedule, Mr. Armstrong directed the Recording Studio Manager, Mr. Chapman, to set up a temporary studio in the office of the Executive Home. Previously, when Mr. Armstrong wished to make a broadcast, he had to drive some 20 miles to Tyler to rent the studios of a radio station. The new studio will also allow Mr. Armstrong to spend more time here, thus better enabling him to direct the development of the establishment of the

third branch of Ambassador College.

Modifications to the office were necessary in order to improve the acoustics. A heavy rug was laid, acoustical tiles were added to one wall and the new door, and eight large reflectors were constructed and installed to help disperse the sound evenly throughout the room. It is hoped that eventually the acoustics will be identical to those of the studios in Pasadena, but because of the office's much smaller size, this may be impossible.

Continue **TO PRAY** that Mr. Armstrong will be inspired to make *powerful*, **DYNAMIC** programs and that God will provide the *necessary* funds to build a really **TOP QUALITY** permanent recording studio facility here at Big Sandy!





# CHURCH of GOD

## News

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The Southwest Edition of the Church of God News is published and sponsored by the Spokesman Clubs and affiliated members of the above-mentioned Churches of God. Circulation 2500.

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## Houston Deacon Ordained

God's Church in Houston joyfully witnessed the ordination of Mr. Boyd Wells to the office of Deacon on May 2. Mr. Richard Prince performed the "laying-on-of-hands" ceremony.

Keeping pace with the steady increase of growth in this area, God has called two Local Elders and, now, a total of three Deacons to serve His people!

Mr. Wells has faithfully attended services in the Houston Church for over five years.

Mr. Wells has been self-employed for 16 years as an electronics technician and operates under the title "Boyd's Repair Service."

To the *unselfish* servant who has a smile for everyone, our *sincere* congratulations!



### Editorial

## Brotherly Love

by Benjamin Chapman

You are living in a world filled with *violence*, crime, lack of concern and absolutely NO LOVE for neighbor! If any one *word* could describe this end-time degenerate generation, it would have to be *HATE!*

But you have been *CALLED OUT* of this God-rejecting society into the *Philadelphia Era* of God's Church, and God commands you: "Wherefore COME OUT from among them and BE YE SEPARATE, saith the Lord!" (II Corinthians 6:17.) To be separate means to have nothing to do with its days, ways or practices. In effect, it means a *whole* change in your life.

In the waters of baptism you then buried the old self with its carnal, *hateful* ways. And with the Laying on of Hands God's Holy Spirit *put* you into the Church of God. Now, how can you tell if you're really a Philadelphian—a TRUE Christian? Jesus Christ said: ". . . By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples (my followers, "Christians") IF YE HAVE LOVE ONE TO ANOTHER!"

God in His mercy has called you from this dying world and has put you into His Church to begin developing this *true* brotherly love. Is it merely a coincidence that the word God chose to define this Era is *Philadelphia*—a word which comes from the Greek *philadelphia* meaning "*brotherly love*"?

But having lived your whole lives in this world, you don't automatically, immediately discard the old ways of hate and lovelessness and replace them with brotherly love! No, it takes time and WORK—HARD WORK AND LOTS OF PRAYER—yielding to God's Holy Spirit working through you! One of the best ways to develop real love is by *servicing others*, or as Paul wrote in Romans 12: "Be kindly affectioned one to another with *brotherly love*; in honour PREFERRING ONE ANOTHER." To prefer one another means to have your brothers' needs *ahead* of your own.

But you may say, "I don't know the needs of the other members! How can I pray for them?"

Yes, how can you become more familiar with the other members of Christ's Body? One concrete way is to read *thoroughly* this *Church of God Newspaper* in your hands! In these pages you will read about the personalities and various events of *thirteen* different Churches of God! Besides this, the Southwest District paper will carry important news happenings and vital instructions from the Headquarters Church in Pasadena, California, and the rapid developments of the new College in Big Sandy!

Here's a real opportunity to learn more about and share the happiness with the other members of God's Church. Here's a way you can direct your thoughts and prayers AWAY from self and TOWARDS the needs of OTHERS. Always remember that although you are many members, you are all part of the ONE body with ONE common job and Goal ahead of you.

Paul said for true Christians to "Bear ye one another's burdens (griefs, illnesses, *problems*) and so fulfill the the law of Christ." To make your election SURE Peter says to add ". . . to godliness *brotherly kindness*; and to brotherly kindness charity (love). For if these things be in you, and abound (are overly abundant) they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

So, don't treat the things you read in these pages lightly. Consider them to be a means by which you can better know and serve the work and your many brothers and sisters in Christ! Let's work *really hard* to have "*philadelphia*" towards others!

## Youth Outing to Hot Springs

Thirty-five from the Little Rock Church enjoyed a tour and hike in the world-famous Hot Springs National Park, sponsored by the Little Rock Spokesman Club and its Youth Committee.

The group met at the park museum at 10:30 a.m. where an hour and a half was spent seeing the museum exhibits and the display of hot springs and sampling some hot spring water.

From the display springs the group went to the Gulphar Gorge picnic area for lunch. After this a hike was taken up Hot Spring Mountain to the observation tower. Here, 160 feet above Hot Spring Mountain, the hikers closed the tour with a breath-taking and inspiring panoramic view of the beautiful city of Hot Springs and the surrounding countryside.



## Good-Bye Fete

The River Lakes Country Club was the scene of a joyous fete, June 9. A farewell dinner for Mr. and Mrs. Prince was held by the combined Dallas and Ft. Worth Spokesman Clubs.

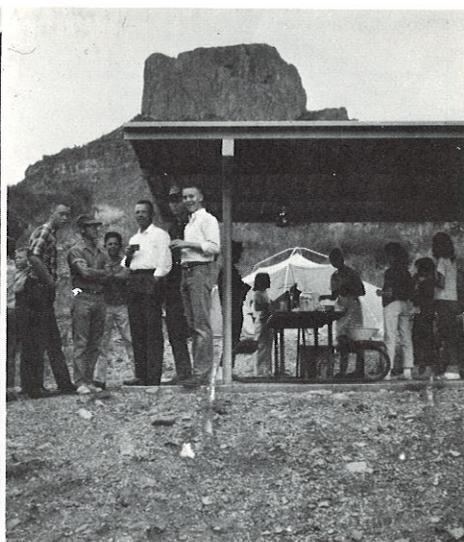
A full course buffet dinner was provided. What a variety of well-prepared food! Truly the best we've ever had at a combined meeting!

To help Mr. and Mrs. Prince in future service, the Clubs presented them a set of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, eleventh edition, as a small token of thanks.

Mr. Prince closed the meeting with many encouraging words. He stated, "In God's work there doesn't have to be any good-byes—we'll all be in the Kingdom together!"



"The Window" Big Bend



Breakfast Chat

## Big Bend---Big Success!

"I can't go another step!" groaned some of the footsore hikers as they made their way up the steep trail to the South Rim of the Chisos Mountains some 7200 feet above the big river in Big Bend National Park. But *up they went anyway* to learn the lesson of perseverance and to see the breath-taking panorama of the Rio Grande Valley stretching out far below. And beyond the Rio Grande the blue-hued mountain peaks of Old Mexico stood out against the bright afternoon sky. A sight to be long remembered!

What started out as an item of new business in Spokesman Club only a few weeks earlier became a wonderful reality on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, June 21-23. For many of the young campers it was the first such trip of their lives. For 13½ miles they hiked up and down steep mountain trails—a trip which usually takes about nine hours but which was completed by the hearty band in only SEVEN! This proved they weren't as "soft" as some had suspected!

Besides the BIG HIKE, we were able to view the other main attractions of Big Bend: *The Window*, a narrow "V"-shaped gorge in the mountains; *Boquillas Canyon* to the east of the Basin camp ground; and *Santa Elena Canyon* to the west. Both of the rock-walled canyons which rise hundreds of feet above the river were cut by the mighty Rio Grande in much less time than

evolutionists suppose! These canyons reminded us of "The Siq," that narrow entrance into Petra. For that matter, the whole desert scene and climate of Big Bend seemed very "Petra-like." Perhaps our trip was good practice for the future. Who knows???

By Tuesday morning, time and food ran out, so we struck camp, loaded our gear, and after a few final photos headed back home. We were all a little weary from our three days of constant, rigorous activity, but we all had a sense of enjoyment, satisfaction, and accomplishment to compensate for our blisters and tired bones!

We were blessed with an ideal camp site and perfect weather, while best of all God gave us His Divine Protection so that not one person had any injuries or accidents to mar the trip. By Tuesday night everyone had returned home safe and sound.

We all REJOICE that God has given us, in this West Texas area, a Church and two Spokesman Clubs to make possible such worth-while, enjoyable, and memorable occasions! And we're already looking forward to more Club-sponsored activities for young and old alike.

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A man's stature is measured by what he does with what he has.

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Blunt person: One who says what he thinks without thinking.

## News Flashes from District Churches

### New Church in Ft. Worth . . . Nashville Bible Study grows rapidly . . . Odessa Spokesman Club sponsors contests

Since the appointment of new officers in Memphis and Little Rock, the Memphis Spokesman Club has moved to Mr. McNair's home. God has blessed the McNairs with a home large enough to accommodate such a function. The men are able to prepare their own food thus saving much money. The Memphis Club has reached the 30 mark, with a number of new applicants. Possibly a new club will soon be formed.

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Houston brethren are thankful that Mr. Malcolm Martin, Local Elder, has improved and is back with them after a sudden and severe illness. Also welcomed back was Mrs. Mary Valiquira who has been absent several months with an extended illness.

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The Ft. Worth Church of God got off to a good start with an attendance of 287. Many of these people were transferees from the Dallas Church, but some 30 or so were new brethren from Wichita Falls and other cities west of Ft. Worth.

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Another item of interest to area readers—and one of great happiness to all of the Odessa and Amarillo brethren—is the fine home God has recently blessed the Alberts with. They have occupied this three-bedroom home since March and have had many enjoyable activities in it. First there was a Texas-style housewarming for all the Odessa Church brethren. On that occasion the large two-car garage and spacious backyard came in handy. More recently a “going-away” party for a family that didn't go away was held! Mr. and Mrs. Mayes had intended to move back to the Tyler area but, then, for various reasons decided against it. However, this didn't stop the brethren from having an enjoyable “get-together,” and all agreed that they were much happier to have them stay than go!

Spokesmen of the Odessa Club have come up with some exciting “new business” for the Church. They committed themselves to a once-a-month Youth Activity Program. The first of these was a thrilling night horseback ride. On a windy night the area teenagers rode out to a typical West Texas “caliche pit” under the supervision of Mr. and Mrs. David Albert and Mr. and Mrs. Dave Hammond. The wind blew plenty of sand into their “kosher” hot dogs, but they still had a wonderful outing!

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The first Bible Study for the Nashville, Tennessee, area was observed in the Dinkler Andrew Jackson Hotel with 96 attending. Messrs. Carl McNair and Kelly Barfield conducted the study. Everyone simply beamed with excitement and joy over this added blessing from God. Even more encouraging news took place at the second study. The attendance increased from 96 to 145! The attendance equalled that of the Little Rock and Memphis Church services a year ago.

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Beautiful Lake Loma was the setting for the annual Big Sandy Church Choir picnic July 9. After an enjoyable session of waterfront activities a delicious meal was served. Special entertainment was presented, including a fire baton number by Ambassador student Dorothy Jo Altergott. The evening was topped off by a fireside song fest.

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The Little Rock Church was certainly happy and Mr. Ray Wawak was surprised when Mr. McNair called Mr. Barfield to join him in the ordination of Mr. Wawak as Deacon on June 11. There are now two Deacons in the Little Rock Church. We hope to see even more ordained as the Church grows.

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Mr. and Mrs. Carl McNair are the happy parents of a big boy, 8 lbs. and

4 ozs., born July 7, in the early evening. According to God's time, it would have been July 8. They now have a boy and a girl. And so, the Church keeps growing.

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Negro brethren in the Houston Church officially launched summertime fun May 3 when they met at Finnegan Park for an all-day picnic. Games of volleyball were the popular choices of many brethren. Sideline games of wahoo, dominoes, horseshoes and quiet for the small children completed the active scene of enjoyment and fellowship. After lunch and a rest, baseball teams were formed and a rousing contest between the young people and the adults followed. Reports are the adults had a fine time losing!

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Currently under way in Odessa is a Club-sponsored model contest for the boys and their dads. This will culminate in a July picnic in Odessa and an evening social in Amarillo. Prizes will be awarded to the best entries in each of the three fields—cars, ships and airplanes. A similar project for the women and girls accenting sewing and needlework is also underway. These various projects and activities contribute wholesome and worthwhile opportunities for the members in this area to draw closer together in Christian love and fellowship.

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On Saturday night, June 6, about twenty Houston brethren gathered at the home of Richard Seiver to bid farewell to the Karel family. Champagne toasts were offered and canapes served. Incidentally, a special toast was in order for Mr. and Mrs. Seiver who were celebrating their thirteenth wedding anniversary. The evening was topped off by several lively square dances called by Mr. Harold Treybig.

# A PARTING FAREWELL

After seven years of FAITHFUL and DEDICATED service in the Big Sandy area, Mr. Kenneth Swisher has been assigned the MONUMENTAL task of raising up two new Churches in Florida and of filling the position of District Supervisor of the new Southern District!

A special concert was offered by the Big Sandy Church Choir in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Swisher. The concert was followed by a farewell dance in the Tabernacle. It was attended by brethren from Big Sandy, Lufkin, Minden and Dallas.

June 30 marked the date of their departure. A deep sense of respect and love has been ETCHED in the minds of all who knew them by their untiring example of devotion and service. We will miss you, Mr. and Mrs. Swisher! But we pray God's richest blessings will rest on you and your family in the big undertaking that lies ahead.

## Arvidsons Leave for North Carolina

The ordination of Mr. Gary Arvidson to the rank of PREACHING ELDER on the Day of Pentecost was cause for GREAT rejoicing of God's Churches in the Oklahoma area.

With ordination came the responsibility of converting the Ashville, North Carolina, Bible Study into a full-fledged new Church!

A gala picnic was held in honor of the Arvidsons Sunday, June 2, 1964, by the Tulsa and Oklahoma City Churches who have come to respect this warm and friendly couple. When the picnic was over, one of the members summed up the feelings of the brethren for the Arvidsons by saying, "They . . . have left us a legacy of love. It is hard to think of them without thinking of their great compassion and love for the brethren."

It is with MIXED EMOTIONS and tears of joy that we say "Godspeed" to Mr. and Mrs. Gary Arvidson in their new office of service!



And they're off!

## Dallas Has Gala Picnic

On June 7, 1964, activity was the order of the day for the many people of the Dallas Church who gathered at Randall Park in East Dallas. Things got under way early in the morning with supervised softball games for the ladies, the pre-twelve age group, and the twelve-to-sixteen age group. The picnic lunch was preceded by the annual wheelbarrow race. The ladies were the willing passengers while the men were the pushers. In the last race Mr. Knight and Mr. Prince duelled with the wheelbarrows right down to the wire! Mr. Prince put forth all the effort at his command and shaded Mr. Knight at the finish line!

When the games ended, all eyes were brought quickly into focus on a great mountain of food spread on the tables

Mr. Prince DASHES across finish line!



under a wind-blown tarpaulin. There was plenty of food for all with quite a variety and, of course, cooling beverages! Then everyone found some sitting space while Mr. James Rhome, Sr. acted as Master of Ceremonies for a Church talent show. But the day would not have been complete if all had stopped there! A tug-of-war was participated in by a men's group, and then the ladies tried tugging.

Finally the Ft. Worth Spokesman Club challenged the Dallas Spokesman Club to a game of softball with the final score sounding much like football: Dallas 43, Ft. Worth 17! The day was enjoyed by young and old, and many went home hoping for another picnic in the not-too-distant future!

## New Picnic Grounds for the Tulsa Church

A year ago, on a hot July 4, the Tulsa Church had a picnic in one of the largest public parks in Tulsa. To secure a place several of the men camped overnight in the picnic shelter in order to be first on hand in the morning to lay claim. On the day of the picnic RACIAL TENSIONS were seething—but nothing happened. All went well except for the BOISTEROUS CLAMOR and crowded facilities that normally occur at public parks on national holidays.

Not long after that Mr. Lonnie Durkee offered his pasture as a haven for Church picnics. Without sanitary facilities it too was unsatisfactory for a Church picnic. The Tulsa Spokesman Club worked on the problem all winter. Mr. Durkee moved into the area with a brush hog clearing out the underbrush. He put a blade on his tractor and leveled a plot for a baseball diamond, and in the grove of trees along Bird Creek Spokesmen sowed grass to make a pleasant lawn for our people. A little later, men built sanitary facilities, picnic tables, benches and other necessities needed for a fully equipped picnic grove. All this was painted—and lettered. Mr. Durkee suddenly became a park superintendent instead of a weekend farmer.

The big day came for the initial picnic in the Tulsa Church's own picnic grove. *It rained!* It rained in TORRENTS! It hailed so hard that one man said he could not continue his phone conversation for the noise on his roof. FRANTIC calls of the would-be picnickers were made here and there. But it rained only enough to settle the dust on Mr. Durkee's farm. The sun came out, and an hour later the picnic was a reality. And was it a SUCCESS! Now instead of racial problems, we have chiggers!

Most men don't know where their business ends and their neighbor's begins.

The road to ruin is always kept in good repair, and the travelers pay the expense of it.



Martha Allen, Elaine Hull, Judy Prince, Tom Spencer, Wesley Winant, Jr., Richard Lane.

## Area Graduates Honored by Spokesmen

Members of Houston's Tuesday Spokesman Club honored prospective high school graduates from the Houston-Dallas areas at a SPECIAL dinner meeting May 17, at the popular Johnny Cace's Steak House in Longview, Texas.

This festive, delightful event was held during the afternoon preceding the first services of Pentecost in Big Sandy and had a total of 50 members and guests in attendance!

Mr. Richard Seiver, Club president, ably conducted the meeting and introduced guest speaker, Mr. Kenneth Swisher. In an INSPIRING speech to the group, Mr. Swisher pointed out that the trend in our present-day society is to be average and mediocre. He then made a STRONG appeal to honored guests and members to WORK DILIGENTLY to become above average in all their endeavors.

## Spokesmen Entertain

Rivaling any record for enjoyment, a dinner dance was hosted by the Houston Thursday night Spokesman Club! This gala affair provided a highly ENTERTAINING and PLEASURABLE occasion for the 49 members of the Tuesday and Thursday night clubs, their wives, dates and guests.

Mr. Jesse Turner, president, opened the session with brief, enlightening remarks after which he introduced Mr. John Ledbetter, topicsmaster for the event.

Focusing thoughts on Mr. Prince's NEW ASSIGNMENT at Ambassador

## Ready Grounds

(Continued from Page 1)

to accommodate 2000 temporary booth dwellers for the BIGGEST Feast since Biblical times!

Painters and plumbers are readying the many restroom facilities for use.

The Student Lounge has been paneled and painted, and new acoustical tile is to be installed on the ceiling.

The college Library is "stacking up." Nearly 2000 volumes are already categorized and on the shelves, and many more are about to be added.

Other work in process includes new offices for faculty, classroom buildings, parking lots, acres of lawn and many other countless details that need attention prior to the opening of school this fall.

However, it is not all work and no play. In the evenings there is free time for a quick dip in lovely Lake Loma. And occasionally on a Sunday morning a small group of students go horseback riding.

On Thursday evenings the more musically inclined have been invited by Mr. Rice to join in choir practice with the Big Sandy Church Choir.

An occasional basketball or softball game and watermelon feast round out a week's activities.

With the summer half over a great deal remains to be done. There IS a time for relaxation and recreation to give balance BUT the heavy accent is on HARD WORK and ACCOMPLISHMENT!

College, Mr. Ledbetter initiated all farewell gestures when he presented Mr. Prince with several fun "gifts" from the club: \$50,000 in real estate (50 front inches of dirt from downtown Houston valued at \$1,000 per inch); and a sealed bottle of "fresh air" direct from Houston's petro-chemical area that is guaranteed to relieve homesickness while away in sunny California!

A deluxe dinner featured prime rib of roast. Guests danced and fellowshiped during the remainder of this memorable night.