

# The Good News

International Magazine of  
THE CHURCH OF GOD

VOL. VI, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER, 1957

## Why Build the *NEW* TABERNACLE Near Gladewater?

*How can we know where the new tabernacle ought to be located?  
What Bible authority do we have for keeping the Feast of Taber-  
nacles in ONE place in Gladewater, Texas? Here is what the Bible  
reveals about it!*

by Herman L. Hoeb

**I**T IS TIME we understood exactly what *the Bible* reveals about building the *NEW* Tabernacle!

Was there a *mistake* made in building the first tabernacle which we have now completely outgrown?

What *NEW TESTAMENT* reason is there for building a tabernacle and for assembling in *one* place to keep the Feast of Tabernacles?

Here are the answers!

### NOT Returning to Ceremonies

Some, when they hear that the Church has built a tabernacle near Gladewater, Texas, assume that we are returning to the rituals of the Law of Moses—assume that we are “coming under bondage to that old law!”

Granted that the Old Testament does have something to say about a tabernacle; but there is a vital *NEW TESTAMENT* reason why a *new* tabernacle must be built—and why it *must* be near Gladewater!

No, we are not turning to the ceremonies of the added law of Moses. Those ceremonies were temporary. The Levitical priesthood was temporary. The tabernacle erected by Moses was for that time—not for today!

Moses' tabernacle was for an entirely different purpose than ours!

Notice the description of the tabernacle which Moses was commanded to erect. It is found in Hebrews 9:1-9. Only the Levitical priests were permitted to enter that tabernacle (verse 6). The common people were not allowed.

The Mosaic tabernacle had two compartments—the holy place and the holy of holies (Heb. 9:3-4). In the second compartment, only the Levitical high priest was allowed. The purpose of that tabernacle was to provide a sanctuary for Israel's God—“. . . let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell *among* them. According to . . . the pattern of the tabernacle, thereof, even so shall ye make it” (Exodus 25:8-9).

Our tabernacle is for the people in God's Church to meet in. Moses' tabernacle was not. It was merely a “*copy* of the heavenly things”—of the throne of God! (Hebrews 9:23.)

Today *we* may have access by prayer to the holy place in heaven itself—“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holies by the blood of Jesus” (Heb. 10:19). And, “Let *us* therefore with boldness approach the throne of grace” (Heb. 4:16). We are a “royal priesthood” (I Peter 2:5, 9) today. We have no Mosaic copy of the throne of God. We have the reality in heaven itself!

No, the tabernacle at Gladewater is not a continuation of the Mosaic tabernacle. Nor is it patterned after it! The God of Israel is in heaven, not in a building made of wood on earth!

### What You Probably Didn't Know

The majority of you brethren probably have not known how we came to build the tabernacle in Gladewater. And many who were then with us have probably forgotten!

The first report on the tabernacle appeared in the February 1953 Good News, page 10. In that article Mr. Armstrong wrote that the purpose of the tabernacle was three-fold: 1) as a local place for the Church around Gladewater to meet every Sabbath; 2) as a building to house the grade and high school; 3) as a center of meeting for the annual spring festivals—Passover, the Days of Unleavened Bread and Pentecost.

But it was *not* originally built for the Feast of Tabernacles!

God had not yet revealed—in the early part of 1953—where we should hold the Feast of Tabernacles.

But why did we call it a “tabernacle”? Because it was that kind of building! We couldn't call it a school, for it was not built like a school. Neither could we call it a church, for it is not built

# The Good News

International magazine of  
**THE CHURCH OF GOD**  
*ministering to its members  
 scattered abroad*

VOL. VI

NUMBER 12

Herbert W. Armstrong  
*Publisher and Editor*  
 Herman L. Hoeh  
*Executive Editor*  
 Roderick C. Meredith  
 Garner Ted Armstrong  
*Associate Editors*

Address communications to the Editor,  
 Box 111, Pasadena, California.  
 Copyright, December, 1957  
 By the Radio Church of God

like the ordinary church. It was built with a *large auditorium*—and Webster defines a tabernacle as a “church with a large auditorium.”

That is why we call it a “tabernacle”! That is what it is.

When originally built, the tabernacle provided seats for an anticipated number of 1000 who would be attending the spring festivals of God. It was never built specifically to house those attending the Feast of Tabernacles because God had not yet revealed where the Feast should be held.

It was absolutely essential, however, that the tabernacle be built in 1953 for the school and the local church and the spring festivals. It has amply served its original purpose.

But God intended that it would serve even a greater purpose!

## Why Gladewater Chosen for Feast of Tabernacles

In Leviticus 23:2-4—in the very chapter where the annual festivals are mentioned—God orders His ministers to convoke assemblies. One of the commanded assemblies is the “Feast of Tabernacles” (Lev. 23:34).

But the ministry cannot command a meeting unless the ministers know *where* the meeting is to be held!

God has not left us free to choose for ourselves where we want to meet. God is the One who chooses the place: “Seven days shalt thou keep a solemn feast unto the Lord thy God IN THE PLACE WHICH THE LORD SHALL CHOOSE” (Deuteronomy 16:15). In verse 6 of this same chapter God further tells us that it must be “the place which the Lord thy God shall choose TO PLACE HIS

NAME IN.” It must have God’s name—be deeded to HIM!

Now consider how we obtained the property at Gladewater.

Shortly before the spring of 1953 a beautifully wooded, private and secluded tract of some 45 acres was partly donated and the balance purchased and cleared. *The original owner donated it to God.* The property therefore became deeded in the NAME OF GOD!

Notice that when God wanted the Temple built by Solomon, He caused Ornan to want to donate his property to God. David, Solomon’s father, bought that property, having recognized it as the place whereon God wanted the House of the Lord built (see I Chronicles 21:14 to 22:3 and II Samuel 24:18-25).

In the last part of the summer of 1953 the Church was still in search of the place God would appoint for the Feast of Tabernacles. No place was available anywhere, it seemed.

Then something happened! It became evident to Mr. Armstrong, together with many of the members, that the only place available where we could meet was the very place GOD HAD PLACED HIS NAME—on the property near Gladewater, Texas!

Since God does command our presence where He places His Name, THE TABERNACLE GROUNDS BECAME THE PLACE CHOSEN FOR THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES!

For five years God’s people have met there. We have multiplied in attendance four times. We have outgrown the original building—which must now become a dining hall—and a NEW TABERNACLE must be completed within the next eight months!

## How to Finance Building of Tabernacle

Whenever God saw that there was a need for a central place of worship among His people, God commanded His ministers to ask the people for offerings. Notice! “*Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering*” (Exodus 25:2).

This is the Bible example of how God wants the tabernacle financed. We are not to use our own human reason and finance it by a church lottery, or by asking those outside the Church to support it, or by using the regular tithes and offerings for the carrying out of the gospel. It is you brethren—the Israel of God today (Gal. 6:16)—whom we are commanded to ask for *special offerings* BECAUSE THE TABERNACLE IS FOR YOU—not for outsiders. And whatever you give is to be “willingly with your hearts in it!”

Notice how the children of Israel gave when in the wilderness at Sinai: “The people [brought] much more than enough for the service of the work, which the Lord commanded to make. And Moses gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, ‘Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary.’ So the people were restrained from bringing. For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make. AND TOO MUCH” (Exodus 36: 5-7).

## We Must ALL Give

The tabernacle of Moses was built by the offerings from among at least two and one-half million people! There were that many Israelites in the wilderness! That tabernacle was to be a sanctuary for Israel’s God with a few hundred priests in attendance.

The auditorium or tabernacle which we must build in eight short months must house the entire membership of the Church of God here in America and it must be built from offerings of not more than 4200 people!

That is how big our job is!

Do we realize what our responsibility is? It is far greater than that of the children of Israel in the wilderness. There were 600 times as many Israelites called out of Egypt in Moses’ day as there are members in God’s Church today! Naturally our NEW auditorium or tabernacle will not be as sumptuous as the sanctuary in the wilderness—God doesn’t want a *building* to dwell in, He wants *your body* to dwell in as a temple of the Holy Spirit—but it will still cost the FEW of us far more proportionately than the tabernacle in the wilderness cost the children of Israel.

*About two thirds of the entire Church* attended the Feast of Tabernacles this past season. That is a wonderful number, yet the percentage will be higher next year as God makes it financially possible for others to attend. BUT ALL MEMBERS HAVE THEIR PART IN BUILDING THE TABERNACLE, whether or not they have been able to attend.

The Church of God is one body and we all work and give together. What if a human body were one-third crippled? How much work could the rest of the body do? Nothing!

Similarly, we must not allow ourselves to become spiritually unconcerned—spiritually crippled. We must *all* give willingly, give immediately, and give continually until the full cost is paid for. And those who are alone and poor, or who live with unconverted husbands and have no income of their own, NEED TO PRAY that those who are financially able will give *willingly* and that those

(Please continue on page 10)

# More Deacons Ordained!

*God's Church continues to GROW! Let us REJOICE as we see more men and women being directly used in God's Church—preparing for His kingdom!*

*by Roderick C. Meredith*

**A** MOST happy event took place on the Sabbath, November 23, in the San Diego Church of God. It inspired the brethren there to realize more fully that Jesus Christ continues to *work* through His body—His Church—here on earth. It should inspire *all of us!*

This happy event was the ordination of two deacons in the San Diego Church—Mr. Harold Jackson, and Mr. Harry Frahm. In one sense, it was unexpected. In another way, perhaps, it was long overdue.

The story and meaning behind this ordination service illustrate some very important principles of *how* God works through His Church.

## Qualifications for a Deacon

In God's government in His Church, a man must be *prepared, qualified, consecrated, and tested* before he can be given any responsible position.

As most of you know, Mr. Armstrong had some tragic experiences in his early ministry when he tried to work with other men who were either not fully converted—or else were *not trained and qualified* to serve as ministers, elders or deacons. In recent years, God has led him—and all of us in God's ministry—to see more clearly the necessity of being **ABSOLUTELY SURE**—as far as it is humanly possible—that any man is thoroughly *qualified and consecrated* to Christ before he is given an office of responsibility in God's Church.

Thus, we have been *doubly* "careful" in recent years about ordaining elders, deacons and deaconesses. *And so we should be!*

The apostle Paul was inspired by God to set forth the qualifications for elders and deacons so that God's Church today would know how to properly carry out His government. After discussing elders, Paul states: "Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. *And let these also first be PROVED [tested]: then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless*" (1 Tim. 3:8-10).

## Notice These Qualifications:

A deacon must be a *serious, purposeful* Christian. He must *not* be a gossip

or liar, nor be in the habit of drinking wine too frequently or too much, nor be inclined to set his heart on money or material things. He must be a *faithful* convert, and must be *tested and proved* in his willingness and ability to serve in and under God's government.

Even deacons must be able to exercise *leadership*, and should be "ruling their children and their own houses well" (verse 12).

If they meet all these qualifications and are faithful in their office, God *promises* a definite BLESSING. "For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a *good degree*, and great *boldness* in the faith that is in Christ Jesus" (verse 13).

## Significance of the San Diego Ordination

There were a few special factors in the recent ordination at San Diego which everyone in God's Church should especially notice as a *principle*.

First, both Mr. Jackson and Mr. Frahm have been *faithful and zealous* members of the San Diego congregation for more than five years. In addition, they have "proved" themselves many times over by their *willingness and ability* to help new brethren or visitors, and to help with the physical arrangements for the weekly Sabbath services or for the annual festivals.

Also, it is important for all of our brethren to realize that Mr. Jackson is a Negro. Perhaps we have all learned by now that in *spiritual* fellowship and relationship, "Ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28). You will recall that among the very prophets and teachers at Antioch that ordained Paul was Simon, "called Niger," a Negro brother.

Therefore, it is important to realize that in the future Negro brethren may hold many offices in God's Church—*as they are qualified*, of course.

*In every case*, the minister in charge will take special care to handle the situation so as NOT to stir up any strife among local residents in the community. So ALL of you brethren—both White and Negro—should stand behind the minister completely, and exercise *love and patience* in all things.

Such men as Mr. Jackson may later be used as leaders among all-Negro congregations—if it becomes necessary be-

cause of racial strife in this country—to have separate congregations in certain areas. Many of you older and stronger Negro brethren need to realize the great RESPONSIBILITY God may be preparing some of you to assume in the future.

In these matters, of course, ALL of us must *keep close to God*. It is only through *His Spirit—His wisdom and love*—that we will be kept in the right attitude and not be influenced by the prejudice, trouble and strife in the world—on this or any other matter.

## The Ordination Service

As Pastor of the San Diego Church, I had requested that Dr. C. Paul Meredith—my uncle, and Director of the Correspondence Course—accompany me to San Diego and assist in this ordination service.

After the sermonette and blessing of children, we followed the New Testament example of prayer and the laying on of hands (Acts 6:6). We set apart Mr. Frahm and Mr. Jackson in the office of deacon, and asked God to bless and guide them through His Spirit in this office.

As we rose from prayer, I could sense that the congregation felt—as Dr. Meredith and I did—it was actually *Christ* who had been among us and had ordained these men. And, after all, *that is true*. For we are only His *instruments, His bondservants*—acting *for Him* to whom has been committed *all POWER* in heaven and earth! (Mat. 28:18).

It was truly a *joyful occasion*. Mr. Jackson is *the first Negro brother* in this age of God's Church to be placed in a direct office in His service. And both he and Mr. Frahm now have special opportunity to earn "a *good degree*, and great *boldness* in the faith that is in Christ Jesus."

As we consider Christ's working in His Church today, it should inspire us all to rise above the petty problems, frustrations and trivialities that too often weigh us down.

We are commanded: "Seek those things *above*, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God" (Col. 3:1).

Are you **DRIVING YOURSELF** on—*planning, working, studying, praying*, that you may be worthy of *great responsibility* and opportunity to **SERVE** in God's kingdom?

# Rejoice in God's Sabbath!

*You need to know HOW to keep the Sabbath as God intended!  
Here are the ANSWERS to vital questions about the Sabbath that  
many of you have recently asked.*

*by Roderick C. Meredith*

**Y**OU MAY be missing out on some of the greatest blessings of life through *ignorance!*

In this chaotic, hell-bent age in which we live, man NEEDS a right understanding of the laws of *peace* and *joy* that Almighty God has set in motion. Many lack the enthusiasm—the zest for life—that would make their lives really full and complete. "Every day is the same old thing!" you hear so many people say.

But God has given us one blessing which doesn't make every day alike, which—when rightly used—will make our lives more *joyful* and *abundant*, and give us a *zest* for life we otherwise lack. This is the Sabbath day.

Once you fully understand and appreciate the *blessings* and *opportunities* afforded by this day, you will literally REJOICE in keeping it. Far too many converted people look on the Sabbath as a day when they "can't" do this or that.

But IF you really *want* to draw closer to God and do His will, then begin to look on the Sabbath as the day when you CAN take time for needed prayer, study, meditation, spiritual fellowship and rest. When viewed in this light the Sabbath is a *tremendous* BLESSING!

## Sabbath Made to Serve Man

Christ said, "The sabbath was made *for man*, and not man for the sabbath" (Mark 2:27). He didn't say it was made for the Jew, but for MAN—for *all mankind* in other words. And it was made for him a blessing.

Keep this principle in mind. It was made *for you*, to help *you*, to enable *you* to live a happier and more godly life.

God's true Sabbath is one of the greatest blessings that has ever been bestowed upon mankind. It *signifies* that the Creator is our God and we are His children.

Our Creator knew that we would need a period of rest every seventh day, and this is one of many opportunities the Sabbath affords. Each of us tends to become overly absorbed in our daily cares during the week, but God foresaw this, and set aside the Sabbath as a time when we can completely forget our routine work and *get closer to God* in *study, meditation, and prayer*.

The wonderful part of it all is that we can keep this period of rest and

spiritual revival with complete confidence that God will *bless* and *prosper* us because we have done this! If we would quit working every few days and take a needed rest, we might naturally expect to get behind in our finances and material pursuits. *But* God has said just the opposite! So if we keep His Holy Day, we can rest assured that it will be *gain* instead of loss, even looking at it materially.

Do you realize what this amounts to? God is *giving* us a *paid vacation* every seventh day!

Human reasoning might not grasp this right at first. But God has *promised* this, and the *experiences* of hundreds of people have shown that God meant what he said. You may not be prospered *immediately* if you begin keeping God's commandments and paying your tithe faithfully as He has commanded. But in His way and time, God will begin to bless and prosper you in ways that you may never have expected.

In Isaiah 58:13-14, God inspired Isaiah to write that *if* we kept the Sabbath and delighted in it, we would remember Him and He would cause us to have life in abundance, spiritually and materially. Notice that we are not to *seek our own pleasure* on the Sabbath. *Yet*, we are to *delight* in it. This means that we should be *so busy* doing good to others, and getting closer to God in prayer and study, that we will not even desire to seek any earthly amusements. We will be **HAPPY** because we are able to rest, to worship God with peace of mind, and because we have a special time to do good.

This same passage says we are *not* to *speak our own words* on the Sabbath. What does this mean? It shows that we should not spend the Sabbath in idle talk, but should be reading, discussing and meditating upon God's word. Then we will be drinking in the ideas of God instead of mere human notions. What a privilege it is to have a whole day in which we can read and discuss the *way of life* that is revealed to us in the Bible!

In order that we may have our minds free from last minute duties on the Sabbath, God has commanded that we prepare for it the day before. Exodus 16:22-25 shows that we should do any baking or time-consuming boiling before the Sabbath. Long hours of cooking

and stewing should *never* clutter up God's day.

So do all your "sprucing up" and any heavy cooking on Friday, the preparation day. Then at sunset Friday evening, when the Sabbath begins, you will have put all worldly cares aside and will be able to enter the Sabbath in a spirit of rejoicing and worship toward God.

## Duties on Sabbath

Your time should never "drag" on God's Sabbath! Some people experience this when they first begin to keep the sabbath, but it certainly isn't the way God intended. When we understand it properly, the Sabbath will be filled with *interest* and *joy*.

The true Sabbath is *not* a *negative* thing!

Christ set us an example of how to keep it. In Mark 2:23 to 3:5, Jesus showed that it was all right to procure food on the sabbath *if* it is necessary. He told the Pharisees that He was Lord of the Sabbath—not Sunday! Then Christ healed an infirm man on the Sabbath, and showed that it is lawful to *do good* on that day.

What *kind* of *good* should we do on the Sabbath day?

God commanded in Exodus 20:10, that we should *not work* on the Sabbath. So the kind of good that we do on that day is not the kind of hard physical labor which we might do on other days. "Doing good" is not to be used as an *EXCUSE* for performing those material duties, however helpful to others, which can just as well be done some other day. There is one exception to this prohibition. That is in the case of an "ox in the ditch" (Luke 14:5). This refers to a *genuine emergency*, not some material duty you "put off" until the Sabbath.

The principal example of doing good on the sabbath that Christ gave us was that of healing the sick or infirm *that came to Him* (Matt. 12:9-13). He did NOT go abroad seeking them. Also, we find that He was constantly meeting with others and teaching them God's ways on this day.

We can all use the Sabbath as a time to comfort and minister to those who are sick and infirm on this day. But this does not mean that we should burden ourselves with purely material serv-

ices. Jesus didn't when he helped the sick according to their faith. Remember what he told Martha: "Thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her" (Luke 10:41, 42). We should especially try to help those who are interested in the true teachings of the Bible, because in this way we can minister to them both spiritually and physically.

### A Wonderful Opportunity

STUDY the word of God (II Tim. 2:15)! This should usually be your first duty on the Sabbath. *Then* you will be ready to answer the questions of those you are trying to help (I Peter 3:15).

Many of you brethren desperately NEED to spend *much more time* in earnest, prayerful Bible study. And most of you *want* to do it, but say that you "just don't find the time."

Well, learn to TAKE time on the Sabbath. In this day you have a wonderful opportunity to study *intensively*, to *pray* and not feel "rushed" or that you ought to be doing something else. USE this opportunity! Be THANKFUL for it!

The Sabbath is the day when you *can* and SHOULD study the Bible, study the Correspondence Course, and review the back issues of The PLAIN TRUTH and The GOOD NEWS. On this day you can discuss points of truth and Christian living with your wife or husband, and you can have a Bible study session with your *children*.

Yes, the Sabbath is the day on which you CAN do all these things that most of you *want* and *need* to do anyway—but *simply can't find enough time for during the week!*

Remember that the principal command is to *rest* from our usual routine on the Sabbath, and to *worship* God and remember him as Creator. The Bible reveals that "doing good" on the Sabbath is serving others in a way that shows the *power of God* in our lives. Christ didn't *labor* for several hours to heal the sick on the Sabbath. Instead, He invoked the very power of the Creator to release others from the bonds of sickness. So we should NOT spend most of the Sabbath caring for the physical needs of other people. By drawing closer to God on this day, we will then be able to help others in a LASTING way through the power of God's Spirit.

"Sewing for charity" and other physical services may be worthy at the proper time, but such routine labor should not fill up God's Sabbath day.

Physical things will "perish with the using." So use the Sabbath primarily to learn *God's ways* and make them a part of your *character*—and help others to

do the same. The Spirit of God in you will last *forever!*

*Rejoice* in the Sabbath as a wonderful OPPORTUNITY for the physical *rest*, and for the *study, prayer* and spiritual *fellowship* you need!

### A Commanded Assembly

In Luke 4:16, we find that Christ customarily met with others on the Sabbath and read from God's word. Lev. 23:1-3 tells us that the Sabbath is to be a *holy convocation* for God's people. A convocation is a *commanded assembly*. God commands you to *convoke* or meet with other *true* believers *whenever this is possible* on the Sabbath.

However, this does *not* mean that you are to meet on that day or any other day with those who are blinded to God's truth and refuse to keep *all* His commandments. Paul commanded Christians in II Cor. 6:14, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: *for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness* and what communion hath light with darkness?"

Christian fellowship should be with other people *ONLY* through God and his Spirit. God gives the Holy Spirit to them that *obey* Him (Acts 5:32). So remember that you *cannot* have true fellowship through Satan, or his ministers, or his churches who refuse to obey God's commandments.

When it was impossible to meet with others in a church on the Sabbath day, the apostle Paul and his helpers "went out of the city by a river side, where *prayer* was wont to be made" (Acts 16:13). This is an admirable example for many of us, because getting closer to the natural handiwork of the Creator brings one closer to God. The hand of God is seen in everything good and beautiful. Notice that instead of going to the river to fish, as so many do on the "day of the Sun," Paul went to a river to help others seek God in prayer.

### How to Be a Light to the World

Christ told his followers, "Ye are the *light* of the world" (Matt. 5:14). How much the world needs people who will fearlessly show it the way out of this spiritual darkness!

*But* can you be a "light" to other people while continuing in the same man-made doctrines and practices they do?

NO you can't! You must live by God's word to show forth the true light that will eventually turn people from darkness. You must be DIFFERENT from other people by obeying God—by having his SIGN. Most people won't like you for doing this. Christ said in John 3:19, "And this is the condemnation, that *light* is come into the world, and

*men loved darkness* rather than light, because their deeds were evil." Men were so *steeped* in their own customs, then as now, that the true light of the gospel offended them.

So you can see that real Christianity is not the way to be popular with men!

But doesn't this show what an important "light" your keeping of the Sabbath can be to others? It is a SIGN that sets you apart from those following the broad way that leads to destruction.

### Your Special Problems?

It is easy to use the latitude and privileges of the Sabbath as a means to *abuse* it. You should *not* be overly strict or self-righteous like the Pharisees. On the other hand, humans are usually inclined to "stretch" the freedom God gives us and begin doing our own work or pleasure on the Sabbath.

Taking a walk on the Sabbath is fine so long as it doesn't turn into a "hike." Some people ask about the mention of "a sabbath day's journey" in Acts 1:12. There is no special command *anywhere* in the Bible limiting travel on the Sabbath. This "sabbath day's journey" was a custom of the Jews and is not a biblical command. However, you certainly shouldn't walk or drive so far on the Sabbath as to tire yourself unduly or to interfere with your worship of God.

After sitting in church or studying for some time, a leisurely walk is very refreshing and beneficial. Also, a lengthy drive is sometimes necessary to enable you to meet with other true worshippers on the Sabbath. Within reason, this is not wrong. It serves to strengthen you spiritually and therefore glorifies God.

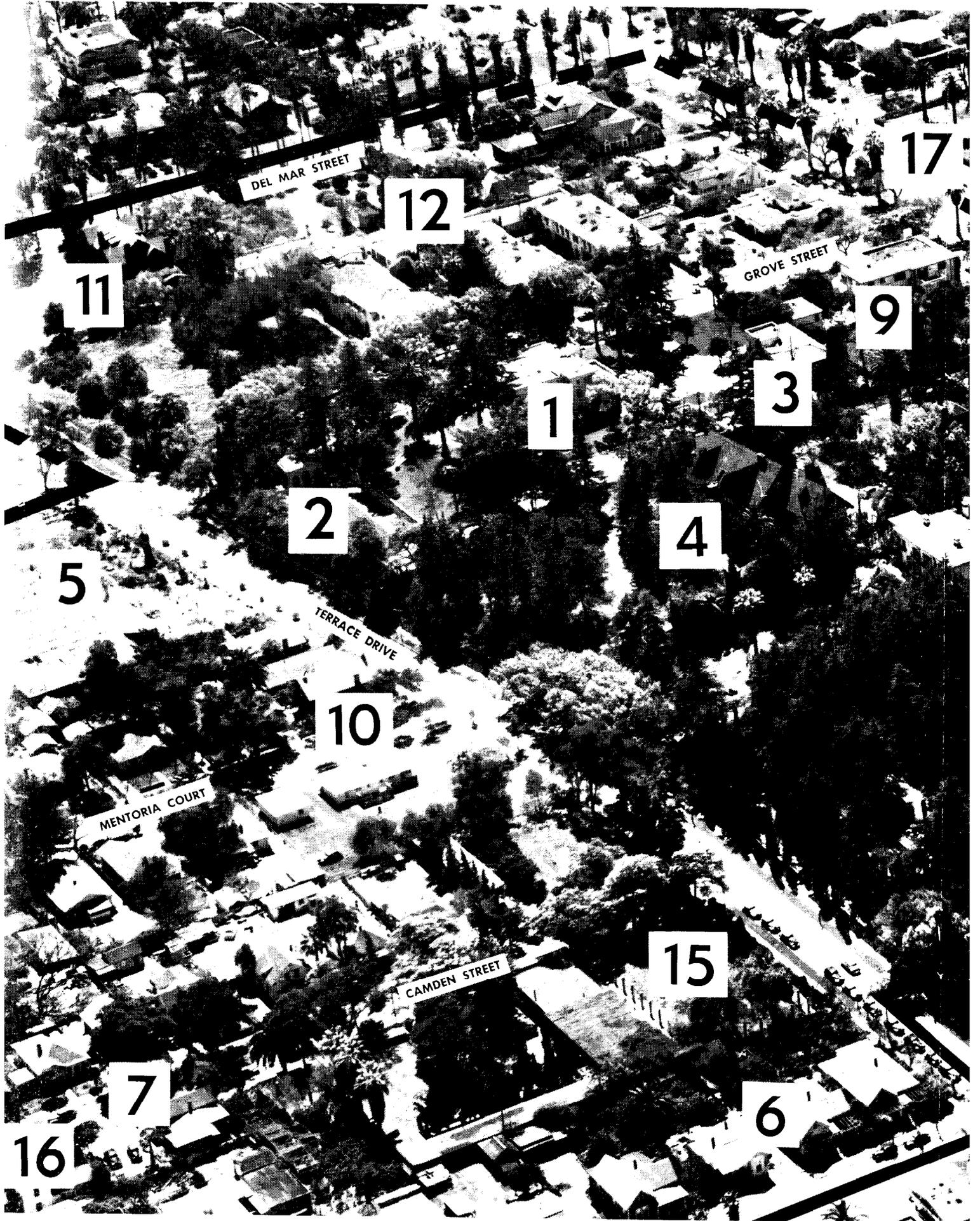
Here is another problem. Should you kindle a fire on the Sabbath day?

The command in Exodus 35:3 was inserted in connection with instructions regarding work on the tabernacle. It was chiefly intended to forbid the kindling of a fire to melt metals or sharpen tools. However, it certainly can refer to unnecessary work done in preparing food which could be prepared on the day before.

So it would *not* be breaking the spirit of the law to light a fire for heat in wintry weather or to warm up a previously prepared food.

Feeding and watering stock is necessary on the Sabbath and permissible (Luke 13:15). *But* if you are raising so many cattle or chickens that your "chores" add up to three or four hours' hard work, then you had better cut down on the number of your livestock or else change occupations. Our age of "specialization," when a few farmers become virtual slaves to provide food for hundreds of city dwellers, is *not* God's way.

(Please continue on page 8)



DEL MAR STREET

GROVE STREET

TERRACE DRIVE

MENTORIA COURT

CAMDEN STREET

17

9

3

1

2

4

11

5

10

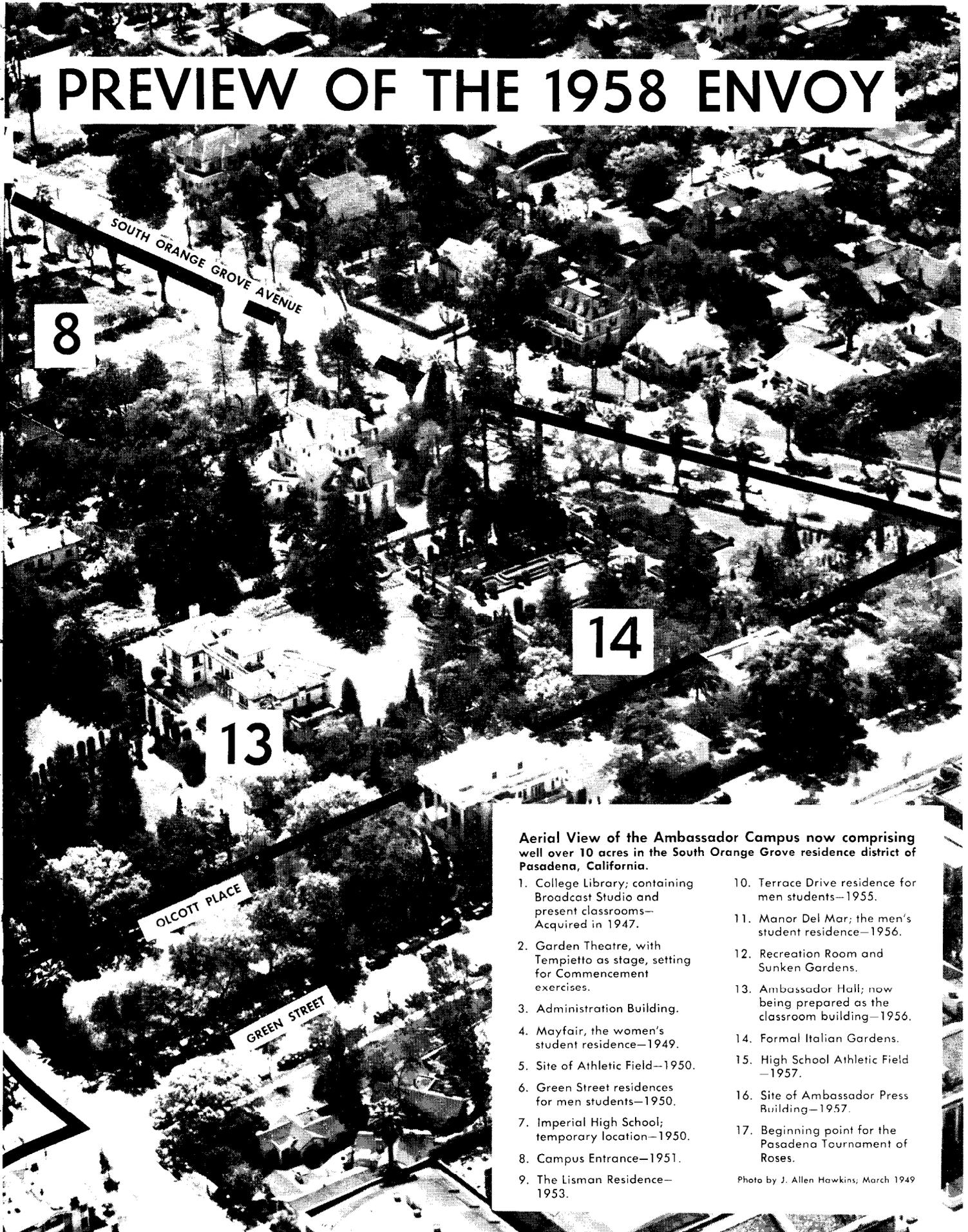
15

7

6

16

# PREVIEW OF THE 1958 ENVOY



**Aerial View of the Ambassador Campus now comprising well over 10 acres in the South Orange Grove residence district of Pasadena, California.**

1. College Library; containing Broadcast Studio and present classrooms—Acquired in 1947.
2. Garden Theatre, with Tempietto as stage, setting for Commencement exercises.
3. Administration Building.
4. Mayfair, the women's student residence—1949.
5. Site of Athletic Field—1950.
6. Green Street residences for men students—1950.
7. Imperial High School; temporary location—1950.
8. Campus Entrance—1951.
9. The Lisman Residence—1953.
10. Terrace Drive residence for men students—1955.
11. Manor Del Mar; the men's student residence—1956.
12. Recreation Room and Sunken Gardens.
13. Ambassador Hall; now being prepared as the classroom building—1956.
14. Formal Italian Gardens.
15. High School Athletic Field—1957.
16. Site of Ambassador Press Building—1957.
17. Beginning point for the Pasadena Tournament of Roses.

Photo by J. Allen Hawkins; March 1949

# The SABBATH

(Continued from page 5)

No man should be "tied down" to his occupation as so many are today.

DON'T try to justify breaking the Sabbath by saying that "your occupation requires it"! Remember that this worldly, competitive system is called "Babylon" in the Bible and you are commanded to "come out of her" (Rev. 18:1-4).

## How to Instruct Children

God inspired Solomon to write "train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Pro. 22:6). This command would certainly apply to teaching your child to keep the Sabbath. However, you should remember that even sweet little children are by no means converted.

They are basically selfish, and usually lack the understanding and will power to keep God's law as an adult.

But they should be taught to rest from their routine work or play on the Sabbath as much as possible. They should be instructed in a kindly and straightforward manner that the seventh day is holy to their Heavenly Father, and that they can show their love for Him by refraining from their usual play on that day and by thinking and learning about God, instead.

Your children should be taught these things gradually and only as their age makes it possible for them to understand. If trained properly from infancy, a ten or twelve year old child should have enough respect for God's Sabbath that he does not spend his time reading "funny books" or listening to radio serials on that day.

Love and chastening must go hand in hand in this training. But a child so trained in God's ways would have a priceless advantage in his knowledge of life and its real meaning in relation to the Creator.

## It Is HOLY Time

In Exodus 20:8, we find the original command, "Remember the sabbath day to keep it HOLY." Never forget that God has made the seventh day *holy time!* You and I are commanded to *keep* it that way.

We have already found in God's word that we are not to do our own work, pleasure, think our own thoughts, or speak our own words on God's Sabbath day. To keep the Sabbath day *holy*:

You can't spend a lot of time in worldly visiting or "shooting the breeze," or even courting your girl.

You can't be running down town for a cup of coffee or an ice-cream soda. That kind of procuring food is *entirely UNNECESSARY*

You can't spend several hours listening to worthless radio programs or reading the "funnies."

You can't wait until after sunset on Friday evening to begin your cleaning up and preparing for the Sabbath, unless, of course, a *genuine* emergency has interfered.

I could go on, but I think you should get the point and grasp the principle involved.

Let's NOT "kid" ourselves!

When God said to put the Sabbath day to a HOLY use, He means *exactly* what He said. But we should learn to be so happily employed in doing the good things prescribed for that day, that we will have no time or inclination to violate the prohibitions anyway.

So let's keep the Sabbath in a POSITIVE way! Use the Sabbath as a day to rest from worldly labor, to get closer to God in *prayer* and *study*. Take time to *do good* to others, to care for the sick, to visit the afflicted. Assemble with other *true believers* on the Sabbath if this is possible. Then you will truly be a "light" to those around you.

The Sabbath SEPARATES true Christians from this world's churches with their pagan holidays and "day of the sun." And it gives the true children of the Living God an opportunity for *rest, study, prayer* and *worship*—for DIRECT and SUSTAINED contact with their Creator which they would otherwise not enjoy.

So KEEP HOLY the day God made holy! REJOICE in the *blessings* and *opportunities* that the Sabbath affords, and remember that it is an identifying SIGN of *direct relationship* between you and your Creator.

# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

This year we invite all the members of the Church of God to share this wonderful experience.

BETTER than a personal visit to the Ambassador College campus, in many ways!—you share with these unusual young people their life on the Ambassador campus . . . at work, and at play—their jam-packed interesting lives and experiences in study, in field trips, in social activities, in recreation and athletic-field activities, and in the wonderful fellowship of college and Christian life!

## Ministers To Be Included

This year The ENVOY will contain professional pictures of all students, faculty members, and for the first time individual pictures of our ALUMNI, former graduates of Ambassador, many now serving you in the ministry.

The goal of the Staff this year: to send out 1000 ENVOYS, a thousand Ambassadors of friendship and good will to our Church membership. The eventual goal, to send an ENVOY to each Christian home to build unity and fellowship between the Church and its young men

and women being trained for positions of responsibility in the work of spreading the gospel. This is your invitation to share with us the magnificent campus God has given us, to share in the activities, the life of preparation of Ambassador's graduates of tomorrow.

## ACT NOW!

An increase in size and quality are certain to make this new ENVOY surpass by far any of the previous issues. The price per book remains \$5.00 . . . and that price is the *complete price*—including the increased cost of postage, wrapping, and so forth. The ENVOY will be ready for mailing in early June, but the printers must know months in advance the exact number of books to be printed.

Just fill in the coupon below or PRINT the required information in a letter and send it IMMEDIATELY to "The ENVOY," at Post Office Box 111, Pasadena, California! Please use the enclosed envelope.

CUT ON DOTTED LINE

## The ENVOY Staff:

YES! I want to receive my copy of The ENVOY! I enclose the sum of FIVE DOLLARS (\$5.00) which pays the subscription price in full. Please make all checks payable to: The ENVOY.

(Print name)

(Print street and number)

City

Zone

State

# How Much Can YOU Do?

*Many of you may be downcast—may NOT REALIZE the great GOOD you personally are capable of accomplishing! Here's what can be done, THROUGH YOU!*

by Garner Ted Armstrong

**S**OMETIMES I feel I'm not worth very much," writes one member to us. "I know I'm not very important, and not much help," said another.

**FAR FROM IT!**

Perhaps NONE of you brethren have truly visualized the great POWER you can potentially wield in the work of God.

**Would YOU Have Been Insulted?**

When the apostle Paul returned to Ephesus from the area of Galatia, he found certain disciples, and "said unto them, 'Have ye received the Holy Spirit since ye believed?'" (Acts 19:2.) Can you picture it? He looked these persons in the eye and *asked* them if they had received the HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD! They answered they *had not even heard* of the Holy Spirit. Paul explained, and later they received this priceless gift!

But would *you* have shuffled your feet nervously, looked down, tried to change the subject, given a hesitating answer—in other words, would you have been EMBARRASSED by such a question?

What about it?

Could you answer INSTANTLY, "YES—I KNOW I have the Spirit of God!"?

**Overwhelming Potential**

Jesus Christ said, "I can of mine *own self* do nothing!" (John 5:30.) But went on to explain, "... the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself, but the Father that dwelleth in me, HE doeth the works!" (John 14:10.)

Just think of that! Your Saviour said He could accomplish *nothing Himself*, when left just to Himself—BY HIMSELF! Just as many of *you* get to feeling YOU can "do NOTHING" to really HELP in this *work of God!*

But Jesus DID GREAT MIRACLES! And He did it by the power of the Spirit of God!

That great overwhelming power is potentially YOURS today, if you will truly YIELD to God—and allow Him to work through you!

Christ records through Luke that He is more willing to give of His Spirit than we are willing to feed our own hungry children! (Luke 11:13.) He stands WILLING, EAGER to *give us* of that same power!

But aren't we the "weak" of the earth? Aren't we the *poor*, the *humble*, and the despised FEW—who have NO POWER, and NO STRENGTH? Yes, we have NO STRENGTH of *ourselves*—but with the Spirit of God WE ARE POSSESSORS OF ALL POWER!

Jesus said, "ALL POWER is given me in Heaven and in earth" (Matt. 28:18). And Christ is to be LIVING within US! (Gal. 2:20, Phil. 2:5, Rom. 8:9.) Potentially we all share in *that power!* And so YOU are to have the One who CREATED THE WORLDS, WHO MADE ADAM, WHO SENT THE FLOOD, WHO DIVIDED THE RED SEA, WHO BECAME JESUS CHRIST—LIVING PERSONALLY, INDIVIDUALLY WITHIN YOU!

And you think you have no power?

**Just What CAN You Accomplish?**

YOU, as one, separate individual can save a nation! You can alter the course of human lives, you can PREVENT WAR!

Believe it or not! The Bible contains examples of the PRAYERS of just ONE PERSON accomplishing truly GREAT things!

Turn to the 9th chapter of Deuteronomy and read it. God does not "threaten" empty as does a man—He was not trying to "frighten" the people. God actually PURPOSED in His own mind to DESTROY THE ENTIRE NATION OF ISRAEL, and make a new nation of the seed of MOSES!

But the earnest, fervent PRAYERS of just ONE MAN—*Moses*—altered the course of a nation. That prayer is one good reason why you are *alive* today.

Next, read II Chronicles the 20th chapter. Here, King Jehoshaphat "feared, and SET HIMSELF to seek the Eternal, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah" (vs. 3). He then prayed about the threat of the allied armies of the Moabites and Ammonites that were about to kill the Israelites. GOD ANSWERED THAT PRAYER, and delivered the armies of *two nations* into the hands of the inhabitants of Jerusalem! Notice it the prayers of one righteous man!

DANIEL prayed earnestly, and God revealed not only an *interpretation* of a dream, but the entire dream itself as well! As a result, many lives were saved, and Daniel was made an executive in the Chaldean government.

But weren't these *great men*—*famous men*—of whom such great faith and righteousness *would naturally be expected?*

No! They were *Moses*, who ran from the call of God, who broke the tables of stone in anger, and who was prevented from entering the promised land because of his own temper; and Jehoshaphat, who "cried out" when he thought he was going to be killed (II Chron. 18:31), and who "feared" when he saw the armies threatening him (II Chron. 20:3); Daniel, who *fainted*, and was *sick* when God showed him the frightful symbols of prophecy (Dan. 8:27).

These men were human beings, like you and me—human beings with faults, with shortcomings, with temptations of the flesh. And yet, because they WENT TO GOD WITH THEIR PROBLEMS, the courses of nations were altered because of them!

**How HIGH Is Our Calling?**

Little do we begin to visualize how GREAT is this salvation (Heb. 2:3) into which even the powerful angels wish to look! (I Pet. 1:12.)

WE are to someday be ABOVE the angels, ABOVE the cherubim, the seraphim, and ABOVE the 24 elders seated about God's very throne! WE ARE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY OF GOD—TO BECOME GOD!

God expects you to THINK BIG! Let the entire UNIVERSE come into the scope of your thinking! PRAY that God will *not* permit a war in Syria. PRAY God WILL put a man in the Presidency of the United States who will follow policies that will be *BEST for the work of God!* Pray that God will ALTER the WEATHER when need be—and ESPECIALLY WHEN WE HAVE TO FLEE!

PRAY BIG! THINK BIG! Do not believe for one second your prayers cannot accomplish GREAT MIRACLES today!

Is Christ living WITHIN you? Is He? If you *know* He is—then ACT on it—and begin coming BOLDLY to that throne of grace, *knowing* God has obligated Himself to answer your prayers!

*What do you mean*—"can't do any good?" Paul wrote, "I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST which strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13).

SO CAN YOU!

## Why New Tabernacle?

(Continued from page 2)

who can work will be prospered in these next crucial months.

The extra things we wanted to buy in these next few months fade into insignificance when compared with the need of the Church for the tabernacle. What we do in these next months will last us here in America and Canada for *all the remaining years* we have left in which to complete the spreading of the gospel as a witness.

*Now is the time that we need the new tabernacle.* Nearly two sevenths of the people had to remain seated outside the tabernacle this past year!

This cannot happen again next year.

We will continue to use the present tabernacle for dining facilities. There was *no mistake* made in building it. It will continue to serve us every year!

So let us all willingly and generously contribute our special offerings **EACH MONTH FROM NOW ON UNTIL THE NEW AUDITORIUM IS FULLY PAID FOR!**

### Why Hold Feast of Tabernacles in Only ONE Place?

Many of you brethren have so recently come into the true Church of God that you may never have heard us explain **WHY** we hold the Feast of Tabernacles in only *one place in the United States*.

Why do we not also hold the other festivals only in one place, the same as we do the Feast of Tabernacles?

What examples in the Old and New Testaments do we have?

Although there are *seven annual festivals*, we are commanded to appear before God three times or seasons in the year. Notice: "*Three times in a year shall all thy males*"—the women are also included—"appear before the Lord thy God in the place which He shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks, and in the feast of tabernacles" (Deut. 16:16).

The passover is here considered as an integral part of the Days of Unleavened Bread. The separate festivals of Trumpets and Atonement are not included as they are usually held wherever the local churches meet on the weekly Sabbath.

This verse in Deuteronomy clearly shows that we are not free to meet wherever *we please*, but, rather, to meet wherever it pleases God. He chooses the place we meet and He reveals it to His ministers who convoke the assemblies.

Notice that in the Book of Zechariah the one feast which all will be required to attend *in one place* is the Feast of Tabernacles! "And it shall come to pass that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem—and all nations will come against Jeru-

salem—"shall even go up from year to year . . . to keep the Feast of Tabernacles" (Zech. 14:16).

In the millennium the Gentiles will be required to assemble *in one place*—Jerusalem—to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

Nowhere in Scripture do we find that all the nations will be required to attend the other two major festivals at Jerusalem. Only the Feast of Tabernacles is mentioned!

That means that God would place His name in more than one place for the Passover season and Pentecost.

Notice the Bible proof in Exodus 20:24, last part of verse, where the God of Israel is personally quoted: "*In all places where I record My name I will come unto thee and I will bless thee.*"

How clear! Three times a year we must meet with the brethren wherever designated, but only *once* a year—according to the example of Scripture—are *ALL* commanded to meet together in *one place* for the Feast of Tabernacles!

Here's why!

In the millennium the earth will become *one world*, UNITED BY EFFICIENT MEANS OF TRAVEL, governed by *one Kingdom*—the Kingdom of God. Since the Feast of Tabernacles is a memorial of God's Plan for the millennium, we are all to come together in *one place* to celebrate it! That is a perfect type!

God permits the other festivals to be held in *more than one locality at the same time* because the spring festivals picture God's Plan FOR THIS PRESENT AGE—THIS DIVIDED WORLD OF MAN.

Our earth is now a divided earth, and the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread and Pentecost are memorials of God's Plan *now* being carried out on this divided earth!

### Why Feast of Tabernacles in London?

But if there is only to be one place for the Feast of Tabernacles, why do we hold the Feast in London, England, at the same time we hold one near Gladewater, Texas? And why will we later probably be celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles in Australia and South Africa at the same time we do here in North America?

The answer is plain!

There is an astounding Biblical reason why Mr. Armstrong has been led to sanction a Feast of Tabernacles in London. Consider:

When the earth becomes one world in the millennium, then there will be only one place in the World Tomorrow for the Feast of Tabernacles—Jerusalem, the geographic and communicative center of the coming age. **BUT TODAY THE EARTH IS DIVIDED INTO SEVERAL GEOGRAPHIC AND COMMUNICATIVE WORLD-AREAS!** These include North America,

Europe, Australia, South Africa and South America. It is impossible financially for the vast majority of people to travel freely from one of these areas—England, for example—to another area—America, for example.

**EACH OF THESE WORLD-AREAS** represents, for Christians living in these areas, what the world tomorrow will be like during the millennium. In each one of these separate geographic areas on our earth, there can be only *one* Feast of Tabernacles held!

What wonderful types of the millennium!

Today, North America is **ONE WORLD-AREA**. Europe is *another* world-area. Australia is yet a third; South Africa is still another. *Each one of these areas is a type of the WORLD TOMORROW!* Therefore, in each area only *one* Feast of Tabernacles can be held according to the plain example of Scripture.

In whatever geographic world-area you brethren are located, there can be only *one* Feast of Tabernacles. In America that *one* place is Gladewater. In Europe, it is London.

No place in Scripture can you find the Feast of Tabernacles held in more than one place in any one geographic world-area. But you can find numerous examples of the other festivals being held in New Testament times in numerous secondary localities within an area wherever the circumstances permitted.

Notice the Jewish custom in Palestine:

"According to the prescribed regulation," writes Hayyim Schauss in the *Jewish Festivals*, p. 172, "every male had to make the journey to a great sanctuary at all three festivals. It was difficult for the Jewish peasant to leave his village at Passover and Pentecost. . . . He was able to leave **ONLY** at the autumn festival"—the Feast of Tabernacles—to keep it at Jerusalem! Jewish Christians followed this practice in apostolic days.

Let us notice the examples.

### New Testament Examples

In New Testament times the Mediterranean region, where the apostle Paul preached, was divided into several geographic and communicative areas. Paul was guided by the Spirit of God to take *special journeys*—falsely called "missionary journeys"—to each of these separate areas. In a sense Mr. Armstrong is doing the same today by preaching to North America, to Europe, to Australia, to South Africa, to India. Each one of these regions is as separate as were the areas in which each of Paul's *journeys* took him.

In New Testament times, Palestine was one geographic and communicative region. All the people living there kept the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem.

just as Jesus did (John 7:2).

In addition, many wealthy Jews from far-away areas came to Jerusalem (Acts 2:9-11) as representatives from those distant geographic areas where the feasts were also being held. This was a common practice since the days of Ezra and Nehemiah. Similarly, we have from time to time representatives from abroad who will meet with us in North America at Gladewater. At this last festival we had a young man from London with us.

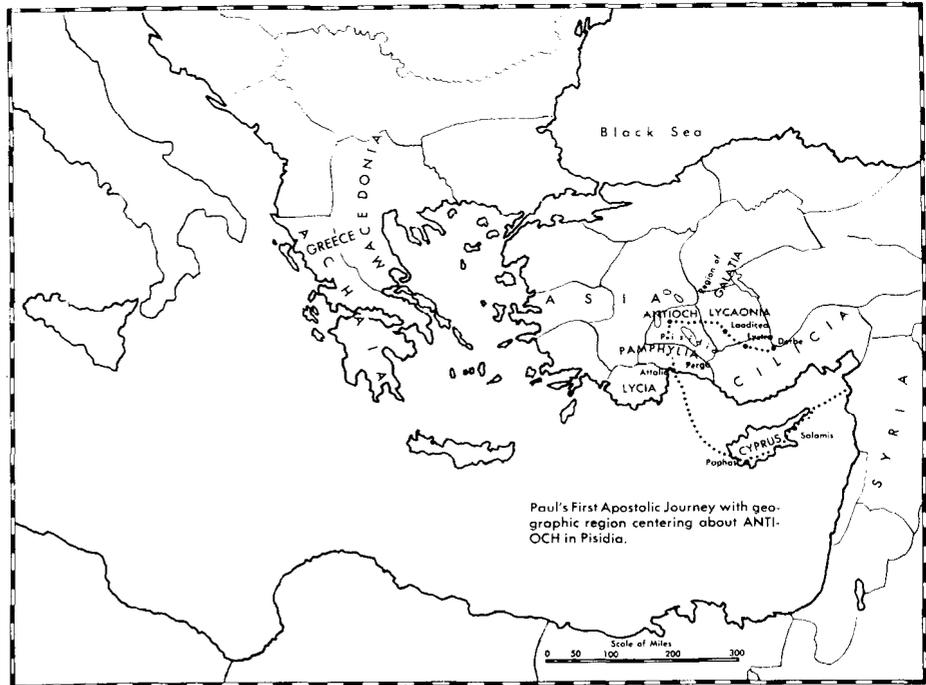
History records that uncircumcised Gentiles were not permitted by the Jews in Palestine to come to Jerusalem to observe the festivals. When Paul was seen in Jerusalem in 56 A.D. with one Gentile about the time of Pentecost, the Jews nearly killed him (Acts 21:27-30). This means that the Church was observing the festivals elsewhere than in Jerusalem, as Jesus prophesied they would (John 4:21).

**Paul's Ministry Proves It**

Notice the proof from Paul's life. Paul kept the festivals of God. Yet for nearly 14 years he "was unknown by face into the churches of Judaea which were in Christ: but they had heard only, 'That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed'" (Galatians 1:22-23). Paul was not keeping the feasts at Jerusalem or he certainly would have been known by face.

Where was Paul spending his time during those years?

"I came," he said, "into the regions of Syria and Cilicia" (Gal. 1:21). That is where they were! Paul and Barnabas spent many years preaching there before being sent on their journeys. The center



of the region of Cilicia and Syria was Antioch. At Antioch "it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people." Paul, then, would have observed the Feast of Tabernacles in Antioch because he was *there* a whole year! Read Acts 11:25-26; see map below.

In Acts 13:2 Paul and Barnabas were chosen to preach to a new area—different from Syria and Cilicia. This time they carry the gospel to Cyprus, Lycia, Pamphylia, Pisidia and Lycaonia—sometimes called South Galatia. See Acts, chapters 13 and 14, and the map above.

The major center of this area was the city Antioch in Pisidia, where we find

Paul entering the synagogue on the "Day of Weeks"—Pentecost! The literal, inspired, original Greek of Acts 13:14 reads: "They came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Day of Weeks, and sat down." The Greek word translated "sabbath" can also mean "week." But here it is *in the plural*, and ought to be translated "weeks." This same expression has been incorrectly translated three different times in the New Testament.

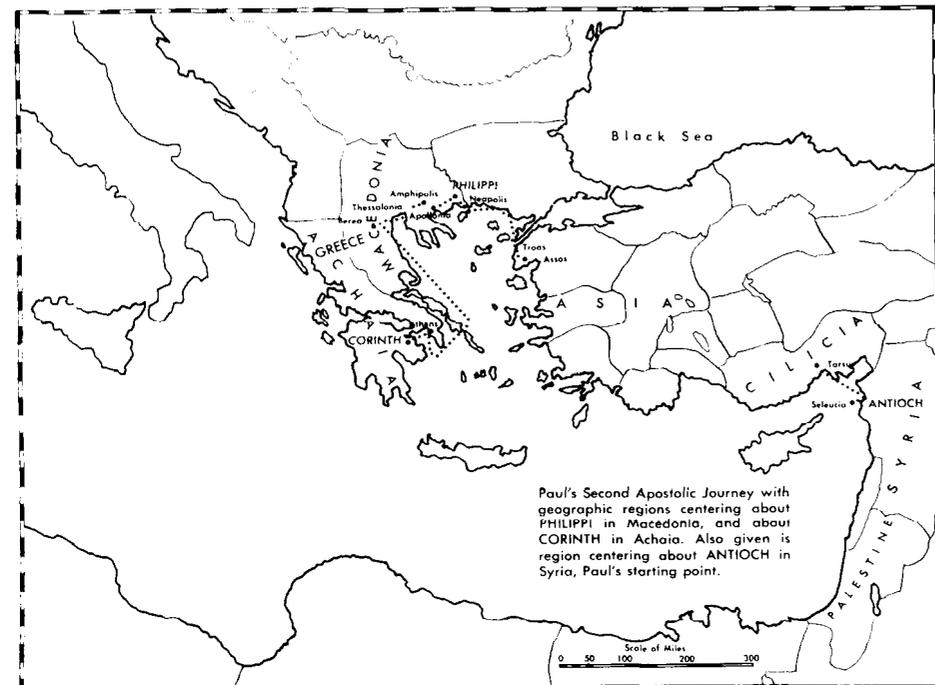
Pentecost is called the "Feast of Weeks" in the Old Testament (Deut. 16:9-10). When the translators saw the Greek wording here, they could not imagine Paul observing the Day of Pentecost or the Day of Weeks with the Jews in Antioch of Pisidia! But that is what he was doing! After this, Paul preached in other cities, returning to Antioch in Pisidia about the time of the Feast of Tabernacles.

This city—Antioch in Pisidia—was the center of a world-area in Paul's day. The spring festivals were undoubtedly held locally in the other cities of this area.

**Festivals Held in Europe**

On the next apostolic journey the apostle Paul went into Europe. He came to Philippi in Macedonia—exactly 19 years after the Holy Spirit had come on the day of Pentecost in 31 A.D. And what do you supposed happened?

"And we were in that city abiding certain days"—there were so few Jews in Philippi that there was no regular synagogue, only a place of prayer. "And on the Day of Weeks we went out of the city by a river side where we supposed there was a prayer place; and we



sat down, and spoke unto *the women* which came together"—so reads the original Greek. How plain! Exactly 19 years after the gospel began to be preached on Pentecost by the Church in Asia, it began to be preached in Europe on the Day of Pentecost—the Day of Weeks, the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost.

Paul then journeys to Corinth, in South Greece, in the province of Achaia. "He continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them" (Acts 18:11). That accounts for two more Feasts of Tabernacles, this time, it would seem, spent in Corinth. See map, page 11, bottom.

Those converted in Paul's first journey in the region of Galatia and Pisidia were probably keeping the festival in Antioch in Pisidia. Distances were so great in those days that it would have taken two weeks to a month just to travel to Corinth from Antioch in Pisidia.

At the same time, converts in the geographic area of Syria and Cilicia were probably observing the Feast of Tabernacles in Antioch in Syria. Jews in Palestine were observing it in Jerusalem as always. Each of these places was the *one* central location in a geographic, communicative area. *We follow the same example today!*

Paul obviously was guided by the Holy Spirit to spend each separate journey in different communicative areas, nearby the central city of which would be the place for the Feast of Tabernacles.

The third journey took Paul into the district of Asia, which was subdivided into Mysia, Lydia and Caria. The central location of this region was Ephesus, where Paul preached for at least two years and three months (Acts 19:8-10). The Feast of Tabernacles was probably held here during this time.

### Spring Festivals Held Locally

Early in the year 56 A.D., we find the Feast of Unleavened Bread held in the secondary cities of Troas and Assos. Notice it in Acts 20: 4-7, 11, 13-14:

Luke and other ministers stayed in Philippi until "after the Days of Unleavened Bread." Paul, however, accompanied by seven others, went to Troas in Asia (verse 4). Therefore Paul was observing the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread in the city of Troas while the others accompanying Luke were observing it in Philippi in Macedonia. Immediately after the last day of Unleavened Bread—which, in 56 A.D., fell on a *weekly Sabbath*—Paul left for Assos. This would certainly seem to indicate that the brethren in Assos were not there at Troas when Paul was at Troas. They probably were keeping the Feast of Unleavened Bread at Assos, some 30 miles distant by foot.

The keeping of the Feast of Unleavened Bread in so many minor towns clearly substantiates the practice of the Church of God today when we hold the same festival in numerous local areas!

But nowhere in the Book of Acts can you find one place where the Feast of Tabernacles was ever held in any but the one place which was the center of communications for an entire geographic area in which Paul preached.

### Jesus' Own Example

Jesus is our example. We know that He observed the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem, the headquarters of the Church in Palestine. But did He ever observe the spring festivals in any other city than Jerusalem?

He did!

Notice what the Scripture says. Jesus began to preach the gospel at Nazareth. He read from the book of Isaiah where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor . . ." (Luke 4:17). Consider the fact that up until this time Christ was merely calling disciples and teaching them in private. When Nicodemus acknowledged that Jesus was "a teacher come from God" (John 3:2), Jesus now had the tacit approval of a Sanhedrin representative to publicly preach. Then Jesus goes to Nazareth in Galilee to begin preaching. And when did He start preaching publicly in the synagogues?

"And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up: and, as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Day of Weeks, and stood up for to read" (Luke 4:16). Here again the original Greek has been misunderstood! Jesus began preaching, not merely on a sabbath, but on a *particular* sabbath—the annual Feast of Weeks or Pentecost!

It was His custom to observe that Feast in Nazareth. You will never find Jesus in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. He was setting us an example that the spring festivals are not required to be held in only *one* place!

It was often the practice of the Jews living in Galilee to attend services on the spring festivals in Nazareth or other Galilean cities. (See *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah* by Ederheim.) Because the disciples had often been accustomed to keep Pentecost in Galilee rather than Jerusalem—for they were Galileans—Jesus had to command them in 31 A.D. to remain in Jerusalem till Pentecost. God purposed to give them His Holy Spirit *at the Headquarters Church* in Jerusalem as a witness to all the Jews and the world.

There is strong evidence that Jesus also once observed the Feast of Unleavened Bread in Galilee. Turn to Matthew

12:1-9. On a weekly sabbath "at that season" the Pharisees wrongly accused Jesus of breaking the sabbath. This event appears to have *occurred in Galilee*, according to the account in Mark 3:7, where Jesus withdraws nearby to the Sea of Galilee.

But notice what the original Greek, written by Luke, calls *that* sabbath: "And it came to pass on a *second high sabbath* that He was going through the cornfields" (Luke 6:1).

If you look in some Bibles you will see that the translators have awkwardly rendered the Greek words "second sabbath after the first." Actually, the Greek expression means that the weekly sabbath that year was also the second high day, an annual sabbath—a day of *first* rank. And in that very year—29 A.D.—the Sacred Calendar proves that the *second Holy Day* in the days of Unleavened Bread fell on a weekly sabbath!

So Jesus was keeping the Days of Unleavened Bread in all probability in Galilee that year!—not in Jerusalem, the place where the Feast of Tabernacles was always held in Palestine.

### Jesus Leads Our Church Today

Jesus leads His Church—this Church. We are the Church of God. Since Jesus never changes we find Him leading the Church today in exactly the same manner as He did in apostolic times. He is leading His ministers today to know where the festivals of God ought to be held, just as He led the apostles and ministers in olden times to know where God's people should meet.

God wants the people to appear before Him. Therefore He wants the spring festivals of Passover and Unleavened Bread and Pentecost to be observed where the greatest number of people can gather together throughout the country.

But God provided in His law for us to save the SECOND TITHE so that we all could journey to *one central place* for the Feast of Tabernacles. Gladewater is that place here in North America. It is centrally located from east to west. Economically it is centrally located from north to south, for the vast majority of our brethren who have low incomes live in the region of the Southern States.

Certainly God is an all-wise God when we fully grasp how He has worked out all these things for us!

Now we know *where* and *why* God wants us to build the *new* tabernacle or auditorium. Let's put our whole hearts into our prayers for its completion in the next eight months—and liberal, extra offerings for the special tabernacle fund which must be separate and apart from our usual tithes and offerings.

This is our BIG IMMEDIATE responsibility, brethren. Let us not shirk it!