

The Good News

International Magazine of
THE CHURCH OF GOD

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JULY, 1961

Why Attend Church Services?

Some are failing to assemble regularly each sabbath with the brethren. Read here the stern warning from Jesus Christ —the Head of this Church!

by Herman L. Hoeh

A FEW brethren have fallen into dire spiritual negligence. It appears that when local congregations are established, some brethren think they do not need to attend *regularly*.

Could this include *you*?

The Sabbath a Commanded Assembly!

The Sabbath was ordained to be a day of rest from secular work. But it is *more* than a day of rest. It is also a HOLY CONVOCATION.

The weekly sabbath is so designated in Leviticus 23:3, "Six days shall work be done: but the seventh day is the sabbath of rest, an HOLY CONVOCATION."

Those are the words of the LORD to Moses. The LORD who spoke to Moses is Jesus Christ! So those are the very words of Christ—the Head of the Church of God today. Are you living by His words?

But what is a "holy convocation"? It means a divinely commanded assembly, a summoned assembly where your presence is ordered!

That is why Jesus Christ made it his *custom* to assemble on every sabbath. It was Paul's custom—long after the rituals of Moses passed away—and it is the custom of the Church of God today!

God does not leave you free to decide whether you want to attend local church services. If you live within traveling distance He **COMMANDS** your *regular* presence, each sabbath! And the same is true of every annual Holy Day.

Some brethren, it seems, want to make excuses to Christ. They begin to reason why Christ or the local congregation doesn't need *their* regular attendance. But that is not the question. **YOU** need the presence of Christ and the other brethren!

What We Have Found

Wherever new local churches have been established we find this problem arising. People who are not in the *habit* of meeting in a local congregation—because none had been located there previously—sometimes find changing that habit difficult. We are creatures of habit. What we must be sure of is that we establish the *right* habits, and change our habits when God commands.

Certain brethren have been making excuses to justify their habits. They claim to be *too tired* to drive to church regularly. Or, they are not used to city traffic. Or they just had to visit relatives in another state over the weekend. A few couldn't find anyone to take care of the dog, or the chickens, etc. Some insist they simply don't **GET** anything out of sabbath services.

These, brethren, are excuses! Let's look at them for a moment. Let's see what these excuses indicate about our spiritual condition.

What These Excuses Mean

Did you know that your spiritual attitude is plainly indicated by the excuses

you make for not regularly attending church services?

One most often repeated excuse some make is that they don't feel at home with the brethren. "*Others* don't show me love," is the rebuttal.

Is that the only reason for which you go to church?—just to absorb *other's* interest, personality and love? What about showing others a bit of *your* love?

We have never failed to notice that those who complained of lack of love on the part of brethren were themselves the *most lacking* in love. These individuals, whether or not they realize it, are self-centered. They are carnal—thinking only of what they can *get*, not of what they can give to others. Love is not getting, it is giving. When anyone complains of not receiving enough love that person is on the getting end. Have you ever thought that a little giving on your part will prompt more love and interest on the part of others? Don't wait for others to please you. Learn to help them first! Enrich them by *your* experiences, *your* warmth of personality!

Again, I know of others who become careless about sabbath services because they *think* they already know all that is said from the pulpit. They *assume* they have no more need of preaching, no more need of hearing God's word expounded. "I used to hear Mr. Armstrong preach that when he was still in Eugene, Oregon," is a not uncommon quip. The tragic spiritual trouble with such an in-

dividual is that he does not know what is being said. Not being imbued with the Spirit of God he just does not grasp what is being preached. That person needs to be renewed in the spirit of repentance. Of such Christ thunders: "... thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing: and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" (Rev. 3:17). This Laodicean attitude needs to be repented of!—lest Christ spue you out!

In rare instances a few brethren have missed annual Holy Days because they didn't find anyone to take care of their pets. This excuse rings of idolatry! Are the needs of an animal—a dog—or chickens—more important than the words of Christ to you? Are you going to let an animal decide what you are to do, instead of letting Christ—your God and High Priest—lead you? Don't any of you ever let this happen again!

Sometimes families think it is more important to visit relatives in distant places than attend church on the sabbath. Granted, there may be genuine emergencies when you have to *be* with relatives in case of death. What I am referring to is *not* an emergency, but a needless social occasion! Visit your relatives during the week, or on Sunday. The sabbath is not the time to be visiting the unconverted and worldly relatives. If your relatives cannot be visited during the week, and if they live too far to be visited on Sunday after attending sabbath services, *then don't go*. Instead, call them up by telephone on Sunday. It will usually be much cheaper than paying for a lengthy trip!

Why, brethren, do a few of you put your fleshly relatives before your spiritual brethren? Is it because you are *lacking* the Spirit of God and no longer feel comfortable with the brethren? Christ forbids you to put family before Him. It is idolatry—serving another master in place of the true God.

On occasions, elderly people find city traffic frustrating. But this is no excuse to neglect assembling yourselves. In all local areas we try to arrange to have others, who can drive safely, pick up those who should not drive in heavy city traffic or on the highways. Yet when transportation is freely offered, *some refuse it!* This ought not be! Are you so proud and full of vanity that it is beneath your dignity to accept a generously offered ride with your brethren? Shame on you!

Too Tired to Attend Church?

Yet another excuse is that some are "too tired" to drive to church. After six hard days work, it is reasoned, it is just too much for Christ to expect one to attend church regularly.

Christ could have reasoned the same

way at the time of the crucifixion—**BUT HE DID NOT!** Notice the example of Jesus that some are overlooking! On the mount of Olives Jesus told the disciples, shortly before His capture: "Pray that ye enter not into temptation." Then Jesus withdrew "from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed... And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, *he found them sleeping*"—they were tired!

But so was Jesus!

Then Jesus aroused them and warned: "Why sleep ye? rise and pray, *lest ye enter into temptation*" (Luke 22:39-46).

Here is Christ's example—His warning—to those making excuses that they are too tired.

Of course man needs physical rest each sabbath to restore physical vigor and determination. But man *also* needs to have spiritual vigor and zeal restored! That is why church attendance is vital! It is not enough to rest physically each sabbath. You need the spiritual stimulation that comes with personal contact with other brethren. You need the presence of Christ and His words that come in every sabbath service. If God thought all you needed was physical rest He would not have made the sabbath any more than a rest day. But He did make it more than a rest day. He made it a **HOLY CONVOCA-TION**. He *commands* your presence, wherever a local church is available.

Thousands of you scattered brethren who have no local church to attend know by experience what you are missing each week. Your *lack* ought to be sufficient proof to others of the *need* to attend local congregations regularly, wherever they are established.

"Neglect Not the Assembling of Yourselves Together"

Now we come to a vital chapter of the Bible partly devoted to church attendance. Most of us are familiar with Hebrews 10:25—"not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." But how many remember what the other verses of this same chapter say.

Notice the subject is our access to the Father in Heaven. Under the Old Covenant, there was only a constant reminder of sin enacted by the priests in their daily rituals. But under the New Covenant, we have access through Christ to the Father. We are to draw near to Him "with a true heart in full assurance of faith" (verse 22), and to "hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering" (verse 23), and to "consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works" (verse 24). How are you going to provoke others to increased love and good

works if you never see them in church?

Verse 25 has the answer! We are not to neglect assembling ourselves together, as the custom of some is! That is how! We simply cannot exhort and encourage others when we are not in church regularly. And notice that we are to assemble "so much the more, as we see the day approaching!"

But this is not all that Paul wrote. "For if we sin wilfully," he continues, "after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries" (Heb. 10:26-27).

Consider what this means!

Neglect of attending church each sabbath—when local churches are available—can and *does* lead to *wilful sin!* Paul had just commanded the brethren in verse 25 to assemble regularly wherever possible. Then he warns of sinning wilfully. The connection is obvious! Neglect of sabbath attendance, carelessness about being regular, *separates* us from God on the very day He wants us to be in His presence the most! This is the road to sin and eternal death!

Now turn in your Bibles to verse 29. What happens to those who become careless, who fail to observe the Passover with the brethren when they can do so, who do not value Christ's blood which opened the way to true spiritual worship every sabbath with brethren?

Here is Paul's answer: "Of how much sorer punishment—than under Moses—shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God"—who despises Christ's express command to **MEET IN HIS PRESENCE EACH SABBATH**—"and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing"—by neglect of assembling for passover services when available.

Paul concludes in verse 31: "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God!"

Don't say it doesn't matter—that you can worship God alone at home! That is the same excuse the world uses for pretending to worship God on Sunday instead of the Sabbath. God not only tells you *which* day to devote especially to worship—but He also *orders you to appear before Him ON THAT DAY* wherever a local church exists!

Brethren, what are some of you going to do now?

It Takes Faith and Patience

Heed Paul's words! "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of *patience*, that, *after ye have done the will of God*, ye might receive the

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NEWS HIGHLIGHTS from GOD'S CHURCHES

by Albert J. Portune

GREETINGS again, Brethren, from headquarters!

Here in Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong's office exciting news has been coming in from the church areas—around the world. Once again we would like to share with you — who are all part of the family of God — some of the encouraging and exciting events that are taking place in the Churches of God.

Local Church Newspapers

In some of the church areas, the publishing of local *church newspapers* has sparked a great deal of keen interest and enthusiasm among the brethren. These local church newspapers are jam-packed with articles about church happenings and activities in the local areas. As we receive copies of these church newspapers from around the world, and read the many articles about God's people and the things they're doing, we feel much closer and more a part of the family of God.

Those of you who already have a church newspaper under way know what a blessing these local papers are. In a few months, most of the local churches will have their *own newspapers* — bringing joy and fellowship into the homes of all of God's people.

However, many of God's people do not have a local church to attend. We know that ALL of God's people want to share in the fellowship and the things that are happening in all of the churches. Also, I know all of you brethren who have your *own* local newspapers would like to hear of some of the things that are happening in the other churches.

So here are excerpts from some of the church papers we have received here at headquarters.

Let's see what's going on around the nation and around the world!

From Oregon

The first newspaper on the stack is entitled "NEWS OF THE OREGON CHURCHES." You guessed it — it's partly illustrated by Mr. Basil Wolverton! Right under the headline is a little cartoon — drawn by Basil Wolverton — of a very interested reader with a newspaper in his hand, drawn so close to his face in profound interest that his nose has poked a hole through the paper! We find on the editorial staff of this Oregon



Mastheads of several of the local church papers.

paper Mr. Dale Hampton, advisor; Mr. Basil Wolverton, editor; Mr. Walter Dickenson, managing editor; Leon Shepler, associate editor; Gerald Cranford, associate editor and Jim Hanson, associate editor.

Here are some of the articles that appeared in this edition of the "NEWS OF THE OREGON CHURCHES."

Church Growth

Eugene: "We have been using the rented hall at the Y.M.C.A. Building *five Sabbaths now*, and already have nearly filled the room. The June 3 attendance of *210 persons* is another record — and there are still more to come. Mr. Cole indicated that there are *50 more* people expected to attend in the near future.

"This writer remembers his first visit to God's Church in May 1959, with 35 in regular attendance.

"As God abundantly sends rain in the springtime, He also is abundantly adding to His Church."

A Responsibility for All

Portland: "Here is a letter from one lady who wants to express her thanks to all of her brethren in the Portland church: 'Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am so thankful for the *NEWS OF THE OREGON CHURCHES*. This gives me the opportunity to thank all of you for the many prayers, for the fasting, letters, cards, for visiting me and for taking time, in taking the best of care of me in my great need. I also want to thank the Eugene and Salem churches and all the other churches for all the prayers and letters. Thank Mr. Antion and his churches who also prayed for me. Thank all those in the Pasadena church who prayed.

I am so grateful for all those "love deeds" and also thankful for God who listens to our prayers. I could never have improved so much if it hadn't been for prayer and faith in God.'

In Christian love . . ."

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The Good News

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*ministering to its members
scattered abroad*

VOL. X

NO. 7

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**Be sure to notify us immediately of
change of address.**

Many other interesting and heart-warming articles appeared in this June 17 issue of the "NEWS OF THE OREGON CHURCHES."

From New York

Next, from across the nation comes a copy of the "NEW YORK CHURCH NEWS."

Heading a long list of editorial staff members are Mr. Carlton Smith, advisor and Mr. Allen C. Dexter, editor. The "NEW YORK CHURCH NEWS" is published every two weeks and sent to every member of the New York church area.

Here are some of the articles appearing in this issue — dated June 2, 1961.

New Model

"Mrs. Dexter and I would like to announce the arrival of a brand spanking-new baby girl. She arrived at 2:00 a.m., May 22 (Pentecost), making that 'Festival of Firstfruits' a very memorable one for us.

"Other vital statistics: weight 7½ pounds, length 20 inches, name — Ann Elizabeth."

Spokesman Club News

"HELLO AGAIN — once again, the Sunday night Spokesman Club has gone forward!

"Even though several of our members were absent, it didn't dim our enthusiasm. Over-all, there was improvement. How-

ever, we are all aware of the tremendous row that still lies ahead.

"Again, the center of the business session was the ladies' night meeting. July 18 has been set as the date for this momentous occasion. All of us are primed, readying ourselves to give the best "performance" of our short careers.

"Mr. Bunnell, topics master, asked the *unmarried* brethren a real mind agitator. He wanted to know what they were doing to prepare for their "forthcoming marriages." The responses were very interesting!

"This 12th session provided much more of the training and experience we have been receiving in all previous meetings. With persistent determination and effort, coupled with Mr. Smith's guidance, we will succeed in our purpose — to become good speakers!"

From the laugh column, here are a few *New York* chuckles. "Modern man is one who drives a *mortgaged* car over a *bond-financed* highway on *credit card* gas." Here's another, "Golf is a lot like *taxes* — you drive hard to make the *green* and then wind up in the *hole*." And another, "According to worldly standards, a well-adjusted person is one whose intake of *pep pills* overbalances his consumption of *tranquillizers* just enough to leave him sufficient energy for a weekly trip to the *psychiatrist*."

In this New York church newspaper is an entire two-page section devoted to the boys and girls. There is a very interesting Bible quiz designed for the youngsters, a crossword puzzle, riddles, vocabulary word study and other interesting columns for the youngsters. This New York church newspaper is certainly a blessing and a joy for all of the members of the New York church.

From Gladewater-Minden

Next we find a copy of the "GLA-MIN." This is the church newspaper for the churches in Gladewater, Texas and Minden, Louisiana. The name being a combination of the two city names. Heading the long list of contributors and editorial staff is Mr. Ken Swisher, advisory-director, Mr. Frank Wilson, editor, and Mr. Kermit Nelson, associate editor. Here is the lead article from volume 1, number 1 of the "GLA-MIN."

Gladewater-Minden Eagerly Await Debut

"At last, after weeks and weeks of planning, designing and writing, the Gladewater-Minden newspaper makes its debut with this edition.

"Scheduled to come off the press every *two weeks*, this newspaper is designed to help keep you brethren better informed concerning the many activities in the two churches, as well as important steps in God's work world-wide.

"We know in this CHAOTIC-PULSATING PRESENT in which we live, it is vital that we be drawn closer together in love and unity. It is hoped with this small endeavor that a major part of that purpose will be accomplished.

"Those on the staff are thankful to have their part in contributing their efforts to produce for you brethren, a newspaper that we feel will be *exhilarating — dynamically alive, and jam-packed* with news you will enjoy reading.

"So welcome it into your home — your heart — and your life."

The "GLA-MIN" church paper is an example of a very fine piece of work done by God's people in that local area. It is off-set printed and contains several *pictures* and interesting *cartoons*.

From San Diego

Another fine, high-quality church newspaper is the "SAN DIEGO CHURCH NEWS." Mr. Don Billingsley, co-pastor of the San Diego church has teamed up with a very fine staff to produce this fine six-page church newspaper including pictures and special departments. Here are some articles from the June 9 edition.

Mount Palomar Unfolds

"Everything was damp except the enthusiasm of *sixty members* of the Friday night Bible class who took off like a "herd of turtles" from the Vasa Club, Sunday, May 7, at 9:40 a.m., bound for Palomar Mountain.

"When our Friday night Bible class began a study of the Book of Genesis, few realized just how engrossing it would become when we began to delve below the surface into the wonders of creation. This trip was planned to magnify this aspect.

"The day was gray as we headed north on Highway 395; but as we left Escondido the clouds cleared to reveal the panorama before us of orange groves and sagebrush with Mount Palomar in the background. At this time of year the mountains are alive with the first signs of spring. There is a profusion of colorful flowers along the winding road; while at each scenic turn we can view the green valleys spreading out below us.

"In the museum at the observatory, operated by the California Institute of Technology, we studied pictures of the galaxies taken with a powerful camera through the lens of the 200-inch Hale telescope. As an example, we saw a photograph of the great galaxy and the constellation of Ursa Major, which is about *four million* light years from the earth, but still *in* our universe.

"After a visit to the silver dome, which houses the giant telescope, Mr. Carrozzo led thirteen cars, filled with desperately

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PLAIN TRUTH Reaches *Third* of a MILLION Circulation

The month of June sent the PLAIN TRUTH'S total world-wide circulation to a new high! About 320,000 copies were mailed to the four corners of the earth, reaching an estimated readership of well over ONE MILLION people!

by Hugh Mauck

HOW much do you know about the history of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine?

Do you know that unless you lived on the Pacific Coast a quarter of a century ago, your chances of reading The PLAIN TRUTH were very slim? This publication was started in a small, drab room in downtown Eugene, Oregon, in February 1934. Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong turning out a few hundred PLAIN TRUTHS in LETTER FORM on a worn-out, borrowed, mimeograph machine!

There were no office workers! There was no printing press! And there was no accumulated postage money! There were only a few faithful tithers, who were able to give but a few dollars a month, and the DETERMINATION of Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong.

God had given them a mission to accomplish!

In spite of overwhelming odds, trials, and discouragements, the foundation was laid for what today, 27 years later, is a world-wide circulation!

And Now!

Today the PLAIN TRUTH is published on three different continents!

This month, as we mail out the July issue, almost 275,000 copies of the PLAIN TRUTH were trucked from Pacific Press in Los Angeles to our mailing department here in Pasadena. Over 25,000 copies were printed in England to be mailed from our overseas London office. Over 20,000 copies were printed for our office in Australia to be sent throughout the lands "down under!" And over 5000 were printed for our office in Vancouver, B.C., Canada.

Christ told His disciples that at *this very end time*, the Gospel would be PUBLISHED among *all nations* (Mark 13:10).

GOD, through His Church, is fulfilling *this prophecy DAILY!*

Continued Growth

June marked another *first* as our list of regular subscribers in the United States passed over the 250,000 mark! Over 250,000 families are now enrolled to receive the PLAIN TRUTH every month

for the next full year! From past records, we know that over 65% of these families will renew their SUBSCRIPTION at the end of the year and continue to receive the magazine for years to come!

Beside these 250,000, almost 25,000 sample copies of this issue will be sent upon special request to new readers.

Of the PLAIN TRUTH magazines that enter a *third of a million* homes every month, it has been firmly established, by poll ratings, that at least an average of four people read every issue of every magazine. That means over ONE AND A QUARTER MILLION readers.

As we continue to receive close to 70,000 letters each month, literally hundreds of them tell us of finding their first issues of the PLAIN TRUTH outside the home on park benches, in bus and train depots, on street cars, in used book stores, in waiting rooms, in restaurants.

Others run across the PLAIN TRUTH in libraries, receive them from fellow workers, from truck and taxi drivers, magazine collectors, and in doctors' offices.

Many tell us of finding their *first copy* through a friend in almost every nation in the world!

We have readers throughout the six major continents of the world!

Though we are reaching all nations, we are not yet thoroughly covering all nations. Publishing has only begun in the sixties! We have just completed installing, in our Pasadena mailing department, new IBM electronic equipment that will make the covering of all nations possible!

Christ compared the growth of His work to a grain of mustard seed. "It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth; but when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it" (Mark 4:31-32).

And it has been just that! God's work is growing up!

A Gradual Increase

In the early 1950's Ambassador College

was still in its infancy. As late as 1947 the Gospel was still being published in small numbers in Eugene, Oregon. Then in the late fall of the year of 1947, the Radio Church of God swung open the doors of Ambassador College to receive its first students and to welcome the men and women some of whom were to later assist writing, publishing, and mailing out the PLAIN TRUTH.

When January 1950 ushered in the turn of the half century, the PLAIN TRUTH was being mailed out from a small 30' x 35' room on the campus. A handful of students and a few full-time employees worked faithfully day and night to mail the PLAIN TRUTH—four issues that year—February, March, April, and August. Pacific Press printed 26,300 copies of that February issue, some of which were not mailed out until months later. No one knows for sure exactly how many subscribers we had on our regular mailing list in early 1950, but it must have been less than 6% of what it is today—over a decade later!

But we do know the publishing growth has averaged 30% per year over the last decade. The growth has had its up's and down's, depending on radio coverage—some years it has been less than 30%, while other years it has been over 30%. Nevertheless, God has given an average annual growth of 30%. Our subscriber mailing list climbed from 20,000 to 250,000 in eleven short years!

The GOOD NEWS Published

When April 1951 rolled around Mr. Armstrong conceived a NEW IDEA. Through Ambassador College students The GOOD NEWS was re-born as a college magazine. This became a new activity in God's ministry, and, at the same time, a new college activity. Yet it was not new—far back in the thirties Mr. Armstrong and the Church published The GOOD NEWS for church members only. But the war years hampered these efforts of the Church and the work was left to Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong and a few helpers who could not carry the load alone. The GOOD NEWS ceased to be published for several years. The re-birth of this magazine brought with it the channel through which the Church now



Ambassador College Press Mailing Department as it was in the years of 1948 through 1956.

Courtesy Ambassador College Envoy Staff

keeps abreast of Church activity and progress.

Notice in the accompanying picture the young ladies are mailing out one of these *very first issues* of The GOOD NEWS. They are using two Elliott Addressing Machines. The magazines were fed into these machines *by hand* and addressed from stencils that had previously been made on a typewriter. A foot pedal was used for this part of the operation. The equipment was crude, the machines all too few, and the amount of work ever increasing and demanding faster handling!

The machinery shown in this picture would address the magazines at speeds of a little over 2000 an hour. Later in 1956, these machines were traded in for Addressograph equipment that addressed the magazines at speeds of up to 8,000 per hour.

Through the year of 1960 we realized that the 8,000 per hour was still *much too slow!* Then in November we installed our Heavy-Duty Magnacraft mailing machine as the first piece of the *entirely new* IBM electronic system.

Today we are able to mail out The PLAIN TRUTH at speeds up to 18,000 magazines per hour.

Last year it took us a *full week* of steady work to mail out 200,000 magazines. Perhaps some of you wondered

why it seemed to take so long to receive your PLAIN TRUTH.

Today we mail out 250,000 magazines in less than three days! This is over 100,000 in an 8 hour day!

Electronic Equipment

Did you know that for every magazine we sent out, we had a small, metal addressograph plate in our files with each subscriber's name and address on it? Now the old Addressograph system is completely replaced by the IBM electronic equipment.

Today we use a method that has been classified as "the most successful media for communication with machines known to man—the IBM Punched Card."

Information is recorded as small rectangular holes punched in specific locations in a standard size card. Information coded by the presence or absence of holes in specific locations can be read or sensed as the card is moved through the machine. The IBM card contains the subscriber's name and address and his renewal group code typed on the face of the card.

The preparation of these cards can be accomplished at well over 150 per hour. From here they pass through various machines.

The IBM Sorting machines will place these cards in perfect numerical order at the rate of 1000 cards per minute for each

column of numbers (0 to 9). A second pass through the machine is required for two column numbers (10 to 99) — but the speed is the same. The time required therefore to place 20,000 cards containing all 50 states into complete state order is only 45 to 50 minutes. The same task by hand filing the metal plates took 20 hours.

Once the cards are sorted they can be filed into the main files by the use of the IBM Collator, which is a machine that interfiles the cards in sequence — thus maintaining the mailing file completely and automatically by machine.

Hand filing becomes a "Lost Art!"

The cards are then run through the Electronic printer and a mailing strip is prepared with every subscriber's name on it. This in turn is fed to the Magnacraft mailing machine which cuts and glues the individual subscriber's name and address onto The PLAIN TRUTH magazines at 18,000 per hour.

As the cards are run through the Electronic printer and the mailing strip is prepared, this machine automatically places a little red mark on each section that is a different town, or state! Groups are automatically selected by sighting these red marks as magazines pass by on a conveyor belt. They are then bundled and placed in the proper mail sack, loaded into a truck and sped over to the Post Office!

This is in addition to 300,000 other pieces of mail — booklets, bulletins, receipts, special letters, etc. — prepared and mailed out *every month!*

Postage

Postage and mailing expense has also expanded at the rate of 30% per year for the past *decade*. This month brought with it a *postage bill* of almost \$9,000.00 for the month. This is well over \$100,000 per year! Should the 30% yearly rate of increase continue, it will mean that June 1966 will bring a *monthly* postage bill of \$37,000. By the end of 1970, it will be well over \$150,000 a *month!* That would mean \$1,800,000 annual postage bill for the United States alone!

"Expanding Sixties"

All the world looks for *one last decade* of prosperity, growth, and accomplishment, beyond which are ominous predictions of *depression, drought, war, and world destruction.*

Most men in the world, who know world conditions, *unanimously agree* that things will reach a climax in the early 70's. As the modern historian, Arnold Toynbee, aptly expressed it, "We must all end up in a good cry before things can get better!" The 1960's may well bring *the final climax* of publishing the

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Ambassador College Press Mailing Department as it is today — 1961 — showing part of our new IBM electronic system.

Courtesy Ambassador College Envoy Staff



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bible Story Book Needed

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"Thank you very much for the announcement of The Bible Story Book. Send me one in the mail. We need it very much in this house. God bless you, Mr. Basil Wolverton, and all you for the help you have given me."

Subscriber from British Columbia,
Canada

"Thank You, Mr. Wolverton"

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"The day we receive the new Bible Story Book will a happy one. Let this letter express, as much as words can, my thanks to everyone who has a part in the physical work of writing, printing, preaching and mailing the gospel to all of us, month after month. How thankful we should be for the countless blessings God gives! We would like to send special thanks to Mr. Wolverton."

Woman from Westville, Indiana

(Editor's Comment: This is just one of many comments of gratitude from our listeners to Mr. Wolverton. We also take this opportunity to express our heart-felt thanks for The Bible Story.)

Delighted With Bible Story Book

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"Today we received our copy of The Bible Story by Basil Wolverton and are delighted with it. I found the time to view all of the illustrations and to read the descriptive matter of each. They are indeed superb. As an artist, Mr. Wolverton really has a style. We consider it both a privilege and an honor to receive such a fine book of literature and art. We sincerely thank you both."

Couple, Fallbrook, California

Faith —

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"The amazing thing to me is that you trust God so implicitly. I thought I had faith, but perhaps I need to know more about it because it is exceptional to hear how you are accomplishing a tremendous amount of good without charging at least for cost."

Reader from Utah

New Interest

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"I would like to tell you how very glad I am that I made the decision to write for a copy of The Plain Truth when I read about it in The Reader's Digest last autumn. All the literature and lessons have given me a new interest and have made me think more than I have ever done before. I am now nearing

60, have always believed firmly that Christ is the Son of the Living God, but never realized that the New Testament had really any connection with the Old. I am beginning to see everything afresh."

Man from Bournemouth, Hantsire,
England

(Editor's Comment: The Reader's Digest has made a tremendous contribution to God's work in England for which we are very thankful.)

Minister Sees Duty

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"It has been only a little while that I have seen it my duty to keep God's Commandments. I have been preaching in a small community church a year now. Last Sunday night I announced publicly to the people of the church that as for me, their pastor, I must obey God and keep His Sabbath as He has commanded although I told them I would hold services for them as long as they wanted me to. My prayer is that God will lead them into the Light of His Holy Word. I have been so blind, but I must be a true example to the church even if they reject me as their pastor."

Minister from Ft. Worth, Texas

(Editor's Comment: It is always a heart-ening experience to see someone turn in obedience and unconditional surrender to God's way and forsake the way of man that leads to ultimate death. God will help this minister so long as he continues to follow the truth.)

God Removes Pain

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"After receiving the anointed cloth you sent me, I put it on my leg and prayed in real earnest. My leg was swollen so that I thought the veins would burst. I couldn't be on my feet, but now I can be up with no pain at all."

Woman from Huntington, Indiana

God's Work Grows

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"In answer to one of my questions you sent a February, 1957, issue of The PLAIN TRUTH. I was amazed to find how much your broadcasting coverage has increased from less than one column to well over one full page."

Connecticut

God Heals Baby

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"God Almighty has once more healed the afflictions of one of our loved ones. Our baby, who was unable to walk, run or even stand without falling because of the affliction in his right leg which caused

his foot to turn inward, can now run and play as he used to. There is no sign whatsoever of this abnormality."

Couple from Hawaii

Tables Being Turned

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"I am enclosing my tithe for this month so that the gospel may go into all the world as a witness. It must be God's Church I am interested in, as no other church ever took an interest in me *until now, since I have been giving to the Church of God*. I have some Seventh-day Adventists that come every few days and show me pictures that tell about the Bible. The only thing is, the Bible Correspondence Course has taught me so much about the Bible that now they are becoming interested in the Course. The tables are being turned. I hope and pray they will be interested enough to send for it."

Woman, Durand, Wisconsin

God's Way Pays

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"It is so very wonderful to be a part of the greatest work on the earth at this time. I am a baptized member and have just completed my third-tithe year and I actually have more money in the bank and fewer bills than at any other time in my life. I have been greatly blessed by keeping and doing God's Laws."

Man from Poway, Calif.

A Beautiful Book!

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"We recently received our copy of the 1961 ENVOY. It is a beautiful book and we could hardly tear ourselves away from it. It has been such a pleasure to see all the people at the Ambassador Colleges and those responsible for The PLAIN TRUTH."

Woman from Barlow, Kentucky

(Editor's Comment: All requests for the 1961 Envoy have now been filled. ENVOY subscribers who have not received their copy are requested to contact The Envoy Staff immediately. Only an extremely limited supply remains.)

Grateful for ENVOY

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"We also want to say thanks for the beautiful '61 ENVOY which we have received."

Woman from Sebago Lake, Maine

Thrilled with ENVOY

"What a thrilling week this has been! We have received our first copy of The ENVOY and have spent many enjoyable hours browsing through it and would like to express our appreciation to those who have spent many hours in making this possible."

Couple from Lexington, N.C.

(Please continue on page 16)

IS JUDAISM *the Law of Moses?*

The beginning of the Sanhedrin, the origin of the "traditions of the elders," the usurpation of authority by laymen—these are discussed in this installment.

by Ernest Martin

IN previous installments we followed the Egyptian rule of Palestine until 198 B.C. In that year the Syrian kingdom on the north invaded and conquered the territory of Judea. The change in government from Alexandria to Antioch in Syria—and the resultant establishment of the Syrian way of life in Palestine—meant that a readjustment had to be made in the Jews' manner of living inherited from the Egyptian Hellenists.

The Syrians were Hellenists as much as the Egyptians were but there was quite a difference in their mode of observing it!

The Religious Anarchy Ends

When the Syrians assumed control of Palestine, the Jews were fully conscious that something new was taking place. It was this contrast between the Egyptian Hellenism they had been used to and the Syrian Hellenism which they were now obliged to follow, that shocked a few Jews into becoming cognizant that another way of life was possible—their old way of life—living by the Holy Scriptures! The Jews knew the Scriptures plainly did not recognize either form of Hellenism. New interest in God and the religion of Moses began to revive.

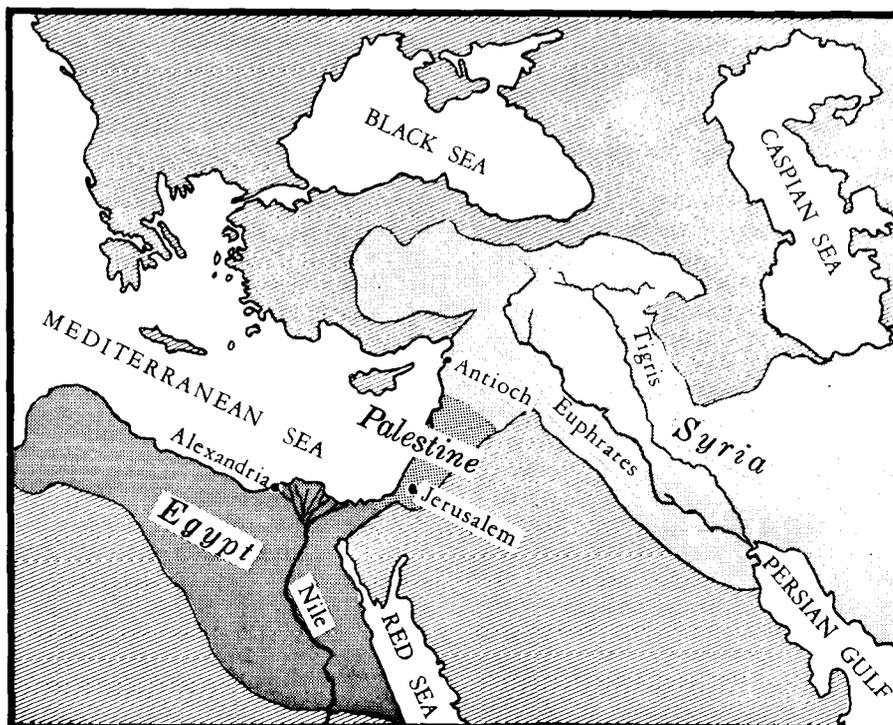
Beginning of Sanhedrin

This new interest in the religion of their forefathers caused some of the Jews to reflect on the past in order to ascertain how their forefathers had been governed in their religious life. They recognized that from the time of Ezra and Nehemiah to Alexander the Great, the Sopherim had been the religious leaders and teachers of the people. The Sopherim, remember, had disappeared from the scene—Simon the Just was the last of them.

Understanding that some organization like the Sopherim must exist if there was to be religious unity and the people properly taught the Law, the leaders of this new revival decided to meet in council with one another. Its avowed purpose was to direct those who were desiring to live according to the Law of their forefathers. This council became known by the Greek name, THE SANHEDRIN.

It is not clear when the Sanhedrin first began meeting. It must have been just a short time after the Syrians came into Palestine, perhaps about 196 B.C. or immediately thereafter (Lauterbach, *Rabbinic Essays*, p. 207).

The influence of the Sanhedrin was not



A map of Palestine during the time of Hellenistic influence.

Ambassador College Art Department

great at first. Not many of the Jews recognized its authority or adhered to its injunctions. Yet, with its establishment, we can say that outright religious anarchy came to an end, even though the majority of the Jews were still greatly affected by Hellenism.

Fanatical Zeal of Syrian Hellenists

When the Syrians subdued the Egyptians in Palestine in 198 B.C., they brought to the Jews their own ideas concerning Hellenism. To the Syrians there must be nothing that rivaled their way of thinking.

Egyptian Hellenists had allowed the Old Testament to be used. The interpretation of it, however, must be by Greek methods—it had to be Grecianized. Thus, we have the Septuagint Version. *But the Syrian Hellenists would not allow the Old Testament even to be in existence.* Only Greek ways were allowed. No form of individual or nationalistic religion was allowed to exist that conflicted in any way with the doctrines of the Syrians.

The outstanding advocate of this phi-

losophy was the Syrian king, Antiochus Epiphanes, who ruled from 175 to 164 B.C.

Antiochus Epiphanes was a Hellenist enthusiast, proud of his Athenian citizenship and bent on spreading Hellenic civilization throughout his domains. He built various temples to Apollo and Jupiter. He observed, and commanded his subjects to observe, all the pagan Greek festivities to the heathen gods. So fanatical was he in his zeal to implant his beliefs on all others that some of his contemporaries called him HALF-CRAZED (Margolis, *History of the Jewish People*, p. 135). He let nothing hinder him from realizing his desires.

A large number of the Jews readily accepted the newly established Syrian doctrine of complete surrender to the philosophies of Hellenism. Most of the Jews were thoroughly accustomed to much of the Greek culture anyway, and it was no hard thing to transfer allegiance from the Egyptians to the Syrians.

Yet, by the time of Antiochus Epiphanes, other Jews had also begun to take

a new interest in religion—the religion of their forefathers. This new concern for religion was beginning to spread among the Jews of Palestine.

When Antiochus Epiphanes heard that some of the Jews were rejecting his doctrines of total adherence to Hellenism, he began to persecute many of them. The persecution inevitably caused more Jews to side with the cause of religion. This stubbornness of the Jews infuriated Antiochus. He then began—in a fit of demoniac insanity—widespread persecution, committing heinous indignities against all those who would not conform to his ways.

Not all the Jews were in disfavor with Antiochus. Many of the wealthy and influential families, and especially many of the chief priests, wickedly supported Antiochus in his wild schemes. As the persecution grew more intense, a great many of the common people went against Antiochus. The result of this unparalleled persecution by this madman inevitably brought a further quickening interest in the Scriptures. Many began to take up arms against the Syrians. The cry went throughout the land that, in reality, this was a *religious war* and that the Jews were fighting for their Law and their God. This belief boosted renewed interest in fighting against Antiochus. See page 15 of the May issue for a detailed description of the atrocities that made Antiochus so hated by the Jews.

Judas Maccabee

The Jews, in order to band themselves together against the Syrians, came to the side of Judas Maccabee and his four brothers. An army was formed for two purposes: 1) defeating Antiochus Epiphanes and 2) driving out the Syrians from Palestine. This army was quickly put into action. After many successful battles, in succeeding decades, this Jewish army managed to accomplish both things! Antiochus' armies were defeated in 165 B.C. and by 142 B.C. the Syrians were completely driven from the land. Practical independence for the Jews resulted.

Religious Authority Re-established Among Jews

With the defeat of Antiochus Epiphanes in 165 B.C., the religious history of the Jews enters a new phase. The Sanhedrin, which had been feebly established some thirty years before, was now *officially declared the religious authority among the Jews of Palestine*. Being in virtual control of the land, the Jews were in position to re-establish the religion that had been in a state of decay for so long.

Now, for the first time since the period of the Sopherim, they had independent religious authority. The Sanhedrin took

the place of the Sopherim in directing the religious life of the people. But, this governing body of men was to be greatly different from the priestly Sopherim.

During the period of religious anarchy before Antiochus Epiphanes, a fundamental change took place in the attitudes of the priests. Many of the priests were outright Hellenists and steeped in the pagan philosophies of that culture. Not only that, many of them had sided with Antiochus Epiphanes against the common people during the Maccabean Revolt. Such activities caused the common people to be wary of the priests and their teaching. There was a general distrust for anything priestly at this time.

A few priests had not allied themselves with Hellenism and Antiochus Epiphanes. But the large majority, in one way or another, were not faithful to the religion of their forefathers.

This general lack of trust for the priests led most of the common people to disapprove of their re-assuming their full former role of being religious authorities. Only those priests who had not been openly in favor of Hellenism were sought and allowed to take their former positions. The common people could not bring themselves to entrust the other priests with the right to help regulate the religious life of the Jews. Only to these faithful priests were committed chairs in the new Sanhedrin (Lauterbach, *Rabbinic Essays*, p. 209).

Non-Priestly Teachers Assume Authoritative Positions

Under Egyptian control, within the period of the religious anarchy, Palestine had no official teachers of the Law. A few individuals here and there endeavored to study the Scriptures in a personal way. Without official teachers, the study obviously had to be personal and in private. The fact that a few independent students of the Law existed is proved by the few learned men who came to the fore with the establishment of a Sanhedrin. We are further assured of this when we realize that this new Sanhedrin, organized about 196 B.C., was composed of LAY TEACHERS as well as some priests.

"The study of the Law *now became* a matter of private piety, and as such *was not limited to the priests*" (Lauterbach, *Rabbinic Essays*, p. 198).

This private study, without proper guidance from recognized authority such as the Sopherim were, brought about some surprising results.

(This is the same condition that happened in the Protestant Reformation. Many lay teachers arose, because the Bible was made available by the printing press, and many confusing and contradictory divisions arose amongst those who were coming out of the Catholic Church.)

Many of these Jewish teachers, likewise, because of their independent private study in the Scripture, were not in unity on many of their teachings. And, too, many of these teachers were variously affected by Hellenism.

"We shall therefore be not far from the truth if we represent the Sanhedrin, in the years from its foundation down to the outbreak of the Maccabean Revolt, as an Assembly of priests and *laymen*, some of whom inclined to Hellenism while others opposed it out of loyalty to the Torah" (Herford, *The Pharisees*, p. 27).

The differing degrees of Hellenic absorption among the teachers, mixed with independent study of the Scripture, brought about a new variety of opinions. And, in the discussions that followed to determine which opinions to use, the LAY TEACHERS claimed as much right to voice their views as the priests. The lay teachers were assured of the common people being behind them.

"At the beginning of the second century these non-priestly teachers already exerted a great influence in the community and began persistently to *claim for themselves*, as teachers of the Law, *the same authority which, till then, the priests exclusively had enjoyed*" (Lauterbach, *Rabbinic Essays*, p. 28).

Such privileges that the lay teachers were usurping to themselves would never have been permitted while the Sopherim, the successors of Ezra and Nehemiah, were in authority. The Law of Moses, which God had directly commanded him, clearly enjoined that the priests, with their helpers the Levites, were to perform the functions of teachers, not just any layman who would presume to do so.

Some of these priests were in the Sanhedrin and were willing to re-establish the religious life of the people, in accordance with the directions in the Law. But the new laymen, who had now also become teachers of the Law because of their independent study, were not willing to give up this new power they had acquired. Human reason insisted that they were as competent to teach the people as the priests.

Lay Teachers Reject Sole Authority of Priests to Teach!

When the Sanhedrin was re-organized after Antiochus Epiphanes, the lay teachers exhibited more power than ever before. The priests, who were under a ban of discredit before the Maccabean Revolt, were even more so afterwards. The lay teachers repudiated the claim that the priests had an exclusive right to be in authority.

Lauterbach says that these lay teachers "refused to recognize the authority of the priests as a class, and, inasmuch as many

of the priests had proven unfaithful guardians of the Law, they would not entrust to them the religious life of the people" (*Rabbinic Essays*, p. 209).

This privilege, of assuming the role of the priests, was not a complete usurpation of every prerogative of the priests. They still were the only ones allowed to perform the ritualistic Temple services, etc. No lay teacher ever thought of taking over this exclusive position of the priests.

But from the time of the re-establishment of the Sanhedrin, after the Maccabean Revolt, the lay teachers became the important *religious leaders*.

Sanhedrin Faces Many New Problems

The establishment of the Sanhedrin was recognized as a necessity in order that there could be a resumption of some form of the religion of Moses.

"The members of this Sanhedrin took up the interrupted activity of the former teachers, the Sopherim, and, like them, sought to teach and interpret the Law and to regulate the life of the people in accordance with the laws and traditions of the fathers. But in their attempt to harmonize the laws of the fathers with the life of their own times, they encountered some great difficulties" (Lauterbach, *Rabbinic Essays*, p. 105).

The people were keeping so many new customs, not observed by their forefathers, that the members of the Sanhedrin became perplexed over what to do.

It was not easy to find support from the Scriptures which might condone some of the practices of the Jews at this time. The members of the Sanhedrin began to look for ways of *justifying* the people, rather than following the Scripture commands to correct them (Deut. 32:1-47).

"Many new customs and practices for which there were no precedents in the traditions of the fathers, and *not the slightest indication in the Book of the Law*, were observed by the people and considered by them as a part of their religious laws and practices" (*ibid.*, p. 195).

The majority of the teachers in the Sanhedrin came to the conclusion that the proper thing to do was to find some way to authoritatively justify these new customs. They were well aware that they could not go to the Scripture for their support. This presented a troublesome situation to the Jewish teachers.

"The difficulty was to find a sanction in the Torah for the new customs and practices which had established themselves in the community..." (Herford, *Talmud and Apocrypha*, p. 66).

The only commands the Jews had from God in this matter were clearly negative.

"Learn not the way of the heathen" (Jer. 10:2).

"Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them [the heathen] ... and that thou enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations [the heathen] serve their gods? *even so will I do likewise*" (Deut. 12:30).

How to avoid these plain Scripture commands, and get these new customs sanctioned as proper religious observances? The teachers thought it would have been misadventurous to tell the people who wanted to retain these customs the simple commands of the Scriptures. The people were not about to give up these new customs. The teachers were assured of this.

What, then, did the teachers do to finally get these new religious customs and practices authorized and as having the sanction of God? They came out with a most ingenious fiction which shows an amazing and clever display of human reasoning.

Teachers Pronounce Heathen Customs Jewish in Origin

The conclusion of the Jewish teachers may surprise you. They merely taught that all the customs and practices which the Jews were now observing were actually Jewish in origin!

"They reasoned this: It is hardly possible that *foreign customs and non-Jewish laws should have met with such universal acceptance. The total absence of objection on the part of the people to such customs vouched for their Jewish origin, in the opinion of the teachers*" (Lauterbach, *Rabbinic Essays*, p. 211).

The Jewish teachers told the people that it was simply not possible for them, being Jews, to have inherited any heathen custom or practice!

Since the Jewish teachers accepted these customs as actually being Jewish in origin, it became necessary to carry the theory just a little further. The theory went like this: Since the customs were supposedly Jewish, then they must have been taught by the prophets and the teachers of Israel, even by Moses himself! That is how the customs and practices of the Jews, which in reality they had inherited from the heathen within the period of religious anarchy, were falsely termed the "traditions of the fathers"—handed down from Moses, the prophets and teachers of old!

These traditions Jesus condemned.

There was, however, one difficulty for the Jewish teachers to overcome in this interpretation. There were no such customs and practices as these mentioned in all of Moses' Law nor in any other part of the Scripture.

This did not dampen the spirit of the Jewish teachers! They also had an answer for this. They maintained that these customs were not put down in written

form, and because of this, were not found in the text of Scripture. "These customs were handed down *orally* from Moses," was their assertion! "They were passed by word of mouth from Moses through every generation."

By assuming that there was an Oral Law, called the "traditions of the fathers," this freed the Jewish teachers from having to appeal to the Written Scripture for evidence to back up their statements.

"Accordingly, the teachers themselves came to believe that such generally recognized laws and practices *must have been* old traditional laws and practices accepted by the fathers and transmitted to following generations *in addition* to the Written Law. Such a belief would naturally free the teachers from the necessity of finding *scriptural proof for all the NEW practices*" (Lauterbach, *Rabbinic Essays*, p. 211).

These traditional laws—the Oral Laws—were not from Moses nor any of the prophets. There is not a single reference in the Scripture that Moses gave the Israelites any Oral or Traditional Laws that were to be handed down along with the Written Word. The Bible states just the opposite. It plainly says that Moses wrote the whole Law in a book. There was no such thing as an Oral Law of Moses.

Notice:

"And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until THEY WERE FINISHED, that Moses commanded the Levites ... saying, *Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee*" (Deut. 31:24-26).

Moses wrote the Law in a book. And it was this written Word of God that was to be a witness against the Israelites for future generations, not any so-called Oral Law.

Notice this confession of Dr. Lauterbach:

"These traditional laws naturally had no indication in the Written Law and no basis in the teachings of the Sopherim, because they developed AFTER the period of the Sopherim" (*ibid.*, p. 206).

In other words tradition originated in the period of the religious anarchy, when the Egyptians were in control of Palestine.

"The reorganized Sanhedrin had to reckon with these *new laws and customs, now considered as traditional* because observed and practiced by the people for a generation or more" (*ibid.*, p. 206).

We should not suppose that this theory of the origin of the Traditional laws was wholeheartedly accepted by all the teachers and members of the Sanhedrin.

(Please continue on next page)

Some Teachers Disapprove of New Interpretation

"The theory of an authoritative traditional law (which might be taught independently of the Scripture) was altogether too new to be unhesitatingly accepted... the theory was too startling and novel to be unconditionally accepted" (*ibid.*, p. 211).

The Jewish teachers who were the most prone to accept the new fictional interpretation were the lay teachers. Some of the priests were not quite sure this was the way of handling the situation. They maintained that the Sopherim of old had always relied upon the Scripture, and that they would never have countenanced such interpretations which completely side-tracked the Word of God.

"In their [the priests'] opinion, the main thing was to observe the laws of the fathers as contained in the Book of the Law, because the people had pledged themselves, by oath, in the time of Ezra, to do so. If changed conditions required additional laws and new regulations, the priests and rulers were competent to decree them according to the authority given to them in Deut. 17:8-13" (*ibid.*, p. 209).

The priests, as a whole, declared that the Scripture was the only necessary code of laws to obey.

"This apparently simple solution offered by the priestly group in the Sanhedrin did not find favor with the lay members of that body" (*ibid.*, p. 209).

The lay teachers, who outnumbered the priestly group, claimed the only way of reconciling these new customs with the Scripture was to recognize them as Oral laws handed down from Moses.

They began to formulate methods of explaining how these laws were ordained by Moses and transmitted to the Jews then living. Their explanations were not true, but they deliberately taught them anyway.

Lauterbach says that these lay teachers of the Sanhedrin devised the "methods for connecting with the Law all those new decisions and customs which were now universally observed by the people, thus making them appear as part of the laws of the fathers" (*ibid.*, p. 210). Notice, they made them appear as if they were actual traditions of Moses!

Clever Answers to Opponents

The lay teachers had an answer for almost every question that an opponent might ask them concerning the validity of these Traditional laws.

If one would mention that Deuteronomy 4:2 forbade the addition to the Law, the lay teachers would readily admit that fact but staunchly affirm that the recognition of the Traditional laws was not adding to the Law of Moses. They

claimed these laws originated with Moses and represented the complete revelation that God gave him (*ibid.*, p. 44).

If some opponent would voice the truth about the recent origin of these laws, the lay teachers merely declared that the laws were actually Mosaic but had been long forgotten and had just been recalled and reintroduced (*ibid.*, p. 45).

And when someone would prove beyond question that these laws were nothing more than pagan practices, Lieberman points out that "in such cases the Jews could maintain that the heathen were following Jewish practices and not vice versa" (*Hellenism in Jewish Palestine*, p. 129).

Such interpretations were absurdly extreme, completely unjustified and utterly false! How they managed to palm off such fallacious interpretations as actual truth can be understood only if we recognize that the people wanted to receive this error. With the people behind them, the lay teachers could teach about what they wished.

"Certain religious practices, considered by the later teachers as part of the traditional law, or as handed down by Moses, originated in reality from other, perhaps non-Jewish sources, and had no authority other than the authority of the people who adopted them" (*ibid.*, p. 241).

With the acceptance of these new customs and practices we can date the true beginning of Judaism as a religion! The opportunity of returning to the Law of Moses was rejected. From that time forward, about 150 years before Christ, we become familiar in history with the real Judaism—a religion which the Apostle Paul calls the "Jews' religion."

(To be continued next issue.)

Plain Truth Circulation

(Continued from page 6)

Gospel through the pages of The PLAIN TRUTH in this age!

In the meantime, should the publishing of The PLAIN TRUTH continue its yearly growth of 30%, our list of subscribers in the UNITED STATES by 1965 will be well over 700,000, with an additional printing of over 60,000 magazines to fill requests of those wanting a sample copy.

As the "Expanding Sixties" draw to a close, our United States mailing list could reach a minimum of 2,500,000 subscribers. An additional 200,000 sample copies might be sent out every month. The London Office could be mailing out over 200,000 additional copies each month—and the Canadian and Australian Offices also!

Offices may be raised up this very year in Africa and New Zealand. Long before the end of the sixties, God may well raise

up offices in other places throughout the world, each mailing out thousands of copies of The PLAIN TRUTH. This proverbial mustard tree will surely shoot forth GREAT BRANCHES!

And all this began in that small, drab, back room in Eugene, Oregon only 27 years ago!

Church Attendance

(Continued from page 2)

promise" (verses 35-36). Some are not doing the will of God! Some lack the faith and patience it takes to be consistent in their regular sabbath attendance.

Now consider the importance of regular church attendance.

It is good for you—and good for the other brethren! They have as much need of your presence as you have of theirs—and you all have need of the presence of Jesus Christ and His messages through His ministry! That you cannot ever get privately, at home, while you dwell on your own problems. You need to get your mind on other people's problems, get away from your personal surroundings each sabbath to a local church. Ask the brethren who don't have a church how much they miss each week—how much they long for fellowship with other brethren of like faith. God does not hold them responsible for what they have not heard in sabbath services. They have none to attend.

But He DOES hold you responsible when you have a service to attend! He warns you not to withdraw from His fellowship—not to spiritually shrivel up in your little world. "But if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him," concluded Paul (verse 38). Are you drawing back to your old friends and acquaintances, to the little world you have been living in? Or are you living by faith—faithfully attending each sabbath service?

"We are not of them who draw back unto perdition"—who begin to neglect the words of Christ, become self-centered, preferring fellowship only with their family and acquaintances. We are "of them that believe to the saving of the soul" (verse 39). Do you believe Christ's words? Do you act on them? He commands you to worship in His presence every sabbath wherever a local congregation makes a HOLY CONVOCATION possible.

Next sabbath, and each sabbath thereafter, attend church. Be regular. Get acquainted with other people. Learn to get rid of your feelings of inferiority by becoming interested in others. Get to know their problems. Help them. Several months from now you will be amazed at the change that has taken place in your life. You and others will see what a totally new life you are now leading!

What Does It Mean to "LIVE BY FAITH"?

*If you are not living by faith, you are not a CHRISTIAN.
Yet many who call themselves Christian don't even know
what it means to live by faith.*

by Jack R. Elliott

“NOW the just shall live *by faith*: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him” (Hebrews 10:38).

But what *is* faith?

Many people, when they realize they must live by faith, make the mistake of confusing faith with *emotion*.

Other people think they are exercising faith by looking for a sign. For example, some, even when praying to God, FEEL that God hears them and is going to answer that prayer because they have some emotional feeling or experience about it. They think this is a sign that God will answer.

Other people try to “work up faith,” which, to them, means an emotional feeling. They become so sentimental about it that they are convinced God will answer because of their human sanctimonious inner-conviction.

Sentimentality, feelings and emotions ARE OF THE FLESH—not of the Spirit of God which is from *above*. These feelings of sentimentality are not evidence on which to base your faith. They are in the class of what can be seen, smelled, tasted or felt.

But “FAITH is the *confidence* of things hoped for, the *evidence* of things NOT SEEN” (Heb. 11:1).

Then, TO LIVE BY FAITH DOES NOT MEAN that you go around with some sentimental *feeling*, act in a sanctimonious manner which most people call “spiritual,” or follow after physical or mental signs.

Acting on What We Know

Living by faith does not mean reasoning and supposing what God would have us do. It means we come to *know* what God would have us do. We come to know God's will by diligent SEARCHING and STUDY of His Bible which instructs us in His WAY. Also through prayer to God that He will reveal to us HIS WILL.

God has not made every minute DECISION for us. In many instances He has given us only the over-all principle. Through His Holy Spirit He then gives us the SOUNDNESS of mind by which WE MUST APPLY that principle. After study and prayer, we step out in faith to make our decision, based on God's instructions

and the understanding He has given us. We must TRUST Him *in faith* not to hide, but to reveal the one correct solution to us.

THIS IS ACTING ON FAITH. Faith is not merely what you need in order to have God answer your prayers — it is what you need in order to obey God. Faith is a gift of God to enable you to obey Him.

How Faith Works

The Holy Spirit comes into our minds to *clean us up* and replaces our human, carnal-mindedness with sound spiritual-mindedness.

Jesus Christ actually comes into us and begins to live HIS LIFE in us (John 14:23; Rom. 8:9-11; I Cor. 3:16). Not only did He GIVE HIS LIFE in payment for the VILE SINS that you and I have committed, thereby reconciling us to God, but He comes into these vile, carnal minds and begins to CLEAN THEM UP of the FILTH that is there.

The extent and manner of His love for us is truly WONDERFUL!

Our part is to REPENT, not just of our foul deeds which we have committed in the past, but actually to repent of being the carnal, fleshly, sensual beings that we are. We need to want to be as God is.

We must want to be AS GOD IS and NOT AS MAN IS so badly that we are willing to give up, to bury this old self, with all of its sensual pleasure seeking, and to cling and strive to KEEP NEAR TO GOD so that He will CONTINUE to come in and clean us up. He must renew our minds daily, that day by day our action, behavior, and thoughts parallel those thoughts and actions which are in the mind of Jesus Christ.

This is, in fact, a marvelous spiritual CREATION which God IS PERFORMING. By *faith* GOD creates in US a holy, spiritual character, which shall live for all eternity. By *faith* WE must *independently* make the decision to let God create His Character in us. Our new mind must come to be *completely* WITHIN THE LAW and pattern of behavior of the HOLY GODHEAD.

The person who fails to step out on faith DAILY and HOURLY is weak and senseless. All that he is and all that he can ever be, is *dependent upon God*.

What Our Job Is

The Church of God, which is the body of Jesus Christ, is given a COMMISSION. This commission is a job or a work to be performed by the Church as a whole. That commission is stated clearly in Matthew 28:19-20: to carry this GOSPEL to the world during this end time before the Kingdom of God shall be set up. And also, that the Church does feed and nourish the individuals within that Church on the Word of God (John 21:15-17, Acts 20:28).

We are in the Church only if God the Father has *given us* of His Holy Spirit and *placed us* within the body of Jesus Christ. Now this body has many members as outlined in Romans 12:4-8. Not all of us have the same job; not all of us do the same things. But ALL of those in whom the Spirit of God resides ARE A PART OF THE BODY and all collectively will be working toward the over-all COMMISSION OF THE CHURCH.

That member of the true Church who is living by faith will be active in his part of the over-all work of God. He will be praying diligently for the work as a whole, that the Gospel will go out in accordance with God's will in all the power and authority that God will allow. He will also be praying for the brethren's overcoming and growing in grace and knowledge. Our prayers should include the leaders whom God is using, that they might be inspired and rightly guided.

Pray for the individuals within the Church, that they might be performing their calling so that the *whole* Church is nourished and growing in every way of God. Christ's Message must go out to this DARKENED WORLD *before* this age ends in cataclysmic horror. The Church member who does not feel that calling and who is not actively doing his part will certainly FAIL in HIS calling. He lacks true purpose. He is without a goal.

Those who are Co-Workers in the work of God should not overlook the importance of *their* calling which is included in Romans 12 verse 8. God has actually called many to contribute of the POWER of their financial earnings. It takes much money to purchase radio time and equipment, and to sustain the growing

staff working full time to complete Christ's commission! WE can ALL take this admonition to heart and ACT on it IN FAITH. We should all give liberally (see margin reference verse 8) according to our ability. This also includes giving liberally of our time in prayer which is powerful and effective toward fulfilling our commission (Jas. 5:16).

Stepping Out

To *step out on faith* then, you must become aware of WHO God is. You must also be aware that *God has opened your eyes* and set you in the Church, the body of Jesus Christ. That God is *interested* in you *personally* and individually. You must realize that it is God's will to GIVE you His Holy Spirit and to create in you PERFECT CHARACTER. You must also be aware that if you *fail* to HEED and OBEY properly, that you will have failed the test of LIFE and shall DIE for all eternity.

Through STUDY we KNOW what to HOPE for because God has revealed within His BIBLE what things shall be. FAITH in God will assure us that our hope shall certainly come to fruition and that the promises of God, which are not yet seen, are as sure as if they were standing before us right *now*. Then we will step out, guiding our actions according to the Word of God.

As Solomon said in Eccles. 12:13, our duty is to fear God and keep His COMMANDMENTS—by faith.

This is the kind of LIVING FAITH, which Paul wrote of in Hebrews 11, that is REQUIRED for salvation. It is the faith *proved* by WORKS. Works which involve *stepping out*, giving, helping, and otherwise guiding our lives, not by sight, or feel, or taste, but by the revealed laws of God. God's Word is SURE, and HE WILL NOT FAIL TO PERFORM IT once we learn to trust God in absolute faith.

Question Box

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

"Why do some believe that Christ was a nazirite and wore long hair?"

Jesus was not a nazirite.

Some have been misled by an erroneous interpretation of Matthew 2:23, "And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene."

Many have concluded that this prophecy had to be a written prophecy recorded somewhere in the Old Testament. This is an unfounded assumption.

Since they could not find anything in the Old Testament about Nazarenes, they guessed that some similar word must have been intended. Using this erroneous reasoning, they went one step further in their folly and assumed that this scripture was referring to the *laws* (NOT prophecy) about nazirites.

Notice that the prophecy said that Christ would be called a Nazarene, not a nazirite. A Nazarene is one who lives

in Nazareth; and a nazirite is one who has a nazirite vow, which is described in Numbers 6. Many Bible students have been confused by the similarity of these two words, although they are not at all related in their meanings. They are just as unrelated in meaning as some of our English words of today that have similar sounds, such as "encumber" and "cucumber." Christ was a Nazarene, a man from Nazareth. He was not a long-haired nazirite. A nazirite was forbidden to drink wine, but Christ drank wine on numerous occasions. Either He was never a nazirite—or He broke His vows!

The prophecy—that the Saviour would be called a Nazarene—was not "written" in the Scriptures. Matthew says it was "spoken by the prophets." It was a universally recognized *oral* prophecy that was authoritatively preserved from generation to generation by the priests. It became a *written* prophecy only in New Testament times.

ing us that the time had come to end a perfect day."

At Our Home, by J. L. Hooks

"We recently marked a very memorable occasion at our residence where many of the Negro brethren of the San Diego church assembled. All thirty of these brethren were invited. All truly

enjoyed themselves immensely. It truly is a blessing and a delight to rejoice with God's people and to share this precious fellowship.

"My wife spent a large part of the day preparing the meal, for *turkey* was on the menu. Everyone brought his appetite to the table, and the peach pie which was served for dessert was received with enthusiasm.

"After dinner we took pictures, played records, and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves in Christian fellowship."

From Los Angeles-Long Beach

From the Los Angeles-Long Beach churches comes the first edition of the "SPOKESMAN." Mr. L. Leroy Neff and Mr. James F. Kunz, ministerial advisors, head a long editorial staff including Mr. James Bald, editor, and Mr. Frank Marasa, Mr. Lonnie Tarver and Mr. Robert Smith, assistant editors. Here are excerpts from volume 1, number 1.

Los Angeles News, by Edna Overcash

"Mr. and Mrs. Michael Lomascola announced the birth of their new baby son, David John, May 6, 1961. Their last child [before entering the Church] had been by caesarean section. She had been warned by her former doctor to have *no more* children. Theirs was perfect faith, and the baby was delivered *normally*. Congratulations!"

Sabbath, May 27

"The Los Angeles church had a record attendance of 178. Many visited from Pasadena and Long Beach churches. The octet from the college favored us with their appearance and two fine numbers. Mr. McCrady said a final good-bye as he was leaving on his baptizing tour."

Combined Picnic, by Jimmy Gibson

"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. Members of the Los Angeles and Long Beach Spokesman's Club are determined that this shall not happen to the brethren of our churches.

"So, on Sunday, the second Spokesman-Club-sponsored picnic was held in the beautiful South Gate Park, for all members of the Los Angeles and Long Beach churches. Members brought their own covered dish and pie with the Spokesman Club supplying beef wieners, ice cream, and various other items. All of this made a very delicious meal and a delightful time of rejoicing in fellowship with the brethren of God's Church. It was also a wonderful opportunity for the members of the Spokesman Club to learn what a blessing it is to serve and help others and to really enjoy themselves in this wonderful time of fellowship together.

"A planned program of games was held for all participants. A softball game was enjoyed by the men, giving them

CHURCH NEWS

(Continued from page 4)

hungry people, to the Palomar State Park, where everyone enjoyed their lunch among the evergreens and giant oaks.

"At 3:00 p.m. the clouds once more began to enshroud the mountains, signal-

opportunity to see just how 'out of shape' they were. But despite all of the sore aching muscles we had a good time.

"This time the club made certain that the children would *also* have games — just for them. Mr. Jerry Bagley was appointed to direct them in various games, with prizes given to those who put forth the best effort.

"It was indeed a wonderful change to really get to know one another. Also to enjoy the fellowship and blessing that comes from being with God's people and learning how to have the right *balance* of work and play."

News from Africa, Too!

I thought you would all like to hear some news from Northern Rhodesia!

Mr. Mwambula will soon be moving to the eastern district of Petauke in Northern Rhodesia. This move was advised by Mr. Roderick Meredith and Mr. Raymond McNair on their recent trip to Africa.

Preliminary to his move to this area, Mr. Mwambula has taken a recent trip there. Petauke is the section of Northern Rhodesia in which Mr. Mwambula was born and raised. Mr. Mwambula's father is a *chief* over an entire village in Petauke. This village is called "Mwambula's Village."

Here, there are many native Africans, with the background and language entirely familiar to Mr. Mwambula. Here, he will be able to best be used in bringing the Gospel to those God may be calling in this area of the world.

On his first trip to Petauke, Mr. Mwambula found the people very receptive to God's truth and willing to listen and be corrected. Here are excerpts from His recent letter from the area.

"My trip to Petauke, I left Lusaka on Thursday, 27th April 1961, by bus. We slept on the way at Nyimba bus station. The next morning we arrived Petauke round about 9:00 a.m. Many people from home was at bus station waiting for me. There I hired a car to take me home at Mwambula's Village where I have find many people was gathered — those who heard that I was coming to establish Radio Church of God in Petauke area. That evening we studied Bible until middle night — people wanted to hear more and more about God's words.

"The next morning, on Sabbath, we have good number of people gathered to Bible studies which was held at Kasenga's Village nearest Mwambula's Village. People from two villages, Kasenga's and Mwambula's, attended Bible studies on 29th April 1961 under big tree.

"I have one man in the meetings — he is church elder in Dutch Reform Church. He stood and tell the people that 'I was preach the false doctrine to you people



First week's service at Mwambula's Village, April 30, 1961.



Service conducted at Kasenga's Village on May 7.



On May 7 Mr. Mwambula preached to these villagers. Men and women traditionally sit separately in Africa.



One of the teachers' houses at Mwambula's Village.

who gathered here, now from today I will no longer preach that anymore. I am going to preach true Christ our Saviour who we just heard from preacher Mwambula. I will not attend any other churches from today. I am one of the Radio Church of God. My name is Yasoni Chikahade.'

"On May 13 we have Bible study at Chikahade's Village, we have very good attendance, there comes to 35."

The African people are slow in starting. And yet the Gospel is astounding. They will and can sit for hours and listen to one explain the Bible truths. When you feel it is about time to quit, they keep asking and saying, "Tell us more about the Bible and Jesus Christ the Son of the true God."

Continuing the letter:

"To make calls and canvass among the African is quite an experience. After you have contacted one or two huts, you need not go further. You will be soon surrounded by a couple hundred people. In my calls I have distributed booklets which I brought with me from Lusaka. I also distribute Chinyanja dialect booklets, people was very much pleased with them. [A number of the booklets have been translated into the Chinyanja dialect and more in process at the present time. Editor]

"The Gospel that is brought to the African when the booklets are distributed I am sure will soon bring forth fruit. But always the Lord has given me strength through your letters and help to surmount obstacles, if you could but see the eyes of my African fellow as they listen when I preach and conduct Bible studies to them. When you speak to them about their Saviour, their voices never cease thanking the Almighty God for this blessed privilege to lead them to their Lord and Saviour, through your help which you

are always doing to me."

This should certainly make us all rejoice and be thankful to God for the work in Africa. Let's all remember to continue to pray for Mr. Mwambula and the work he is doing in Northern Rhodesia — and for all the work of God around the world!

Brethren, there will *not* be room for the many, many other interesting articles from other areas and from other church papers. However, we will be looking forward to next month when we can bring you more news of God's people around the world.

I think you will all be *thrilled* to learn that a church newspaper is now being printed in the Philippine Islands by Mr. Ortiguero assisted by his two teenage sons. We hope to have excerpts from this paper for you in the near future. We hope that every church area will send to us at headquarters a copy of your church newspaper as each issue comes off the press. I am sure that everyone will enjoy hearing the news from the various areas where God's people are scattered around the world.

Let's all strive together, Brethren, as the body of Christ in unity and fellowship in activities and togetherness that is well pleasing to our God and Father in Heaven.

Letters to the Editor

(Continued from page 8)

ENVOY Most Wonderful!

"I received The ENVOY and it is *most wonderful!* It makes me very proud to realize that God has called and placed me in this—His Work. It makes me tremble in knowing my smallness and overjoyed in realizing Almighty God's *Greatness!*"

Man from Thomasville, N.C.

ENVOY a Credit to All

"The ENVOY arrived a few days ago and I am delighted with it. It is a credit to all those who have worked so hard to make up this splendid book. I was pleased to see among the students that there are some from Canada."

Woman from Montreal, Quebec

Everyone Looks Happy

"I just can't get over The ENVOY — everything is so wonderful about it — everyone looks so nice and happy. My daughter was looking at your wife's picture. She said, 'Mother, she is such a pleasant and sweet looking person.' She thinks your son resembles you."

Woman from Emma, Kentucky

Follows Students by The ENVOY

"I want to tell you how much I enjoyed the last ENVOY. I almost feel like I know some of the graduates and students, having followed them through their college years. It is wonderful to be young and to have the advantages of such a college. I entered college in 1891 — a Presbyterian college — but what a difference."

Woman from Murrieta, California

ENVOY Worth Five Times the Cost

"Thank you for the wonderful ENVOY we received the other day. It sure did make us feel at home in one big family. It was worth five times the cost to us just to see all the wonderful and beautiful grounds God has granted his people to possess, and the wonderful colleges for people to have a true education."

Woman from Stanford, Kentucky

A Masterpiece

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"I am very glad and happy to let you know that I have received my ENVOY. It's indeed a masterpiece in every way. It's very interesting to see the special workmanship. So again I thank you very much."

Woman from St. Albans, N.Y.

More than Money's Worth

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"I have received the new ENVOY and it really is nice and worth far more than it cost. The pictures are so clear and good. I shall look at it many times in the future if God is willing. I am very thankful for my copy."

Woman from Texico, N. Mex.

Growing!

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"I received my copy of the 1961 ENVOY a few days ago. It is certainly a joy to see how God's work is growing. I would like to commend the work which was put into The ENVOY."

Man from Birmingham, Alabama