

The Good News

International Magazine of The Church of God





More About Our Cover...

Extensive effort on the part of architects, bankers and builders is expressed in the raising of this first beam for the new Dining Hall. For years Ambassador students have desperately needed the facility — now it is becoming a reality in a singularly austere year. Many projects nearly as badly needed have had to be postponed. Be sure your heart is in your prayers for the many real needs of God's Work!

Ambassador College Photo

What our READERS SAY...

COMMENTS FROM THE FEAST

Portland, Oregon

"It was such a great pleasure to be able to take part in the Feast of Unleavened Bread at Portland. We were especially happy to be able to hear Mr. Armstrong in person. The whole week was filled with such inspiring instruction and exhortation. We brought home notebooks filled with information and are trying to put the things we learned into practice. We have so far to go and so much to learn. We certainly feel the decision to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread in our home churches was a wise one. It should help keep tithes and offerings up. We didn't use money for our trip that should have gone elsewhere since we were on a paid vacation, but many people aren't blessed with jobs that afford that."

Mr. and Mrs. Chester P., Idaho

Canada

"Thank you for all the time and labor in giving all the detailed instructions for the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread. On Sunday I, having been disabled for some years, was grieving that I might not have all cleaning and clearing out of every crumb when lo, to the door came four of my brothers and sisters in Christ with vacuum cleaners, clean dust rags, etc., and within a short time every shelf (I couldn't reach), every nook and cranny was cleaned and the floors were even polished. I was too numb with amazement

for the full impact and meaning to sink in until some time after they had gone. Then having been literally shown God's love and concern for His people, no matter how lowly, I fell on my knees, and they bent and didn't hurt, and praised and thanked Him, as I now thank you for all your faithful years, making this possible through your obedience."

Member from Toronto,
Ontario, Canada

Big Sandy, Texas

"I have just returned from the Feast of Unleavened Bread held at Ambassador College at Big Sandy. My comment is one of high esteem and praise for such a highly planned, orderly, well-functioning operation that massed over 5,000 brethren in one location."

Ken. A., Texas

"May I tell you how much I enjoyed the wonderful Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread observed at Big Sandy, Texas. I believe they were the best ever! God certainly blessed us with spiritual food, physical food and wonderful weather. I just don't see how it could have been better, except if Jesus Christ were there personally in the flesh. May God's Work continue to grow and may He continue to bless each of you, His servants."

Mrs. G. K. L., Texas

Greensboro, N. C.

"I want to let you know how much I enjoyed attending the Passover and
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*ministering to its members
scattered abroad*

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change in your address. Please include both old
and new address. IMPORTANT!

So—You're *Suspicious?*

It's in your NATURE to be SUSPICIOUS. You were BORN filled with a NATURE that makes you DOUBTFUL, SKEPTICAL, STUBBORN! Are YOU overcoming that nature? Or are you SUSPICIOUS OF GOD?

by Garner Ted Armstrong

HAVE you ever *really* quit disagreeing with God? You may *think* you have—but have you, really?

What *is* your *first* reaction when you receive a Co-Worker letter? What is your *first* thought when another plea for the special BUILDING FUND comes in your mail?

What about your regular tithes and offerings? How about letters urging you to *attend* God's Festivals? How do you *FIRST* feel when your doorbell rings, and you find members of the Visiting Program there? What is your *first* reaction when you hear of an individual who has been disciplined?

If you're still HUMAN—your *FIRST* reaction may *not* be that of Jesus Christ!

Still on the Fence?

You were born into a suspicious world! You were *reared* on stories of hate, crime, jealousy, intrigue—suspicion!

And never forget, you are the **PRODUCT** of your own heredity and environment. You **ARE** the sum total of the experiences that have shaped your every thought—your very reactions to each situation.

You began to become *disillusioned* with people after you reached mature adulthood. You found "all is not as it seems!" You found this world is a place filled with LIES, with FAKERY, with FALSE FRONTS, and with SHAM and MOCKERY! You found *other people* to be UNTRUSTWORTHY—DISHONEST!

It's a painful process—growing up.

It always hurts, the first time you find your "best friend" was telling some evil tale to others about you. The first time your "best girl" or "best

boyfriend" steps out with someone else—you become terribly disillusioned.

When you *first* heard of the small politician who was caught in a lie; or the bank president who embezzled from his own bank; or of the government official involved in scandal; you were shocked—you were hurt.

Then, as you began to realize more and more that even whole GOVERNMENTS lie to one another; that all REALLY IS NOT as it "seems" in this lying, cheating, conniving world—you began to take it all for granted.

Then the claims of advertising, the drumbeating of the Red Cross, the March of Dimes, and the coin boxes for the Crippled Children's Hospitals didn't seem so bad, after all.

You just accepted it all with a certain resignation, probably.

If you are like most people, you probably felt there wasn't much you could *do* about it—that you probably couldn't really PROVE anything, anyhow—so you just ignored the whole situation.

And then, if you *were* really converted, you became terribly disillusioned *about yourself!*

You began to recognize YOU were a liar, a cheat, a two-faced, selfish, conniving, grasping, vanity-filled collection of sensuality and lust (Jer. 17:9; Rom. 8:7).

Or . . . or *did* you? DID you, really? Did you think these thoughts ABOUT YOU? Or was it only the WORLD, and OTHERS with whom you became disgusted and disappointed?

Brethren—let's face it. *If* you still harbor suspicion, resentment, doubt and skepticism toward OTHERS—and *especially* IF YOU HAVE SUSPICION TOWARD

THE VERY WORK OF CHRIST—then YOU ARE SIMPLY NOT CONVERTED!

A Serious Prophecy!

The prediction of a coming LAODICEAN Church as the final *remnant* of God's people is no child's play. It's mighty SERIOUS—and IT *WILL* HAPPEN!

Read it, "And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write . . . I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot" (Rev. 3:14-15). God shows the Laodicean attitude is one of *complacency*—one of SELF-righteousness. The Laodicean condition is finding its sluggish and self-satisfied way into the hearts and minds of MANY of you brethren right this instant!

The Laodicean is neither ON FIRE with real spiritual *zeal*, nor is he totally "cold" or UNCONVERTED. Rather, the Laodicean has lost his "first love." He has drifted into a "waiting-it-out" attitude of spiritual lethargy. He is not quite *sure* about all these "goings on" in God's Church!

The Laodicean seldom prays. He doesn't really get "*fired up*" over anything! He doesn't really "sigh and cry" because of the *abominations* around him in the world—doesn't really share DEEPLY the sorrows and pains of other brethren.

He is always *suspicious* of the motives of others—not quite "sure" things are being "run right" in God's Church! He wonders where the money goes!

The Laodicean "knows" all "is not right" with certain people! He is always able to see the *dim* side of things. He is always *fearful*, never has faith!

He is ESPECIALLY suspicious about

PHYSICAL things: buildings; pledge cards; increased college student bodies; property purchases; trips abroad—these things “disturb him”—the full-fledged Laodicean!

God continues, “Because THOU SAYEST [Ycs, the Laodicean is the ONE out of all the seven churches mentioned who *always has an answer—always has something to say!*], 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!*” (Verse 17.)

Could It Happen to You?

Take this seriously, brethren.

MANY articles have been written warning about the LAODICEAN condition! MANY sermons have been preached and many of them just *recently* warning of this condition. Don’t “kid” yourself it can’t happen to you! God shows those who allow themselves to get into this suspicious attitude toward others—this SELF-righteous complacency—are going to be *left behind* to suffer the terrible agonies of the Great Tribulation—and MARTYRDOM!

Read Ezekiel 5, Verses 1-4! After Ezekiel was told to divide the hair in three parts, God says, “Thou shalt also take THEREOF a *few in number*, and bind them in thy skirts.” In other words, God told Ezekiel to take out of the sum total of ALL the remaining third (representing the remnant of the entire populations of Great Britain and the United States) only a *few!* Those *few* represent *God’s True Church!*

Ezekiel bound those *few* in the folds of his garments. This symbolizes God’s protection for His true servants during the Great Tribulation—the time of the “scattering” of *all* the remaining one-third of our peoples!

But next, notice what God tells Ezekiel: “Then take OF THEM AGAIN [that is, take *of* those few he had bound in his skirts!], and cast THEM *into the midst of the fire*, and burn them in the fire; for thereof shall a fire come forth into all the house of Israel!” (Ezek. 5:3, 4.)

And that *fire* is typical of the Great Tribulation! God shows Satan the Devil is going to turn with wrathful ven-

geance upon the *remnant* of God’s people who will NOT be in a place of protection! Read it, in Revelation the twelfth chapter, “And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the *remnant* of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Verse 17).

Notice it, the Dragon “went.” Where was he when he “went”? He was trying to destroy “the woman” meaning the true Church! But when “the earth” helped the woman, meaning the supernatural intervention of Almighty God TO PROTECT His faithful servants who HAVE kept in the Philadelphian spirit—the Dragon WENT AWAY FROM the part of God’s Church he COULD NOT overcome—and went FROM that place to make war with the *remnant* of “her seed.”

Notice what God says to the Laodicean Church: “I counsel thee to buy of me gold *tried in the fire*, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see!” (Rev. 3:18.)

Paraphrasing that in plain language, God says, “I advise you to gain spiritual righteousness by going into the *Great Tribulation*, even suffering *horrible tortures* and ultimate *death*—that you MAY realize that you *have been* in a terribly lethargic spiritual condition!”

A shocking, stern, and foreboding command indeed!

But brethren, *like it or not*, that very command is going to be GIVEN to perhaps *FIFTY PERCENT* of those of you reading this article!

Read again the warning of the foolish virgins in Matthew 25, and take heed!

What is the real sin of the foolish virgins? They WOULD NOT WATCH! They were not energetically OBEYING Christ’s command, “WATCH YE therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to *escape* all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man” (Luke 21:36).

Ycs, WATCH! But *what?* Watch FOR WHAT?

His Watchmen!

Read Ezekiel 33 again. Read how God describes THIS VERY WORK as the WATCHMAN, sounding the trumpet of ALARM to God’s people, and to all the world of the impending DISASTER being brought upon foolish men by their own foolish deeds!

Jesus Christ was a WATCHMAN! He KNEW world conditions!

He told the Pharisees they didn’t UNDERSTAND the signs of the times in which they were living. He talked of *world conditions*—prophesied of future conditions! He was not OF the world—but He really UNDERSTOOD it!

This Church is HIS VERY BODY! He has commissioned us to CARRY ON with the SAME chores of the WATCHMAN which He began.

To the Philadelphia Church He promises an OPEN DOOR—a *door of radio*, of the *printing press*, of personal evangelism. A door of *all* the modern methods of SOUNDING THE ALARM!

My father has repeated for *years* the scriptural principle: “*You*, as a member of God’s Church will be GROWING in grace and knowledge JUST TO THE DEGREE YOUR HEART IS IN THE WORK OF GOD!”

Are YOU a *watchman* with Christ? Do you firmly, fully, faithfully and LOYALLY BELIEVE in HIS policies? Do you see the real NEED for the buildings HE wants to build for HIS colleges? Do you see the need to enlarge *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine, to improve it, as HE sees the need?

Do you respond willingly, *automatically*, when HE calls upon you for special offerings?

Are you AWAKE—are you WATCHING—are you *alert* to the needs of God’s great Work of the WATCHMAN—or are you one of the FOOLISH virgins whose lamp is about to go out, who is NOT watching?

God says, “But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For

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Church of God News—

WORLDWIDE

Thousands keep Passover and the Holy Days. Press expansion and ordinations keep pace with growth in God's Work!

by David Jon Hill

MORE THAN 15,000 brethren around the world met together to observe this last Passover. The symbols of bread and wine were solemnly taken by multiple thousands more in their individual homes, because they were scattered beyond the reach of a local meeting place.

On the Holy Days of the Days of Unleavened Bread over 28,000 brethren met together in scores of church areas to observe the Feast.

There's not room to cover all the news from every area, so this time we will skip over news from the United States and cover more thoroughly the overseas Festivals. Although Alaska is not overseas, this Passover was the first time we were able to hold services there, and I'm sure you would be interested in the details.

Alaska

For the first time, God's people in

Alaska have gathered to keep the Eternal's Passover! In spite of early spring thaws and slow mail, almost everyone was able to assemble in Anchorage.

Due to the very slow mail delivery in Alaska, many did not receive their instructions for the Passover until *two days* AFTER the Passover! Those on the homesteads away from civilization *expect* to receive mail late, but this time it was late even in the "big city" of Anchorage.

In spite of this, *twenty-four* were able to assemble for the Passover. And we had a grand total of *seventy-one* for the Holy Day services! Considering the lack of communications, this was exceptionally good!

It is hard for those who live "closer to civilization" to appreciate the deep-felt gratitude and sincere appreciation of isolated people of God for an opportunity to assemble and worship God in

a Holy Day service! All the physical and spiritual fellowship made us appreciate the opportunities God has given us!

One couple attempted to be there for the Passover, but spent *all day* trying to get through only a *few* miles of the spring thaw breakup to the main road into Anchorage. They had to give up and keep the Passover at home. They arrived the following Sabbath to keep the Feast with the rest of us.

God provided ideal weather for us—almost as though He had shipped some "Florida weather" up to be sampled by Alaska! The days were clear and balmy during the entire four days at the beginning of the Feast. In fact, it became dry enough to force the city to water the streets to keep the dust down!

To make it even more complete, six people were baptized to be able to observe the Passover with us! God's Church is growing everywhere—even in the far reaches of Alaska!

Feast Report From England

In *seven* locations in the British Isles, and two on the European Continent, the Feast of Unleavened Bread came to a successful and wonderful conclusion.

Over eleven hundred persons at these different centers were united in spirit at this time to observe what was the most enjoyable and well-organized Feast—and Passover service—so far in this part of the world.

At Bricket Wood (joining with the London church brethren), hundreds met on each day in the luxurious and beautiful environment of the new Common Room for the men students. This meeting place was regarded as one of

Looking at the brethren enjoying the Feast of Unleavened Bread in Alaska brings them closer to us, and makes us realize God's people are one wherever they may be located geographically.



the finest of any available to God's Church worldwide.

Inspiring and strongly corrective messages were preached constantly in complete harmony with the spiritual meaning of the Festival.

In the college Dining Hall, students helped in serving the delicious "pot-luck" meals and everybody was "wined and dined" in a princely way. Many members from all parts of the British Isles were able to make the journey down to Bricket Wood.

Here are the attendance figures: *Passover*, 688; *The Days of Unleavened Bread*, 1,068.

South Africa

Mr. Gerald Waterhouse reports:

A most inspiring Feast of Unleavened Bread has just ended here in Johannesburg, South Africa. Most brethren had tears in their eyes as they said "good-bye" to those whom they would not be seeing until the next annual Festival.

For the Passover, we had 120 brethren in attendance (an increase of 41% over last year). This number swelled to 229 as we gathered for the Feast on the "night to be much observed unto the Lord" (53% increase over last year). And it was truly a time of *much rejoicing* for all!

During the entire Festival, services were held morning and afternoon with

a "covered dish" meal at noon. There was an average attendance of 215 for the entire time.

We were blessed with outstanding facilities this year. Meetings were held in the Major Hall of Zionist Centre here in Johannesburg. The hall seats approximately 750 and is furnished with portable seats. This permitted the hall to be set up to accommodate us for meetings in the front half, and arrange the rear half for dining space. In addition, we used the Supper Room, an adjacent room, for serving food. A spacious kitchen, opening up to the Supper Room, was used during the Festival. God did, indeed, open to us facilities beyond our greatest expectations!

I do feel, however, that the greatest joy of all was derived not from all the physical advantages but rather, from the inspiration given by Christ during all the services. My sermons, as well as those given by Mr. Williams and Mr. Sanderson, were very noticeably inspired, giving the people just what they needed. It was truly amazing the way sermonettes, announcements and sermons seemed to carry through on various themes at a time which seemed most appropriate.

In addition to the sermons, there were very instructive sermonettes given by Mr. Bousfield and Mr. Botha, and as well, special music during *every* service this year. On the last day, the

weekly Sabbath, we were privileged to hear the Johannesburg Church Choir perform for the first time. The Choir's rendering of the 23rd Psalm was beautifully done, showing much work had gone into their rehearsals.

As usual, after the brethren had grown so close together during our nine days of services and fellowship, tears started forming in their eyes when we closed the last song service with: "God Be With You Till We Meet Again."

Now we are looking forward to the next annual Festival when we can once again gather to reap abundant blessings from our Heavenly Father and Saviour Jesus Christ, hearing much more about their great Plan of salvation and those things we should be doing to help fulfill the Work committed to us in this endtime — and more instructions on qualifying to enter their glorious Kingdom at Christ's return.

Australia

God's people in Australia have just concluded what is undoubtedly the *most inspiring* Passover and Festival of Unleavened Bread services ever held in the "land down under."

This year, a total of 480 repentant, baptized members of the Body of Jesus Christ gathered at three church loca-
(Please continue on page 17)

Australian brethren fare as well both physically and spiritually as any during the Feast Days.



How *FRIENDLY* Are Your Children?

Do your children wake up in the morning with a bright, friendly outlook? Do they speak when others speak to them? Are they fearful, or do they even cry when someone picks them up? Many of our children are not as friendly and outgoing as they need to be.

by Ronald Kelly

EVERY PARENT wants to be well-pleased with his children. We all enjoy the compliments of others such as, "My, what *obedient children* you have." Or, "How did you ever get them to be so *well-mannered*?" Or, "Those are the *best-behaved children* we have ever had in this restaurant."

These comments are well and good—many of you parents have heard such comments often because God has shown you how to properly rear your children to be respectful, kind, OBEДИENT.

But maybe you have become accustomed to those comments. Perhaps you are relaxing your child-rearing practices. You might think, "After all, I read the child-rearing booklet about two years ago." But what kind of job have you been doing *since*? Have you continued to be *diligent*? Or have you let down—eased off? Have your children been progressing? How do they act? Not just in the street, in the restaurant, or in the store, *but to friends, relatives, and brethren* in the church?

How Are They With Others?

When you walk into Sabbath services or visit a friend, what do your children say? *How do they respond*? Does your four-year-old just stand there? Does your two-and-one-half-year-old start to cry? Or your thirteen-monther run to mommy and hide in her skirt?

Brethren, THIS IS TOO OFTEN THE CASE! Way too many of our children are actually *fearful* of other people. Some cannot tell their names. Others

rebelliously (which we excuse by saying they are bashful) WON'T tell how old they are when someone asks. These things ought not be, and there is something EVERY PARENT can do about it.

Christ Showed How

Over 1900 years ago, Jesus Christ sat talking with a group of His disciples. Apparently, a number of townspeople began to gather around—many brought their children with them. They specifically wanted Christ to lay hands upon their children and to bless them. The disciples *thought* that Christ was too busy and could not take the time to talk with these children. But let's read about it in Mark 10:13-16.

"And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, *Suffer* [permit] *the little children to come unto me*, and forbid them not: FOR OF SUCH IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them."

Did you notice it?

Christ said, "OF SUCH [meaning the small children] IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD!" How were *these* children? Do you suppose when He picked them up they began to *pull His hair*, *kick* at Him, to *claw* and *scratch* while they *screamed*, "Put me down, put me

down"? I'm sure we will all quickly agree these children were not like that *at all*!

Then let's take it a step further.

Would they begin to *cry for fear* when Christ picked them up? Did they reach out with both arms and cry, "I want my mommy, I want my mommy"? Did Christ pick up a *fearful, trembling* child that cried so loud He could scarcely be heard, and then say, "Of such is the kingdom of God"? Again, it is rather obvious that the children didn't cry and try to struggle out of His arms.

Well, then, did they perhaps *just sit there* quietly without crying, maybe they didn't pull his hair, but were they *embarrassed*? Were they *timid* and *shy*? Did they hang their heads and not answer Him when He asked their names or how old they were or what they liked to do? Did He have to *beg* and *coerce* them to talk by offering candy—did He work with them for hours to get them to say, "Hi"? Once again, I don't think it's too hard to see these children were not timid, shy, reticent or backward children.

What Were They Like?

God did not preserve *exactly* what these little children did do, but there are *plenty of examples* all through the Bible to show parents how children should behave.

Stop and think a bit more about this section we just read. What was Christ illustrating? Obviously, He was not talking about becoming in *action* and

mind like a little four- or five-year-old child. Christ picked up those children, laid His hands on them, blessed them, and said, "Of such is the kingdom of God." The way those children conducted themselves—THEIR ATTITUDES—their warmth, *friendliness*, *submission*, *respect*, complete dependence, open faith—this was the emphasis. We think of how we are to be toward God's laws, in relationship to our Father in heaven and to Jesus Christ, and that is just the attitude displayed by these little children Christ picked up—and used *as an example for us!*

But we can also learn a big lesson in *child rearing* in this story. We should all have children—any one of which Christ could pick up and say, "Of such is the kingdom of God." But how many of our children could He even pick up? How many would be rebellious? How many would cry? How many would be shy and not even speak a word to Him? FAR TOO MANY, BRETHREN—*far too many!*

At the Feast of Tabernacles

We don't have to look too deeply into our lives to see we need to work on this. Every year God's Church follows Christ's example in this service of the blessing of the children.

Each year at the Feast of Tabernacles, or shortly thereafter, God's ministers follow Christ's example and lay hands on the little children, asking God's blessing on them.

Many times events transpire just as I have related already. Some children begin to *cry* when they see the minister coming. Some clamor and *struggle* to get back into the arms of their parents. Some *scream* so loud the minister hardly feels his prayer can be heard. Still others very shyly *WON'T tell their names* so the minister can be specific when asking God to bless little Johnny, Susie, Jane or Tommie.

These things can be corrected—they must be worked upon if we are really God's people and want to rear our children according to God's method—*which after all is the only real way to true happiness!*

So often I have asked a three- or four-year-old child his name, only to be

stared at—or to see the child run the other way. Speaking somewhat humorously, maybe I am something to run from, but this shouldn't be the case with *everyone*.

In such circumstances the *parent* is always *more embarrassed* than the child. Mother might say, "Mr. Kelly wants to know your name, Johnny." The child remains quiet. Mother then might say, "Tell Mr. Kelly your name!" The child is still quiet. "I said tell him your name," repeats mother. The child puckers up and starts to cry. "If you don't learn to speak, I'll spank you good and hard," emphasizes Mother again. The child hasn't been touched yet, but now begins to cry desperately. Finally Mother in desperation and exasperation says, "Oh, he's always been bashful, what can I *do* about it?"

What You Can Do

You might think the first thing we would say is that you should spank the living daylights out of this bashful, shy, reticent little child. When such an event transpires as I just related above, you, as a parent, are *on the spot*. You might even become angry! The chances are, the first thing you should *not do* in such a case is flail or flay the child in anger or embarrassment to cover up your real lack of training at home.

Spanking may very well become a part of what you *will* employ—but since it has gone this far with most parents, spanking *in a moment of frustration* before the minister will not solve the problem.

So how do you begin?

How can you have friendly children?

By Their Fruits

When Jesus Christ taught His disciples from what is commonly called The Sermon on the Mount, He gave a very important principle by which we always need to live in Matthew 7:16-20. "Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not

forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."

It is a principle which can be applied in many facets of life. But specifically, let's apply it to our child-rearing methods.

The Bible often refers to children as the fruit of our own lives. They are in nature, character, and most of the time, even in looks, much like we are.

Then applying that principle—"by their fruits you shall know them," by the way our children are—others will know exactly how we as parents REALLY ARE!

And here is the answer to much of your problem!

How are you with your children? How do you act as husband and wife in the confines of your own home? What kind of *family atmosphere* is there in your home? Is it one of real warmth, friendliness, open happiness? Or are you a little bit shy—a little reticent—and somewhat backwards yourself?

If you grumble and complain from morning to night—and if your children see and hear you grumble and complain from morning to night—no matter what you tell them to be, your children will never be warm and friendly and courteous on the Sabbath day. Your child won't politely and happily tell his name or his age—he won't smile and laugh with others.

If you expect your child to be friendly and happy on the Sabbath when you are with fellow church brethren, it has to be something that he actually *IS* every day of his life.

And of course, if your child is allowed to *squall* and *cry* ALL DURING THE WEEK, if he is allowed to hang his head in embarrassment and shame, if he is allowed to *whine* and *rebel* every single day of his life, nothing more can be expected at Sabbath services or in public than to have to suffer the shame of a rebellious and whiney child.

In short, YOUR EXAMPLE—the way you live is far more important than what you *say* to your child! That is, IF your example is backed up by the

(Please continue on page 24)

Will You Be ALIVE When Christ Returns?

Are you SURE? Are you almost DEPENDING on it? Many brethren have assumed they will live on and on—witness the collapse of this present world—be carried to safety, and remain alive until Christ returns. But will ALL? Will YOU? Here's what the Bible says about it.

by L. Leroy Neff

FRIDAY MORNING, May 14, I walked across the Big Sandy Ambassador College campus, on the way to the office. It was a refreshing day, enjoyable morning. The campus was beautiful with spring in evidence everywhere.

On the way I met Mr. Robert Ruxton, Director of Buildings and Grounds. He was busy as usual carrying out his important responsibilities at the Texas campus. We had a brief and pleasant conversation, and I went on to the office.

On returning from a class at 11:30 a.m. I was told that he and Mr. Ray Dick had been involved in a serious car wreck!

At 3:30 that afternoon he was dead.

He had never regained consciousness from the accident—never knew what had happened to him.

This shocking and heartrending event *stunned* us all!

Mr. Ruxton was a man *in his prime*. No one expected such an untimely death—but it happened!

You may think YOU will not die! But don't be so sure! It could happen to you, too, or your loved ones at *any* time.

A few short years ago Mr. Richard D. Armstrong was killed in a tragic and unexpected accident. A few short months ago Dr. Benjamin L. Rea died very suddenly.

Many people in God's Church have died in the past few years. Of these, a startling number have been younger people who should have a long life expectancy. *And yet they died!*

God's people do not live "charmed" lives. God has nowhere promised anyone how long he will live or when he will die. And yet, too many of us think, "It couldn't happen to me!" But it too often does.

Bible Chronicles Deaths of God's Servants

Is it strange that God's servants, even in some of the highest positions of responsibility, *do die*? Some people cannot understand why. They lose faith and wonder, "How can this happen if this is *God's Church*?" Are you one with such *little* faith? Are you putting your hopes and trust in men or in God?

Have you forgotten that the Bible is in a sense a *chronicle of the deaths* of God's servants? Where *are* Paul, James, Peter, John and Moses? *They died!*

It is not in God's Plan for His servants to live on and on in this physical life without death bringing an end to their service. It is *not* necessary for us to continue to live indefinitely after Christ returns, in this life. In the World Tomorrow, it *will be* in God's Plan for saints to live eternally—but *not until then!*

The "Faith" chapter of the Bible, Hebrews 11, lists many of the worthy men and women who were faithful servants of God. One thing is common about all these people besides the fact that they had faith—they *all died!*

Have you read, "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, *but we shall all be changed*" (I Cor. 15:51) and then thought it means you? Many

people at Corinth undoubtedly thought this too, maybe even Paul himself. But did *they* live forever? No, they are *all dead*, awaiting the resurrection.

Paul also wrote, "It is appointed unto *MEN once to die . . .*" (Heb. 9:27). No exceptions are given! This includes you and me.

This life, *at best*, is but a vapor that passes away. It lasts but a *moment* and then is gone! We should realize as David did. "Lord, let me know my end, and what is the measure of my days; *let me know how fleeting my life is!* Behold, thou hast made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as *nothing* in thy sight" (Ps. 39:4, 5, RSV).

Prepare for Death

We do not know what tomorrow will bring. God has told us there is no promise for tomorrow. We are commanded not to make definite *plans* about tomorrow. "Whereas *ye know not* what shall be on the morrow. For *what is your life?* It is even a *vapour*, that appeareth for a *little* time, and then vanisheth away" (Jas. 4:14).

Solomon said: "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for *thou knowest not what a day may bring forth*" (Prov. 27:1).

With all these scriptural warnings we should *be prepared* for DEATH! There are things you should do *now* in preparation for unexpected death. You prepare for *other* things, *why not prepare for death?*

Death is a fearsome and frightening ENEMY of man (I Cor. 15), and some-

how, we just don't like to THINK about it!

But *not* thinking about it will not CHANGE anything. Just as sure as we are now living—WE SHALL DIE! Even the instantaneous *change* at the second coming of Christ of those still living is a sudden DEATH of the PHYSICAL being, and instant REBIRTH of a SPIRIT being! Perhaps not the fraction of a *second* will be involved in that change—but, brethren, so far as Mr. Ruxton, Mr. Dick Armstrong, Dr. Benjamin Rea and others are concerned—NEITHER WILL THEY BE CONSCIOUS OF MORE THAN A FRACTION OF A SECOND HAVING PASSED!

You need to FACE the possibility of death—and practically, sensibly, carefully PREPARE for it! If you are properly prepared for death, then you also will *be ready* for the coming glorious resurrection!

The danger is that too many of you brethren are *complacent*! You are *not prepared* for times of trouble. You do not look to the possibilities of the future. When sickness comes, you have little or no faith. When financial problems come many are unable to extricate themselves. If death strikes in the family, many are *totally unprepared* and cannot *understand why* it happened to *their* family!

Some are making *no preparations* to provide for their family in case of their death. If a man does *not* provide for his family, by *working* and providing for their necessities, *he is worse than an infidel* (I Tim. 5:8). *Should we not also provide for our families* in case we die sooner than we may think?

Some few people believe falsely that making provision for the family by having life insurance or a will shows *lack of faith*! HOW RIDICULOUS! God has told us again and again that *we shall die*.

Wrong Attitudes Must Be Changed!

There have been a few people who have expressed themselves *this* way, "If I die, the *Church* will take care of my family." The Church *may* care for your family in a financial way if you die—as long as it can. But the support

must come from the *third tithe* that *faithful* servants of God send to the Church. Such funds are in short supply and are not inexhaustible.

There is always a need for more third tithe to take care of the many demands. In some cases it *might not* be possible to take proper care of a widow or fatherless child. If the third tithes are insufficient, what then?

We cannot take God's tithe for the spreading of the Gospel, to take care of widows of men who made no preparation for the family! The attitude of, "I won't provide for my family in case I die, the *Church* will do it for me," is a *selfish* attitude.

Here Is What to Do!

What can we do in preparation for death? The first thing to do is to have a *right attitude* about it. *Realize* that someday YOU may die! Resign yourself to this thought. Realize that your life is in God's hand and that whatever happens, or whenever death does come to *any* in your family that it will work out for ultimate *good*! (Rom. 8:28.)

Work, study, pray, and serve as though Christ *were coming tomorrow*, or that *you may die tomorrow*. Do these things to the best of your ability. Perform work of QUALITY that will *last*! Work that *may even last longer than you do*.

Prepare in a *physical* way for death. Do you have a suitable *up-to-date* WILL? If you are the man of the family and you do not, you may cause your widow untold difficulties because of your *negligence*!

What do you want to *happen* to your property, personal effects, bank deposits or any other assets? Do you want your unconverted relatives to *fight* over your estate because you have *no will* or a poor one?

What would happen to your children in case of the death of *both* parents? Who will care for them? Relatives, friends, an orphans' home? You should always include plain and *specific* instruction regarding this *important* point in a will!

Are your bank accounts or safety deposit boxes subject to *seizure* in case of your death? In most places they *are*,

at least for a time. There are perfectly legal ways to make *proper* preparations *ahead* of time so that someone who is *competent*, and *converted* may take care of your affairs in case of your death.

In *whose name* is your property or car? If they are only in the name of the husband, and *if he dies*, it may cause difficulties for the wife to change title or to *sell* such a vehicle. You may wish to have your bank account in the name of both husband and wife. This will simplify things in case of death.

You should *definitely* have some *group life insurance* with your company, or carry *personal* life insurance. Do not involve yourself with so much that you are "*insurance poor*," but *do* carry *adequate* insurance, depending on your income, the needs of the family and other individual circumstances.

Prepare Spiritually

The most *important* thing is to BE PREPARED SPIRITUALLY! Maybe you will not have *opportunity* tomorrow to overcome that problem you know you have today! Tomorrow you may not have opportunity to "grow in grace and knowledge." *Today* may be your last opportunity! Now is the time to show love and kindness to others. NOW is the time to be REALLY close to God!

Death is coming. Prepare for it in physical and spiritual ways today. Be prepared for death so that you will be *ready* for the *first* resurrection!

For those of us who have had God's calling and enlightenment, this is *the* day of salvation (II Cor. 6:2). Right TODAY, during this 24-hour period and what *few* others God graciously gives us the breath of life for, *is* our day of salvation!

Because of the *great sins* of modern Israel today, God has given certain dire prophecies. One of these prophecies is found in the book of Amos. The instruction is good for us, too, and we, too, ought to heed it. We ought to think seriously about this and do so often.

"Therefore *thus will I do* unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this
(Please continue on page 16)

Laying on of Hands Ceremony

What is the purpose for this ceremony? What does it MEAN in baptism?—in healing?—in ordination? Do YOU KNOW?

by William H. Ellis

WHEN you were baptized, hands were laid on you by God's servants for a *real purpose*.

When you are anointed for sickness or injury, why are hands laid on your head during the prayer for healing?

Whenever a man is ordained to an office of greater service in God's Work hands are laid on him. In the ordination ceremony God's ministers lay their hands on those being ordained, and ask Almighty God—the Head of this Church—to continue to work in their lives.

What is the purpose for the *laying on of hands*? Does God's True Church observe a ritual without a meaning? Certainly NOT!

A Foundational Doctrine

The Apostle Paul tells us in Hebrews 6:1-2, "Go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of LAYING ON OF HANDS, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment."

But how can we "go on" from these foundational principles until we *understand* them all? Have *you* ever realized *why* the doctrine of the LAYING ON OF HANDS is listed by Paul with the very *greatest*, MOST BASIC PRINCIPLES of Christian life?

Why—in Baptism?

Receiving God's Holy Spirit—being begotten as a candidate for His spiritual family—IS CONDITIONAL TO *the laying on of hands*!

Notice the example in Acts 19:1-6. When the Apostle Paul came to

Ephesus he found disciples of Christ *already* there! They had heard of Christ from Apollos—a Greek convert (Acts 18:24-19:7). He taught them that Jesus was the Christ, and that His sacrifice could cleanse away their sins. Apollos taught them from the Old Testament—the New Testament, with its clarification of the Holy Spirit, hadn't yet been completed.

Some few Ephesians realized they had been guilty of breaking God's law, and had come to real repentance. Acknowledging their repentance, Apollos baptized them as John the Baptist had, *for the remission of their sins*.

When the Apostle Paul arrived in Ephesus, he asked whether these new converts had received God's Holy Spirit. They admitted they didn't even know such a thing was *possible*!

After the Ephesians *understood* the promise of the Holy Spirit, Paul *baptized them* AGAIN, this time LAYING HANDS ON THEM! Precisely when Paul laid his hands on them, THEY RECEIVED THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!

God Works Through Human Instruments

Why hadn't the Ephesian converts received God's Spirit when Apollos baptized them?

Although Apollos was a competent teacher, he had not been given authority by God to lay hands on repentant believers for the receiving of the Holy Spirit.

But this authority *was* given by Jesus Christ to the leaders of His Church—the twelve Apostles. God's Apostles passed this authority on to the Apostle Paul and others who qualified for

greater service as administrators—leaders—in the early New Testament Church (Acts 13:1-3).

Notice that Jesus Christ intends that the administration—the *physical and spiritual government*—of His True Church be handled through HUMAN INSTRUMENTS! The Church is Christ's Body—it is ruled and guided by Him as He works through His chosen *human representatives*.

The Apostle Paul, one of God's human instruments, received the authority to bind repentant converts into the Body of Christ. Apollos hadn't yet received any such responsibility from God's Church.

Jesus Christ honored the AUTHORITY of His human instrument by sending the supernatural power of God's Spirit to the *twelve* converts of Ephesus! (Acts 19:6-7.)

When YOU were baptized, God's servants, sent from His modern Headquarters, *laid hands on you*—and you received the gift of the Holy Spirit! Once again, FOR YOU PERSONALLY, God worked through His *chosen human instruments* as He has done for over 1900 years! The men who laid hands on you were vested with this responsibility by Jesus Christ, the LIVING, ACTIVE HEAD of this Church!

What the Laying on of Hands Does

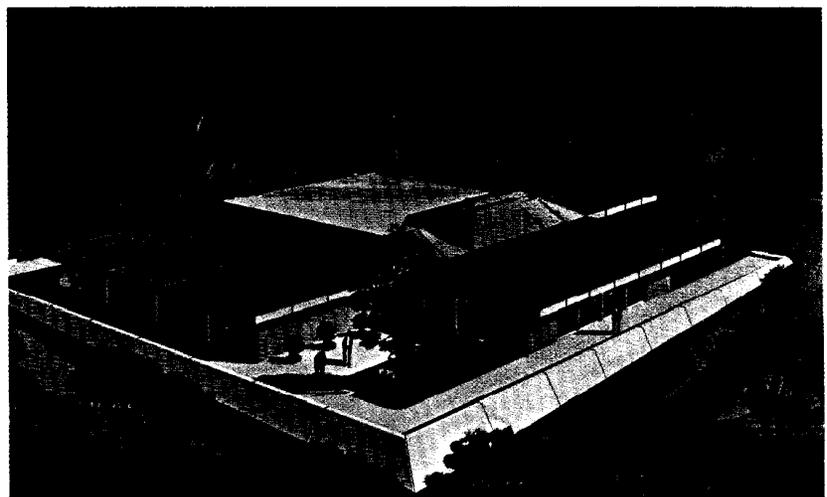
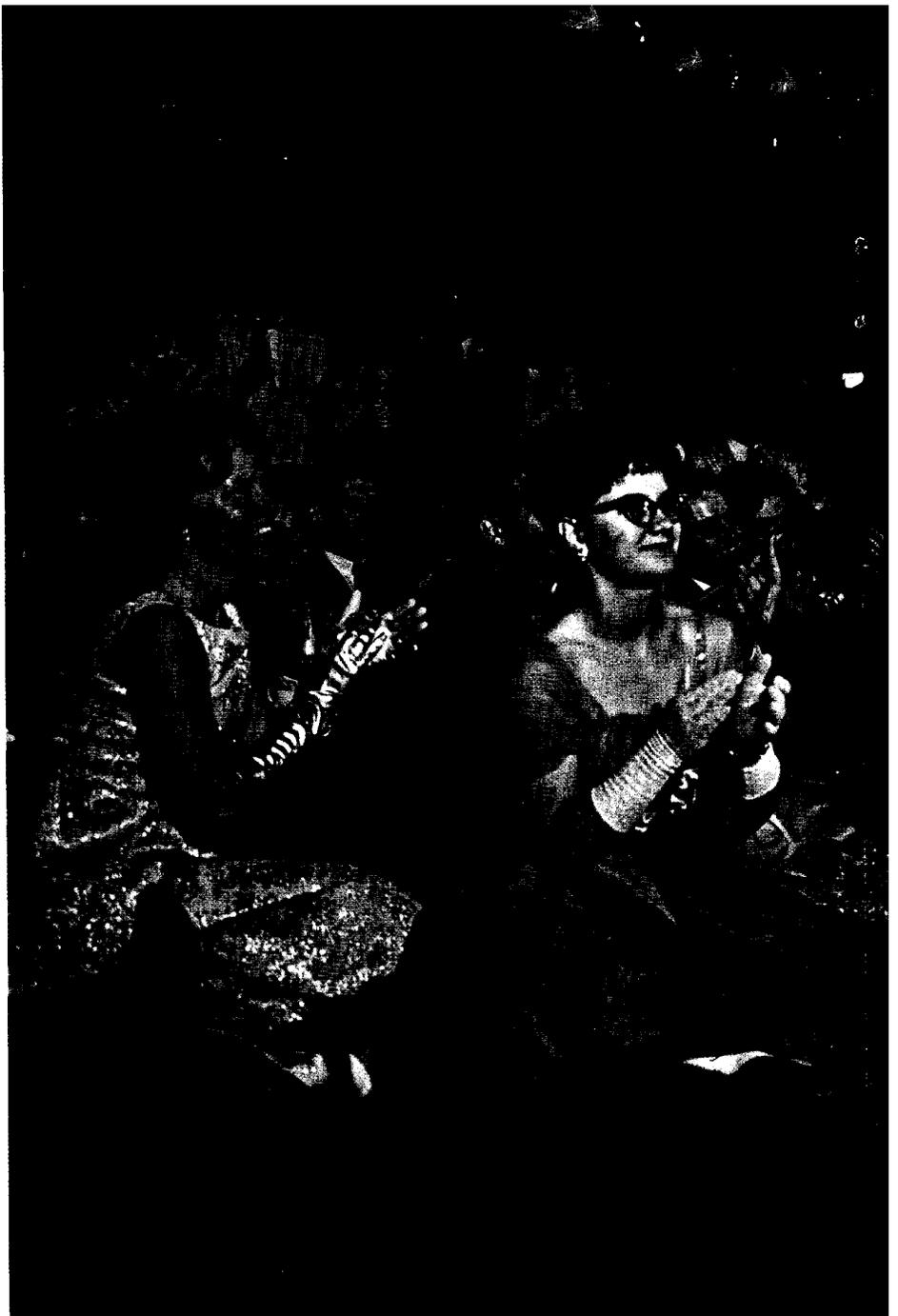
In every case where the laying on of hands has been administered it has set apart someone for a special purpose.

The birthright promise God Almighty confirmed to the sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh, was
(Please continue on page 14)

RIGHT: Happy faces radiate appreciation for the mirth of a fun-filled "talent show" during the annual Spring Ball.

BELOW: "Ye Old Fighting Cock" is a bit of the picturesque English countryside surrounding the Bricklot Wood Campus.

BOTTOM: An artist's rendering of the new Student Housing Facilities pictures the advanced planning behind the rapid development of our Big Sandy Campus.





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Laying on of Hands

(Continued from page 11)

passed on *by the laying on of hands*. Notice the account in Genesis 48.

God's promises had been passed on to Isaac by his father Abraham. Isaac had passed them on to Jacob whose name was later changed to Israel. As Jacob was dying he called Joseph to his side. Joseph brought his own sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, to their grandfather's deathbed.

In a ceremony of simple blessing and adoption, Jacob confirmed the birthright promise to Joseph's sons BY THE LAYING ON OF HIS HANDS (Gen. 48:13-16). The act of the laying on of Jacob's hands set apart Ephraim and Manasseh in God's sight to receive his inheritance.

So important was this simple ceremony in the history of the world, that had it not been carried out by Jacob and backed up by the power of Almighty God, the nations of the United States of America and the British Commonwealth could not have achieved world influence. That's how vitally important the laying on of hands really is!

When God Himself chose a physical priesthood, they were set apart for their holy duties by the *laying on of hands*. Only a tribe specially consecrated by this important ceremony could officiate in God's temple.

Notice how the laying on of hands took place in the book of Numbers:

After the men of the tribe of Levi were chosen to act in the capacity of priests for the people of Israel, they were separated in God's sight from the rest of the tribes (Num. 8:6). They were cleansed and prepared for the ceremony which would follow, and then brought before the tabernacle in the sight of all the people (Verses 7-9).

When they were gathered together the people *put their hands on* the Levites, and Aaron, God's High Priest, presented them before God as a living sacrifice to "execute the service of the LORD" (Num. 8:10-11).

"Thus shalt thou SEPARATE the Levites from among the children of Israel: and the Levites shall be mine,"

said God at the conclusion of this impressive service (Num. 8:14).

The laying on of hands serves the purpose of *setting apart anyone or anything in God's sight, for a SPECIAL USE OR PURPOSE*.

Yielding to God's Church Government!

Another example of the laying on of hands is found in Acts 8:9-25.

Philip had been recently ordained a Deacon in God's Church, *but did not have authority* to set apart converts in God's sight and administer the laying on of hands (Verses 12-13). At his preaching, however, some of the Samaritans believed the Good News of God's coming Kingdom. Among those who believed what Philip said was the unscrupulous Babylonian magician, Simon Magus.

Philip baptized those who believed, and Simon was among them although he had *not repented* of his pagan ways. He had only been impressed by the miracles God's Spirit had performed through Philip.

Word was sent to Headquarters in Jerusalem of these baptisms, and the Headquarters Church dispatched Peter and John to Samaria to administer the laying on of hands. As yet none of the Samaritan believers had received the Holy Spirit! (Acts 8:14-16.)

When Peter and John laid their hands on those who were repentant, they immediately received God's Spirit! But Simon hadn't repented (Verse 22). He was not given the gift of the Holy Spirit because he coveted it in bitterness, seeking to use it in working miracles for PROFIT! (Acts 8:17-20.)

Peter saw through Simon's feigned repentance, and knew Simon was not willing to SUBMIT to God's Government, but only wanted to create a following after himself. He knew Simon wanted to appropriate the miracles of God's Spirit to begin a FALSE PAGAN CHURCH in OPPOSITION to God's True Church! Simon had NO INTENTION of *submitting* to God's Govern-

ment as it was administered by God's human instruments!

The Meaning of the Laying on of Hands!

The laying on of hands in baptism is one of the very first extensions of God's Government into your life. You must be willing to acknowledge *and submit* to the authority God has placed in His Church before you can be set apart to receive His Holy Spirit. By this means you may become a part of the Body of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is the Head of His Body, the Church (Col. 1:18). If you desire to be joined to that Body, you *must be willing* to accept the RULE—the GOVERNMENT—of Jesus Christ in YOUR LIFE!

The authority to administer the Government of God's Church was given by Jesus Christ to His chosen human instruments, and it is through God's human instruments that Christ's authority touches your life. You openly SHOW YOUR WILLINGNESS TO TOTALLY SUBMIT to that authority when you are set apart in baptism and *submit to the laying on of hands!*

It was by the hands of God's servants that you received the Holy Spirit and became a part of the Body of Jesus Christ—God's True Church!

By submitting to the hands of God's human instruments, you *willingly* put yourself under their authority, and acknowledged that Jesus Christ—alive on His Father's Throne in Heaven—is ACTIVELY RULING HIS CHURCH TODAY!

Remember, in baptism we "act out" the burial of the old man, and the resurrection to a new spiritual life. In the laying on of hands we "act out" being set apart to serve God as a "living sacrifice" and submitting our will to God's divine Government. As Jesus said, "Not my will, but thine, be done" (Luke 22:42).

Why—in Ordination?

Throughout the Bible the laying on of hands is used in ordination. Have you wondered *why?* Notice again this ceremony is symbolic of God's divine Government.

In Numbers 27:18, God commanded

Moses, "Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and LAY THINE HAND UPON HIM." In Verses 19 through 23 we see that Joshua's ordination as the leader of the "church in the wilderness" set him apart from the people and carried with it a *charge—a responsibility to lead and guide* the nation of Israel.

By the laying on of hands DEACONS WERE ORDAINED to carry out physical responsibilities in the New Testament Church (Acts 6:6) such as the serving of tables (Verse 2) and caring for widows (Verse 1). These were specific duties assigned to Deacons to *maintain order* in the New Testament Church. The Deacons were set apart from the lay members of the congregation to carry out a physical part of Church Government, and so were ordained by the laying on of hands!

We have already noted that it was by the laying on of hands that the Apostle Paul was ordained (Acts 13:3).

Ordination is the conferring of certain added responsibilities upon someone who has proven his trustworthiness. It is always preparatory to the doing of a job or the handling of a responsibility, *never* as a *reward* for work already done. With ordination goes authority! But that authority doesn't come from men, it is the *charge* of God Almighty and is confirmed by the laying on of hands!

In I Timothy 5:22, Paul warned Timothy, "Lay hands suddenly on *no* man . . ." But Paul wasn't admonishing Timothy to avoid physical combat. This phrase is clearly translated in the Revised Standard Version, "Do not be HASTY in the laying on of hands."

It is a true principle that a man can't execute authority until he has learned to thoroughly respect and instantly obey that authority. God will not give responsibility to a man until he has learned to rightly handle the duties he already has.

Paul instructed Timothy to be sure—over a period of time—of how well a man handles his personal responsibilities before he ordained him to a place of service in the Government of God's Church by the laying on of hands.

Ordination by the laying on of hands is God's way of setting apart and con-

ferring the responsibility and authority of God's Church Government to a human instrument who has learned how to serve faithfully under the authority of that Government.

For Special Gifts

God gives special gifts—special powers of His Spirit—to those who are set apart by the laying on of hands.

Remember that it was by the laying on of hands that Timothy received the added ability, called "prophecy" by the King James translators. This word should actually have been translated, "inspired preaching" (I Tim. 4:14 and II Tim. 1:6).

By setting apart Timothy in ordination—by the laying on of hands—Timothy received the additional help of God's Spirit in preaching. Timothy's natural ability coupled with God's power helped him become Paul's right-hand Evangelist—a DYNAMIC SPEAKER.

This spiritual gift of inspired preaching was conferred to Timothy by the laying on of hands. Why? So that Timothy could better *serve* God's Church.

In the case of Joshua we are told, "And Joshua the son of Nun was *full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him*: and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the Lord commanded Moses!" (Deut. 34:9.)

Joshua was given additional spiritual *wisdom* in governing God's people by the laying on of hands. Wisdom is also a spiritual gift.

God's spiritual gifts were given to those who were set apart by God to carry out the service of Government as God's chosen human representatives!

Why Then—in Healing?

Jesus Christ *commanded* His representatives to administer the laying on of hands when anointing you when you suffer sickness or injury (Mark 16:18)! The healings that have followed for 1900 years are among the identifying signs of His true servants (Verse 17).

God's twentieth century Church still follows in Christ's footsteps!

Many thousands of you know per-

sonally how the signs of healing have followed this Church.

This world would consider it ridiculous if it could witness God's minister anointing you for the healing of your body. The Apostle Paul said, "The natural [carnally minded] man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Cor. 2:14).

When you go to God for healing, you are submitting your body to Jesus Christ. By the laying on of hands, you are symbolically set apart in God's sight, putting yourself under His authority—submitting your sick or injured condition to God's divine will as a living sacrifice! This proof-in-action of your willingness to submit to God's human representative—God's minister—for anointing and the laying on of hands is "acting out" your willingness to accept the spiritual Government of Almighty God Himself over your physical life.

Special Miracles

Healings that God effects through anointed cloths are called special miracles! (Acts 19:11-12.)

Those who are faithful and obedient to God's Government follow His instruction to call for the Elders when they are sick (Jas. 5:14). If an authorized representative of God's True Church can't reach them personally, an anointed cloth is sent. The sick person must willingly take the cloth as a symbol of God's Government in his life, even though God's human agent is not present!

Because it is a special act of faith in God's Government, and in His healing power, God looks upon the healing of such a person as a SPECIAL MIRACLE!

God's Church Headed by Jesus Christ

The laying on of hands is one of the most basic foundational doctrines of God's True Church! And it has a *definite* purpose.

The laying on of hands shows us that although God Himself is invisible to our limited human eyes, His own

Son Jesus Christ is the LIVING, ACTIVE HEAD OF THIS CHURCH.

By this simple ceremony we submit ourselves to Jesus Christ—the Great High Priest—as “a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service” (Rom. 12:1). At the same time we show we are set apart from this world, as the Apostle Paul continues, “*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God!*” (Rom. 12:2.)

Through His human representatives, Christ is adding SPIRIT-FILLED MEMBERS to His Church by baptism and the laying on of hands. Through His human agents, He QUALIFIES more men for responsibilities of service in His growing Work! They are ordained by the laying on of hands. Through the laying on of hands and prayers of His human instruments, Jesus Christ is raising the sick and injured just as He personally did over 1900 years ago!

Too often we forget that this Church of God has Jesus Christ as its LIVING, ACTIVE HEAD!

Christ is guiding His Church to greater goals, increased growth, and unlimited future service—it is Christ who guides the decisions made by His ministers!

Christ has personally guided this past Ministerial Conference—the greatest to be held since the beginning of the Philadelphia Era of God's Church! Christ will continue to guide the Ministerial Conferences of the future by the POWER of His Holy Spirit.

Jesus Christ is LEADING THE WAY. Let's all be following where He leads!

Are You Suspicious?

(Continued from page 4)

when they [the heedless, lethargic people of the world] shall say, PEACE and SAFETY; then SUDDEN DESTRUCTION cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But YE, brethren, are not IN darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the CHILDREN OF LIGHT, and the children of the DAY: we are not of the night, nor of

darkness. Therefore LET US NOT SLEEP [as the foolish virgins are pictured], as do others; but let us WATCH [watch WORLD CONDITIONS—KNOW about the prophecies that explain them—BE ALERT to the changing times and their importance to the great Plan of God!] and be sober!” (I Thes. 5:1-6.)

Are You Part of Work?

What about it, brethren? Do you honestly CONNECT the policies, programs, buildings, broadcasts, magazines, churches, baptizing tours as one of the GREAT WORLD HAPPENINGS that is literally PROPHESED TO OCCUR DURING THIS TIME?

Do you see this great Work of God as a PROPHESED EVENT—one in which YOU have been given a vital part?

Jesus said, “And this gospel of the kingdom SHALL be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the END come!” (Mat. 24:1-4.)

When you receive a Co-Worker or a Member letter, do you RELATE it to another great EVENT—and think of it as an IMPORTANT message from the VERY HEADQUARTERS WHERE CHRIST HIMSELF IS WORKING?

Do you view it as orders from CHRIST?

Do you AUTOMATICALLY agree with CHRIST's policies? Are you solidly and fervently behind His programs, His plans, His purposes, His decisions?

Or are you still “not quite sure” whether this is GOD's Work or the work of mere mortal men?

Peter said, after many disciples had LEFT Christ, and after Christ asked Peter whether HE would prove disloyal, “Lord, to WHOM SHALL WE GO? THOU hast the words of eternal life. And WE BELIEVE AND ARE SURE that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God” (John 6:68, 69).

Are you really SURE, like Peter was? Do you KNOW this is the CHRIST OF THE BIBLE directing all facets of THIS Work, which is really and truly HIS Work?

If you DO, brethren, then you are no longer “suspicious.” You are not wondering how the money is “being handled.” You don't worry and wonder about buildings, visiting programs, in-

creased college enrollment, new press equipment. YOU HAVE FAITH TO KNOW CHRIST IS AT THE HELM. You KNOW CHRIST is on the job—that HE makes the decisions, that HE is just as active today as He ever was!

The Laodicean will begin to think MAN heads this Work. He will begin to “play the angles,” to hold “reservations” in his mind about PHYSICAL things. He'll QUIT praying—QUIT studying—and begin to LOSE God's Holy Spirit!

And he'll have to go into the greatest Tribulation the world has ever seen because of it.

But a really zealous PHILADELPHIAN will NOT be suspicious, jealous, unresponsive, uncooperative—“wondering,” “doubting” and fence-sitting. Rather, he'll be TOTALLY in agreement with ALL OF CHRIST's PROGRAMS!

He'll be enthusiastically responsive to EVERY facet of God's great Work! He'll REJOICE at each new building program; each new ordination; each great step forward in printing and publishing Christ's Gospel. He'll be really HAPPY to have the opportunity to receive a visit from Christ's servants in his own home. He'll simply THRILL every time he hears of a new radio station being added; of increased college enrollment; of the blessings of God being poured out upon his fellow brethren.

What about YOU? Are you SUSPICIOUS? Or are you WHOLLY AND COMPLETELY IN, BEHIND, AND PART OF this Work?

PROVE it!

Will You Be Alive?

(Continued from page 10)

unto thee, PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD, O Israel” (Amos 4:12).

Are you earnestly, with your whole heart preparing for that great meeting with your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in God's soon-coming Kingdom? If you are, you will THINK about what you have read in this article, and apply it PERSONALLY!

You should take steps NOW to provide for the unexpected.

And you ought to do it TODAY!

Because tomorrow may be too late.



The brethren attending the Feast at Manila, The Philippines, are shown here in their Sabbath best!

Church of God News Worldwide

(Continued from page 6)

tions—Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane—to partake of the Passover.

The following evening, 936 people came together in an atmosphere of great rejoicing, giving thanks to the Almighty for *their* deliverance from the bondage of sin.

For the following seven days, God's people in Sydney met together—at all day meetings on the first and last Holy Days and on Sunday, April 18; and at evening meetings Monday through Thursday—while in Melbourne and Brisbane, meetings were held on the first and last Holy Days only.

The services in Sydney were conducted by Mr. Wayne Cole, an Evangelist in God's Work and Regional Director of the Work throughout Australasia, assisted by Mr. Frank Simpkins, Mr. Clarence Huse and Mr. Don Abraham. The Melbourne services were led by Mr. William Winner, the local pastor, while Mr. Roy Page, pastor of the Brisbane church, conducted the services in that area. Total attendances on the first and last Holy Days were 908 and 868 respectively.

Many people commented this year on the high degree of *inspiration* God afforded His ministers. Mr. Cole preached a number of highly encouraging and deeply moving sermons, illustrating the *urgent need* for us to have our MINDS CHANGED, our NATURES CONVERTED and our ATTITUDES MOLDED, until we are *remade in the image of Jesus Christ*,

the Son of God. The theme which was very much in evidence throughout the Feast was that of *putting the leaven out of our hearts*—deep, SPIRITUAL CONVERSION—as compared with the mere "acceptance" of a doctrine.

Modern Assyria Has Wonderful Feast

Mr. Frank Schnee and Mr. Gunar Freibergs presided over the first modern Passover ceremony and Night-to-be-Remembered Feast to be held in Germany.

The meeting place was Mr. Schnee's private home in Düsseldorf, West Germany. *Forty* persons took the Passover, and *seventy-seven* brethren crowded into the house for the Feast Night. Of these, eight were English-speaking and translation of the services and Bible Studies were provided by Mr. Waldener Rupp.

A special highlight of the Feast for our German brothers and sisters was an "American"-style meal prepared by Mrs. Schnee and later a wonderful "chicken-and-beer buffet," while fellowshiping together on a hired boat down the River Rhine!

After the early part of the Feast, Mr. Schnee baptized *six* persons. Both Mr. Schnee and Mr. Freibergs gave their first preaching messages in the German language—a great thrill for both speakers and listeners!

Upwards of 100 German-speaking brethren are expected over for the Feast of Tabernacles this fall.

The Philippines

Mr. Ortiguero reports:

The Passover season is over and all of us had a most wonderful time. The following are numbers who attended God's Festival in the locations it was observed.

	Passover	Feast
Manila	40	88
Kiara	309	457
Don Carlos	104	119
Genio Ecor Farm	19	19
Bongogon del Pilar	9	16
TOTAL	<u>481</u>	<u>699</u>

For the first time in God's Church in the Philippines, God's Festival was observed in Manila in a spacious, clean, shiny, air-conditioned, illuminated, soundproof (with good chairs, piano and clean toilets) room of the Y.M.C.A. Building, behind the Manila City Hall.

Twelve provinces were represented in this Festival at Manila—Rizal, Cavite, Laguna, Quezon, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Isabela, Pangasinan, La Union, Mtn. Province, Iloilo and Aklan. We had eight meetings and three feasts of physical food.

Mr. Guy L. Ames, one of God's college-trained and ordained ministers, conducted the Passover service. He read the scriptures about the Passover in the New Testament and expounded the meaning of the bread and wine. I helped in praying over the wine and reading the scriptures from John 14,

Those attending the first Feast of Unleavened Bread in Germany!



15 and 17. Mrs. Ames was at the piano for the closing hymn. *Forty* Christians partook of the sacred emblems of Christ's broken body and shed blood.

In Manila we had all-day meetings for the first and seventh day of the Days of Unleavened Bread, with two physical feasts on the first day and one on the seventh day.

On the "night to be much observed" we had a short service and a feast. The Forum and Board Rooms of the Y.M.C.A. Building made a spacious auditorium by sliding the wall open between them. Tables and chairs were neatly set up—13 tables were set up into four long tables covered with white tablecloths—each table was six to seven meters long. This included a serving table on which the foods brought by the brethren were placed—set accordingly to kinds—rice, meats (fried beefsteaks, loaves, corned beef, adobos, etc.), vegetables (stew, salads, macaroni, spaghetti, etc.), desserts, sweets, fruits (mangoes, pineapples, melons, apples, grapes, papayas, etc.), nuts (pili nuts, chasuey nuts, peanuts, coconuts), drinks (pineapple juice, wines), etc. What a bountiful and colorful table there was!

During the Passover season we had eight meetings. Mr. Ames and I gave Bible studies. Our subjects were about God's Festivals, the commandments of God, admonitions on trials and persecutions, prayer and about the Old and New Covenant.

Mr. Almera, who conducted the Feast in Kiara, reports the following. [Remember, English is not Mr. Almera's native tongue—the report is left just as he wrote it—I think you will appreciate it more that way—EDITOR.]

From Kiara

Greetings from Bukidnon. Our Passover here in Kiara had gone through a tremendous success. Since the time that Mr. Portune and Mr. Waterhouse had visited our area for the first time, a great improvement were being done. I am sure and no doubt if they will visit us again, they might say that it is not the very same place in which they have visited us before! Through the help of the ENVOY and of *The GOOD NEWS*, had given us a lots of inspiration that



Basketball is enjoyed by the brethren in Kiara—one of many sports and games played during the Feast.

leads the Kiara Tabernacles for it's amelioration. Never as before had happened and realized the real inspirational sensation to our inmost being that Jesus Christ is so very real in our feelings, thoughts and minds during the Festival.

During the Feast of Unleavened Bread, many inspirational songs were being sung by our well trained Chorale and more of dynamic preaching were expounded and became very touchy to the hearts of the entire brethren. During the time of the three eating together in the Tabernacle, abundant of well balance and delicious foods and fruits were being prepared. We displayed lots of Unleavened Bread during the three eating together. Delicious wine Muscatel from Spain was displayed also with the Unleavened Bread.

Three couples were being married on the last day of the Feasts. There was a great rejoicing and laughter, especially after the three couples were being married and as they marched and ascended to the Chorale platform while the Chorale were singing a marching song. When they reached the top, they sat all together on the six chairs. Really there was a great merriment for they look like queens and kings on their thrones for the husbands and wives were all dressed up and well adorned. While they were sitting silently, all the tables were being prepared for eating together. Really we could not expressed in words of the over joyed in our inmost life during eating together with those newly wedded couples and

as we were eating of all kinds of well balance diet. We praise the Eternal God for His divine goodness and mercy to us.

During recreation time, lots of activities were being done, such as different athletics games were being played, like basketball, indore baseball, volley ball, badminton, table tennis and etc. Beside these, we have also the race contest of the children, the sack race, banana eating race, coconut race, basket race, high jump, and many others. Our festive dance, there were lots of fun. We have also the dance on the moving bamboos by the girls. The contest of the laughing children and etc. I am planning also that we will have a swimming pool in the nearer future for the coming Feast of Tabernacles. I am enclosing herewith several pictures of our activities which was taken by myself. Our biggest attendance during the Feasts was 693.

Ordinations

For the first time in many years Mr. and Mrs. Herbert W. Armstrong were able to be in the Portland area for the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Everyone in that area was certainly very happy to see Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong—and the Armstrongs were certainly very pleased to see the obvious growth in the area where this era of God's Church began back in 1934.

The additional blessings of five ordinations made the cup run over with blessings for the brethren in the Northwest. Ordained by Mr. Armstrong as

Local Elders were Mr. Frank Bruce, Mr. Walter Dickenson, Mr. Fred Coulter and Mr. Robert Terhune. Mr. Carl O'Beirn was raised to the rank of Preaching Elder.

Mr. Carl O'Beirn is from Dubuque, Iowa, where he worked before coming to Ambassador College in 1957. He began working in the Ambassador Press until the spring of 1960, at which time he was put on the Visiting Program. In September of that year he began working in Imperial Schools.

After graduation in 1961 he was sent out to assist Mr. Dale Hampton, then in Portland, Oregon. In April, 1963, he was ordained to the rank of Local Elder, and two years later, April 24, 1965, he was elevated to the rank of Preaching Elder.

Mr. Frank Bruce of the Salem church was baptized in April, 1960, by Mr. Raymond Cole. He was ordained as a Deacon in July, 1963. A sincere and dedicated man, he has always been successful in whatever he has endeavored to do—is now a successful businessman operating his own business, a mobile slaughter unit and meat processing plant. He has a fine converted wife and three lovely children.

Mr. Walter Dickenson was baptized in July of 1960 by Mr. Dale Hampton and has been attending the Portland Church since that time. He has been a dedicated member of God's Church for a number of years, always ready and willing to serve wherever and whenever he was needed. He is now president of the *Dickenson Family Preserves* which is nationwide in scope and growing—perhaps you have eaten some of his jams and jellies at a local restaurant. His lovely wife is an inspiration to him and the church and both are blessed by four well-disciplined children.

Mr. Robert Terhune is the credit manager for the Consolidated Dairy Products in the Seattle-Tacoma area. He became a baptized member of God's Church in March of 1959. As a growing, overcoming and serving member, he was ordained as a Deacon in March of 1961. Joining him in the feminine counterpart of this office, Mrs. Terhune was ordained as a Deaconess in March of 1965. They have three children.

Mr. Fred Coulter was born and reared

in Seattle, Washington. After serving in the Army, attending the College of San Mateo in California and working as a chef in a restaurant, Mr. Coulter's life was abruptly changed by *The WORLD TOMORROW* program which brought him finally to Ambassador College in the fall of 1961.

Graduating three years later, in June of 1964, he was sent into the field to work under Mr. Dale Hampton in the Eugene and Medford areas. In January of this year he married an Ambassador senior, Dolores Welch, and reported back for duty as a whole man!

Mr. Coulter and his wife have been reassigned to the Boise, Idaho, church where he will serve as resident Local Elder working directly under Mr. Carlton Smith, the Portland District Superintendent.

Mr. Rowlen Tucker came to Ambassador College from New Haven, Conn., in 1958. Mr. Tucker began on the gardening crew, thence to the janitor crew, and finally worked for Mail Receiving. In his Senior year he was President of the Spanish Club.

After graduating in 1962, Mr. Tucker was assigned to the Birmingham area for one year. The next July he was transferred to the Kansas City-Springfield area. He was married in October, 1963. On April 23, 1965, he was ordained a Preaching Elder.

Texas Ordinations

A highlight of the Feast of Unleavened Bread at Big Sandy was the ordination of three men to the rank of Local Elder. Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong was joined by Mr. McCullough, Mr. Neff and Mr. Hammer in laying hands on Mr. Dale Schurter, Mr. Sylvester Mayhill, and Mr. Frank Wilson.

Mr. Schurter, a graduating senior of Ambassador College, was transferred from Pasadena to Big Sandy this spring to assist Mr. Leslie McCullough in making preparations and arrangements for those who will keep the annual Feast of Tabernacles at Big Sandy. Mr. Schurter has been married for two years and has one child—a son named Vernon. Mr. Schurter has a warmth and friendliness and love that make him an easy person to know.

Mr. Mayhill and his family moved

to Big Sandy from Wichita, Kansas, in January of last year. He is presently employed by the college in the Construction Department and acts as Construction Supervisor. Previous to ordination as Local Elder, Mr. Mayhill was a Deacon for three years. God has endowed him with the rare gift of good common sense and wisdom so lacking in the world today.

Mr. Wilson's ordination was a first for the Big Sandy Church. He and his family were among the original members when the church was started several years ago, and he is the first man to be ordained to the office of Local Elder directly from the congregation. Mr. Wilson has held the office of Deacon for two years—his hard work and drive, his eager willingness to help serve God's people, and his loyalty and dedication to God have equipped him for greater service at this endtime.

Personal Note From Mr. Meredith

Being plunged into more and more activities over here, we are very acclimated by now and getting along very well. We are all in good health, and I believe that I may be gaining just a little bit of weight. However, I am really not getting any extra rest because I am teaching two or three additional class hours besides what I taught in Pasadena. This is partly because I'm taking both sections of Advanced Public Speaking instead of just one.

I am doing a little bit *more* counseling of leading students here than I regularly did at Pasadena and this is taking extra time as well. I am also trying to "socialize" and get better acquainted with the ministers and others here and take more time in extra-curricular activities and in playing basketball at least two or three afternoons every week as well.

We had absolutely *fabulous* weather for the first week or two after our arrival here, then it turned cool and rainy for the next two or three weeks. Then as some predicted it would, it turned absolutely *beautiful* again for several days after the Armstrongs' arrival! But now, beginning yesterday, the rains have set in again although it is reasonably clear so far today.

We had a *wonderful* trip over to



Newly ordained Preaching Elders: Mr. Tucker, left—Mr. O'Beirn, right.

A Bit More From England

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert W. Armstrong have been in England since Pentecost. Everything on the English campus is a buzz with activity. The mail response from the addition of Radio Caroline as well as Radio London has increased the British response to the broadcast phenomenally. The next issue of *The GOOD NEWS* will bring a full report of the British Work to date and especially news about Radio Caroline.

Three Local Elders ordained in Texas, below from left to right: Mr. Mayhill, Mr. Schurter, Mr. Wilson.



Local Elders ordained at Passover in Portland, from top: Mr. Bruce, Mr. Coulter, Mr. Dickenson, Mr. Terhune.

Wales a couple of weeks ago with the Chorale and were able to climb Mount Snowdon. Actually, this tallest mountain in Wales is only 3,650 ft. high. Yet, strangely enough, Jon, it does give you the impression of being in the High Sierras without the accompanying altitude sickness! So I'm sure that you would really love to climb in the Welsh mountains if you ever get the opportunity. It is really pretty country and we enjoyed it very much although we were only there on Sunday.

This past Sunday evening, the Ambassador Singers, in conjunction with two or three other choral societies and a fine hired orchestra—plus four outstanding soloists—put on a *magnificent* performance of "*The Messiah*." It truly was the most inspiring performance that I have ever attended, and certainly was a credit to Ambassador College here in this area.

Meanwhile, the construction of the new gymnasium in England is moving on as well as could be expected. A new facility for the Print Shop at Ambassador College in Bricket Wood is being readied for the expanding needs of the printing part of God's Work here.

Ambascol Press Expands!

At the Ministerial Conference in January a decision was made of great importance to God's Work in Australia. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong approved proposed plans for a new, vastly enlarged Ambascos Press—a printing plant large enough to print the Australasian Edition of *The PLAIN TRUTH*!

Immediately upon receiving the "go ahead," steps were taken to move the Printing Department of the Sydney office from its cramped quarters in a converted terrace flat at North Sydney, to a bright new factory building in nearby Artarmon.

This leased two-story building of 10,000 sq. feet adequately houses the

immediate printing machinery, dark-room, plate-making facilities, and storage area while still affording room for the expansion that inevitably comes in witnessing to this endtime generation.

The heart of the expanded printery in its present stage is a 2-color Roland RZK III offset press. This 12-ton product of German ingenuity can print a sheet of paper up to 25 x 38 inches at speeds up to 7,000 per hour. It prints eight pages of *The PLAIN TRUTH* in two colors on each side of a 22½-by-35-inch sheet on each run through the press. Sixteen pages of God's Truth are thus printed on one sheet of paper.

The printed sheets are then run through a folding machine, after which they will be gathered, stitched and trimmed *automatically* on the Christensen gang stitcher.

Three issues of *The PLAIN TRUTH* have been printed by Ambascos Press at substantial *time and money savings* over the previous means of production.

The single major consideration behind the decision was to put the publication entirely in the hands of *converted* individuals, who are truly concerned in seeing it produced with the highest possible quality, *and on time*. Perfection now can and will be striven for, which is the goal in all of God's Work!

The substantial reduction of expenditure over the cost of outside production of *The PLAIN TRUTH* will allow repayment of machinery over a short period. Most importantly, it will provide for the first time a complete plant for the production of virtually all of the material sent out from the Sydney

office in fulfillment of Mark 13:10.

The Work of God continues to grow in tremendous ways and YOU can rejoice that *you have a part in it!*

Baptizing Tour in Australia

Mr. Bill Winner reports:

The first baptizing tour through the state of South Australia is now completed. Despite the fact that *The WORLD TOMORROW* does not boom out over *any* radio station in this large, sprawling state half-again as big as Texas, *the tour was very fruitful*. Several days of this tour were spent in the neighboring state of Victoria, where numerous others have been waiting patiently for a personal visit and have now been added to the Body of Christ. I am most happy to report that *this trip has increased the membership of the Church of God in Australia by 30*.

Although the percentage of those baptized was far below 50 percent, it was evident that God intended that this personal contact be made. Most of those met live in areas too distant from any local church area to have personal attention apart from that by a baptizing and visiting tour. The possibility of their having a church established in these areas is very remote. *A total of 7 of 21 who met on this short 7-day trip were baptized; 7 did not meet and 7 visits were made*. The number "7" was obviously the key number of this part of the tour.

After a short break, the second leg

of the tour began. This was indeed *the most thrilling and inspiring part of the whole tour*. We weren't far into South Australia when it became very apparent that God was directly working in the lives of more than we dared expect. The percentage of those ready for baptism immediately shot up—never to go down again.

The highlight of the tour came when 16 people requesting baptism (plus several others who requested a visit) were met. *An outstanding 75% resulted when 12 of the 16 were baptized*. (12 is used in the Bible as a "beginning" number—Israel began with 12 tribes, the New Testament Church began with 12 Apostles, etc. Could this be the *beginning* of something in Adelaide?)

Another very interesting feature about the tour is that *of all the people met within a 160-mile radius of Adelaide* (numbering 49 adults including visits and those baptized), *only 2 were not good prospective members*. With special guidance from God through one of His own chosen representatives, there is no doubt that many of these contacted in this area would take deep root and be added to the Body of Jesus Christ. Truly there is a need for more laborers in God's Work around the world!

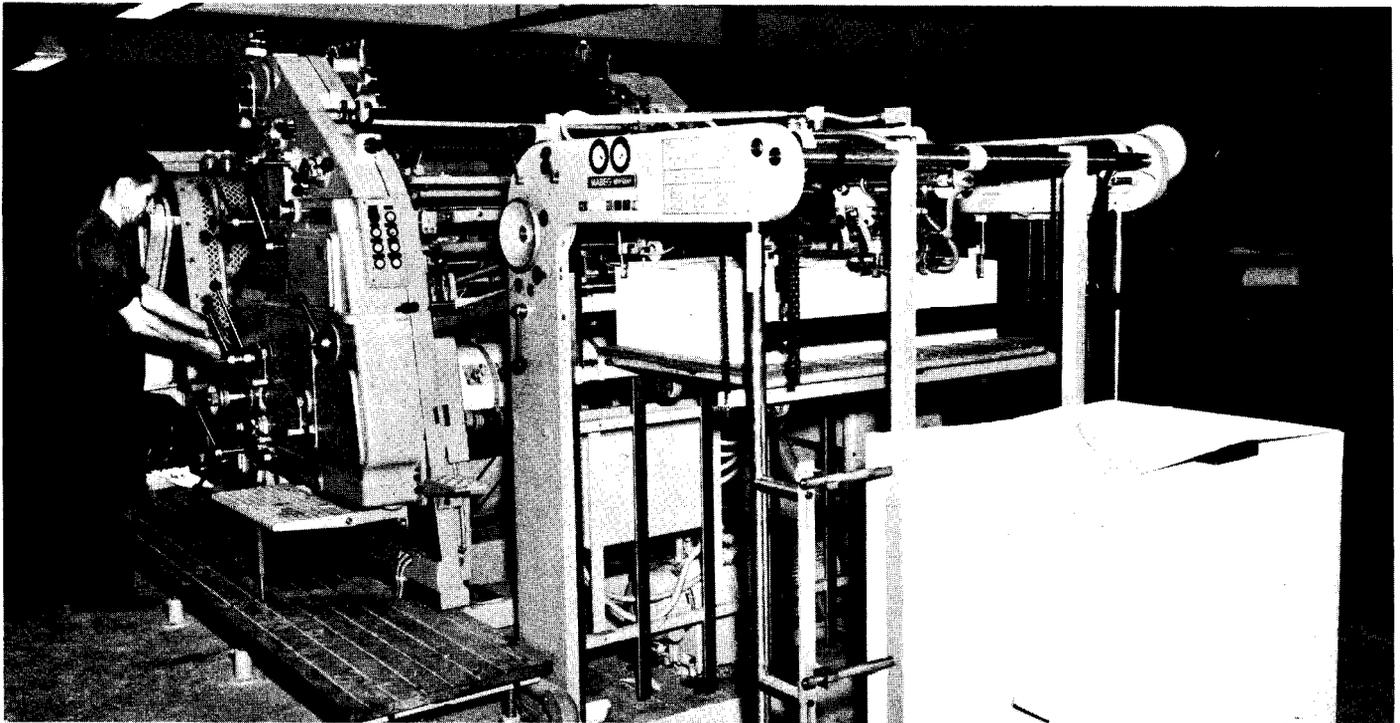
It's simply amazing to see the potential in an area when not a single radio station in the entire state carries The WORLD TOMORROW broadcast. God undoubtedly is working in the



ABOVE: Mr. Hunting gives explicit instructions.

RIGHT: Preparation for the new gym in England is an immense job.





Mr. Stan Leaver is shown here operating the new press that prints *The PLAIN TRUTH* in Australia, in our own plant!

area despite the fact that many have difficulty in hearing the broadcast from other states. It makes one wonder what would develop if God provided time on a local station there.

Another sidelight that was constantly noticed in both states was the effects of drought. The lack of rain was the topic of discussion numerous times, and the countryside bore witness to the truism that where there is no water—there is no life. Not only in the country, but also in the towns and in the city, people were reminded of the need for rain.

On May 1, the heading of an article in *The Advertiser*, a leading Adelaide newspaper read: ONE OF STATE'S DRIEST YEARS. The article then proceeded to state: "Adelaide has had its seventh driest January-April period since rainfall records began 126 years ago."

Another similar article appeared in the same newspaper on May 4. It stated that Adelaide had its hottest May day for some time when the temperature rose to a maximum of 80.2 degrees. (This, of course, is unusual for this time of year as Australia will soon be into the winter season.)

"The dry spell is causing above average water consumption from the metropolitan reservoirs," the article warned.

Australia, being a land given to Ephraim, is getting a foretaste of the curses which God has prophesied for the nations of modern-day Israel. *How urgent is the need for this nation to repent and surrender its stubborn will to our Maker.*

The grand total of both legs of the tour are as follows: After traveling 3,087 miles, 30 were baptized, 32 were not ready (48 percent of those counseled), 15 did not meet, and 14 visits were made. Thus ended a very fruitful and inspiring baptizing tour in the land down under.

Mr. Wilkins Reports From Geneva

Mr. Bourdin and I have snatched a few moments to send you a few details of the Work here. We are experiencing phenomenal growth. Each week now we receive over 200 letters; one year ago the comparative figure was 87. The record number for one fortnight was a staggering 452. In addition there are at this time 500 students of the Correspondence Course.

This growth is involving a good deal of work and extra staff is a major problem. I think it good to emphasize this since many have only a hazy idea of what goes on over here. As far as individual work goes, Mr. Bourdin's

main activities are translating, correcting and filing. He is, of course, one of the Sub-Editors of *La PURE VERITE* and his work is in no way connected with mine, i.e. I don't have him as an assistant (though I need one).

I do mail reading, dispatching, Correspondence Course, monthly *La PURE VERITE* records, personal replies, etc. Here below I have included some statistics illustrating the marked increase in *La PURE VERITE* subscription list.

June 1963..4258	Dec. 1964..5411
June 1964..4843	Feb. 1965..5596
Aug. 1964..5000	June 1965..7765

Members have grown to 21 and so far this year we have 27 new requests for baptism (not including revisits from last year's tours). This year Mr. Apartian plans two 15-day tours throughout Europe.

Right up until this moment the authorities still will not permit us further staff. We are at present in the process of appealing to the highest court in the land—the Swiss Council of State. Yct, more still do we need your prayers that God will add to this tremendously encouraging growth by opening up the way for additional laborers to join the worthy harvest of the French Work.

Readers Say . . .

(Continued from page 2)

Days of Unleavened Bread at Greensboro, N. C. This was my first opportunity to do so and it was a wonderful experience. We just moved and I am very busy cleaning up and putting things away, but I did want to write at least a little to let you know how much attending the Feast meant to me. I have had to keep the Passover alone for 7 years, and you can imagine how I treasure those days at Greensboro this year and thank God that He made it possible."

Lorraine F., North Carolina

Canton, Ohio

"We have been truly blessed this past spring Festival here in the Akron area. This has been the most interesting and scintillating Feast in this area that we have experienced. Mr. Hill, Mr. Friddle, Mr. Hoops, Mr. Mocarow, Mr. Holladay, Mr. Waterhouse, Mr. Westby, and Mr. Cowan were all greatly inspired with very helpful and stimulating sermons. We can all more readily see how short time there is in this life and how we must prepare for the troublesome times ahead, and look to the future and overcome as our living example Jesus Christ did for us."

Ronald L. H., Ohio

Sedalia, Missouri

"I have just returned from Sedalia, Missouri, where I was fortunate enough to be able to attend, for the first time, the first Sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. I might add that this was the first meeting of any kind I have yet attended, and I want to emphasize to you how deeply impressed I was, as I'm sure every newcomer to the Truth must do. The people were more than friendly, they were warm—more like brothers and sisters, and they were happy. In fact, I have never seen a happier lot of people anywhere! The adults AND the children were all well-behaved, orderly and efficient. In fact, these people were all of the things I have read God's people were in your publications, but I must admit I had

The Bible Answers Your Questions

Please address any questions YOU would like answered in this column to the Editor.

In James 1:13, we read that God tempts no man. Yet, in Genesis 22:1 it says, "God did tempt Abraham." Can you explain what appears to be a contradiction?

First, let us realize this is NOT a contradiction! The Bible NEVER contradicts itself! (John 10:35.)

In James 1:13-14 God says He tempts no man, but "every MAN is tempted, when he is drawn away of HIS OWN LUST." MAN'S OWN DESIRES tempt him. His lusts conceive and bring forth sin.

It is our own human nature which causes us to sin, NOT GOD!

What, then, is meant in Genesis 22:1, where it says, "God did tempt Abraham"?

The word here used should be translated "try" or "put to the test," instead of "tempt."

In Hebrews 11:17 we find a reference to the occasion discussed in Genesis 22. It says, "By faith Abraham,

when he was TRIED, offered up Isaac." This is the way Genesis 22:1 should read! The Old Testament translators translated the Hebrew word "nacah" into tempt. In this scripture it could have been as easily and more correctly translated "try, put to the test, or prove."

This Hebrew word means "to put to the test." It may be translated, "try, to put to test, or tempt" (see *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*).

This word is translated "try" in II Chronicles 32:31. *Everywhere, except once*, the word "prove" in the Old Testament also comes from the Hebrew "nacah"!

Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, under the word, "tempt," states the first meaning as the following: "to put to trial; to test."

THIS IS WHAT GOD DID TO ABRAHAM.

God does not entice us into evil, or lure us into sin, as stated in James 1:13. However, God does try us and test us, just as God "TRIED" Abraham.

been a little skeptical. Now it is my prayer to become a member of God's True Church."

James R. C., Missouri

Chicago, Illinois

"We are all excited because this is the spring Feast, the Days of Unleavened Bread. This was the second Passover for my husband and me. Mr. Blackwell said afterwards that this was the best Passover due to the people keeping their minds on what we all were taking part in. My husband and I found we got so much out of these days. We enjoyed the Night to be Much Remembered due to the change in my attitude. I had completely relaxed and the children were better trained. In other words, we had grown and overcome

more. We are all eagerly looking forward to the remaining days. It is peace and happiness to obey God and keep His days willingly. We know we have a very peaceful and happy home life."

Mr. and Mrs. Eric L. A., Illinois

Texas Chorale

"Last night the Dallas-Fort Worth Churches were thrilled to hear a concert presented by the Big Sandy Chorale. We, too, were surprised at the outstanding zeal and enthusiasm displayed by these pioneer students. It's hard to believe this Chorale has only been together a little more than a semester, and yet is fast approaching perfection. Well, anything can happen when young people have the 'Ambassador spirit.'"

Mrs. Paul P., Texas

Children Friendly?

(Continued from page 8)

proper discipline and correct punishment EVERY TIME it is needed.

So getting down to the real facts in the way our children are, we just must come to realize that the way we get up in the morning, the way we come home from work, yes, in everything we do, our children are *absorbing* and *reacting* to situations exactly the way they see and hear.

You might have thought everything was just fine in your home. You possibly have a nice home, a reasonably happy family, on the whole. Your children, the chances are, are *much better* behaved than the average American child.

But is this enough?

If they are reticent and afraid—if they are not developing happy, outgoing personalities, is it enough just to be better than the average American hostile and rebellious child?

No! *A resounding no!*

Do you yourself begin the day with a bright, happy "Hi, there, kids"? What is the first thing your children see? What do they hear?

In many homes, it may go something like this: "Oh, I hate to get up this morning." Or, "What a *miserable* night that was." Or perhaps, "Will you get out of bed and fix the coffee." And the wife then may sleepily reply, "Get up and get it yourself!" Perhaps a *squabble* or a small spat results and all the time the children watch, see, drink in of an unfriendly, unhappy environment.

Maybe you manage to get out of bed without grumbling, but what about when the children want to play with you a few moments before they go off to school or before you start out for work? Do you brush them aside, do you always tell them there's never enough time to play with them? Then do you rush off to catch the bus to work or do you jump in your car and screech down the street trying desperately to make it on time as you've brushed the children by?

What about when you come home from work? Is it a happy, joyful re-

union with the family and children? Do the children see mommy and daddy give each other a big hug and a kiss? Do you pick the children up and play with each one of them? And love each one of them?

Or is it just about like the morning when you come in: "What a rough day at the office!" Or, "Nothing went right today." And perhaps, "That stupid boss of mine." And as you say all of these—or as you hurl the air full of invective statements—do you brush off your children, letting them know that you haven't got *time* for them.

I'm sure by now you can begin to get the picture. You may be generally happy for the most part. You might enjoy the Sabbath and church services, but how are you enjoying every waking minute of every day?

Every minute detail—*everything* YOU say and do—all your examples are being filed into the minds of your children right in the confines of your own home.

The *minds* of your children are far more capable of registering and filing thoughts than one of our modern and complex IBM machines in our mailing office in Pasadena. To operate these IBM machines, the information must be carefully punched into cards by an intricate machine. This typed information can then be "filed" into the machine and any answers which are needed can be given back by the machine. But the machine can only give back answers that have already been "filed" into it by someone else. And the machine will give that same answer every time.

Well, the mind of your child is much more amazing than those IBM machines. But just like that machine, when the child is called upon to react, he can react only the way information has been "filed" into his mind. *Words are not* enough, he has seen AN EXAMPLE, he has observed and heard many things besides what you might have told him on your way to church.

So first and foremost, if you expect your child to be happy and friendly—you are going to have to be happy, friendly, out-going, warm *yourself*. Otherwise, the chances are your child will never react properly—he will never

be able to really confidently meet people—and in short, he will probably never be able to really enjoy a full, rich and abundant life as he ought.

After Your Example

Once you are sure *you are making a diligent effort* to set the right example, then you should begin to *punish* for refusing to speak. If you have properly been working with your child, and he doesn't react as he should in the Sabbath services or out in public, then that child *must* be properly punished so that he learns to do the right things and that he *fears* not to be *obedient*, and *respectful* to all other people.

How you should proceed from this point is very adequately covered in Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong's booklet, *The Plain Truth About Child Rearing*. It's probably been a long time since you've read that booklet. Maybe some of you don't even know where it is. Now is just as good a time as any—and in fact, it's better than any—to decide that you're going to REREAD that booklet diligently and that you are really going *to get to work* on rearing the right kind of children.

I won't take the time in this article to show you how to punish your children—that is more than adequately covered in the booklet—I just want to reiterate to your minds the vital necessity to be totally aware of every facet of developing your child's character and PERSONALITY.

A child is not naturally and normally always going to be perfect. There will be times when you will have to punish him for not answering properly—for not speaking when he ought. But if you are CONSISTENT in your training, you will soon come to the point where it will be instilled as a *habit* into your child, and you won't be *publicly embarrassed* by his bad examples—rather you can be and will be well-pleased with his training and progress. But this can only result if you are properly setting the right example yourself and if you are diligently striving to have *happy and obedient children* according to God's principles—which is the only right and proper way of child rearing. Let's go to work on it. *Let's have friendly children!*