

The Good News

International Magazine of
THE CHURCH OF GOD

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DECEMBER, 1959

Should Your Child Participate in School Activities?

Members continue to write us for advice in meeting the serious problems which children face in public schools. Should children join clubs, take part in Christmas and Easter plays, participate in sports after school hours?

by Roderick C. Meredith

HERE is a recent letter from Illinois which is typical of hundreds we receive.

"We have a daughter six years old attending public school. She went to kindergarten last year and is in the first grade this year. I know that many of the things they teach and the activities they have are of pagan origin, such as Halloween, Christmas, Easter. I do not think they are right. The problem that troubles me is what I should do or could do about it.

"Should I go ahead and let the child participate in these activities with the other children at school and then try to explain to the child at home that these practices and customs are pagan and wrong? If I do this, will it not be rather confusing to the child? Or would it be best for me to forbid the child to participate at all in these activities?"

Almighty God, our Creator, wants our children to live *happy, joyous* lives! Christ came that we all might live more abundantly—have lives full of interesting and worthwhile activities (John 10:10).

In order to provide a way for our happiness, God gave us His law—His way of life—to guide us in the paths that lead to that happiness. The early, Spirit-filled church understood that true Christianity

is a definite *way of life*. In Acts 9:2 and 19:9, 23, it is referred to as "this *WAY*" and "that *WAY*."

The present organized society doesn't follow *that way*!

"Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and FEW there be that find it" (Matt. 7:14). This world has separated itself from God and is going a far different *way* than that of the early true Church. In Galatians 1:4 it is called "this present *evil* world."

No Fellowship With This World

The apostle James tells us, "whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (James 4:4). Paul was inspired to write, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" (II Cor. 6:14).

Unrighteousness, or sin, is defined as breaking God's law (I John 3:4). Christians cannot have religious and social *fellowship* with the people of this world who refuse to acknowledge God's law—much less obey it. Of course, we can do business with the world, so long as we don't begin fellowshipping the world or practicing its *way* (I Cor. 5:9-11).

We are *not* to be part and parcel with this world—"this present *evil* world."

What About Our Children?

As God wants us *all* to lead happy, abundant lives, your child should not be deprived of doing whatever *in the end* will result in a happier, more worthwhile life.

There are *many things* which we, and our children, can do in the world—and yet not have fellowship with the world. We need to know *where* to draw the line!

In Christ's prayer for His disciples, He said, "I pray *not* that thou shouldst take them out of the world, *but* that thou shouldst keep them from the evil" (John 17:15). Later, He told them, "Go ye *into* all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). They were to go *into* the world, but were not to be *of* it—not to partake of its *evil*.

We Need to Understand This World

As Christ's disciples today, we must present the gospel—the message of God's kingdom—to the world in a powerful and convincing manner. In order to *understand* the worldly people we will

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

VOL. VIII NUMBER 12

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 change of address.**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Quits smoking

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"One thing impressed my husband very much at the Feast. We did not see one man on the tabernacle ground smoking. When we got back home my husband quit smoking, and he had smoked for 60 years."

Oklahoma

Enjoyed Feast

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"I had the most wonderful time at the Feast this fall, and with God's help I don't want to miss another one as long as God keeps me able to go. I don't mean just to have a minor illness, I mean to really not be able—physically and financially."

Woman from Morgan Mill, Texas

Profitable way to spend your time waiting for the lessons.

"Correspondence Course Staff:

"For once, since starting the Bible Correspondence Course, I am thankful the lessons have been delayed. It gives me extra time to spend on notes gath-

ered at that amazing, wonderful Feast of Tabernacles."

Woman from Santa Barbara, California

Booths better

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"After seeing the booths at the fall festival, I realize that they are much better than a tent or even a hotel room, I am sure this is God's way."

Man from Houston, Texas

God heals Australian Lady

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"This letter is to tell you of the wonderful way in which God is rapidly healing me of my affliction, through your ministry and my faith in His mighty healing power.

"I wrote to you requesting prayer a few weeks ago and received your reply a few days ago. We did as you instructed and after reading your two wonderful booklets on healing, we applied the anointed handkerchief to my leg. This was last Tuesday. On Wednesday the nurse who calls at my home and has been dressing the incision in my leg, was delighted to tell me that the discharge had ceased entirely. Last Friday I had an appointment to see my doctor at Newcastle Hospital. My doctor had told me two months ago that I would be better without my leg, but after examining me, told me that I shall now keep my limb and that the healing process was very good indeed. I believe with all my heart that God is rapidly healing my damaged bone or has *healed* it.

"Mr. Armstrong, my leg had been discharging for twenty months and now God has healed me of this terrible disease in a moment. What a wonderful God He is."

Woman from Australia

Coming out of Babylon

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"Several months ago I wrote you requesting prayer and an anointed cloth for my wife; she was suffering from a tumor and failing fast. She would have to undergo an operation or die. I received the anointed cloth and after we prayed, I laid it on the affected parts as you instructed me to do and my wife was healed that same night. She told me that when the anointed cloth was laid on her she felt a strong moving in her stomach, and the next morning the tumor was gone. Praise the Lord! Now

we want to dedicate our lives to serving the Lord in the truths that we have learned from God's ministers. We have decided to heed the command of God to 'come out of Babylon'."

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following four letters were received by the French Department, and have been translated into English.

Confused

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"I love the Bible, and I love God, but I am confused with all these 'Churches of God,' the Seventh-day Adventists and the rest. I will really love to be put on the right road, for God must surely have His Church on the earth since He is going to come to look for it."

Man from Montreal, Canada

French Canadians hungry for truth

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"Would you please send me all the literature that you have? I will make it my duty to distribute them and disperse them throughout our city (where) . . . my people, who are French Canadian, are hungry for the Word of God."

A man from Montreal, Canada

In accord

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"We have received the three booklets that you sent us, as well as the long and explicit letter, and the book 'A True History of the True Church' that I translated into French for my husband. (He can't read English.) Thus far we are entirely in agreement with you."

A French Woman from Passaic, New Jersey

Blessed by broadcast

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"I thank you for the trouble to which you have gone in sending me the literature that I requested . . . I served in two World Wars and am a pensioner. Also I was a drunkard and led a bad life, but today I am happy to have encountered some friends like The WORLD TOMORROW!"

An old man from Montreal, Canada

Are You Just WAITING IT OUT?

*This subject is so vital for us today that we are reprinting it from
the September 1954 issue.*

by Herbert W. Armstrong

RECENTLY I received a letter from a girl, 21 years of age, who has problems I believe to be common to many of you.

This girl found herself totally isolated—without friends or companions—because of the TRUTH of God. She was afraid of what people would think and say if they learned about her religion. They would think her “fanatical”—would ridicule her.

She had been taught as a child by her mother about the second coming of Christ, and the end of this world. She had been led to expect it immediately, but now, since listening to *The WORLD TOMORROW*, and reading *The PLAIN TRUTH*, she realizes it may yet be a few years before Christ comes. Now, she faces the problem of “waiting it out,” until Jesus appears.

It just occurred to me that many of you face the same problems, and that the letter I sent her might help many of you, too. So here it is:

An Open Letter

“Perhaps I can help you. Two or three points stick out in your letter. At first your letter sounded like that of an introvert, but as I proceeded I sensed that you are permitting FEAR to grip you and isolate you. I see indications of fear of people and their opinions, and fear of God—I mean a fear different from the normal true fear of The Eternal we ought to feel.

“You say, ‘I am completely alone in my faith’—which is normal enough and true of hundreds of God’s people—then, ‘I have confided in no one, for . . . they would merely think I had become indoctrinated with some fanatical theory.’ You indicate that the so-called better educated, intelligent people scorn the truth in ridicule, which I gather you fear. True, most so-called better educated people have been indoctrinated with the godless fable of the evolutionary concept, and inoculated with the assumption that all religion is superstition—but this is only ignorance and folklore in itself, and I have many highly educated people in my radio audience, tho the percentage may be small. Personally, I do not fear the opinions of these pseudo-educated, for I know they are

merely laymen, and ignorant of TRUTH.

“You continue, ‘I would be laughed at and ridiculed, but I do not believe any amount of brainwashing could make me lose my grip on what I now believe.’ Don’t be AFRAID of the truth you believe. Don’t be afraid of ridicule or of people. You say, ‘How can I alone observe’ what God commands. My dear girl, Mrs. Armstrong and I had to do this for years—hundreds are doing it now—and you can, IF you eradicate that FEAR, and replace it with FAITH, and HOPE and JOY in the truth! You ask, ‘Will I be condemned if I do not observe them to the letter, tho I do not reject them?’ First, don’t be in terror of God. He won’t condemn you—but you could condemn yourself. Remember God LOVES you. His way is RIGHT for you. And remember, too, ‘Not the hearers, but the DOERS of the law shall be justified.’ God commands His ways because they are BEST for us. To accept them mentally, but reject them in doing, is to reject THE WAY to happiness and eternal life. Try to find JOY in God’s better ways. Quit FEARING people and their opinions and ridicule, which will not come to the extent you imagine anyway.”

Only One GOAL

“There’s only one GOAL in life that can be satisfying and result in ultimate success—to ATTAIN TO THE RESURRECTION IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD. We are mere temporary mortals, now. You need to have patience and tolerance toward people—real love toward them, even the supposedly highly educated—not FEAR of them. Now, to attain the supreme GOAL, you have to GO TO WORK AT IT. You have to become a busy, enthusiastic DOER, not merely a hearer of God’s truth. You need to put your heart, your enthusiasm, your whole life into it. You indicate you have been just *waiting* for Christ’s coming—waiting it out. Meanwhile life is burdensome, full of weighty problems, upset by fears. ‘This isolation,’ you say, ‘is not pleasant.’

“I remember, when I was eight years old, being taken to church and just having to sit there for hours, with no program, no activity, nothing to do—just SIT, waiting the old century out, and the new century in—just waiting it out!

That was almost 55 years ago, and the unpleasant ordeal of it lingers still as a most unpleasant aftertaste. Just to wait out something is stark boredom. YOU HAVE A JOB TO DO, young lady—why not find it, and get so busy with it—so wrapped up in it—you have no time for all this dread, fear, and unhappy state you’ve permitted your mind to drift into?

“That job is dual—building a godlike CHARACTER, overcoming SELF, growing in grace and the knowledge of Christ, on the one hand, and contributing YOUR PART in the closing WORK OF GOD, the greatest, most wonderful, most important activity on earth, on the other. Perhaps your only part, for now, in God’s work is your constant prayers and your tithes and offerings. But even that is a most important part—far more, I realize, than our co-workers know! We are having our part in CHANGING the world. Tho I know the world pays little real heed to the Message from God right now, yet when God supernaturally moves to shake this earth, as people have heard me proclaim in advance, *then* they will turn, by the hundreds of thousands, to God and His ways! We are doing the job now of plowing up the ground, sowing the seed. God will cause the seed to sprout forth, and produce an abundant harvest, *after* our labors are over! It’s the greatest job on earth. We ought to be THRILLED with it, filled with JOY in being part of it—so INTENT on our happy job that the ridicule and scorn of the ignorant in this world, coming from those whom we really love and serve, and yet must endure and tolerate, never ruffles us at all. We love them enough to suffer their misconstructions, for their sakes.”

Keep Mind Off SELF

“Next, your mind is too much on YOURSELF. Get your mind on your job in this world—our calling to carry on God’s mission PREPARING THE WAY for God’s great supernatural intervention and SAVING this world—and the realization that, while our labors, NOW, do not bring forth visible evidence of the changed and happy world to come, nevertheless this is OUR PART IN IT, *for* (Please continue on page 7)

School Activities

(Continued from page 1)

be dealing with, we need to observe their way of life and learn their basic attitudes. We need to know what they are thinking and doing.

This *doesn't* mean that we are to *fellowship* them—join their churches, lodges, clubs, parties, or become intimate with them in any other way. But to understand this world, we can not shut ourselves off in some dark corner and have no contact with the outside world.

Teach Children God's Way

We need to ask God daily to help us associate with the unconverted in a friendly, loving manner but *never* to *fellowship*—to associate approvingly—with them in their worldly activities.

Children need special training, and God's guidance, to help them meet these problems, especially in their school life. Your little children should gradually be taught and trained to live *God's way*.

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" (Proverbs 22:6).

If God's way is the *best* way—the *happiest* way—why shouldn't we want to teach our children that way?

We had *better not* be ashamed of the precious truth of God, but learn to teach it to our children. Too many parents don't know how to teach their children at home.

The Problem of School Activities

When your child understands God's way of life, he will encounter many school activities which are contrary to that way. He will also *find some activities which are necessary to develop abilities and personality in the right direction—without breaking God's law*.

For instance, the ability to produce beautiful music certainly glorifies God if it is exercised properly. In most cases, your child need not *fellowship* the world in order to take music lessons, play in a band or orchestra or sing in the school chorus. In these activities, the idea is *not* social or religious fellowship, but to produce co-operatively good music and to cultivate each individual's talents. Such activities will give your child the contact with others he needs. They will teach him to work in harmony and to co-operate—in a *worthwhile* activity—with his fellow human beings. This will help develop his personality, his confidence, and will enable him to better *understand* and deal with those around him. Lack of *any* such activity or contact will almost inevitably result in a *narrow*,

stunted personality development.

The main *problem* these activities present is the fact that they are often held on God's Sabbath and are sometimes directly connected with the celebration of this world's *pagan* holidays. The parent and child will have to work this out with teachers according to the circumstances in each particular case.

However, we need to know *how far* God would wish us to go.

In Jeremiah 10:2-3, God says, "Learn *not* the way of the *heathen*, . . . for the customs of the people are vain." Then he goes on to describe as "heathenism" many of the social and religious activities that the people of this world participate in today—such as Christmas and Easter celebrations. God *doesn't* want us, or our children, to participate in the *heathen* practices of this world's holidays!

In view of this divine command, we *cannot* let our children participate in the programs centering around this world's pagan religious holidays. We should request the teachers in a non-argumentative, *polite but firm* manner to excuse our children from participation in these programs.

Concerning programs occurring on a weekly or annual Sabbath, we must remember that God's Sabbath is *holy time*—and *not* to be abused. However, if an unusual musical program of the *right kind* were scheduled on the eve of the Sabbath and your child belonged to the school musical organization producing it—it would be permissible for him to participate simply as an expression of the musical talent to glorify the God who gave it. But we should be *very careful* to pray over the circumstances, and never abuse this privilege, or allow it to take the place of a commanded Sabbath assembly.

This is the principle a parent and child should follow in all *worthwhile* school activities.

As for participation in after-school sports, I can say from much experience that, although they may be enjoyable for a time, most school sports consume too much valuable time. The possibility of bodily injury, and the almost constant necessity of participation on the Sabbath, make it a *rare case* indeed that a real Christian child could conscientiously participate in this world's athletic program between schools.

I love sports, and think every child should be taught to exercise and to enjoy the *right kind* of sports during recesses and in gymnasium classes. But this civilization's inter-school sports program is not set up to fit into a true Christian's life.

Should Children Join Clubs

In many schools there are numerous clubs—music, art, foreign language, agricultural, to name a few—that are often beneficial to the proper development of children. It is your duty as a parent to learn about these clubs to see if they are really what your child needs, or if they are a waste of valuable time.

Too many school clubs are purposeless and can lead young people to seek worldly fellowship and momentary pleasures which end in empty fruitless lives. Clubs often plan after-school activities which are designed to occupy the minds of young people who don't know what to do with their time because they haven't been trained by their parents to realize the tremendous importance of using their formative and impressionable years.

Remember that God *wants* us, and our children, to love others and to learn to understand and get along with our fellow men. Our children should *not* grow up to be narrow and bigoted. We should refuse what is wrong and also understand that even certain *right things* are sometimes put to a wrong use and at the wrong *time* by this world. These you must teach your children to avoid.

Question Box

Your questions answered in these columns! Your opportunity to have discussed those problems pertaining directly to members of God's Church.

What is the definition of "mingled seed" in the command, "thou shalt not sow thy field with mingled seed," found in Leviticus 19:19, and Deuteronomy 22:9?

Notice the *reason* for this command in Deuteronomy 22:9, ". . . lest the fruit of thy seed which thou hast sown, and the fruit of thy vineyard, BE DEFILED." God gave this law *for our protection!*

He does not want us to defile or *mix* the produce that we grow, *nor the seed that we save* for growing future crops.

Just to make sure the point is clear, let us state a few specific examples. You should not plant cucumbers near watermelons because they will cross and produce a perversion. Likewise, the various members of the muskmelon and can-

(Please continue on page 11)

"Please Give Us a Church!"

Is this your request? Why aren't churches established in more local areas? Will more be established soon?

by L. Leroy Neff

"WE NEED a church where we can meet each Sabbath," was a statement frequently heard at the recent Feast of Tabernacles. If you are one who wants to assemble with Christian brethren each Sabbath, and yet are unable to, you may wonder why this has not been made possible.

It is only natural that all of you in God's Church should want to assemble on the Sabbath. It is also natural for some of you to become impatient at not having a local congregation.

But, there are reasons that more churches have not been established, and that a church may never be established in your local area. Here is a frank, straightforward answer to these questions with proof from your own Bible.

God's Church Scattered

During the beginning months and years of God's Church, following A.D. 31, God's Church grew tremendously. On certain occasions, thousands were added to the Church. Here was the beginning of one tremendous local congregation or church. Was it God's will that this trend continue?

The Bible shows us that it was not God's will for all of His Church to be in just one place. It was only a short while until persecutions arose, and God's Church was *scattered*. We read of this in the 8th chapter of Acts. Notice Acts 8:1, "And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles." Also see Acts 8:4 and Acts 11:19.

Yes, God's Church was scattered almost nineteen hundred years ago, and it has remained scattered to this day!

If it were contrary to God's will that the Church be scattered, then He would call people in local church areas only. Therefore, the scattering and calling of God is according to His own Divine plan and will. God, not man, calls His Church, and rules His Church. It is only God, who is able to call us to repentance and to place us within His Church.

Salt of the Earth

God's people are called the "salt of the earth" (Matt. 5:13). When food is seasoned with salt, a grain is found only here and there. It is a very small amount

compared to all of the rest of the food. And so it is today with God's Church. God's Church is scattered, with one member in one city, another member in some other area. Even in large cities, we find God's people still scattered. They are not grouped together in large gatherings.

If God's people were all congregated together, and not scattered, then it could not be said of them that they are the salt of the earth.

Has God Made a Mistake?

God does not make a mistake when He calls or invites a person into His Church. A person may not answer that call. He may refuse, or may fall by the wayside, but God has not made a mistake. "For the gifts and *calling* of God are without repentance" (Rom. 11:29). The call that God gives is not a mistake. God may be sorry that we have failed to repent, or overcome. But He is not sorry that He has *called* us to repentance, or has opened our minds to understand His truth.

God has called some of you completely alone. No one else in your family believes as you do. Do you think that God has made a mistake in calling you only, while not calling the rest of your family? Or do you believe that God has called you in that state, knowing the problems and trials you will face, and knowing that they are necessary to develop you in your Christian life? If you think that it is a mistake that God has not called your companion, or your family, you may also think that God has made a mistake in calling you. After all, God did not have to call you. It was only by His great mercy, compassion and love toward you, that He opened your mind to understand so that you could come to repentance.

In like manner, if God has called you, alone in your area, don't you believe that God understands and knows this?

God knows that a very large percentage of you may *never* have a local congregation to attend. Has God made a mistake? NO! God has not made a mistake in calling you under these circumstances. But you may be making a mistake in expecting God to supply you with those things which are not now best for you.

Possibly God has called you, alone and apart from others, so that you might be able to grow spiritually in that environ-

ment. The apostle Paul states: "Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called" (I Cor. 7:20). Apply this regarding the *place* where God has called you.

You should abide in the place where God has called you, until God makes it *plain* by circumstances, or by His ministers, that you should move elsewhere.

Don't Move Unwisely

Oftentimes people who are just coming into God's Church decide they want to move to one of God's Churches, or to Pasadena. Without using any wisdom, they move and find that they are unable to find work. Then they become a burden on the Church. These things ought not to be, and yet they are repeated time after time. These people, in good faith, and yet not understanding, do not use wisdom. They are only concerned about the *self*. They *want* to attend a local church, not realizing that God may not have yet intended them to do so. They get ahead of God. Do not make this same mistake. Seek advice from God's ministers before making such a change.

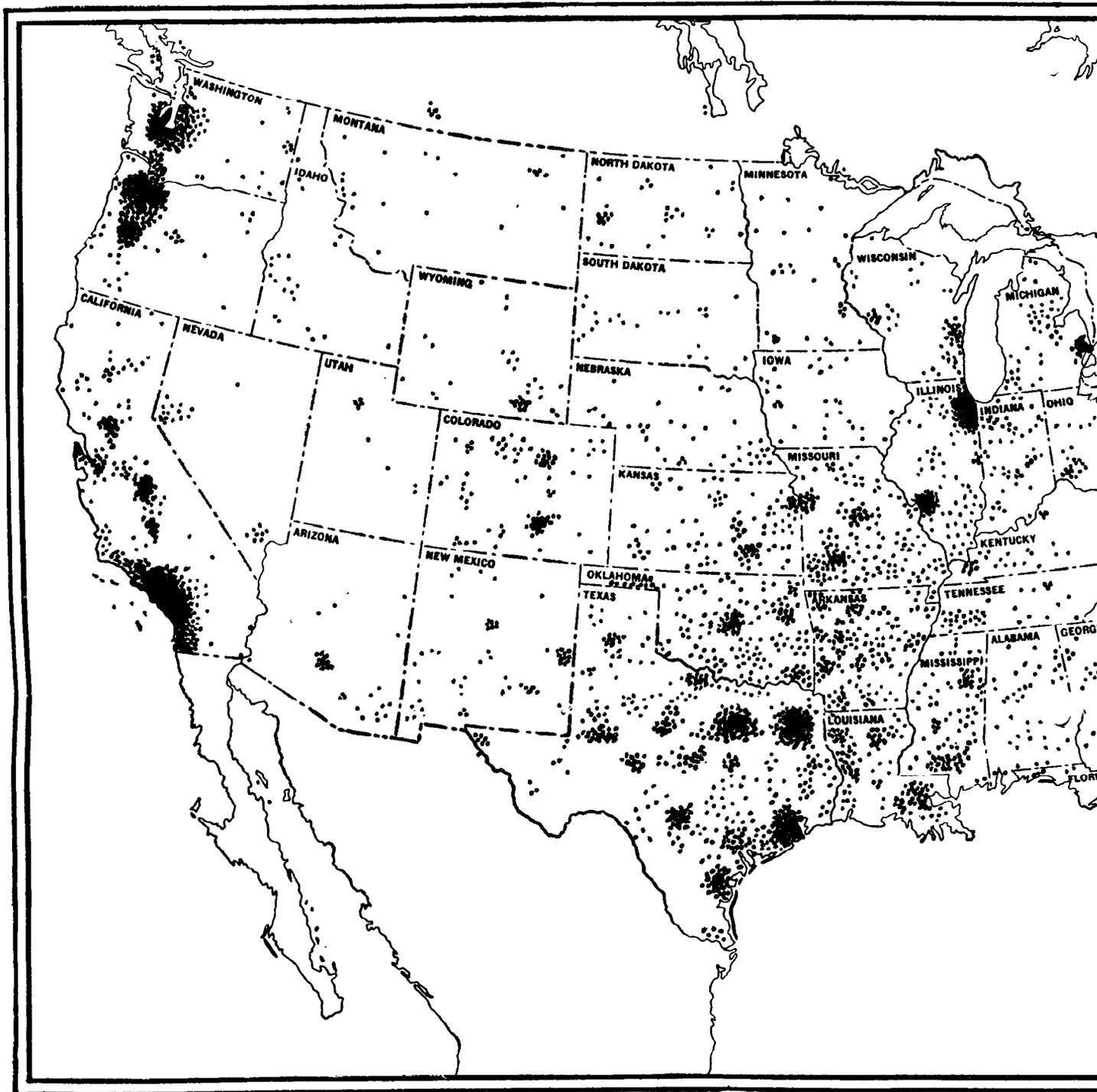
If you are dissatisfied in not having a church to attend, have you ever read the statement of the apostle Paul in Phil. 4:11 ". . . I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

Have you learned to be content in whatever state you find yourself? Or are you discontented because God has not provided you with a local church? God knew when He called you whether or not you would be able to attend local Sabbath services. Are you now dissatisfied with that calling of God? You should be thankful and appreciate this *very precious* call of God. You should be content with what God has given you, and use the spiritual and physical tools that God has given you and work with the best of your ability.

If you are not able to assemble with a local congregation at present, do you realize that this is God's will for you? Notice Romans 8:28. All of these things work together for *our good*. The fact that you do not as yet have a church is for *your good*. If this is not so, then according to this very scripture, you are not one of those who are called according to God's purpose.

New Churches Established

Even though many in God's Church are not able to assemble regularly in



Here is an enlightening photograph showing the distribution of Church membership. Such aids as this are taken into consideration in making plans for

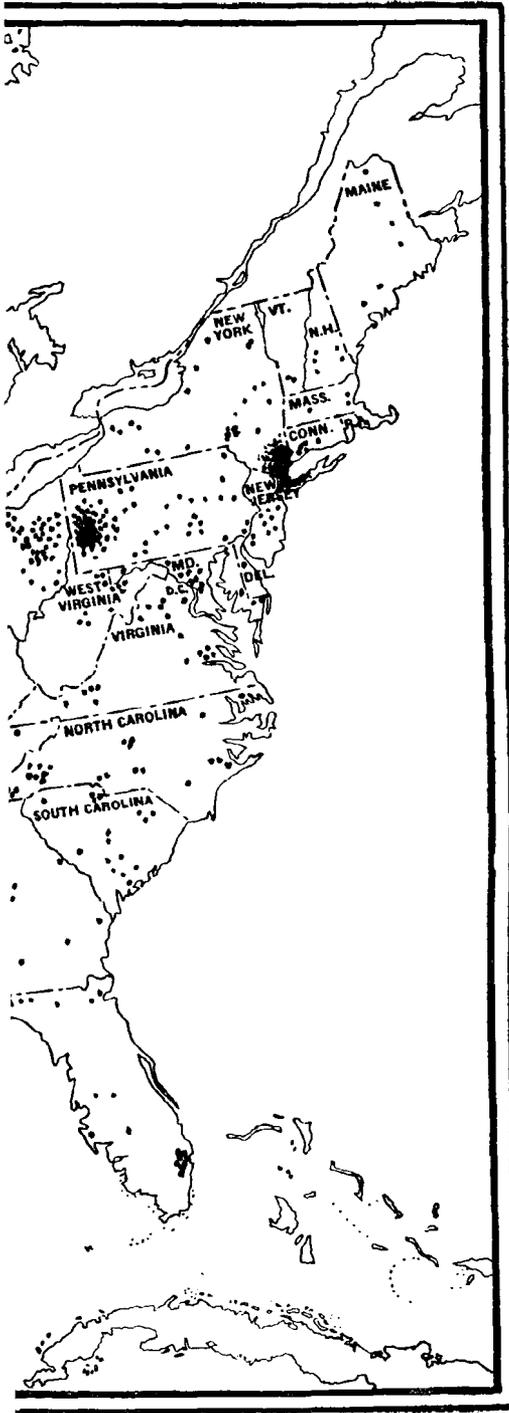
the future. The map—here reproduced—has a dot to represent each family in the Church (not including the near-thousand added in the past summer).

There are often several members in each family. Notice the concentration along the West Coast, especially at Headquarters, and in Texas.

church congregations, God is still raising up new churches. During the past year, new churches have been established and raised up in Seattle, Washington; Long Beach, California; Sherman Oaks, California; Akron, Ohio; and now in New York City, New York. Yes, God is adding churches for which we should be very thankful and grateful.

If God makes it possible we hope to have additional churches within this next year. Possibly there will be two in Oklahoma, and others in California. In addition, new churches are planned in Australia and in England. Are you praying for God to raise up more of these churches? Or are you just praying for one in *your* area?

You may ask why more churches are not being raised up. Do you believe that it is entirely up to Mr. Armstrong, the ministry, or for Ambassador College to supply pastors for these churches? If so, you do not believe that Jesus Christ is the head of this Church. Mr. Armstrong cannot call a person to repentance, nor can he put within an individual the qualities



necessary for a minister. Only God can give these gifts, make such a call, and set aside a person for the ministry. This is God's Church and Jesus Christ is the head. It is through the power of His Holy Spirit that He guides His ministers in appointing men to these various offices. Notice Acts 13:2. Here we find where the Holy Spirit instructed the ministry to separate and ordain Barnabas and Saul for the work to which they were called. And so it is today.

God does not call all of those who come to Ambassador College to be ministers. Only a percentage of them are

made ministers. There are many other positions of great need and importance in God's work beside the ministry. There are many office and teaching positions that must be filled. It is God who decides, and who separates, those who come to Ambassador College to the work of the ministry and for other posts of duty.

As we look at how great this work has grown, from one of extreme smallness, to one of world-wide importance, it is evident that "the harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few" (Mat. 9:37). It is this way according to God's will, and not contrary to His will! But we all can have a part in helping to alleviate, or correct this situation. The next verse tells us what we should do about it. It tells each one of us what to do. It does not leave the burden of this on Mr. Armstrong, the ministry, Ambassador College, or any other individual, but on each and every one in God's Church. Notice verse 38. "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest." Are you praying diligently and effectually as you should that God will send out more laborers into His harvest? Maybe instead of God's ministry being at fault, you are at fault in not praying as you should that God will send forth laborers, and that churches will be raised up.

Our Fellowship with Christ

Some of you state that you do not have fellowship with others in the Church. What greater, more profitable, and more wonderful fellowship can you have than with Jesus Christ, the very head of this Church! When you read His Word, He talks to you. By prayer, you talk with Him. That fellowship can be wonderful beyond all words.

That is the fellowship you can have every day, and not just on the Sabbath.

In addition, you are able to attend the greatest fellowship, the largest Church meeting on earth each day in your own home. You can listen to The WORLD TOMORROW broadcast, with millions of other people. You also have The Good News, the Correspondence Course, The PLAIN TRUTH, the Co-Worker bulletins. All of these things keep you in contact with God's Church. Many of you who have met other scattered brethren at the Feast correspond with them. In that way you also can have frequent fellowship with God's people.

Some of you who are not able to attend local churches have said that you are not able to keep up with all the literature that we send out from here. If you are not able to read, study, and digest this information, how would you have time to attend a local congregation?

Now just what should you do about this problem? If you are not able to at-

tend local services, you are not alone. Possibly three-fourths of God's people are not able to attend local church services regularly. And God has made it this way according to His will. By trying to change your situation, you may be taking yourself out of the very environment that God wants you to spiritually grow in—the environment that He wanted you to overcome.

You can be a light and an example wherever you are. Even though you are alone, remember that if you, as a "grain of salt" have lost your savor, how will those around you be salted?

You need to develop patience. We all do. This is one way in which you can be patient, in overcoming the problems that come to you. Don't feel sorry for yourself, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ wherever you are.

You need to pray fervently and effectually, with all diligence, that God will send forth more laborers into His harvest. Pray that God will raise up more churches in the places that He chooses.

Pray that God will guide His ministers in determining where to establish churches, when God provides the laborers.

Yes, you too can have a vital part in the establishing of new churches throughout the world. That part is to *pray diligently* that God will send forth more laborers into His ripened harvest.

Waiting It Out?

(Continued from page 3)

now, and later we shall rejoice to overflowing, when we behold THE WORLD TOMORROW, beaming and shining in happiness and joy and righteousness, and then look back and realize we actually had a part in PREPARING THE WAY for this HAPPY World Tomorrow, bursting into glad and glorious song and exultation!

"Finally, of course we cannot actually fellowship this world, socially, but must withdraw from it in that respect. Nevertheless, tho not OF this world we live in it, and must serve it in God's work, and can be all wrapped up in the joy of so doing, tho isolated in companionship and fellowship. Our fellowship is with CHRIST. Now this means you cannot date, nor marry, any outside God's truth, but only one who is converted, as a begotten son of God.

That should solve your fears of being married to an unbeliever. If you already were so married, before your conversion, then you should live with the unbelieving husband if possible—but a child of God is commanded NOT to be

unequally yoked with unbelievers (II Cor. 6:14).

"Happiness is a state of mind—not a matter of other people, or their fellowship, their ridicule, or their praise. Happiness comes from the knowledge, the Spirit, and obedience of God—and from being SO BUSY in it—SO ENGROSSED in this glorious interest and activity, and in Bible study and prayer, that we have no time to become despondent, bored, unhappy."

How to Solve Your Problem

"I believe it would be best for you, for the coming year at least, to go ahead

and enroll in the Teachers' college near you. Also to enroll for the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course, and make Bible study an active, busy, happy occupation. We have been forced to curtail enrollment in Ambassador College for this year, and our quota is filled. If you were to come to Pasadena, you would be thrown with a growing family of young people who know and believe the truth. Frankly, strange tho it may seem, I do not believe that is best for you right now. You have a problem—to overcome this fear of the world, and the marking-time waiting-for-the-Lord attitude which has made you un-

happy. At Ambassador you would have no opportunity to overcome it or fight it off—the problem would be removed entirely. I think it's better for you, will strengthen you and develop you more, to fight out this battle and win the victory over it. A year at Teachers' college will be of great benefit, if you should later come to Ambassador, for we shall need teachers in the future. . . .

"Just forget SELF, give your life wholly to GOD for Him to USE, lose yourself in the activity of the DOING, trust God, ask Him for wisdom and guidance, rely on Him, and all your problems will be solved."

God Demands Teamwork!

With the rapidly increasing growth of God's work, we again need to read this vital article which appeared six years ago in the Good News

By Herman L. Hoeb

IN HIS little-known prophetic message for the Church today, Jesus promised that He would set before us an open DOOR for the spreading of the gospel.

Notice Jesus' own words for our church today: "I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open DOOR, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a *little strength*, and hast kept my word" (Rev. 3:8).

This DOOR—the opportunity of spreading the gospel (II Cor. 2:12)—includes today the means of RADIO and the PRINTING PRESS! The true Church of God today has little strength in this degenerate age. It has no great financial resources, yet through Jesus' miraculous guidance this great work is constantly expanding around the world—now to Australia, and with radio time this month available to go to all Europe in the German language. It is not the work of one man, nor even of two dozen men. It is the work of every member of God's Church—everyone of you!

The Church Is a TEAM!

One fundamental lesson we all need to learn in this world is the need for *teamwork*. Even in athletics, the best players can't achieve victory unless the entire team works together in perfect cooperation and coordination.

The apostle Paul taught the need of teamwork by saying that the church is *one body* although composed of many members. Every truly converted Christian has his specific function in the Church just as each organ of a human body has its function. "But now hath

God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. . . . And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you" (I Cor. 12:18-21).

The Church is like a team or a body. Every member in the Church of God is essential. Perhaps it appears that those who help only through prayers, tithes, offerings, and letters of encouragement are of little need compared to preaching. Yet the work of God cannot function without every necessary part anymore than a human body can. "The WORLD TOMORROW" program would not be encircling the globe today if it were not for the constant prayers and faithful tithes and offerings of God's people. Paul said: "Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary (I Cor. 12:22).

Satan Causes Division

The devil knows that one of the easiest methods of wrecking teamwork in the Church of God is to cause contention and division. It is a natural human tendency to precipitate strife and controversy. That is the special reason why each of us must strive against our carnal human nature and be on guard constantly to preserve harmony and teamwork in the spirit of love.

Notice, for a moment, how easy it was for the devil to cause contentions and divisions in the apostolic church. At Corinth it was reported to Paul that there were cliques and dissensions de-

veloping. "Now this I say, that every-one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas (Peter); and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you?" (I Cor. 1:12-13)

Those Corinthians were still carnally minded. They wanted to be followers of important men. Some preferred the eloquent style of Apollos' preaching (Acts 18:24), others liked Peter's. Without realizing it they were getting into confusion and contentions over Paul, Apollos and Cephas who were faithful ministers of Christ. Just as then, so today many do not realize the harm that can be caused by factions within the Church. Wherever the spirit of strife, envy and dissension enters the church, it will embitter the brethren unless stamped out by God's ministers.

Among those Corinthians the Adversary cleverly induced many to criticize and find fault with the labors of Paul. They began to say among themselves: "I don't believe Paul is doing this right. I am going to support Apollos from now on." After leading the Corinthian converts into fault finding, the devil's next step was secretly to introduce *false* brethren who set themselves up as ministers and who transformed "themselves into the apostles of Christ," and who professed to be "the ministers of righteousness" (II Cor. 11:13-15). Because they sought to follow men instead of Jesus Christ, it was only natural that the Corinthians would be led astray by smooth-talking false preachers.

Knowing that human nature has not
(Please continue on page 11)

How To Solve *Your Personal Problems*

Here is the surprising Bible answer. You need to read this advice now!

by L. Leroy Neff

YOU THINK it strange that you have so many problems and trials! Don't think you are the only one who has so many problems and trials. All the people in the *world* have their many problems, too. Your unconverted neighbors are not immune to problems, troubles, worries and afflictions.

But, there is a great *difference* between your problems and your neighbors. For "The Lord delivereth him [you—the Christian] out of them all." God does not intervene to deliver the unrighteous out of their many problems and troubles!

But just how does God deliver us out of all our afflictions? He does not usually remove these problems miraculously. But, He does deliver us *out* of them.

Why Do We Have These Problems?

The Bible gives many reasons for problems. Here are a few. One is given in the 8th chapter of Deuteronomy.

Notice in verse 2 that ancient Israel was tried and humbled so that God might prove them. God needed to know what was in their heart, and whether or not they would keep His commandments. God has also found in this end time, that it is necessary to humble us, to prove us, to find out just what is in our heart, and to know whether or not we will keep His commandments. We must also learn from practical experience that man does not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

Many Christians have not fully learned this lesson yet. Some still seem to believe that we must live by having the physical necessities of life provided, and that living by *every* word of God is not necessary.

Before Jesus Christ returns to this earth, God is going to give a part of His Church rest and protection from the tribulation that shall come on the whole world. Notice this fact in Psalm 94:12-13. "Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O Lord, and teachest him our of thy law; that thou mayest give him rest from the days of adversity, until the pit be digged for the wicked." During that short time a "pit" will be dug for the wicked. God must chasten us and teach us His law now so that we may have rest, or protection from the days of adversity to come.

Sometimes our problems and trials are

so severe that we shed tears, but that should not discourage us. It is for our good! A time of rejoicing is coming for the faithful. Notice Psalm 126:5-6. "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with *rejoicing* bringing his sheaves with him."

To those who will gain eternal life, this whole lifetime can be compared to that of a youth. We live but a few years, compared to the vast unending ages of eternity. "It is good for a man that he bear the *yoke* in his youth . . . for the Lord will not cast off forever: but though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of *his mercies*. For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of man" (Lamentations 3:27-33). It is good for us that we learn these lessons, that we go through these trials and these tribulations now, so that we might grow in the character and the nature of God that He is creating within us. Without this experience, we cannot develop as we ought.

These afflictions and tribulations work patience in us. Patience is something that we all need badly. This patience gives us experience, and the experience gives us hope (Rom. 5:3-5). Because of the chastening that God gives, we may escape the condemnation of the world (I Cor. 11:32). These trials and tribulations are also more precious than fine gold (I Pet. 1:7). If you personally had the choice of choosing between fine gold, and your trials, would you choose the gold or the trials?

Do not think that it is strange when these problems come upon you. "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the *fiery trial* which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy" (I Pet. 4:12). Are you rejoicing and thanking God for your trials or are you sorry for yourself and trying to get the sympathy of others?

What Is the Solution?

Since we all have these many problems, just what can we do about it and what is the solution? Notice Philipians 2:12-13. The apostle Paul here instructs

us to work out our *own* salvation with fear and trembling. He does not say that others are to work out our salvation for us. *We* must work this out alone. Your wife, your husband, your father or mother cannot work out your salvation for you. Neither can any of God's ministers work out your salvation. *That you must do.*

Some of you have the mistaken idea that God's ministers can work out your salvation for you—that they can solve all of your personal problems. You will not develop in God's character that way!

The final burden is upon each individual. I do not mean that we cannot receive assistance or help from God or from others.

Since it is each person's responsibility, just how should we go about solving our problems?

Seek Advice from the Bible

If you have a problem, and you do not know the solution or the answer, the first thing to do is seek advice. But where should you seek that advice? The Christian should always go to God first. God has the answer to all of our problems. He is the one who has all wisdom, all understanding, all strength, and all power. Therefore, it is only logical that He is the source to which we should go first. We should go to God with all of these problems in prayer. If our prayers are fervent, with sincerity, and if we pray with all of our heart, God will hear and help us.

But how does God answer this request? He does not usually intervene miraculously and lift the problem from us, as that does not develop character in us. Instead he makes the answer available to us. Sometimes He *does* reveal the answer to us immediately, and then we can act accordingly. But, if we do not receive that understanding, what is the next step that we should take in finding the solution to our problem?

We should seek wisdom and understanding so that we might make a right decision. One whole book in your Bible was written so that you might have wisdom, discretion, knowledge and understanding. Read Proverbs 1:2-7. Here is one of the first places to look for wisdom and understanding. In the book of Proverbs! And yet, this is one book that many know very little about. Such people lack in wisdom, and do many wrong

things without realizing that the answer is found here in this one book. Have you ever thought about looking in the book of Proverbs to find the answer to your problem? The answer may be there.

Some people have their problems written all over their faces. They go around with a sad face, and a pained expression, seeking sympathy. Are you one of these? Or have you followed the advice given in Proverbs 17:22. "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit dryeth the bones." Even in times of adversity, make yourself merry, be happy, and it will be like good medicine and will help you immensely. It may not be as difficult as you think.

Another problem that so many have is that they want to talk about their problems all of the time. Haven't you met people like that? All they want to talk about is their own particular problems. And some people like that are in God's Church. They are more concerned about their own problems than the work of God. This should not be! If you are one who is constantly telling everyone else of your problems, you are advertising the fact that you are self-centered, that you are inconsiderate of others, and that you love yourself more than anyone else. You love *self* more than God and his work! "When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is prudent" (Prov. 10:19, RSV). If you are one with many words, it is evident that sin is *not lacking* in your life. Have you realized that by your many words you are advertising this fact to others?

Some need to learn that "even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent" (Prov. 17:28 RSV).

Another reason why some of you have more problems than you should is this: you are not diligent in those things that you have to do. You may be slothful or lazy. Notice Proverbs 19:15. "Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger." We need to go about all our affairs with *all diligence*, doing those things that our hands find to do with *all our might* (Eccles. 9:10).

Seek Wise Companions and Counsel

What kind of company and companions do you keep? If you lack wisdom, maybe it is because you associate with wrong companions. "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed" (Proverbs 13:20). Even in God's Church it is sometimes apparent that "birds of a feather flock together." Have you noticed that those who are strong, that have more wisdom, are often together? And have you noticed that those who are on the

"fringe," who are weak, and unstable in their ways very often seek that type of person for companionship? God instructs us to seek those who are wise for companionship, and in that way we also will become more wise.

But the wisest person to have for a companion is God Himself. Are *you* walking with God? Enoch walked with God, and he will have his reward in the world to come. Are you walking with God, or have you made fools your companions? If you are going to walk with God, you are going to be diligently studying His Word, because it reveals to you His very character, His nature, His wisdom, and all His godly attributes.

If by studying God's Word, and especially the book of Proverbs, you still have not found the answer to your problem, then you should seek wise counsel. "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety" (Prov. 11:14). And again the Bible states "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise" (Prov. 12:15). You need to seek wise counsel, and then act upon that counsel.

But where should you seek counsel? Those who have wise men as their companions will be wise, therefore, you should seek counsel from those who have wisdom. Do not select those who are weak for counsel, but seek those who are stronger and wiser in the faith. Follow the example found in Exodus 18:13-26. Notice that Moses appointed other men to solve the smaller problems. Only the most difficult problems were brought to him. In like manner, only the difficult problems should be brought to Mr. Armstrong's personal attention or to the ministers who have many other extremely important and time consuming duties to perform. You can often find the answer to your smaller problems by counselling with those stronger members in God's Church. The bigger problems should be taken to God's ministers, when you need further advice and counsel.

For those of you who are not able to attend a local congregation, you can always write to the headquarters Church, to Mr. Armstrong, and he will appoint someone to answer your letter. In that way you are able to receive wise counsel. When you do receive that counsel, be sure to act on it.

Learn to Discern Good and Evil

In addition to seeking advice and wise counsel, we must learn to discern between good and evil, right and wrong. Solomon had the same need of discernment between right and wrong. He did not always know what was good and what was evil, what was right and what was wrong. He went to God with this

problem. "Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?" (1 Kings 3:9). In seeking the answer to your problems, is this the way you pray?

You also need to exercise your senses, so that you might learn to discern both good and evil (Heb. 5:14). Do you pray that you might be able to discern and know what is right and wrong, and what you should do? Or do you just ask God to solve your problem for you, so that you won't have anything to do about it?

Yes, you need to *learn* to decide many of these things for yourself. Don't permit others to make all your decisions—to solve all of your problems. If others make all of your decisions for you, and solve all of your problems, you are not developing in the character and nature of God. You need to learn how to stand on your own two feet, *with God's help*. If you cannot learn to make decisions in this life, if you cannot develop the talents that God has given you, so that you can make wise decisions, how do you think God can use you in His Kingdom?

There is yet another pitfall that some fall into. They want a particular answer to a particular problem. They want it to go "their way." So in order to salve their conscience, they shop around for the answer they want. They go to one person for advice, and the answer is not just what they want. So, they go to another, and another, until they find the answer they want. Don't make this serious mistake, as it will only cause you to have more problems and troubles.

God Will Do What You CANNOT Do

By following all of these instructions, you should be able to find the answer to all of your problems. The answer to some of your problems may be God's direct intervention to change circumstances in your behalf. God will help and intervene when you are not able to solve your problem yourself. But He will not do *what you can do*. If He did what you were able to do, then you would not develop into the character and nature that God requires of His children.

After you learn the solution to your problem and make your decision, then you must *act* on that decision. Do not be wishy-washy, or unstable in your ways. Follow the example of Ruth (Ruth 1:16-18). She made up her mind, and stuck with it. Nothing could change her. Are you that way in your decisions, or after making a decision, do you change your mind the next day? You need to follow the advice of the Apostle Paul: "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, *be strong*" (1 Cor. 16:13).

You should be *helping others*, instead of always requiring their help. After all, it is more blessed to give than to receive. If you are on the receiving end all of the time, then you are missing out on one of God's greatest blessings.

You need to overcome, and not be overcome by these problems, these trials and tribulations. It is only those who overcome (Rev. 3:12) who will enter into God's Kingdom. Persevere in all of the things that you do. Endure to the end, and do not be stopped by these day-to-day problems. Give *diligence* to make your calling and election sure.

Yes, we all have our problems. Even the unconverted have theirs. But God has promised to deliver us out of them all (Psa. 34:19). We can go to Him with these problems and He has the answer. But He probably will not answer them in the way we expect. If we follow these instructions we should be able to say with Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (II Tim. 4:7-8).

Question Box

(Continued from page 4)

taloupe family will mix with pumpkins and certain types of squash. They should not be planted near one another. But there is nothing wrong with planting peas or beans among your corn, or planting two pasture grasses together. In neither of these cases would one crop "defile" or mix with the other in any way.

In the beginning God caused each plant and animal to reproduce *after its own kind* (Gen. 1:11,21,24). God twice commands us to follow that example instead of mingling our crops (Lev. 19:19 and Deut. 22:9). We should plant those seeds that will reproduce after their own kind.

Hybrids that produce confusion and an *inferior quality after the first year* should NOT be used. ". . . God is not the author of confusion . . ." (I Cor. 14:33). Many scriptures show us that God wants His people to produce and own *quality* products.

We should use good quality seed that will produce a consistent good quality *year after year*. Good seed planted in land that is properly worked will produce strong, healthy plants that bear profitable crops.

Many of our seeds have come down from crosses, but have had the inferiorities selectively bred out, so that we would not know whether a particular strain of

produce has come from a mixed, or a pure, past. In such cases, it is permissible to use seed that may have come from a cross in past years, if the inferiority has been eliminated by wise selection of seed, so that the seed produces a *pure* crop of *its own kind*.

TEAMWORK

(Continued from page 8)

changed since then, Satan is trying this very method today in order to thwart the work of God and overthrow numerous brethren. It is so easy to criticize those whom God places in authority and whom He is using. For years the devil has struggled to gender the spirit of contention and rivalry. Satan knows that if he can embitter the brethren against God's ministers, particularly Mr. Armstrong, he can devour them and wreck the teamwork that is so essential among God's people.

How to Prevent Division

Satan is going about, as always, seeking whom he may devour. He will try every imaginable scheme to overthrow you brethren. How shall we preserve the wonderful spirit of cooperation which still permeates the Church today?

Let us notice the method Paul used in order to maintain teamwork and loving cooperation among the churches. In I Corinthians 3:10 he wrote: "According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon."

Jesus Christ used the apostle Paul directly in carrying the gospel to the Gentile nations. After Paul had founded the Corinthian church, Apollos was one of several evangelists who continued to build on the foundation which Paul laid. Paul and Apollos *cooperated* in every way possible; but Paul, who was an apostle, *supervised the work of Apollos* and generally directed his labors just as he did the labors of the other evangelists, Timothy, Titus and Silas (Titus 3:13).

Undoubtedly one of the major reasons for the division at Corinth was the fact that Apollos, an eloquent speaker, *had not been taught and trained personally* by the apostle. Apollos was doctrinally in error on several points, particularly the distinction between the baptism of John and Jesus (Acts 18:24 and 19:1-7). No such controversy is noted between Paul and the other evangelists whom he personally trained.

Paul realized that in order to preserve harmony and the spirit of cooperation, he had to direct Apollos and also train other young men who could serve

him as evangelists. These young men who accompanied him on his journeys *were under him in authority*, in the same manner that Paul was under the authority of Christ. It was the government or rule of God. God the Father made His will known to Jesus who in turn made it known to Paul. The apostle then explained it to the evangelists who in turn taught it to the elders and the local congregations. Wherever Paul journeyed, the evangelists who built on his foundation *were under his authority*.

But let us note another important principle found in Romans 15:20-22. Paul wrote: "Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, *lest I should build upon another man's foundation*: but as it is written, To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand."

Here Paul quotes Scripture from the Old Testament to prove that those of apostolic rank, being the direct representatives of Jesus Christ, should not build where others have preached the true gospel of the kingdom of God. This is important for us to remember *today*.

In order that the "WORLD TOMORROW" broadcast should not be hindered by duplication, God directs that no others of apostolic rank should build upon the foundation that Jesus Christ laid through the ministry of Mr. Armstrong. And all who do build on it *must be under his direction and authority*. The Bible itself plainly reveals that any other plan leads to confusion and trouble. Any individual or group not yet understanding this phase of the government of God is only going to cause confusion and dissension among God's people.

History of Our Church Recorded in Autobiography

Perhaps a little history is important at this juncture. Our Church is *not* a Church founded or built by Herbert W. Armstrong. It was founded in A.D. 31 by Jesus Christ. It is the *very* Church Jesus Christ *built!* HE is its governing Head. His Church has government, and that government is from the TOP down, through those whom Christ has set directly under Him in authority.

When Mr. Armstrong first started preaching, he was under the authority of the Oregon Conference of the Church of God, now clearly identified in the light of carefully documented historical research as the "Sardis" church described prophetically by Jesus in Revelation 3:1-6. That church was not properly organized according to the New Testament pattern of God. Nevertheless Mr. Armstrong was *under the authority* of

those holding offices of authority in that Conference. He was ordained by that Church—God's Church for that period—in the year 1931. He received salary from them, was sent by them, first to engage in a tent meeting in Eugene, Oregon, then to St. Helens, Oregon, and then to Umapine, Oregon. When the meeting at St. Helens ended, he waited there while the minister he was assigned to work with drove down to the Willamette Valley to obtain *authority* from the constituted Church Board to go on to Umapine and hold the meetings there.

In those days, under the period of the "Sardis" Church, Mr. Armstrong was wholly UNDER authority. No one can ever be put IN authority under Christ until he has demonstrated by experience that he can faithfully be UNDER authority, and can loyally and faithfully participate in the TEAMWORK which constitutes the very structure of God's true Church.

In early December, 1931, the Oregon Conference treasury was drained, and Mr. Armstrong was released from ministerial duties for the time being. He then re-entered the advertising and publishing field, becoming advertising manager and acting business manager of a daily newspaper. Those were the depression days. At the end of February, 1933, the president of the Oregon Conference came after Mr. Armstrong, and returned him and his family to Salem, Oregon. There, with another evangelist, he held a five months' evangelistic campaign under salary from and *under the authority* of the Oregon Conference, the Church of God—the "Sardis" Church of Rev. 3.

Mr. Armstrong UNDER Authority

After this campaign ended in July, 1933, Mr. Armstrong received a call from a family brought into the Church under his personal ministry in 1931, in Eugene, to open a campaign in a one-room country schoolhouse eight miles west of Eugene. But, *before daring to accept this call, Mr. Armstrong waited for the Church Board to act and decide whether he could go, or whether he was to be sent to some other place.* The Church Board decided to send him to this country schoolhouse west of Eugene. Mr. Armstrong went there, started those meetings UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE OFFICIALS OVER HIM IN THE CHURCH.

Most of those in the Church today know nothing of this early history of the beginnings of what are described in Revelation 2 and 3 as the "Philadelphia" Church—which in fact is merely another time-era in the history of the CHURCH

OF GOD, which Christ founded A.D. 31.

Another vital point our present members do not know: Mr. Armstrong *did not build what has developed into the "Philadelphia Church" ON ANY OTHER MAN'S FOUNDATION.* He did not go to a place where a number of people, converted through another man's ministry, lived. He went where one family, brought into the Church through his own work, lived, and started preaching to people *who never heard the Truth before.* A goodly number were converted—brought INTO the Truth by his preaching in this six weeks' campaign—and a little Church of 19 members, the harvest of his own labors in the Lord, was organized.

It was about the time of the close of these meetings that the Church Board demanded that Mr. Armstrong preach and act unscripturally. Two human "wolves in sheep's clothing," seeking to devour the flock, had come in from the outside and managed to charm and deceive the layman board officials. So far as carrying out the divinely commissioned PURPOSE of the Church—to proclaim Christ's Gospel to the world—the Sardis Church died at that point. Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong voluntarily relinquished the small salary, and solemnly placed themselves in GOD'S HANDS, relying solely and altogether upon GOD for guidance, for financial support and every need from that time on.

"Philadelphia" Church Emerges

After this, the DOOR WAS OPENED for the broadcast and publishing work. The broadcast began the first Sunday in 1934. The PLAIN TRUTH began February 1st, 1934. April 1st that year a campaign in downtown Eugene resulted in another small Church in Eugene, then late that fall and early winter another church of 15 members—all new converts—was raised up at Alvadore. These three were then combined into the one Church of God at Eugene, which has continued to this day.

And that was the actual beginning of another era—the "Philadelphia Church" era—in the true Church of God, of which Jesus Christ is the Head. Since that time Mr. Armstrong has been solely, wholly, altogether UNDER THE DIRECT AUTHORITY OF JESUS CHRIST. What has been accomplished since then could never have been brought about by mere human power. The fruits abundantly reveal the mighty Hand and Power of ALMIGHTY GOD, who has ruled, governed, guided and directed—and *blessed*—this work ever since.

Gradually, from that day to the present, the work of GOD'S CHURCH grew and grew. The sick have been healed.

The true Gospel has been preached to all North America, and now to all Europe, and soon to ALL THE WORLD! Thousands of lives have been *changed*—converted into begotten children of God. The same fruits have been borne as under the apostles in the first two 19-year time-cycles of Christ's true Church. God Himself has revealed, by His blessings, miracles, and fruits borne, that He has chosen, and placed in apostolic power and authority in His Church, the minister whom He called and used through these years in the building and growth of the "Philadelphia" era of the true Church of God!

Why Ambassador College?

Knowing the imperative need for young men to assist him, Mr. Armstrong was led to found Ambassador College in order to provide adequately trained and qualified help for the work in North America and now in Europe. This is the same pattern that Jesus himself followed. The Savior collected disciples (which means *students* or *learners*) and trained them. Jesus could not use them all, for we read in John 6:66, "From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him."

Jesus had to test those whom he chose. The disciples had to demonstrate that they were willing to yield to the government of God the Father.

In like manner today, Mr. Armstrong is extremely careful not to ordain any ministers or evangelists UNTIL they have first proved not only called of God, competent, and fully trained, but also that they are willing to submit unreservedly to the government of God, just as he, himself does, and has done from the start. This explains why none are ordained until they have completed at least four years of intensive training at Ambassador College in Pasadena, California, or in London, England.

All who have a part in the ministry *must learn to work together as a team.* There can be no insubordination—the *very sin of the devil who wanted to carry out his own will instead of that of the Creator.*

The work of spreading the gospel is so important, and its enemies are so numerous and deceptive, that it is vital for everyone of you brethren to realize the necessity of teamwork in God's Church today. Only through constant prayer and Bible study can we maintain a spirit of love and cooperation so that no effort of the devil can interfere with the peace and harmony that *must* reign in the Church of God. Let us all do our part on God's team, whether it be small or great, each part is absolutely essential for the growth of the work.