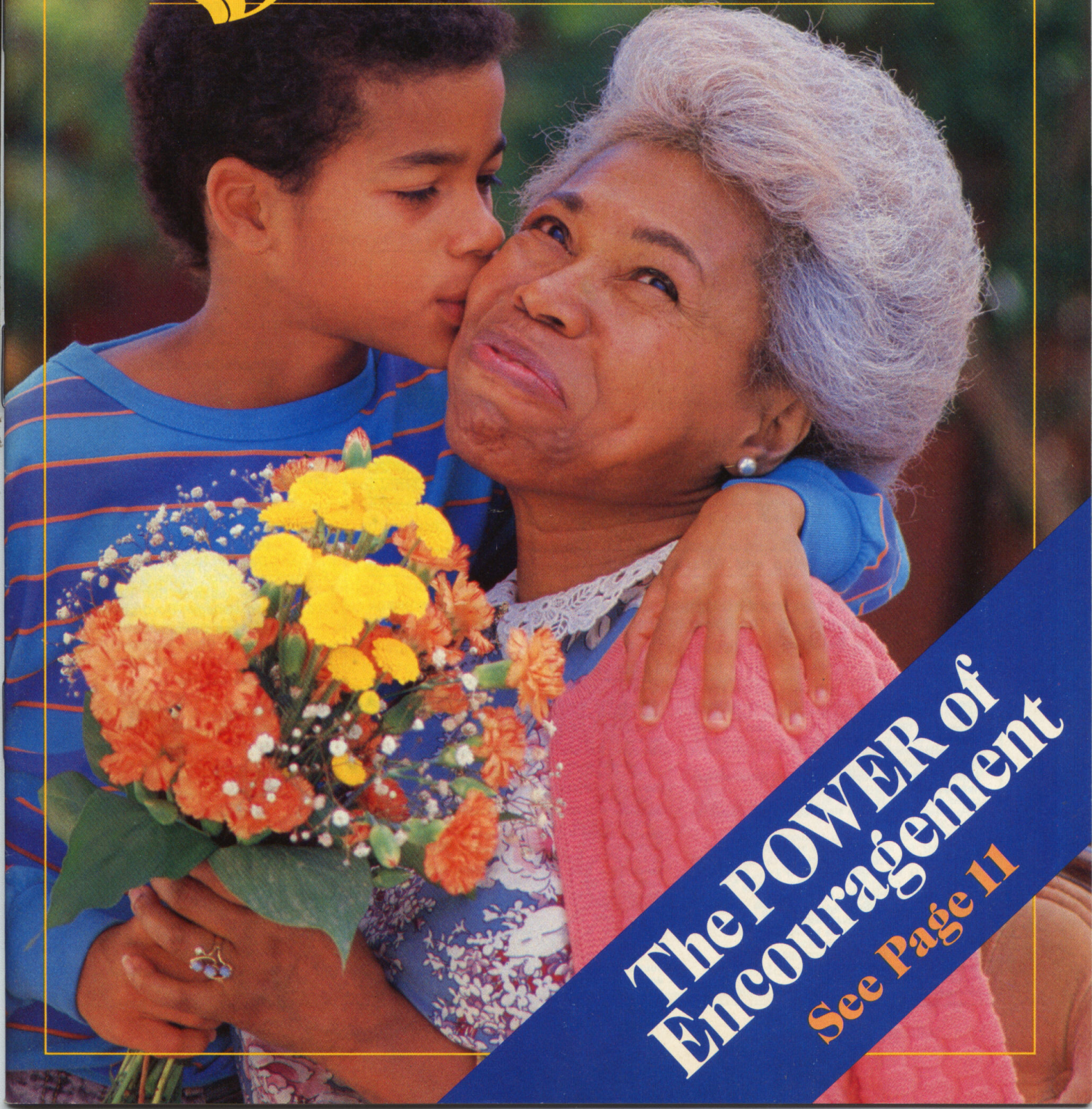


SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1987

The Good News

OF THE WORLD TOMORROW



**The POWER of
Encouragement**
See Page 11

The Good News

OF THE WORLD TOMORROW

SEPT.-OCT. 1987

CIRCULATION: 979,000

VOL. XXXIV, NO. 7



15



7

Contents:

| | |
|---|----|
| Good News Personal: Pioneering a New Way of Life | 1 |
| Tomorrow's Agriculture — What Will It Be Like? | 2 |
| Questions & Answers | 6 |
| Family Sharing: Sharing the Pain | 7 |
| There Is a Way Out of Discouragement! | 9 |
| The Power of Encouragement | 11 |
| Letters | 14 |
| Where Did the Original Apostles Go? Part Two | 15 |
| How Many Apostles Were There? | 20 |
| What Do You Mean — "Christ Is the End of the Law"? | 23 |
| What You Should Know About Dating, Part Seven: Dating Toward Marriage | 24 |
| Prove All Things: Who and What Is Satan? | 28 |

COVER: Do you know how to be encouraged? Do you know how to encourage others? Be sure to read "The Power of Encouragement," beginning on page 11! Photo by G.A. Belluche Jr.

The Good News is published bimonthly by the Worldwide Church of God, 300 W. Green St., Pasadena, Calif., 91123. Copyright © 1987 Worldwide Church of God. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A. Application to mail at second-class postage rates is pending at Pasadena, Calif., and at additional mailing offices.

Send all communications to the Good News address nearest you:

United States: 300 W. Green St., Pasadena, Calif., 91123.

For literature call toll free 1-800-423-4444; in Alaska, call 818-304-6111 collect.

Canada: P.O. Box 44, Station A, Vancouver, B.C.,

V6C 2M2. For literature call toll free 1-800-663-2345.

Australia: P.O. Box 202, Burleigh Heads, Queensland 4220

Bahamas: P.O. Box N3934, Nassau NP

Barbados: P.O. Box 1021, Bridgetown

Bermuda: P.O. Box HM 908, Hamilton HMDX

Denmark: Box 211, DK-8100 Aarhus C

Fiji: P.O. Box 3938, Samabula, Suva

Ghana: P.O. Box 9617, Kotoka Int. Airport, Accra

Guyana: P.O. Box 10907, Georgetown

India: P.O. Box 6727, Bombay 400 052

Jamaica: P.O. Box 544, Kingston 5

Kenya: P.O. Box 47135, Nairobi

Malaysia: P.O. Box 430, Jalan Sultan, 46750 Petaling Jaya, Selangor

Mauritius: P.O. Box 888, Port Louis

New Zealand and Pacific Isles: P.O. Box 2709, Auckland 1

Nigeria: P.M.B. 21006, Ikeja, Lagos State

Norway: Box 2513, Solli, Oslo 2

Philippines: P.O. Box 1111, Makati, Metro Manila 3117

(Reentered as second-class matter at the Manila Central Post Office on Jan. 18, 1974)

Puerto Rico: G.P.O. Box 6063, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936-6063

Singapore: P.O. Box 111, Farrer Road Post Office, Singapore 9128

Solomon Islands: P.O. Box 508, Honiara

South Africa: P.O. Box 5644, Cape Town 8000

Sri Lanka: P.O. Box 1824, Colombo

Sweden: Box 5380, S-102 46 Stockholm

Tonga: P.O. Box 127, Nuku'alofa

Trinidad: P.O. Bag 114, Port of Spain

United Kingdom: P.O. Box 111, Borehamwood, Herts., WD6 1LU

Zambia: P.O. Box 50117, Lusaka

Zimbabwe: P.O. Box U.A. 30, Union Ave., Harare

Be sure to notify us immediately of any change in your address. Please include your old mailing label and your new address. The publishers assume no responsibility for the safety or return of unsolicited artwork, photographs or manuscripts.

The Good News has no subscription price. It is sent free of charge to all who request it. This is made possible by the tithes and offerings of the membership of the Worldwide Church of God and others. Contributions, however, are welcomed and are tax-deductible in the United States, Canada and New Zealand. Those who wish to voluntarily aid and support this worldwide Work of God are gladly welcomed as co-workers in this major effort to publish the true original Gospel to all nations. Contributions may be sent to our address nearest you (see addresses below).

Founder

Herbert W. Armstrong
1892-1986

Publisher

Joseph W. Tkach

Editor

Dexter H. Faulkner

Managing Editor

Norman L. Shoaf

Associate Editors

Ronald D. Kelly,

Bernard W. Schnippert

Contributors

Dibar Apartian, Jerold W. Aust,
Joan C. Bogdanchik, K. Neil Earle,
John Halford, George M. Kackos,
Graemme J. Marshall, L. Leroy Neff,
John R. Schroeder, Clayton D. Steep,
Philip Stevens, Earl H. Williams

Technical Copy Editor

Peter Moore

Editorial Assistants

Michael Morrison,
Lana Walker

Graphics

L. Greg Smith

Editorial Composition

Supervisor: Tony Styer
Dawna Borax

Photography

Photo Services Manager: Greg S. Smith

Senior Photographer: Warren Watson

Staff: G.A. Belluche Jr.,

Charles Buschmann, Nathan Faulkner,

Charles Feldbush, Hal Finch,

Elizabeth Mahan

Photo Librarian: Kevin Blackburn

Publishing Services

Director: Ray Wright

Production Director: Roger G. Lippross

Production Manager: Ron Taylor

Circulation Manager: Boyd Leeson

Pre-press Composition

Supervisor: Barry S. Gridley

Technical Support: Don Patrick

Business Manager

L. Leroy Neff

International Editions

Dutch: Bram de Bree

French: Dibar Apartian

German: Wolfgang Thomsen

Spanish: Don Walls

Coordinator: Wendy Kovalchick

Office Directors

Australia: Robert Fahey

Canada: Colin Adair

England: Frank Brown

France: Sam Kneller

Latin America: Leon Walker

New Zealand: Peter Nathan

Philippines: Rodney Matthews

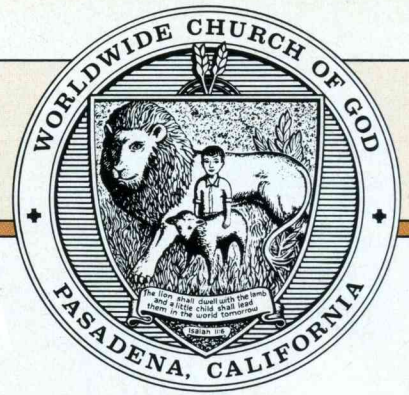
Puerto Rico: Stan Bass

South Africa: Leslie McCullough

Switzerland: Bernard Andrist

The Netherlands: Bram de Bree

West Germany: John B. Karlson



Pioneering a New Way of Life

This fall marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of Ambassador College in Pasadena, Calif.

But long before 1947, Herbert W. Armstrong realized that a vital ingredient was lacking in higher education. He often referred to it as "the missing dimension in education."

When Mr. Armstrong founded Ambassador College 40 years ago, he envisioned a *new concept* in college education. Ambassador was to be a unique institution — unique because its educational policy and philosophical approach would be based upon that "missing dimension," the Word of God.

In the modern world, knowledge is increasing at a bewildering pace. Yet this knowledge or education is *not* eliminating wars. It is *not* eliminating hate, crime, environmental destruction, unhappy families or failed lives. If anything, the problems that beset mankind seem to be *increasing* in intensity. Indeed, something is woefully lacking in education.

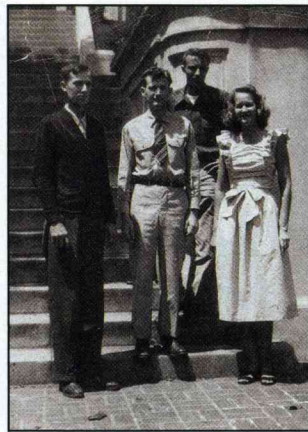
Why?

To put it simply, man "fired" the Administrator of right education — God — and rewrote the curriculum — God's law — on his *own* terms. He rejected the one Teacher — Jesus — capable of teaching the way of peace, success and happiness. He *threw away* the basic textbook on true education — the Bible.

Dr. Edward Teller, who helped develop the hydrogen bomb, once said, "Peace is much more than the absence of war; peace is a way of life." Instruction and campus experience at Ambassador's Pasadena, Calif., and Big Sandy, Tex., campuses is steeped in the way of life that leads to true success and fulfillment, and an understanding of life's purpose.

What is man? Why is man? What is the purpose and meaning of life? God's *revealed* knowledge provides answers to these fundamental questions that *cannot* be humanly deduced or reasoned out.

When students arrive at Ambassador, they find the most beautiful college campuses in the United States. But the beautifully landscaped grounds and



Then and now: First students of Ambassador College, which opened in 1947 (left); last year's graduates after commencement (right).



character of the stately buildings are *only the background*.

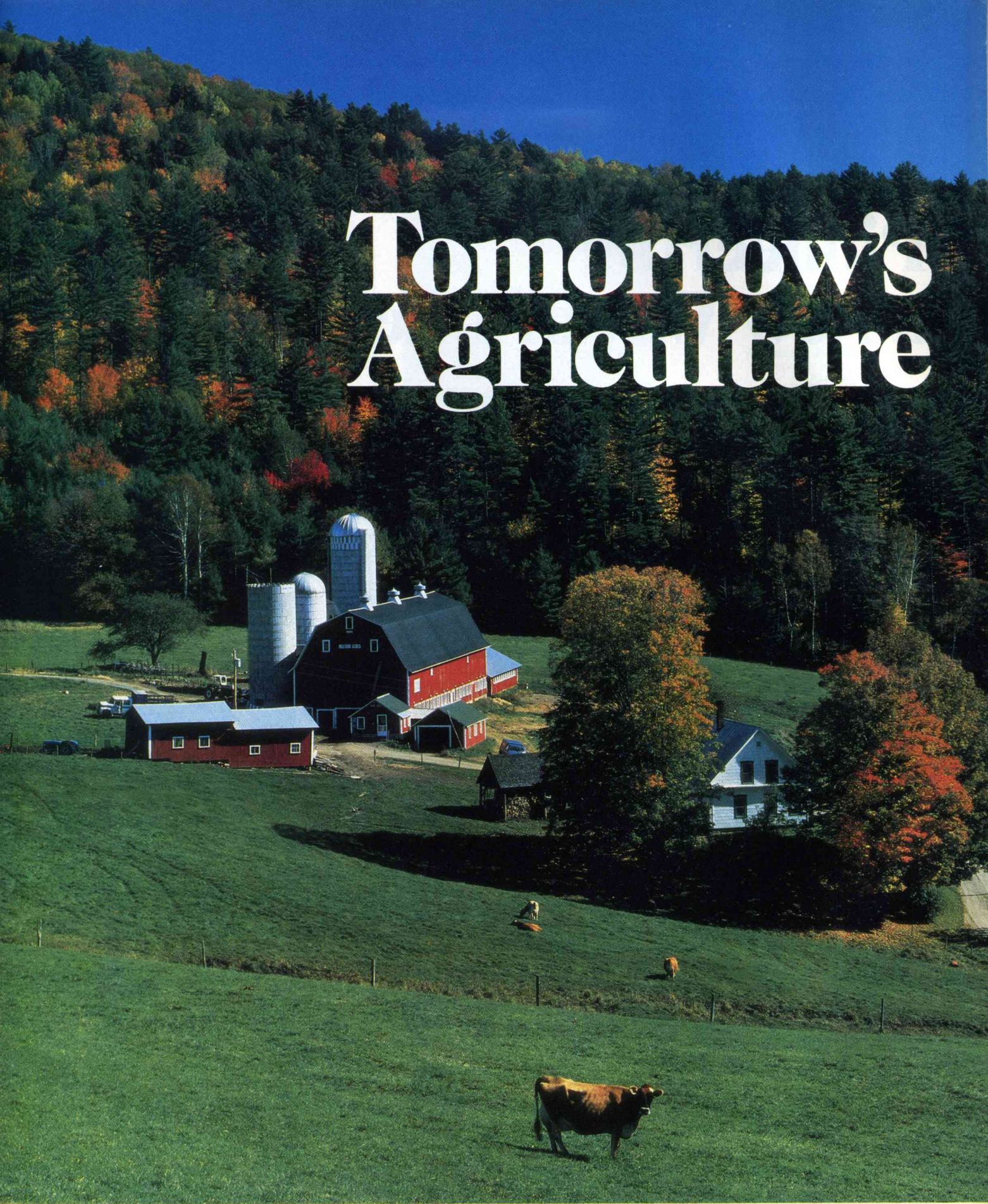
The *real* character and beauty of Ambassador College lie in the observance of the laws that *cause* the radiant, joyful smiles, the dependable, diligent work habits, the harmony and cooperation among students and between students, faculty and administration. God's way of life is being lived here. Students come here to learn that way. And they learn by *doing it*.

After 40 years, Ambassador College continues to pioneer a *new way of life*. It's the way of give, not get. It's the way of love, of true outgoing concern for others. *And it is the only way that will endure for all eternity.*

Joseph W. Tkach

Pastor General
Worldwide Church of God

Tomorrow's Agriculture



What Will It Be Like?

The Bible prophesies a prosperous, exciting and happy future for agriculture.

By George M. Kackos

What a magnificent view! What wonderful blessings!

That's what I thought as I scanned the beautiful farming valleys in western Michigan in the United States. Here were fruit trees, crop fields, farmhouses and woodlands neatly blended together. The blue sky, warm weather and budding trees made that spring day especially appealing.

But what I saw doesn't tell the sad story about farming in general today!

Consider: Farm foreclosures are at alarming levels. Topsoil by the ton is eroding around the world. Powerful pesticides and herbicides pollute the land. Lower-quality crops destroy our health and vitality. And, where agriculture is incompetently managed, massive famines kill millions.

Why? What's wrong with agriculture? Why hasn't modern agriculture rescued us from these evils?

The answer lies with Satan. As the god of this world and the arch-deceiver (II Corinthians 4:4,

Revelation 12:9), he has influenced man to follow wrong farming principles — principles based on rebellion against God's law, principles that bring only unhappiness and destruction!

Prophesied blessings

But an age of agricultural blessing is coming. The Bible prophesies that farming will become a highly successful and respected way of life. For a thousand years, during Jesus Christ's millennial rule on earth (Revelation 20:6), agriculture will flourish with bumper crops and great



Photos: D. Hallinan/FPG International, Warren Watson, Greg S. Smith

prosperity. Listen to these exciting prophecies:

“Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “when the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; the mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it” (Amos 9:13).

“Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, streaming to the goodness of the Lord — for wheat and new wine and oil, for the young of the flock and the herd; their souls shall be like a well-watered garden, and they shall sorrow no more at all” (Jeremiah 31:12).

But how will these prophecies be fulfilled? What changes will transform today’s failing agriculture into tomorrow’s flourishing farming?

Just after the return of Jesus Christ, the world will be in shambles, demolished by the horrors of space-age warfare. Events during the Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord will have destroyed much of agriculture. Land will be barren, charred, unable to support plant life.

To prepare for millennial agriculture, Jesus Christ will institute many changes. Valleys will be raised and mountains lowered (Isaiah 40:4). Lands long submerged under vast oceans will be raised to be put into production. Vast deserts will be transformed by abundant water resources (Isaiah 41:18-19). This land will then be given to the nations for an inheritance. But how will it be allocated to individuals?

By looking to the example of how Israel will be divided, we see the answer. Boundary lines will be established and the land given to families (Ezekiel 48:1). Amounts will vary depending on the area and its productivity. Holdings of around 20 acres could easily supply basic needs without being too burdensome for individual families, working together, to cultivate.

With so many farmers, there won’t be a need for each to produce huge quantities of food. To protect their land for future gen-



erations, the Jubilee will be declared every 50 years. This will restore to its original owners whatever land might have been sold, but not redeemed: “And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a Jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his possession, and each of you shall return to his family” (Leviticus 25:10).

Think what this will mean! No longer will people be forced off the land. Each 50 years they will have a chance to start over, thereby preventing control of most of the land from falling into the hands of just a few people.

Improved soil conditions

But how will the land be managed? How will it be kept productive for a thousand years?

Today the land is being destroyed rapidly. Through erosion, a third of the topsoil in the United States alone has been lost. What remains is losing fertility and soil life. This tragic example is being repeated around the world, with many areas in even worse shape already.

With right farming methods, these problems will end. Needed microorganisms and worms — nature’s plows — will abound. No longer will they be destroyed by harmful chemicals. The emphasis will be on organic farming that builds soil fertility. Proper



crop selection, diversification and rotation will be practiced. Minimum tillage will replace today’s destructive cultivation practices. Hedgerows, windbreaks and wildlife areas will eliminate farming one field right next to another (Isaiah 5:8).

Every seventh year, the land Sabbath will give the land a chance to rest and restore its nutrients: “But in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a sabbath to the Lord. You shall neither sow your field nor prune your vineyard” (Leviticus 25:4).

Better crop and livestock management

But what about crops and livestock? How will they be selected

and raised? Today we rely heavily on hybrids grown in chemically fertilized soil and sprayed with powerful pesticides. This pollutes the environment and lowers food quality. Animals are crossbred or inbred, reared on concentrated feed, injected with



powerful drugs and kept tightly confined. The result? Reduced meat quality and lowered natural resistance to disease.

These wrong practices will cease in the world tomorrow. Hybrids will no longer be used (Leviticus 19:19). This will improve food quality and decrease genetic vulnerability by providing a wider selection of varieties.

Organically grown crops will eliminate pollution and increase produce quality. This will also help in pest control. Listen to British agriculturist Sir Albert Howard: "Insects and fungi are not the real cause of plant diseases but only attack unsuitable varieties or crops imperfectly grown" (*An Agricultural Testament*, page 161).

Further control over agricultural pests will be achieved through natural predators, crop diversification and rotation and use of nontoxic substances.

What about weeds? Like pests, they tend to thrive where conditions are not right. As Dr. Harold Willis says in his book *The Coming Revolution in Agriculture*: "In general, weeds grow best on poor, out-of-balance soil. This is their function in nature, to cover bare spots and waste places and prevent erosion. When they die they help build humus." As soil

conditions improve, weeds tend to disappear. Those that don't can be eliminated by cultivation and mulching.

Livestock will be raised far differently than it is today. Selective breeding, but not cross-breeding or inbreeding, will enhance the quality of animals raised for food (Leviticus 19:19, Genesis 30:41-43).

Foraging in large, lush pastures so they can move about as they should will improve the health and vitality of animals. So will their diet of top-quality grain feed (Isaiah 30:23-24).

Many animals will be put to use doing farm work (Deuteronomy 22:10). This will end our over-reliance on farm machinery, which produces noise pollution and limits our enjoyment of nature. Just think how much more satisfying that will be!

Record yields and profits

What will result from these changed conditions? What will happen to yields and profits?

Consider this: Since farmers will be obeying God, they will reap the blessings of good weather and financial prosperity: "And the Lord will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers to give you. The Lord will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand" (Deuteronomy 28:11-12).

No longer will farm families struggle and slave and sweat from dawn to dusk without time for relaxation, enjoyment or personal development. No more will fear of farm failures threaten farmers' peace of mind. The pace of life will be slower and more balanced. Time for family togetherness will abound.

Raising bounteous crops and healthy animals will produce great pleasure (Jeremiah 31:12-13). Farmers, whose profession will then be highly respected, will have abundant crops to share

with travelers and needy people (Leviticus 19:9-10, Matthew 12:1).

Natural areas surrounding farms will provide restful, peaceful settings. Just imagine: colorful woodlands, walking trails, pleasant meadows and tame animals, including snakes and lions (Isaiah 11:6-9, 35:1-2).

Isn't that exciting?

Nearby cities will offer a rich variety of cultural, recreational, educational and social activities. Here, farm families will be deeply respected, understood and appreciated (Ezekiel 36:10-11, 25-26, 34-35). One reason for this: City dwellers will be growing some of their own produce (Zechariah 3:10).

Every seventh year, during the land Sabbath, farm families will have an entire year off that can be used for farm improvements, travel, education and other creative opportunities (Leviticus 25:1-7).

Where do you fit?

What a wonderful future! Family farming restored at last — farming that is highly successful and deeply respected!

This is the prophesied future for agriculture.

But where do you fit into all this? What role will you have in millennial agriculture? Will you be a ruler, helping to produce this agricultural utopia?

That depends. Are you responding to God's calling? Are you overcoming your carnality? Are you preparing to rule in God's Kingdom?

Listen to this exciting prophecy from Jesus Christ: "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations" (Revelation 2:26).

This includes power over agricultural policy — power to help bring the prophesied wonderful world tomorrow into reality!

For more information on what the Bible says about this coming society, write for a free copy of our book *The Wonderful World Tomorrow — What It Will Be Like*. □

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Verses 5 and 6 of Romans 14 seem to say that God doesn't care which days we keep holy. Is this what these verses mean?

Does it matter to God whether we observe Christmas, Easter and other days that professing Christianity reveres? What about the Holy Days and festivals the Bible itself commands, such as the Sabbath, Passover, Pentecost and the Feast of Tabernacles?

Actually, Romans 14:5-6 does not concern *any* days that must be kept holy. The whole chapter of Romans 14 focuses on an entirely different subject — meat.

Paul told the saints at Rome to receive the “weak in the faith” and not to sit in judgment of them (verse 1). Some of the newly converted members had not yet grown strong in the faith. They refused to eat meat and lived mainly on vegetables instead (verse 2).

Paul explained why in another of his letters. Most of the available meat had been offered to idols. Some gentiles who were converted came out of idolatry, and still held some superstitious beliefs. They thought that idols really had power over their lives. Therefore, “some, with consciousness of the idol,” ate meat “as a thing offered to an idol” (I Corinthians 8:7).

But why did Paul break into his teaching about eating meat to mention “days”? Notice the answer in the Moffatt translation of Romans 14:5-6:

“Then again, this man rates one day above another, while that man rates all days alike. Well, everyone must be convinced in his own mind; the man who values a particular day does so to the Lord. The eater eats to the Lord, since he thanks God for his food; the non-eater abstains to the Lord, and he too thanks God.”

Not only were there weak converts who were afraid to eat meat offered to idols, but there were

others who customarily abstained from particular foods. They practiced a semi-fast, or abstained from foods on certain days. Others saw all days as equal as far as eating was concerned.

The whole matter involved abstinence on particular days. The question was to eat or not to eat. It was a question of the days on which many chose to abstain from certain foods.

Paul was not referring to God's true Holy Days. Certainly nothing here even refers to God's true Sabbath.

Jesus said that we should fast before God, and not be seen or let it be known by others unnecessarily (Matthew 6:16). But both Jews and gentiles practiced semi-fasts on certain days of each week or month.

Some Jews, for instance, customarily fasted “twice a week” (Luke 18:12). They also fasted during certain months (Zechariah 7:5). The Jews were divided on the matter. The gentiles, also, were divided over when they should abstain from certain foods.

In God's sight it does not matter when one abstains or fasts (except on the annual Day of Atonement, when God commands all His people to fast — Leviticus 23:27). But it does matter, when we fast, that we do so with a right heart. Paul wanted the brethren to live at peace with each other, and not argue or judge each other over their human viewpoints.

Elsewhere the Bible plainly teaches which days God made holy — and commands us to keep holy! For more facts, write for our booklets *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?* and *Pagan Holidays or God's Holy Days — Which?* Your copies are absolutely free.

Does the Bible teach “eternal security”?

The Bible plainly teaches in many places that there is no eter-

nal security for those who fall into apostasy.

“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance” (Hebrews 6:4-6).

Some do fall away. For them there is no eternal security, but a “certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries” (Hebrews 10:27).

The fate of the wicked is eternal destruction in the lake of fire — the second death (Revelation 20:14-15).

Christ's parable of the sower (Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23) clearly shows that some, after hearing, understanding and accepting the truth of God, let the cares of this life and the lust of riches enter in and choke the truth, after which they soon fall away. They no longer strive forward in Christian growth.

Revelation 2:26 and 3:21 show that only those who overcome will be given eternal life and inherit all things.

Even the apostle Paul once said, “I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified” (I Corinthians 9:27). Paul knew that he could fall short of God's high calling — if he did not overcome, with God's help.

There is no eternal security for us who are yet mortal and subject to sin. But there *is* eternal security for those who overcome and are granted eternal life.

After we are made immortal, we shall be permanently saved from sin (I John 3:9) and thus permanently saved from the penalty of sin — death (Romans 6:23). Then — after the resurrection — we can correctly say, “Once saved, always saved.” □

Sharing the Pain

Even in the best of families there are times of trial and sorrow. Not every family faces the same difficulties. Each has its burdens to bear.

We hope very few go through the struggle that confronted a family very close to my wife and me. But I wanted to write about it, because it can happen to any family at any time.

The phone rang about 1:30 in the morning. Startled from a deep sleep, a weary father answered, "H'llo."

In only a few seconds he was shocked awake by the voice on the phone: "Mr. _____, this is Officer _____ at police headquarters. I think you had better get right down here.

"We have your 16-year-old son and two of his friends here. They were brought in for possession of a white powdery substance. It is being analyzed by the lab now. We assume it is cocaine. The youngsters are very nervous and upset. Your son is in tears.

"Can we expect you soon?"

This was to be one of the most difficult trials that family ever faced.

The dilemma of drugs

In the few days before our deadline for this issue, I have learned more about drugs and who can get involved with them than I ever thought I would.

For some reason most parents (myself included) have thought that the problem of drug abuse is something that happens to the other guy — that if we are nice people and try to do what's right,

that our children somehow will never yield to the temptation.

Oh, we have all read and heard about drugs. In the pages of *The Good News* and *The Plain Truth* we have published numerous articles on drugs. The *World Tomorrow* telecast has devoted several programs to help listeners understand. I have been present twice at lectures given by Nancy Reagan (the wife of U.S. President Ronald Reagan), who dedicates a great deal of time and effort leading the campaign against drugs.

So it's easy to think, No one I know would ever do drugs. The children of my friends would always say no to drugs. Why, they are all nice families, close knit. It just won't happen to them.

But it does happen to them.

Every day.

Drugs are not just for bad peo-

ple in crime-infested areas of big cities. Drugs can affect anybody at any time.

And those who are least prepared are the easiest targets of all.

For example, the father I just mentioned was totally unprepared for the call from the police in the middle of the night.

He could not believe his son would do such a thing. But had he ever really talked to the boy about drugs? Had he ever really understood the temptations teenagers face today? Did he really equip him with an understanding of *why* he should say, "No"?

Unfortunately, he didn't. The father knew his son had attended a school assembly about drugs. He thought he had read a couple of articles in *Reader's Digest*

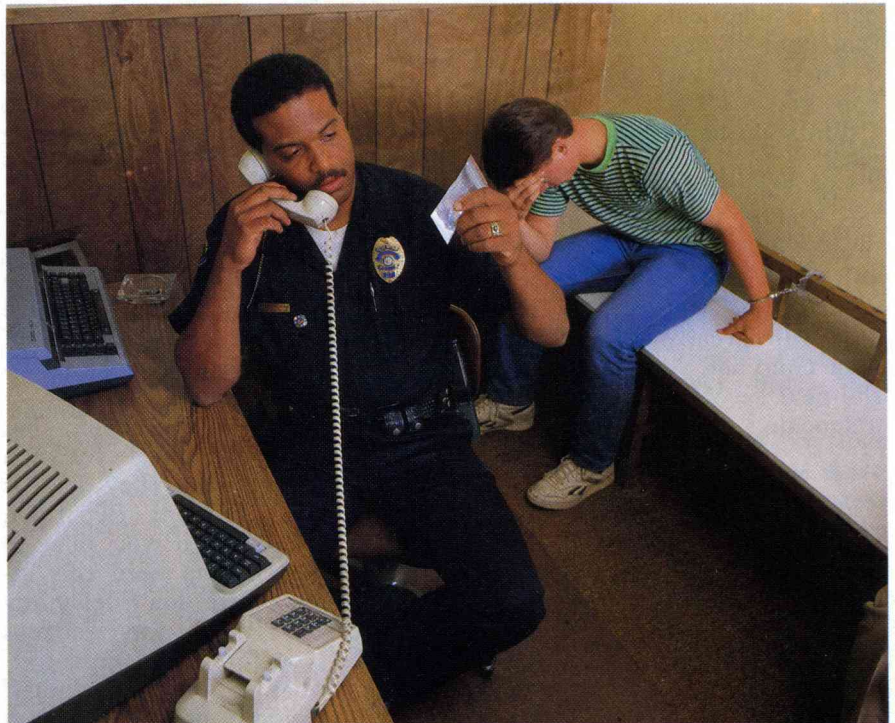


Photo by Hal Finch

about the dangers of drugs. He and the boy's mother assumed that was more than enough to keep the young man out of the drug scene. They had a nice family. He was a good student. He had several nice friends.

Why? How?

The hurt and the pain set in.

A frightening experience

At the police station, they found out the teens had indeed used cocaine that night. Three ounces of cocaine were taken from the car.

"But, Dad," he cried, "this was the very first time I have ever done drugs. And I promise I will never do it again."

Being taken to a police station is a pretty scary experience. There you stand in the middle of the night. In the station are others who have been arrested in the past couple of hours. One for prostitution. One for armed robbery. A couple brought in for driving under the influence of alcohol. Three or four others for illegal drug use.

It's not a pretty scene. And it's one many people have never experienced. As a minister, I have been there in the middle of the night on a few occasions with parents who called for help in that hour of need.

There is no way to describe the pain and the hurt.

But what happens when it happens to you?

Oh, that will never happen to me, you may think. I hope and pray it doesn't. But some of you will experience it.

And how you deal with the pain will greatly influence how your child and your family spend the next several years after such a shocking trial.

How would you react?

Obviously prevention of such a tragedy is the best of all.

But don't naively think your child will not be tempted. Most kids will at least be exposed to drugs in their teen years. You can't move to outer Siberia to escape this society. So you are

going to have to live in it. And that's not easy.

The biggest mistake you can make is to assume your child will not be tempted.

When and if you ever get that phone call, or if you somehow find out your child has begun to abuse drugs, your second reaction will probably be anger.

Pain is the first reaction.

In your anger you will be tempted to kick your own child out of your home. Or you will be tempted to impose such severe restrictions on him or her that you will drive the child from you.

You and your spouse will cry yourselves to sleep for the next several nights. You will at one moment be hurt, the next angry. The next moment will be filled with guilt.

"Where did we go wrong?" you will lament over and over. "If only we had..." or, "Why couldn't we see what was happening?" Many parents are not aware of the warning signs: Staying out later than usual. Going with "friends" and spending more time away from home than you would like. Finding out they were someplace other than where they were supposed to be — yet believing the story they tell you.

In fact, there are several important warning signs — but rather than list them here, I hope you will write for our free brochure *Conquering Drug Abuse*. It's one of the most informative pieces of literature available on the subject — 32 pages of hard-hitting information. It will help you understand the pressures and pulls of the world we live in — even if you yourself never have experienced the temptation to use drugs.

I know from experience that many people don't write for such a booklet because they feel it doesn't apply to them. But if you have a child, or if you plan to have children, you need this information. Please don't delay any longer. Write to our address nearest you for your free copy.

But what if you find yourself in the middle of the problem

now? Maybe it happened to someone you know just a few months ago. Or it happened to someone in your neighborhood. It could happen to any one of us.

Working through problems

The family I mentioned in the beginning has suffered a great deal the past few weeks.

But they are coming out of it. They are beginning to sort through the problem.

Truth is, a family that seemed stable actually was a bit shaky. But it didn't fall apart.

More important than any other advice you can get is: Don't panic! Overreaction will only make the problem bigger.

The real test on any family is how they weather the storm. It's not hard to live in the good times. But to make it through the trials — that's the hard part.

When and if you find yourselves in this or any other severe family crisis, it is important to, as calmly as possible, begin to talk the problems through.

In many cases it will be necessary to get help and advice from competent people — perhaps your minister, a schoolteacher who understands or a professional counselor or treatment center.

Most of all, a rebuilding of love, trust and confidence is essential. Angry words and accusations only deepen the wounds.

So whether you have been through a similar problem or not, if you have children, you must educate yourselves to the dangers and pitfalls of this society. And you must build a family where communication and concern are cornerstones.

It's nice not to suffer the pain of children straying from the right path. But most families have to endure some of that pain now and then. When and if it comes your way, you'll need, more than at any other time in your life, to know how to share the pain and work through to the solution.

Then you will truly understand what family sharing is all about. □

There IS a Way Out of Discouragement!

Do you sometimes feel there is no way out of your problems? Are you discouraged? There is a way to cope!

By Larry R. Salyer

Family problems. Job problems. People problems. Problems with your mate. Problems paying your bills.

Problems everywhere!

Life in today's world is complex. Paradoxically, while modern technology has offered many conveniences, it has also created an environment that makes just day-to-day living a struggle. Much of the world's population is jammed into cities — piled one upon another. With people come cars and buses and hours of traffic jams.

You know what it's like. Millions live in a highly competitive, concrete jungle. It's hard for some just to keep food on the table.

This is the kind of society in which we live. And it creates stress. As stress levels increase, problems are harder to deal with, and discouragement can set in.

Everyone gets discouraged

Everyone gets discouraged, at least on occasion. But, thankfully, there is a way out!

Discouragement comes from many sources and appears in many forms. It can sneak up on us when we least expect it. Sometimes we feel like we're on a

roller coaster. We can be so excited and positive, and then all of a sudden the balloon pops. Nothing seems to go right.

But what do you do when you have problems and get down and discouraged?

First, let's look at some of the sources of discouragement.

Sources of discouragement

• *Marriage and family problems.* These are probably the greatest problems people suffer today. The family, the most basic unit of society, is crumbling. The family, in many cases, no longer is a place of warmth and security, but a source of strife and contention for husbands and wives, parents and children.

• *Financial hardships.* Many of us try to live up to a certain standard that we have become acquainted with or accustomed to. Then we suddenly find ourselves unable to meet expenses and pay the bills. Or maybe unexpected circumstances happen with the house or car that require a great deal of extra money.

• *Failure.* It can be anything from a small failure to a major crisis, but failure often does discourage. Many people try to cover up or ignore their failures. Some try to drown them with

alcohol or drugs. Sometimes it isn't just failure, but the *fear* of failure. If you continually face circumstances that you feel you're not on top of, you are bound to feel overly stressed and get discouraged. Or, sometimes, it's the failures of other people. We see them falling down, and sometimes we can't do a thing to help them.

• *Broken friendships.* Maybe ties with a good friend are broken. Maybe you had your trust betrayed or a confidence shattered. Possibly you were building a friendship with someone of the opposite sex, and you thought it was going to lead to marriage. Then, when it was broken, you didn't know where to turn. Many have been betrayed by a mate who has committed adultery. These are all deep hurts that don't go away easily.

• *Illness or sickness.* Serious discouragement can result from having a long-term illness. You or someone you know might be sick, and though you try to commit the situation to God, you still feel pressured by the problem.

• *Problems at school.* Many have problems with poor grades. Or with a teacher or classmates. Maybe you are trying to obey God, but you're being persecuted

because of your beliefs. Or your school environment is negative.

• *Spiritual weaknesses.* Have you ever said this? "I have been trying to overcome this problem for years, but it hasn't gone away! It's part of me and I just can't root it out." Sometimes we feel like we're beating our heads against the wall trying to overcome spiritual weaknesses. When the same problems afflict us year after year and we feel we haven't made any progress overcoming them, we can become frustrated and discouraged.

You may be suffering from some other form of discouragement that is particularly painful for you. But how can you overcome discouragement? How can you find the way out of the dark tunnel that never seems to end?

The way out of discouragement is within your reach. Discouragement generates powerful emotions, but you don't need intricate or complex solutions to overcome this foe. The strength you lack can be given to you by the Creator of peace, joy, happiness and courage.

God Himself can give you all the help you need to conquer discouragement!

Here, then, are five things you can do, with God's help, to overcome discouragement.

The way out

1) *Turn your focus toward God.* Meditate on His great power. Think about what God has done in the past and what He is doing now to bring about His great plan of salvation. When you put your problems in perspective with God's plan, the troubles and trials of this life shrink.

God's people have this tremendous promise: "We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

This verse doesn't mean the situation itself is good. It doesn't mean that it's good that you lost your mate. It doesn't mean that it's good your children are rebellious or that you've lost your job. It means that any situation can

work for good if you meet the challenge properly and let God guide you.

If you put your life in God's hands, you will come out ahead in the long run!

2) *Keep your eyes on the goal.* The goal of every Christian is to be born into the spiritual Family of God. We need to get our minds off the physical and onto the spiritual. God says to "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:2-3).

In other words, your earthly life is immaterial. Of course, God wants us to prosper and live abundant lives now, but our physical lives will soon be over. We are merely in training for the glorious eternal life ahead.

Satan, the archenemy of God, would love to get us down and discouraged. But God has already chosen us and set us apart for His own purpose — He intends to put us in His Family.

3) *Be positive!* Our human nature likes to dwell on the negative when things aren't going right. We tend to feel sorry for ourselves. Or we begin to feel trapped.

But *force* yourself to be positive! Go to God and thank Him for what He does for you and for what you have.

David tells us: "It is good to give thanks to the Lord... for You, Lord, have made me glad through Your work; I will triumph in the works of Your hands" (Psalm 92:1, 4).

The tremendous privilege of being a part of God's Work is worth every suffering we could go through. And we will triumph in the end.

Why get down in the dumps, worrying about the problems you have today? If you take the positive approach, you destroy your troubles. You overwhelm them with positive knowledge and truth.

We're not talking about a "pull-yourself-up-by-your-bootstraps" philosophy. We're saying you should focus on the reality of

the goodness of God, and the power and strength He provides.

4) *Do something for others.* When God's goodness is real in your life, then you can easily practice this fourth step.

Hebrews 10:24 tells us to "consider one another in order to stir up love and good works." Think about how you can stir up and motivate somebody else. Think about what you can do to set a good example for someone else.

It takes the love of God flowing through you to make a personal sacrifice of time, money or energy, with no strings attached, without expecting anything in return. But when you serve with this attitude, God's mind gives you peace and satisfaction. If you sow goodness, you will reap happiness and peace (Galatians 6:7).

5) *Be patient.* This is one of the most powerful keys to overcoming discouragement. Be patient with yourself, others and God.

When you are discouraged from struggling to overcome faults and sins, you need to remember this old adage: You haven't failed until you quit trying. Every failure is only a lesson that helps you know better how to try the next time. Growth takes time and effort.

We are too quick to condemn: "I said in my haste, 'I am cut off from before Your eyes'" (Psalm 31:22). God is much greater in patience and understanding. If God judged as harshly as we sometimes judge, we would have reason to be discouraged. But He has infinite wisdom and understanding. "Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the Lord" (verse 24).

God is willing to respond and give us strength and consolation, providing we take the steps necessary to correct the problem. But we need to hang on and be patient. If you focus on God, keep your eyes on the goal, stay positive, serve others and exercise patience, you will come out of the tunnel of discouragement and into the light! □

The POWER



of Encouragement

Do you know how to be encouraged? Do you know how to encourage others? If not, here's encouraging news!

By Carn Catherwood

How many times have you been discouraged? Once? Twice? Or, like most people, would you say *many* times?

All people experience periods of discouragement — times when they feel down. Most pull out of these particularly rough spots in life.

But some have a harder time pulling out than others do. Maybe right now you are in such a period of discouragement.

If so, read on! Here is what the Bible says about encouragement. There are actually three steps in the process of drawing on the *power* of encouragement.

The Comforter

The first step to pulling out of discouragement is this: When you're down, you must specifically *ask God to encourage you*. God will do so by direct interven-

tion through the working of His Holy Spirit.

Have you ever noticed, in John 14:26, that the Holy Spirit is called "the Comforter"? A suitable alternate rendering here would be "the Encourager."

God's Holy Spirit is a power, and He uses it to encourage. The Holy Spirit can literally generate uplifting and positive thoughts in our minds.

In II Corinthians 1:3, we see some basic teaching about encouragement and how it functions. Paul writes, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort."

The Greek word for "comfort" here is *paraklesis*. This word is rich in meaning, as we will see.

God is the "God of all comfort" — in other words, the God of all encouragement. Encouragement is one of God's specialties. How sad that many people assume God is involved only in knocking us down and testing us!

God wants to pick us up. Yes, He does! Notice verse 4, which says God "comforts us in all our tribulation." Here we have the verb *parakaleo*, which is related to *paraklesis*. In other words, God encourages us in all our troubles.

Why does God encourage us? One reason is because we individ-

ually need to be picked up. God lifts up His little children when they're going through trials.

But that's not all. There is another reason. Notice verse 4 again: "That we may be able to comfort [encourage] those who are in any trouble, with the comfort [encouragement] with which we ourselves are comforted [encouraged] by God."

Clearly, we are expected to become encouragers, too. After we suffer trials and are comforted by God, we can show compassion to others who experience the same problems.

A cycle is created. God encourages you, and then you can encourage others.

Ask for an encourager

The second step to overcoming discouragement is: When you're down, you must specifically *ask God to send an encourager* — another human being who will say what needs to be said, lift your spirits, encourage you, strengthen you and help you get moving again.

II Corinthians 1:5 says, "For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation [*paraklesis*] also abounds through Christ." Encouragement should abound through Jesus Christ.

Paul had troubles on every

Photo by G.A. Belluette Jr.

side. But he wrote, "I am filled with comfort [*paraklesis* — encouragement]" (II Corinthians 7:4). How did God comfort him? "God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus" (verse 6).

Sometimes God sends a positive human being — a loving, giving person — into our lives, who says what needs to be said. Titus did just that for Paul.

As Christians today, we flourish and grow so much more when we lift one another up. People who feel inadequate or overwhelmed by their weaknesses are encouraged to go on — not give up.

Cheer others on

The third step in the cycle is: When you're finally up and positive again, God wants you to *encourage others*.

The word *paraklesis*, used in II Corinthians 1, has many different connotations. It conveys, for example, the act of coming alongside or drawing near. This Greek verb was often used to describe a ship coming alongside a pier as it docked.

When you apply it to people, it means drawing near or being near somebody. It doesn't necessarily involve talking. It may mean, simply, just being there.

Paraklesis was also used to picture spectators cheering on a runner in a race. We're even told in Romans 12:6-8 that encouragement is a spiritual gift — an ability that God can develop in our lives. The word translated "exhorts" in verse 8 is *parakaleo*, related to *paraklesis*. We are to cheer on others as they run the Christian race, especially when they get tired toward the end.

Do you know how to encourage others?

Years ago, after my freshman year at Ambassador College, I returned home to Canada to get a summer job, make some money for school and see my family. It was a rough summer for several reasons. The job I was promised fell through and I could find only odd jobs. I had to use my meager funds to rent a small room in a

run-down section of Montreal. Everything seemed to be caving in. I began to question whether I was cut out for college. I said to myself, "I'm not the college type." I began to think myself into a corner. I thought about dropping out.

In a situation like that, you need someone who knows what *paraklesis* is to turn up and begin to exercise that particular ability!

And somebody did. Otherwise I might not have gone back to college.

Although I was unaware of it, another student from Ambassador College, a senior, had decided, on the spur of the moment, to come to Canada and take a three-week French course at a university in central Montreal. She tried to contact me when she arrived, but couldn't. Finally, the last day she was to be there, we finally got together.

We spent an hour and a half together and I got the full treatment — *paraklesis* at its best! I told her I was considering not going back to college because I wasn't cut out for it, because I felt out of place. You know, all the negative flack we throw up when we have ourselves boxed into a corner.

Then she began to share the power of encouragement. She told me I *was* cut out for it. She told me she had also considered dropping out of college after her freshman year.

It's amazing how when somebody else says: "I've done the same thing. I've felt the same way," you feel good. You are encouraged to go on because you see the other person has.

That is the aspect of *paraklesis* this young woman practiced. She cheered me on and I felt I just had to return to Ambassador College. Behind the scenes, of course, the "God of all comfort" was at work. This is His specialty. He knew who to send and how to encourage me.

Help others hang on

Encouraging others is something we should do often. How

often? Well, Hebrews 3:13 says, "Exhort [*parakaleo*] one another *daily*." Why? "Lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."

As God's people at the end of this age, we all need to practice *paraklesis* — encouraging, giving comfort, lifting up, cheering on — constantly.

Some people avoid this responsibility. They are repelled by people who are not as strong as they should be spiritually. So they don't encourage weaker people. They find it unsettling. But the Scriptures say that those who are strong should support the weak (Romans 15:1).

Some time ago, I received a telephone call at 2 a.m. from a young woman who needed encouragement. She was a former



student of mine. (I am now a minister of the Worldwide Church of God, and an instructor at Ambassador College, from which I nearly dropped out!)

This woman had just suffered through a rough and unsettling week. But to make things worse, she had been told by fellow "Christians" that "Christians don't get discouraged."

Well, the fact is, they do. *Everyone* gets discouraged. The Bible is replete with examples of discouraged people. But Chris-

tians shouldn't *stay* down in the dumps.

The people who, in their superiority, feel "Christians don't get discouraged" are usually the ones who feel free to continually lambast and correct others. That is *their* specialty. They come in with guns blazing, but you never find them encouraging anyone.

Yet the Bible teaches that we are to encourage each other daily!

This young woman wasn't sinning. She simply was down and needed to be lifted up — not corrected or kicked in the face. She had friends and family. Why didn't they encourage her? Why did she have to make a long-distance phone call in the middle of the night to a casual acquaintance to get encouragement?

I said a few things to her. At 2 a.m. it's hard to practice *paraklesis*, but I tried. I sympathized and told her we all have rough weeks. I told her we all survive.

Anybody could have said that. She didn't have to stand in a phone booth in the rain and spend \$15 calling me to be told these things. It is sad there were no encouragers around her.

Encouraging words

A lot of people assume one has to have an eloquent vocabulary, several theology and speech degrees and a vast knowledge of psychology to be qualified to encourage and inspire somebody else.

But notice Proverbs 12:25: "Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad." Just a couple of words, even awkwardly phrased, can trigger new zeal and renew confidence in someone.

Years back, when I first began in the ministry, the husband of an elderly woman died. This woman lived way back in the mountains and, because she was new to the truth of God and didn't understand death, she had a difficult time facing and dealing with the death of her husband.

One of her sons asked me to conduct funeral services, but said: "Please don't come by the house. Mother is very depressed

and broken up. She hasn't spoken to anybody in three days since Dad died. There's no point in trying to talk to her. Please don't come by. Just come and do the funeral."

On the day of the funeral I drove into the mountains and found the little town and cemetery where the woman's husband was to be buried. I parked and walked down the hill toward the little group standing beside the casket.

I recognized the elderly woman among them. Her head was down. She was visibly dazed and depressed. She was not talking. She seemed unaware of what was going on around her.

I felt it would be best to simply go up to the casket and begin the funeral sermon. But then I realized that to get to the casket I would have to walk directly in front of this bereaved lady. I knew if I walked in front of her she might look at me. I might have to say something and, because her son had asked me to not to, I hadn't planned on saying anything.

My mind raced! What could I say to a woman who had lost her husband of 50 years? What eloquent phrase could I use to ease her pain?

I was only 23 years old, and it was only the second funeral I had given.

I was very apprehensive. Then, suddenly, as I got closer to her, my mind went blank. I walked by her, my heart thumping. I looked at her. She looked at me as I feared she might. Her eyes met mine and I had to say something. "Everything is OK," I stammered. And then I walked on to the head of the casket.

"Everything is OK." That's all I said — three little words. Not very eloquent, not very sage.

Immediately I felt humiliated. What a stupid thing to say, I thought to myself. I hoped no one else had heard me.

I began the ceremony. Within seconds, the woman began to straighten up. Her face, which had been contorted, became serene. She began to listen. Some-

thing had changed. Her discouragement was clearly gone.

After the service was over, her family merged around her and took her away. I had no opportunity to talk to her. I had no idea what happened. I walked back to my car and drove home, very puzzled.

A week later I received a letter from this woman. It was simply written — she hadn't had much education. She said, "Thank you for the encouragement."

I thought to myself, What encouragement?

Can the phrase "Everything is OK" be labeled encouragement?

She then explained that after the death of her husband she somehow began to feel responsible for his dying. She wondered if God had taken her husband because of some sin that she had committed. Consumed by guilt and anxiety, she began to blame herself.

She wrote: "After he died, one phrase kept running through my mind: Is everything OK in my relationship with God? Is everything OK? Does God still love me? Is God still with me? The phrase 'Is everything OK?' ran through my mind over and over.

"And then, at the funeral, you walked up to me, my eyes met yours and you said, 'Everything is OK.' Those were the exact words I had to hear to break the depression. I knew God had put them in your mind."

I learned that day that God doesn't have to give you an eloquent speech to encourage others. God can give you simple words. But it takes God's direction. God knows what to do.

If you are down, if you are mourning, if you've had a particularly rough week — you need to ask God to lift you up, in His way. He may use the Holy Spirit — the Comforter — to generate positive thoughts in your mind. He may send an encourager into your life. Then, when you are comforted and encouraged, you must go and comfort and encourage others.

It is a beautiful cycle that can change your life! □

LETTERS

No begging for money

I've been observing you and have been looking for certain scandalous things. For instance, "Please send your money." I'm glad you don't beg for money . . . It's nice to know there's somebody out there that cares to pass on the word honestly and truthfully. Thank you.

I was first introduced to you when I went to a pizza restaurant and saw a display for *The Plain Truth*. I grabbed one and saw a free subscription card. I mailed it and now I'm much smarter towards the Bible. Then I got a card for *The Good News* and many free booklets.

But one thing I would really enjoy and haven't got a free subscription card for is *Youth 87*. I'm 14 and very interested in God's Word and prophecies. May I please have a subscription for *Youth 87*?

Dave Czerwinski
Eggettville, N.Y.

Of course! Youth 87 is a bimonthly, full-color magazine published by the Worldwide Church of God for youths aged 12 to 19. Youth 87 addresses young people from all walks of life in all parts of the world and offers helpful personal advice as well as articles on family relations, hobbies, careers, adventure and life in different countries. Other readers who would like to receive Youth 87, or who would like their children to receive it, should write to our address nearest them. A list of our addresses is on the inside front cover of this magazine.

"Prove All Things"

Thank you so much for "Prove All Things." I think this is one of the most helpful and valuable series of articles that have been written.

Whenever they appear in *The Good News*, I copy out "The basic doctrine" and the "Key verses" into a notebook. This I keep in my handbag, readily available to pull out and read at odd moments, so that slowly I will absorb the priceless teachings contained in it.

H. Simons
Edgware, England

June-July Good News

Thank you for the June-July "Good News Personal," "How Serious Are You About Your Calling?" It made me stop and think, Do I put my whole heart into it?

It seems that I really don't get it, being from a plantation in the Missis-

issippi delta in the state of Mississippi: How could God select me to rule over anything? I know God loves me, but I am awed that I could be handpicked to assist the great Jesus Christ in the wonderful world tomorrow.

Jay C. Vaughn
Chicago, Ill.

Please note I read with great interest the story about Peter's vision. And, oh, how I wish that all holiness-professing people could understand that passage of Scripture. I have been preaching that vision exactly the same as you have it printed in *The Good News* for years, and have been branded as preaching false doctrine. I just wanted you to know how much I enjoyed your article.

D.E. King
Jayess, Miss.

I'm responding to your article in your June-July issue titled "You Do Have Talent!" by Cheryl Ebeling. . . .

My wife, Donna, had been told all her life that she wasn't a good cook. However, after we were married I told her she was an excellent cook and gained 20 pounds to prove it! Our friends began complimenting her on the creative and tasteful meals she prepared and, as a result of this encouragement, she has been paid to cook and cater many weddings and anniversary parties.

Donna's grandmother taught her how to make a wicker basket. With a little encouragement, she began making and repairing wicker furniture. . . . Not only has she been able to save us hundreds of dollars by furnishing our home with furniture she has made, she has also made a small income making and repairing furniture for others.

My wife has told me that I was the one who gave her the support and encouragement to try new things and to develop her talents. . . . I've seen men mistreat their wives by putting them down, jumping all over them when they attempt something new or make a mistake, and cannot understand why these husbands do this to their wives. If Christ treated the Church — His wife — the way these men treat their wives, none of us would make it into the Kingdom of God.

Dean Hardester
Eagle Creek, Ore.

"Four Great Mandates"

Mr. Tkach, my family and I want to thank you so much for the "Four Great

Mandates" outlined in the April-May issue of the *Good News* magazine. They are another example of the ways God is "cleaning up" His Church through you and all His ministers. Truly, God has blessed His Church with another fine leader! Keep up the good work — we are behind you all the way.

Mr. and Mrs. Art Raynes
San Antonio, Tex.

Inspiration from older articles

Thanks a lot to Leroy Neff for his article "Here Is Prophecy Fulfilled" (January, February). While reading it I was surprised to note the events mentioned are really happening right here in the Philippines. There is a religious sect that taught sex to all their followers, revealing the first seal. The second seal is war, which is also happening between the military and the Communist party of the Philippines. The third seal is famine, which is also happening.

Dannyboy Pata
Manila, Philippines

In the February *Good News* is the key of the real meaning of "born again." I have known of this for years, but I do love to see it again in print for all to read who are seeking the truth. It is a great pity the churches of Great Britain don't explain this in any sermons.

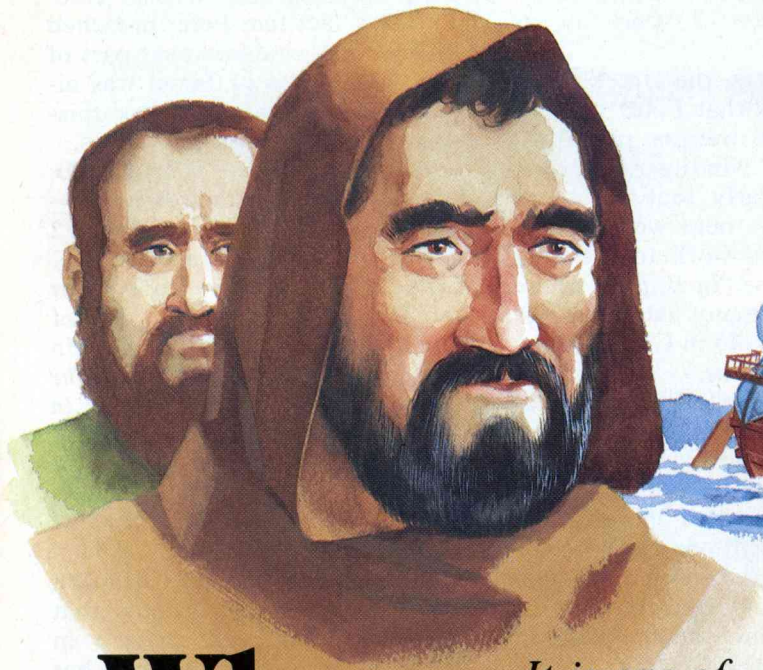
I am Scottish and only moved to England to be near my two sons about six months. I must say I can't find a church where I can hear what I read in your magazines. I am sure there must be a lot of people in the same mind in regard to the churches of today.

Ann McFadde
Stony Stratford, England

I am a newly baptized member of the Church of God, and have just had my first real trial. It was a serious mental trial, and I was almost overwhelmed with it. It has been a year since the onset, and all year I have been frantically looking for the answer (wisdom) that would help me. Nothing I read seemed to fit my situation.

Then I came across a 1982 issue of a *Good News* magazine that Dibar Apartian's article "In a Negative World — Be Positive" was in. It was this article that reached me. I finally understood how to do my part. Ever since applying this to my life, I have been improving steadily.

Marjorie Voll
Calgary, Alta.



Where Did the Original Apostles Go?

Part Two

By Herman L. Hoeh

It is one of history's best-kept secrets! But the moment has now come, in this climactic "time of the end," to pull back the shroud of history and reveal where the original 12 apostles went.

What happened to the original 12 apostles after they departed from the land of Judea?

And why have their journeys been cloaked in mystery until *now*?

Last issue we learned that Christ commanded the 12 apostles to preach the Gospel to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. But we found that it was not God's purpose, at that time, to reveal the whereabouts of the Lost Ten Tribes.

Yet both the Bible and secular history clearly point to where the Lost Ten Tribes migrated after their removal from the area of

Palestine by the Assyrians in 721 B.C.! When we find where the Lost Ten Tribes were, we will have found where the original apostles went!

By early New Testament times, remnants of the House of Israel had settled in the British Isles and the Parthian Empire. Some had migrated toward northern Asia Minor.

Now to draw back the curtain of history and see where each of the original 12 apostles preached. You'll be amazed!

What Greek historians report

Why is it that almost no one has thought of it before? If multitudes of Greeks in southern Asia Minor were being converted to Christ by Paul, and at the same time multitudes among the lost 10 tribes of the House of Israel were being converted in northern Asia Minor, should not those Greeks have left the record of which of the 12 apostles carried the Gospel there?

Consider this also: The Greeks have not lost the Greek New Testament. They have handed it down from generation to generation. Is it not just as likely that Greek scholars should have preserved the true account of the ministry of Jesus Christ's original apostles?

They have done just that! Yet

Illustrations by Ken Tunell

almost no one has believed them. What the Greeks report is not what most people expect to find. Some, who do not understand the difference between the House of Israel and the Jews, imagine the apostles went exclusively to Jews. Even some of those who know where the House of Israel is today often cannot believe that several of the tribes of Israel were

Britain Ireland

not, in the apostles' day, where they are today.

Scholars have long puzzled over the remarkable information the Greeks have handed down. Greek historians, in the early Middle Ages, left us information from original documents that apparently are no longer extant. They had firsthand sources of information not now available to the scholarly world. What do those Greek historians report?

One valuable source of information is the Greek and Latin *Ecclesiasticae Historiae* of Nicephorus Callistus. Another, in English, is *Antiquitates Apostolicae* by William Cave.

Universal Greek tradition declares that the apostles did not leave the Syro-Palestinian region until the end of 12 years' ministry. The number 12 symbolizes a new organized beginning. Before those 12 years were up one of the apostles was already dead — James, the brother of John. He was beheaded by Herod (Acts 12:1-2).

But where did the remaining apostles go?

Simon Peter in Britain

Begin with Simon Peter. Peter was made by Christ the chief among the 12 apostles to coordinate their work. Of necessity Peter would be found traveling to many more regions than he would personally be ministering to. The question is, Where did

Peter spend most of his time after those first 12 years in the Holy Land?

Metaphrastes, the Greek historian, reports "that Peter was not only in these western parts" — the western Mediterranean — "but particularly that he was a long time" — here we have Peter's main life work to the Lost Ten Tribes — "in Britain, where he converted many nations to the faith." (See p. 45 in Cave's *Antiquitates Apostolicae*.)

Peter preached the Gospel in Great Britain. Paul preached in Rome. The true Gospel had not been publicly preached in Rome before Paul arrived in A.D. 60. Paul never mentions Peter in his epistle to the brethren in Rome, most of whom had been converted on Pentecost in A.D. 31.

Not even the Jews at Rome had heard the Gospel preached before Paul arrived.

Here is Luke's inspired account of Paul's arrival in Rome: "And it came to pass after three days that Paul called the leaders of the Jews together" (Acts 28:17). Continuing, verses 21-23: "And they" — the Jews at Rome — "said to him, 'We neither received letters from Judea concerning you, nor have any of the brethren who came reported or spoken any evil of you. But we desire to hear from you what you think; for concerning this sect, we know that it is spoken against everywhere.' So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening."

Simon Peter, Christ's apostle, was in Britain, preaching the

Gospel of the Kingdom of God. The very fact that Peter preached in Britain is evidence that part of the Lost House of Israel was already there. Peter was commissioned to go to the lost tribes.

And significantly, about A.D. 60 great wars overtook Britain — just as James warned the 12 tribes of Israel (James 4:1). Could history be any clearer? For the full proof of the identity of Great Britain as chief tribe in Israel write for the free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. It makes history and the Bible plain.

Where are Peter and Paul buried?

For centuries the Christian world has taken for granted that Peter and Paul are buried in Rome. No one, it seems, has thought to question the tradition.

Granted, Paul was brought to Rome in A.D. 67. He was beheaded in the end of spring A.D. 68, then buried on the Ostian Way. But are his remains still there? Granted, too, that universal tradition declared the apostle Peter was also brought to Rome in Nero's reign and martyred about the same time.

Many pieces of ancient literature — some spurious, some factual — confirm that both Simon Magus, the false apostle who masqueraded as Peter, and Simon Peter himself died at Rome. The question is, Were the bones of the apostles Peter and Paul moved from Rome?

Yes!

Here is what happened. In the year 656 Pope Vitalian decided the Catholic church should send the remains of the apostles Peter and Paul. *The Pope therefore ordered them sent to Oswy, King of Britain!* Here is part of his letter to the British king:

"However, we have ordered the blessed gifts of the holy martyrs, that is, the relics of the blessed apostles, Peter and Paul, and of the holy martyrs, Laurentius, John, and Paul, and Gregory, and Pancratius, to be delivered to the

BOSPORUS Chersonesus Euxine Sea



bearers of these our letters, to be by them delivered to you" (Bede's *Ecclesiastical History*, book III, chapter 29).

Could anything be more astounding? The bones of Peter and Paul (termed "relics" in the Pope's letter) were sent by the Pope from Rome to Britain — to the land of the lost tribes of Israel!

About a century and a half earlier Constantius of Lyons took the relics of all the apostles and martyrs from Gaul and buried them in a special tomb at *St. Albans in Britain* (*Life of St. Germanus*).

And Andrew his brother?

Britain, after A.D. 449, was settled by hundreds of thousands of new people not there in Peter's day. History knows them as Angles and Saxons. They came originally from the shores of the Black Sea to the Cymbric Peninsula (Denmark) opposite Britain. These were the people to whose ancestors Peter wrote his epistles.

Which one of the 12 apostles preached to their ancestors while they abode by the Bosphorus and

on the Black Sea? Listen to the answer from Greek historians:

"In this division St. Andrew had *Scythia*, and the neighboring countries primarily allotted him for his province. First then he travelled through Cappadocia,

Cymbric Peninsula

[Upper] Galatia and Bithynia, and instructed them in the faith of Christ, passing all along the *Euxine Sea*" — the old name for the Black Sea — "... and so into the solitudes of *Scythia*."

One early Greek author gives these journeys in special detail, just as if Luke had written an account of the other apostles as he did of Paul.

Andrew "went next to Trapezus, a maritime city upon the Euxine Sea, whence after many other places he came to Nice, where he stayed two years, preaching and working miracles with great success: thence to

Nicomedia, and so to Chalcedon; whence sailing through the Propontis he came by the Euxine Sea to Heraclea, and from thence to Amastris. . . . He next came to Sinope, a city situated upon the same sea . . . here . . . he met with his brother Peter, with whom he stayed a considerable time. . . . Departing hence, he went again to Amynsus and then . . . he purposed to return to Jerusalem" — the headquarters church.

"Whence after some time he betook himself . . . to the country of the Abasgi [a land in the Caucasus] . . . Hence he removed into . . . Asiatic Scythia or Sarmatia, but finding the inhabitants very barbarous and intractable, he stayed not long among them, only at Cherson, or Chersonesus, a great and populous city within the Bosphorus [this Bosphorus is the modern Crimea], he continued some time, instructing and confirming them in the faith. Hence taking ship he sailed across the sea to Sinope, situated in Paphlagonia" (pp. 137-138 of Cave's *Antiquitates Apostolicae*).

Here we find Andrew preaching to the very areas in Asia Minor which Paul bypassed. From this region, and from Scythia north of the Black Sea, migrated the ancestors of the Scots and Anglo-Saxons, as we have already seen. They are of the House of Israel — or else Andrew disobeyed his commission!

And what of the modern Scottish tradition that Andrew preached to their ancestors? Significant? Indeed!

And the other apostles?

And where did Simon the Zealot carry the Gospel? Here, from the Greek records, is the route of his journey:

Simon "directed his journey toward Egypt, thence to Cyrene, and Africa . . . and throughout Mauritania and all Libya, preaching the gospel. . . . Nor could the coldness of the climate benumb his zeal, or hinder him from shipping himself and the Christian doctrine over to the western islands, yea, even to Britain it-

self. Here he preached, and wrought many miracles.”

Nicephorus and Dorotheus both wrote “that he went at last into *Britain*, and . . . was crucified . . . and buried there” (*Antiquitates Apostolicae*, p. 203).

Think of it. Another of the 12 apostles is found preaching to the Lost Tribes of Israel in Britain and the West. But what is Simon the Zealot doing in North Africa? Were remnants of the House of Israel living there, too? Had some fled westward in 721 B.C. at the time of the Assyrian

Chalcedon Nicomedia Sinope

conquest? Here is Geoffrey of Monmouth’s answer: “The Saxons . . . went unto Gormund, King of the Africans, in *Ireland*, wherein, adventuring thither with a vast fleet, he had conquered the folk of the country. Thereupon, by the treachery of the Saxons, he sailed across with a hundred and sixty thousand Africans into Britain . . . [and] laid waste, as hath been said, well-nigh the whole island with his countless thousands of Africans” (book xi, sections 8, 10).

These countless thousands were not Berbers or Arabs. They were whites who came to Ireland from North Africa and Mauritania, where Simon preached. These, declares the *Universal History* (1748 — Vol. xviii, p. 194), “gave out, that their ancestors were driven out of *Asia* by a powerful enemy, and pursued into Greece; from whence they made their escape” to North Africa. “But this . . . was to be understood only of the *white* nations inhabiting some parts of western Barbary and Numidia.”

What white nation was driven from the western shores of Asia? The House of Israel! Their en-

emy? The Assyrians! For almost three centuries after the time of Simon Zelotes they remained in Mauritania. But they are not in North Africa today. They arrived in Britain shortly after A.D. 449, the time of the Anglo-Saxon invasion.

And Ireland, too

Another of the apostles sent to the lost sheep of the House of Israel was James, the son of Alphaeus. Some early writers were confused by the fact that two of the 12 apostles were named James. James, son of Alphaeus, was the one who left Palestine after the first 12 years. The deeds of this apostle are sometimes mistakenly assigned to James, John’s brother. But *that* James had already been martyred by Herod (Acts 12:1-2).

Where did James, son of Alphaeus, preach?

“The Spanish writers generally contend . . . after the death of Stephen he came to these *western* parts, and particularly into *Spain* (some add *Britain* and *Ireland*) where he planted Christianity” (*Antiquitates Apostolicae*, p. 148).

Note it. Yet another apostle sent to the lost sheep of the House of Israel ends in the British Isles — in *Ireland* as well as in Britain.

Even in Spain James spent some time. Why Spain? From ancient times Spain was the high road of migration from the eastern Mediterranean Sea to the British Isles. The ancient royal House of Ireland

for a time dwelt in Spain. The prophet Jeremiah passed through Spain into Ireland with one of Zedekiah’s daughters (Jeremiah 41:10, 43:6). Even today a vital part of the Iberian Peninsula — Gibraltar — belongs to the birthright tribe of Ephraim — the British.

Paul in Britain, too?

Turn, now, to added proof of the apostles’ mission to the House of Israel in the British Isles.

From an old volume, published in 1674, by William Camden, we read: “The true Christian Religion was planted here most anciently by Joseph of Arimathea, Simon Zelotes, Aristobulus, by St. Peter, and St. Paul, as may be proved by Dorotheus, Theodoretus and Sophronius” (*Remains of Britain*, p. 5).

Did you catch that?

Paul is now included! Had Paul planned to go from Italy into Spain and then Britain? Here is his answer: “I shall go by way of you to Spain” (Romans 15:28). Clement of Rome, in his letter to the Corinthians, confirms Paul’s journey to the West. But did that include Britain?

Listen to the words of the Greek church historian Theodoret. He reports “that St. Paul brought salvation *to the isles that lie in the ocean*” (book i, on Psalm cxvi, p. 870). The British Isles!

But was that merely to preach to the gentiles? Not at all. Re-



member that the third and last part of Paul's commission, after he revealed Christ to the kings and rulers at Rome, was to bear the name of Jesus to the "children of Israel" (Acts 9:15) — the Lost Ten Tribes.

This is not a prophecy concerning Jews, whom Paul previously had reached in the Greek world of the eastern Mediterranean. This is a prophecy of Paul's mission all the way to the British Isles. Could anything be more astounding?

On the shores of the Caspian Sea

James referred to Israel as *scattered abroad*. We have found them in Northwest Europe. And in North Africa, from whence they migrated into Ireland and Britain in the fifth century. And in northern Asia Minor, associated with the Assyrians. In A.D. 256 they migrated from the regions of the Black Sea to Denmark, thence into the British Isles in 449.

But remnants of the Lost Ten Tribes were yet in another vast region beyond the confines of the Roman Empire. That region was known as the Kingdom of Parthia.

The Parthians appear near the Caspian Sea around 700 B.C. as slaves of the Assyrians. "According to Diodorus, who probably followed Ctesias, they passed from the dominion of the Assyrians to that of the Medes, and from dependence upon the Medes to a similar position under the Persians" (*The Sixth Great Oriental Monarchy*, p. 26, quoted from Diodorus Siculus, ii 2, § 3; 34, § 1 and § 6).

The Parthians rose to power around 250 B.C. in the lands along the southern shores of the Caspian Sea. That was the land into which a major part of Israel was *exiled!* Some of the Lost Ten Tribes remained in the land of

their captivity until A.D. 226, when the Persians defeated the Parthians.

Now consider this: James addressed his letter to the 12 tribes of Israel scattered abroad. He warns the Israelites against the wars being waged among themselves. When James wrote his letter about A.D. 60 the world was at peace except for two regions — Britain and Parthia. There is no mistaking this. Parthia and Britain were lands where the Israelites lived.

Which of the original 12 apostles carried the Gospel to the Israelites in Parthia?

The Greek historians reveal that Thomas brought the Gospel to "Parthia, after which Sophronius and others inform us, that he preached the gospel to the Medes, Persians, Carmans, Hyrcani, Bactrians, and the neighbor nations" (*Antiquitates Apostolicae*, p. 189). These lands we know today as Iran (or Persia) and Afghanistan as far as western India. In apostolic days a major part of this region was subject to the Parthians.

Though certain Israelites had left the region already, multitudes remained behind, spread over adjoining territory. They lost their identity and became identified with the names of the districts in which they lived.

Josephus, the Jewish historian, was familiar with Parthia as a major dwelling place of the Ten Tribes. He declares: "But then the entire body of the people of Israel [the Ten Tribes] *remained in that country* [they did not return to Palestine]; wherefore there are but two tribes in Asia and Europe subject to the Romans, while the ten tribes are beyond Euphrates till now, and are an immense multitude, and not to be estimated by numbers" (*Antiquities of the Jews*, book xi, chapter v, § 2).

There it is! The very area to which Thomas sojourned was, reports Josephus, filled with uncounted multitudes of the Ten Tribes. Josephus was, apparently, unaware of those who had already migrated westward. But he does

make it plain that only the House of Judah ever returned to Palestine. The House of Israel was "beyond Euphrates till now."

Parthia was defeated by Persia in A.D. 226. Expelled from



Parthia, the Ten Tribes and the Medes moved north of the Black Sea, into Scythia. (See R.G. Latham's *The Native Races of the Russian Empire*, p. 216.)

From there, around A.D. 256, the Ten Tribes migrated with their brethren from Asia Minor into Northwest Europe.

Thomas also journeyed into northwest India, east of Persia, where the "White Indians" dwelt, who have since, like the Frisians earlier in 330 B.C., migrated from India far to the northwest.

Bartholomew shared, with Thomas, the same vast plains, according to Nicephorus. Bartholomew also spent part of his time in neighboring Armenia and a portion of Upper Phrygia in Asia Minor. This was the same district to which Andrew carried the Gospel, and to which Peter sent two of his letters.

Jude, also named Lebbaeus Thaddaeus, had part in the ministry in Assyria and Mesopotamia. That is part of Parthia which Josephus designated as still inhabited by the Ten Tribes. The Parthian kingdom, which included remnants of the Ten Tribes, possessed Assyria and Mesopotamia during most of the New Testament period.

Scythia and Upper Asia (meaning Asia Minor) were the regions assigned to Philip (see Cave's *Antiquitates Apostolicae*, p. 168). Scythia was the name of the vast plain north of the Black and the Caspian seas. To this region a great

Model of a Roman merchant ship. The original apostles traveled on ships of this type to preach the Gospel during the early New Testament Church.

Photo courtesy of the Mariners' Museum

colony of Israelites migrated after the fall of the Persian Empire in 331. From Scythia migrated the Scots. The word *Scot* is derived from the word *Scyth*. It means "an inhabitant of Scythia." The Scots are part of the House of Israel.

Interestingly, the word *Scythia*, in Celtic, has the same meaning that *Hebrew* does in Semitic — a "migrant" or "wanderer."

Where did Matthew go?

Matthew, Metaphrastes tells us, "went first into Parthia, and having successfully planted Christianity in those parts, thence travelled into Aethiopia, that is, the Asiatic Aethiopia, lying near to India" (*Antiquitates Apostolicae*, p. 182).

For some centuries this region of the Hindu Kush, bordering on Scythia and Parthia, was known as "White India." It lies slightly east of the area where the Assyrians settled the Israelite captives. A natural process of growth led the House of Israel to these sparsely populated regions. From there prophecy reveals they migrated to northwest Europe in the sixth century. Dorotheus declares Matthew was buried at Hierapolis in Parthia.

Ethiopic and Greek sources designate Dacia (modern Romania) and Macedonia, north of Greece, as part of the ministry of Matthias. Dacia was the extreme western part of Scythia. From Dacia came the Normans who settled in Scandinavia, France and Britain.

The French tradition that Mary, the mother of Jesus, journeyed into Gaul (modern France) lends weight to John's having been in Gaul in his earlier years. It was to John that Jesus committed Mary's care. She would be where he was working. Paul knew Gaul to be an area settled by the House of Israel. He bypassed Gaul on his way from Italy to Spain (Romans 15:24, 28).

Here is historic evidence to confirm the identity and location of "the House of Israel." How marvelous are the mysteries of God when we truly understand them! □

How Many Apostles Were There?

Some people believe there can be no apostles except for the original 12. Others believe all ministers and even deacons can be classed as apostles. What does the Bible say about apostleship?

By L. Leroy Neff

What does the Bible reveal about the office of an apostle in the Church of God? How many apostles are listed in the New Testament? What does apostleship have to do with the Church today?

The word *apostle* comes from a Greek term that literally means "one sent forth." Some authorities explain that the word means "one commissioned." Others define it as "one sent with a special message or commission."

I Corinthians 12:28 tells us that God has designated the office of apostle as the highest office in the governmental structure and organization of His Church: "And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations,

varieties of tongues." Ephesians 4:11-12 lists the ranks or offices of authority in God's ministry and tells us the purpose of the ministry: "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers [elders], for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

Apostles, as the chief authorities in God's Church, direct God's ministry in teaching God's way and lead the Church in doing God's Work.

How many apostles were mentioned in the New Testament? You may be surprised when you see the complete answer!

Surely everyone will agree that there were 12 apostles. They are mentioned by name in several places, including Acts, the first chapter. Because one of those apostles, Judas Iscariot, betrayed Christ and later hanged himself (Matthew 27:5), it became necessary to select and appoint a re-

placement. The account in Acts states that Matthias was the one selected by God to replace Judas (Acts 1:26). The list of named apostles of Christ now totaled 13 in the New Testament.

James, the Lord's brother

In the 12th chapter of Acts, we learn that James, the son of Zebedee, one of the original apostles, was killed by King Herod (verse 2). There was another James among the original 12, the son of Alphaeus, who apparently is not mentioned after Acts 1:13.

Continuing in the 12th chapter of Acts, we learn from verse 17 that after James was killed, another James remained. In this place Peter said, "Go, tell these things to James and to the brethren." Who was this James? He is referred to in several other places. He played a prominent part in the Jerusalem conference of Acts 15 and is mentioned again in I Corinthians 15:7.

Who this other James was is explained in Galatians 1:19: "But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother." This James, who was a half brother of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, is in this place called an apostle. This brings the number to 14 named apostles.

This James is mentioned again in Galatians 2:9. "And when James, Cephas [Peter], and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised." This James, called by early writers "James the Just," played a prominent part in the early Church.

Other apostles named

The next apostles named in Acts are mentioned in chapter 14. Note verse 4: "But the multitude of the city was divided: part sided with the Jews, and part with the apostles."

Who were these apostles? The previous chapter, verse 50, identifies them as Paul and Barnabas. This now brings our total to 16

named apostles. Lest there be any question about Paul and Barnabas, notice also Acts 14:14: "But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude."

The Bible mentions on many occasions that Paul was an apostle, but Barnabas' office is not referred to as often.

If you think that there are no other apostles mentioned in the New Testament, get set for some more surprises!

The next apostle is referred to in I Corinthians 9:5. Here Paul asks, "Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas [Peter]?"

It is obvious from this statement that more than one brother of the Lord was an apostle. The book of Jude was written by the brother of James. He was also the half brother of Jesus Christ, so it would seem that at least Jude is included in this statement.

Conceivably, Christ's other brothers, Joses and Simon, could have been included. Notice Matthew 13:55: "Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas?" As nothing of importance is mentioned about Joses and Simon elsewhere in Acts or the epistles, they probably were not apostles.

Some claim that those called apostles must have seen Christ. But there is no indication in the scriptures that Barnabas saw Jesus. Likewise, the Bible nowhere gives any such requirement of an apostle of Jesus. Others have claimed that it was necessary that an apostle be with Christ and be a witness to His resurrection. The Scriptures do not indicate that the apostles Paul and Barnabas were witnesses of His resurrection. Neither is there any statement indicating that James or Jude were included in the 500 brethren who saw Jesus during the 40 days after the resurrection (I Corinthians 15:6).

We have now seen evidence of

at least 17 apostles in the New Testament. But the greatest apostle of all time has still not been named.

Our Apostle and High Priest

Notice: "Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus" (Hebrews 3:1).

Yes, Jesus Christ, our High Priest, is also an apostle. He is one sent from God. He carried a commission that He fulfilled in a glorious way. Jesus Christ, then, is the 18th apostle named in the New Testament.

Depending on what was meant by the original writers, four other possible apostles are mentioned; in each case, it seems more likely that the Scriptures do not actually mean that these people were apostles.

Compare I Thessalonians 2:6 with I Thessalonians 1:1. These scriptures refer to Silas (Silvanus) and Timothy as possible apostles. However, elsewhere we read that Timothy was an evangelist (II Timothy 4:5).

Another scripture that some think implies apostleship is Romans 16:7, which refers to Andronicus and Junia. Possibly Junia was the wife of Andronicus, which would mean the text here is not implying that they were apostles, but that they were well known by the apostles.

The Bible refers to other apostles who were sent, not by Jesus Christ, but instead by the adversary, Satan the devil: "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light" (II Corinthians 11:13-14). How many of these satanic apostles there were and are, we do not know.

There is one reference in the New Testament to an "apostle" of men. It is found in Philippians 2:25, where Epaphroditus was referred to by the apostle Paul as "your messenger." In this text the word *messenger* comes from the same Greek word that is else-

where translated "apostle." In this case he was a "messenger" of the church at Philippi. He was sent to help Paul with his physical needs. He was not one sent as an apostle of Jesus Christ.

Twentieth-century apostles

What has happened during the last 19 centuries? Have there been any other apostles? We have no historical record of any until this century. Quite possibly there have been apostles in God's Church down through the ages.

In I Corinthians 9, Paul shows the proof of his apostleship: "Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord" (verses 1-2).

Just as proofs in the life of Paul set him forth as an apostle of Jesus Christ, in our time others have also been used by God in powerful ways. Through one, Herbert W. Armstrong, the Worldwide Church of God was established. Through him, the doctrines of God were restored to the Body of Christ. Through him, directly or indirectly, most of us in the Church have come to the knowledge of the truth, repentance and baptism. Through him, demons have been cast out, and many have been healed. Isn't that the fruit, the seal, of apostleship?

It is eminently clear, and has been for years, that Jesus Christ and God the Father specially sent forth Herbert W. Armstrong with a commission, and his fruits showed that he was an apostle. For many years, Mr. Armstrong did not claim that he was fulfilling this office. Probably he did not need to, as the Church recognized him as an apostle whether or not he took that title. Several

years before his death he finally recognized by the fruits that God had appointed him an apostle. He then continued to call himself an apostle until his death.

Some critics of the Church have resented this, though they seem to have no criticism of many others who call themselves apostles, in a large variety of Christian churches.

A few rejected Mr. Armstrong as an apostle because they disagreed with how he did things or what he did. The same type of people criticized Abraham, Mo-

Testament verse shows that he was an apostle — one sent forth.

Is this God's Church? If not, we had better find where it is and go there. If this is the true Church of God, then who is in charge?

The Scriptures answer clearly and unmistakably that Jesus Christ is the Head of His Church (Colossians 1:18). Christ is in and with His Church.

Therefore, if Jesus Christ is in charge, does He have power to direct the affairs of the Church the way He wants? Yes. He is in charge and sent Mr. Armstrong to lead His Church. Since the death of Mr. Armstrong, Joseph W. Tkach has continued that leadership in preparing the way for Christ's return. The decision and responsibility to appoint someone to the high office of apostle is that of Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church. The membership of God's Church has recognized these apostles.

Here are the words of Jesus Christ: "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me" (John 13:20).

Notice that Jesus is referring to the one whom He sends. If we receive the one He sends, His apostle, then we are receiving Jesus Christ and the Father. On the other hand, if we reject the one Christ has sent, we reject Christ.

Rejecting one that the living Christ sends is a fatal mistake!

Those who wish to obey God need to get back of the apostle Jesus Christ has sent for now — Mr. Tkach. We need to support him in carrying out this Work the way that Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, wants it done.

For more information on the history of God's true Church and where you can find that Church today, write for free copies of our reprint article "The Church They Couldn't Destroy" and our booklet *Where Is the True Church?* Send your request to our address nearest you. See inside front cover of this magazine for a list of our addresses. □

APOSTLES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

Jesus Christ said,
"He who receives whomever I send receives Me"
(John 13:20)

| | |
|--|--|
| Jesus Christ | Hebrews 3:1 |
| Simon Peter (<i>chief apostle under Christ</i>) | Matthew 10:1-4, Mark 3:14-19, |
| Andrew | Luke 6:13-16, |
| James (<i>son of Zebedee</i>) | Acts 1:13 |
| John | |
| Philip | |
| Bartholemew | |
| Thomas | |
| Matthew | |
| James the son of Alphaeus | |
| Simon the Canaanite (<i>Simon the Zealot</i>) | |
| Lebbaeus Thaddaeus (<i>Judas the son of James</i>) | |
| Judas Iscariot | |
| Matthias | Acts 1:26 |
| James, the Lord's brother (<i>"James the Just"</i>) | Acts 12:17, 15:13, I Corinthians 15:7, Galatians 1:19, 2:9 |
| Paul, Barnabas | Acts 13:50, 14:4, 14 |
| Jude (<i>"the brother of the Lord"</i>) | Matthew 13:55, I Corinthians 9:5 |

ses, David, Peter and other biblical personalities through whom God worked.

Who is preparing the way?

Malachi 3:1 says that, before the return of Jesus Christ, God will send someone: "Behold, I will send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me."

An apostle is one sent. Mr. Armstrong was one fulfilling that passage, and thus even this Old

What Do You Mean — 'Christ Is the End of the Law'?

By Frank W. Nelte

Romans 10:4 reads, "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes."

Many people will turn to this verse and say: "There you are! That says clearly that Christ did away with the law."

Really? Is that what it says? Let's look at this verse more closely.

What Romans 10:4 really says

First, let's clearly understand the context of this verse.

In chapter 9 of Romans Paul explained that God's plan for mankind is based on divine election, by which God specially chooses people to carry out His will. In the Old Testament God elected Israel. Now, in chapter 10, Paul explains further that because Israel as a whole did not respond to God, therefore God gave some gentiles access to salvation at this time.

Next, let's take a look at the word *end* in Romans 10:4. The original Greek word is *telos*, from which we get such English words as *telescope* ("to look far"), *telephone* ("to hear sound from far") and *television* ("to see from far").

The root of the Greek word *telos* means "to set out for a definite point or goal" — in other words, to have a specific aim or target. English equivalents in-

clude *goal*, *purpose*, *outcome* and *result*.

In the first three verses of Romans 10 Paul talks about the physical Israelites of his time. While he wished and desired that they could all come into God's Church at that time (verse 1), he pointed out that their religious zeal was misdirected (verse 2). The key to true Christianity is to submit to "the righteousness of God," which the Israelites were not doing (verse 3).

By "the righteousness of God" Paul means keeping God's commandments (Romans 3:31, Psalm 119:172). The Israelites did not believe what God said, and they didn't believe in seeking righteousness God's way!

Now, in verse 4, Paul contrasts the way these Israelites were following with the way in which a true believer would seek the righteousness of God. The difference lies not so much in the outward actions as in the motivation or the attitude toward living God's way.

The right motivation

The Israelites' motivation for trying to keep God's laws was "to establish their own righteousness" (verse 3). Jesus Christ pointed out that this typified the attitude of the Pharisees of His time (Luke 18:9-12).

By contrast, a Christian's motivation for keeping God's laws is to demonstrate faith in Christ and in Christ's sacrifice. A Christian understands that keeping God's law is the only way to have

the physical and spiritual blessings everyone desires.

"For Christ is the end [*telos* — motivation, purpose, aim, goal] of the law for righteousness." The motivation for keeping God's laws, which will lead to righteousness, is Christ — faith in His sacrifice and in the promises He left us. That's what this verse is telling us!

And this is only "to everyone who believes." In this chapter Paul goes on to show that this motivation cannot be based on sight. Certainly not. It must be based on faith, which does not depend on physical evidence.

A few verses later Paul shows that the faith to keep God's laws from a right motivation can only come after "hearing" (verse 17) — in other words, being exposed to God's true message.

Those who respond to God's calling by believing and obeying God become part of the Body of God's elect people.

You are right now reading a magazine that explains God's message in plain language. So what's *your* motivation? Do you desire to obey God's laws — or, like most people, do you instead want to reject God's way as revealed by His commandments?

Romans 10:4 most emphatically does *not* say God's law has been done away. If you want to be one of God's elect people, you will want to obey God. Your motivation in all you do will be to demonstrate faith in Christ and to please God! □

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

Dating

Dating Toward Marriage

How can you know if you're ready for marriage? How would you recognize a potential mate?

By Norman L. Shoaf

Not every date leads toward marriage. Not every date ought to. Most dates should simply give men and women chances to build friendship, personality and character through varied cultural and recreational activities.

But at the right time and in the right way, dating *can and should* lead toward marriage. And marriage preceded by courtship based on the laws of God can be the highest, happiest and most rewarding of all human relationships!

Unfortunately, millions of people lose out on the wonderful joys of marriage they should experience. Why? Because of wrong dating practices before marriage! They stumble into ill-advised marriages with the wrong people, or they don't wait until they are mature enough to handle all the responsibilities of marriage, or they spoil the marriage relationship by indulging in premarital sex, or they fail to see how vital it is to stay committed to this God-ordained institution.

If you are planning to be married soon, or if you are even thinking about being married someday, you need to carefully read every word in this seventh article in our series on dating.

Why not just live together?

We live in an age of rampant divorce and broken homes. Even men and women who

stay married are sometimes miserably unhappy in their situations.

Many ask, "Why should I get married in the first place?" Or, "If we love each other, why do we need a piece of paper to tell us it's OK to live together?" Or, "Isn't it a good idea, even if you intend to get married, to live with the person first to see if you're compatible?"

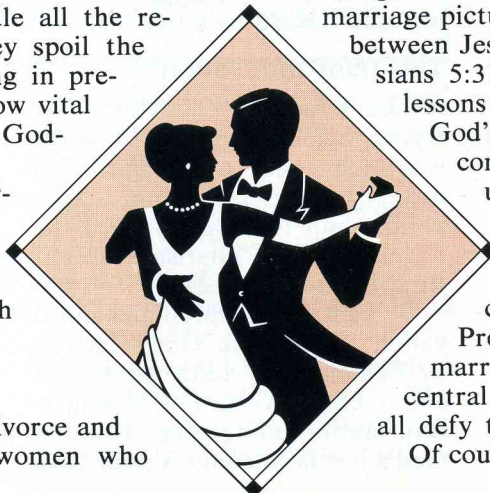
The answers to all these questions lie in understanding some basic principles we have stressed throughout this series of articles.

Marriage is much more than just a physical, natural union. Marriage did not evolve as a mere social custom among humans who themselves evolved from lower forms of life.

God Almighty, the Creator of human life, created marriage at the beginning (Genesis 2:18). Human marriage pictures the coming spiritual marriage between Jesus Christ and His Church (Ephesians 5:31-32). Living in and learning the lessons of the physical family prepare God's called people to enter the spirit-composed Family of God at the resurrection (I John 3:1-2).

These vital truths render null and void all social relationships that reject the biblical laws concerning marriage and the family! Premarital sex, living together before marriage, adultery and other practices central to the modern "sexual revolution" all defy the laws of God!

Of course, if you have read this far in this



series, you no doubt are not among those who want to continue to defy God. If you are still reading, you *want* to know the right way to have a happy marriage. You *want* to know how to avoid the modern scourges of divorce, unhappy marriages, loneliness and shattered families. You *want* to know how to date to eventually find the right person with whom you can blissfully share the rest of your life.

And God's Word gives you the answers!

The most important key

Here is the single most important key to remember in dating toward marriage: *Base everything you do on the laws of God.*

Despite what people want to believe, despite the contrary arguments of false ministers, despite the struggle you will have in this world when you set out to obey God, keeping God's laws ultimately produces every joy and reward you could desire (Psalm 19:7-11). Thousands who have decided to live God's way can heartily validate this incredibly good news!

Fear of commitment, living together without a formal marriage agreement and sexual experimentation before marriage lead to trouble. Loving monogamy, a desire to be faithful and an attitude of caring for and serving one special, beloved person for the rest of your life lead to a wonderfully happy and lasting marriage.

And a basic foundation of a strong, happy marriage is the right dating that precedes it.

But in specific, practical terms, what role does dating play in selecting a life partner for marriage?

Knowing when you're ready

There comes a time when friendship, respect, admiration and attraction between the right man and the right woman combine and deepen into something more. The relationship takes on that beautiful, wonderful quality the Bible refers to as "the way of a man with a maid" (Proverbs 30:19, King James Version).

The man and woman have matured physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. They are financially stable. They have dated widely and know what they want in a mate. They have examined their own personalities, talents and motives, and know what they can contribute to a marriage. They both desire to give and serve in a lasting relationship with a particular person of the opposite sex.

They find that they truly love each other.

Remember, true love is outgoing concern for the needs and desires of the other person. True love contains no element of selfish concern for one's own lusts or demands. True love involves making a conscious decision to care for and serve the other person's best interests without ever asking anything in return.

To truly love in a marital way, a person must want to share all of life's experiences, thrills and joys — to share trouble and sorrow — to share success or failure — to share health and sickness. When you

find a completely compatible person who helps you appraise your own ideas and actions, who complements and helps balance you with good ideas and actions of his or her own, who actually helps make you a better person by his or her presence in your life — then you may well be headed toward true love.

Now your dating takes on a special purpose. Now you want to determine if the two of you can be right together — permanently. What specific points should you now think about in your dating?

Could you succeed as husband and wife?

You certainly already have some ideas about what you would like in a husband or wife. Dating should now bring those ideas into clear focus as they relate to the person with whom



marriage has now become a distinct possibility.

A man should ask himself if he cares more about her than about any other person in the world (Ephesians 5:25). You should find her personality and her appearance supremely attractive. You must have no doubt that you can "always be enraptured with her love" (Proverbs 5:15-19) — that you will be perfectly satisfied, even anxious, to forsake all others and "cleave" to her for the rest of your life (Genesis 2:24, KJV).

Making this choice does not require premarital sex or living together before marriage! Remember that true love is a matter of choice — a conscious decision on your part that, in your life, with your wife, fidelity, ongoing romance and physical and spiritual love will be the case.

Would this woman make a good mother? Does

Illustration by Wendy Lagerström; photos by Hal Finch

she want the same number of children you do, and at the same time?

Most important, is pleasing God the driving force in her life — the No. 1 purpose for her existence? Is obeying God's laws even more important to her than pleasing you? Think about it! This will be for the best in your marriage.

Other important virtues a man should look for in a woman are compatibility and adaptability. Does this girl follow your lead (Ephesians 5:22)? Does she obviously respect you? Do you respect her?

A woman should consider carefully whether she will be able to respect, submit to and be affectionate toward the man for the rest of her life (Ephesians 5:22-24). Does he make sensible decisions? Is he assertive in the right way, without being overbearing or inconsiderate of your

about your working outside the home, if it was necessary for you to do so?

Will he make a good father? Does he like children? Will he be able to love, teach, discipline and earn the respect of his children?

Talk everything out. Discuss plans and goals. Ask questions and find out all you can about each other. Don't assume anything or leave anything to chance. God warns that you and your future wife or husband will not be able to walk together in marriage unless you *agree* (Amos 3:3).

Major points to consider

Here are some specific areas you must consider about your potential mate:

● *Friendship*. Millions of people marry for the wrong reasons — for convenience, out of lust, to gain security, on a whim, to get away from parents, for money. But you should not even consider marriage unless it is built on a relationship of growing love. Perhaps the most important point is that you should simply be strong, deep, close *friends*.

You may well start out as friends before you both realize that you have become or would like to become something more. If your marriage is based on friendship, that unity and closeness can transcend any problems that come along later. Whatever happens, you will always be friends, and that will help keep you together!

Being friends means spending lots of time together, whether working together, enjoying some type of recreation or just being happy in each other's company. Being friends means building deep trust, understanding, respect, reliance. Cherishing, nourishing and enjoying the relationship you have with your special male or female friend will mean more to you than any other physical consideration. A husband or wife can actually become "a friend who sticks closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24).

● *Communication*. Husbands and wives must communicate often, seriously and in detail.

Dr. Leland Glover, in a book entitled *How to Marry Someone You Can Live With All Your Life*, said: "Intimate, friendly and prolonged communication between a husband and wife tends to weld them together whereas a decided decline in this type of communication tends to break up existing attachments. Partners who are going steady can and should assess their ability to communicate effectively. Studies reveal that couples who communicate well during courtship generally continue this wholesome pattern in marriage, while those who communicate poorly but get married anyway continue this negative relationship after the wedding."

How much and how well do you *talk* with the person you are dating? Are your conversations awkward, trivial, negative — or do you not really talk at all?

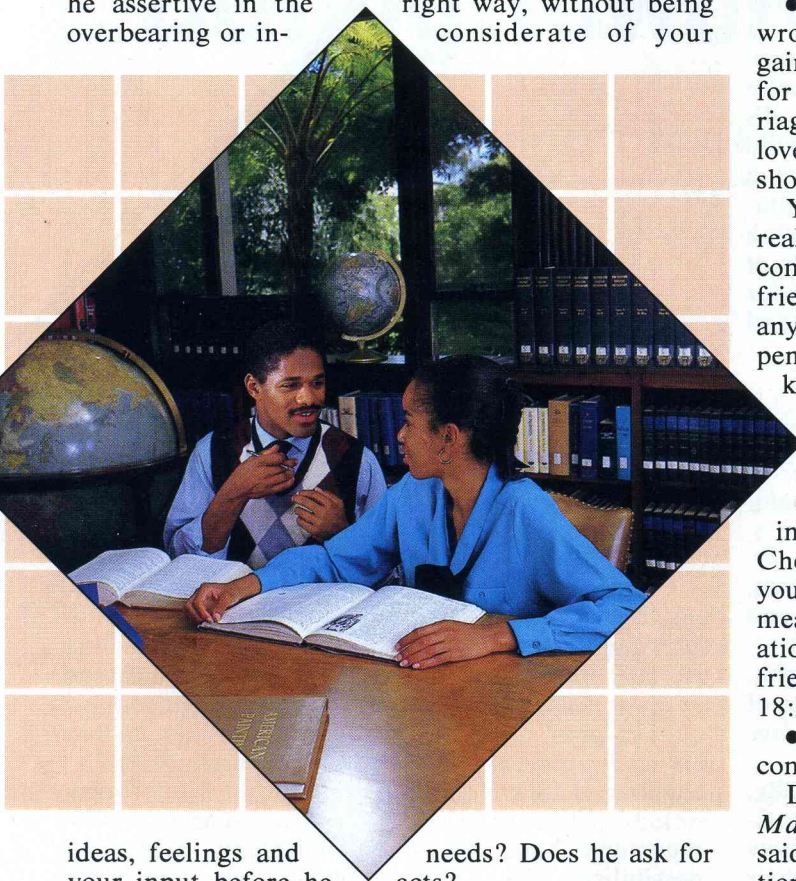
This is why dating should involve more than sitting in a darkened movie house all the time or being entertained by some other outside stimulus. If

ideas, feelings and needs? Does he ask for your input before he acts?

Is he reckless? Does he have bad habits — e.g., drinking too much, driving poorly, not watching his health, being unconcerned about his appearance? Does he find you attractive? Is he able to openly express, in proper affection and words, how pleased he is with you? Do you find him attractive?

Are you absolutely certain of his concern for your best interests? Are you sure that you now are and always will be the only woman he loves this way? Is he considerate of you, making sure not to spoil your future by pressuring you into premarital sex (I Corinthians 6:18)?

Is he a hard worker? Does he have a good job? Will he do whatever is necessary to provide for you and your children, or will money problems continually undermine your marriage? How does he feel



you don't talk now — if you don't talk a lot, and enjoy talking — you won't after you are married. The result? Your marriage will be filled with loneliness, alienation from each other and bad decisions (because you will never discuss anything!).

● **Personality.** Many marriages suffer because men and women don't get to know each other while dating beforehand, and thus they marry the wrong people. Then, after the wedding, they proceed to try to change their mates to suit their likes and dislikes. It doesn't work!

It all has to do with personality, and with talking before marriage. If partners' interests, goals and desires are the same — if their temperaments, sense of humor and idiosyncrasies match or complement each other — then they will be able to live together happily.

But after the wedding is no time to start developing common interests, talents or hobbies. You should find out while you are dating whether you share complementary aspects of personality.

Ask yourself: "Can I marry this person as he or she is — without trying to change his or her personality? Am I totally without reservations about the way he or she is? Do his or her habits bother me? Do our hobbies, values, goals and even recreational pursuits generally match or complement?"

No one is perfect. If you wait to find the "perfect" mate, you will never be married. But you should be able to feel that the person with whom you are contemplating marriage is perfect *for you*.

● **Health.** Physical and mental health are important if a marriage is to run smoothly and enjoyably.

How concerned is the man or woman about diet and exercise? Is the person free of problems such as smoking and alcohol and drug abuse? Has the person been infected with some sexual disease or with some other life-spoiling illness?

Take a hard look, too, at the person's mental and emotional state. Is he or she optimistic, cynical, easy to get along with, loudmouthed, relaxed, easily angered, prone to physical violence, full of weird ideas? Does he or she have a strange sense of humor — or no sense of humor — wild mood swings, mental quirks, unreasonable fears?

You should see each other in as many different situations as possible as you date. See how each other responds to varied situations.

Do you see why marriage must be based on more than a few "dates" in the backseat of a car? Do you see why you must evaluate a person on more than how he or she dresses, dances, kisses or tells jokes?

● **Heredity and environment.** Certainly, no one can be condemned for where or how he or she was born or who the parents were. And to a large extent, most people had little control over how they grew up. But heredity and environment most assuredly do affect all of us in our lives now. If no problems in this area exist to begin with, you won't have to worry about them in your future marriage. So find out about the person's background.

Take a look at his or her parents. What have they

accomplished? Do they look down on anyone who aspires to higher education or who wants to better himself or herself? Are they comfortable in elegant environments *and* humble surroundings? Are they prejudiced?

Do they drink heavily? Are they overweight? If you look at your future wife's or husband's parents, you can probably get a pretty good idea what your wife or husband is going to look and be like in about 20 to 25 years!

Think about the education, experience, political stance and social and cultural level of your prospective mate. If the woman has a stronger personality or is simply more intelligent than the man, for example, she will have a hard time respecting and submitting to him. What kind of environment will the person be comfortable in after marriage? Is he or she perfectly happy in a small apartment in a rundown section of a large city? Does he or she want anything more out of life?

Engagement period — and wedding

When you find yourself getting especially interested in a certain person, it is time to seek wise counsel about what is developing.

Of course, the wisest counsel you can possibly seek comes from God Himself. "A prudent wife is from the Lord" (Proverbs 19:14). The same is true of prudent husbands!

Pray for God's guidance in your relationship. Ask Him to help you choose the right mate for you, just as He did with the first man and woman at the start of human history. If God is involved in your choice of a wife or husband, and both you and your future mate set yourselves to obey God's laws concerning love, marriage and sex, you can't go wrong. Ask God to help you see everything you should as you decide who you want to marry.

Again, *base everything you do on the laws of God.*

Also seek counsel from the people who know you and this special person best — your parents, families and friends. Be sure they are honest and constructive when they offer advice.

Engagements vary in length. Normally it is not advisable to wait longer than a year: You should be drawing closer during this time, and too much intimacy could lead to premarital sexual involvement.

During the engagement you should spend most of your free time together. There is so much to discuss! You should get to know each other deeply, and you will have much to decide concerning the coming wedding and your plans after the wedding.

If you decide once and for all to follow God's laws in every aspect of your dating and friendships with the opposite sex, then you can enjoy this assurance: On your wedding day — and, happily, ever after — you can be sure you have married exactly the right person for you, that God has blessed the marriage and that you have nothing to look forward to except vibrantly joyous love, happiness and true contentment together! □

Who and What Is Satan?

The stealth bomber, an airplane that is now under development by the United States government, is touted to be invisible to enemy radar. The plane supposedly can perform the ultimate disappearing act!

Or can it?

Many Christians think not. They know — or at least they think they know — of an invisible enemy who has been around for millennia, wreaking havoc. He is Satan the devil, and although unseen, he is real!

Or is he?

You need to know, for an enemy you can't see may be an enemy who doesn't exist. Or he may be an enemy who not only exists but is your most fearsome foe!

The basic doctrine

If the Bible is our authority, then the answer is clear: Satan not only exists, he is a powerful but wicked spirit being. He was created perfect, but became corrupted by sin. He is the invisible leader of all fallen angels, the unseen author of all evil and the tempter, deceiver and destroyer of mankind.

The usual teachings of this world

Because Satan is a spirit and unseen, humanity has forged many false ideas about just how he must look. He is often imagined to be a short, skinny elf in red tights, with pointed ears or

horns, a barbed tail and a pitchfork in his hand.

Sad to say, this erroneous mental cartoon of Satan's appearance seems so funny that many conclude he is but a harmless little creature on a par with a villain from a Walt Disney film. A few philosophical types view Satan as a convenient — but totally imaginary — way to describe or personify all the evil in this world. Others have no use at all for the devil, and consider him a total fake, pure and simple.

But some religious people are downright, openly afraid of the devil. They ascribe to him personally every bad thing that happens to them, be it a failed marriage or a flat tire on their car.

Just what is the truth?

The Bible teaching

To begin, the Bible shows that three levels or classes of being exist in the universe. Man and animals, both composed of physical matter, make up one class. The spirit-composed members of the God Family, which at present includes God the Father and Jesus Christ (John 1:1-2, 14), are

another class, the highest form of life. The third class of being is the angels.

Angels are "spirits" (spirit beings — Hebrews 1:7) who serve as God's helpers as He unfolds His plan for man (verse 14). Hebrews 2:5-7 explains that man right now is lower than the angels. But man will eventually be set in authority over angels when he is finally resurrected as a spirit being (verse 8, I Corinthians 6:3).

Thus we see that angels are spirit beings of superior power and authority to man. They minister as God's servants in matters God directs.

Within the angelic realm, differing ranks or stations of angels exist. Two that the Bible mentions specifically are the cherubim (Genesis 3:24) and the seraphim (Isaiah 6:2). We can conclude from biblical evidence that there are probably just two cherubim, and that they hold special responsibility at God's own throne. More on this below.

Some angels are righteous and some are wicked (Luke 11:26), the latter having "sinned" and been "cast down" (II Peter 2:4, Jude 6). These fallen angels — demons — have over them a ruler or prince or boss. His name is Satan (Matthew 9:34, Luke 11:14-19)!

Exactly how did Satan come to his position as chief of the wicked spirits? Two main portions of scripture fill in the important details: Isaiah 14:12-15 and Ezekiel 28:12-17.

Isaiah 14 starts with a taunt against Babylon, which carried



the nation of Judah into captivity. Verse 12, however, makes a literary jump into prehistory and begins to taunt the real power behind Babylon — Satan the devil, here called Lucifer.

Verse 12 exclaims that Satan was “cut down.” Verses 13 and 14 reveal that the thoughts of his heart had been to exalt his authority even above God’s — actually to knock God off His throne! Verse 15 shows that these evil plans were ill-fated, for God was to bring him “down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit.”

Notice how these verses parallel Christ’s statement that He beheld Satan “fall like lightning from heaven” (Luke 10:18), and Peter’s record that the demons were “cast down” from God’s presence (II Peter 2:4).

Continuing, now in Ezekiel 28, we find more of the details. Ezekiel 28 opens with a prophecy against the ancient city of Tyre, a powerful seacoast kingdom in Palestine during Old Testament times. The prophecy against the entire city is couched in terms directed to the “prince” or ruler of Tyre, since the ruler is responsible, in God’s eyes, for the sins of the city.

But in verse 12, a complaint or cry is made, not against the “prince,” but against the “king” of Tyre. The language that follows makes it plain that no human is being spoken of here, but rather that the evil power behind the prince of Tyre — the king of evil, Satan the devil — is actually being addressed.

Verse 12 shows Satan was created full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. Verse 14 states that Satan was an angel of the type or rank of cherub. He had been at the very throne of God! Verse 15 says he had been created perfect, but that iniquity “was found” in him. Verses 16 and 17 indicate his sins included vanity, covetousness and selfishness.

Before summarizing these two

sections, it is helpful to briefly cite Revelation 12:3-4. Here we see Satan, symbolized as a dragon, having authority over one third of the angels of heaven (called “stars”).

When we combine this with Isaiah and Ezekiel, the full picture emerges!

Satan was a powerful and beautiful angel, a cherub, with high responsibilities, reporting directly to God’s throne. He had, apparently, power over one third of the angels. Most likely the other two thirds of the angels were under the direction of the other two cherubim (Michael and Gabriel, probably).

Although created perfect, Satan had the power of free choice. He chose to follow the way of vanity and covetousness, and thus became corrupted. He tried to overthrow God, but was beaten back and thrown down to the earth along with his angels, who became demons.

A brief survey of the biblical names for Satan shows Satan’s present role and character. He is called a serpent (Genesis 3:1), the devil and Satan (Revelation 12:9), the evil one (John 17:15), the angel of the bottomless pit and Abaddon and Apollyon, which both mean “destroyer” (Revelation 9:11), Beliel (II Corinthians 6:15) and Beelzebub (Matthew 12:24).

Though this may surprise many, the Bible clearly calls Satan the ruler of this world (John 12:31) and the god of this age (II Corinthians 4:4)!

Of course, Satan is man’s chief tempter (Mark 1:13, 4:15, I Corinthians 7:5). He is the deceiver — not of the few, but of the whole world (Revelation 12:9, II Corinthians 11:14).

But how does Satan work? Although spirits can possess a person if given permission, this is not the usual way they tempt or attack.

All of us know how every per-

son exudes a power of personality that radiates from him through his moods, emotions and tastes. Thus a person may be said to be the life of the party, or the drag on the company. His or her influence seems infectious for the good or bad of others.

Satan, a spirit being, is far more powerful than any human. He is able to transmit, as it were, the attitudes or moods of rebellion, vanity and hate and infect others, just as surely as a sour person can dampen a party. And this influence occurs without physical contact. Satan is able to “fill” one’s heart (Acts 5:3). He transmits his evil moods and attitudes through the “air” (Ephesians 2:2), much like radio waves travel through the air.

Yes, we all have been deceived. But the greatest deception of all is the one many people now believe: that Satan doesn’t exist in the first place or, if he does, that he is a harmless cartoon elf. The Bible states differently!

Satan is a powerful, evil being. His whole purpose, Christ said, is “to steal, and to kill, and to destroy” (John 10:10)!

Key verses

Here are some of the main Bible verses about Satan: Hebrews 1:7, 2:5-7 — the role of angels is defined. Luke 11:26, II Peter 2:4, Jude 6 — some angels are wicked and have been cast from God. Matthew 9:34, Luke 11:14-19 — the leader of fallen angels is Satan. Isaiah 14:12-15, Ezekiel 28:12-17 — the story of Satan’s rebellion. Revelation 12:9 — Satan deceives the whole world. John 12:31, II Corinthians 4:4 — Satan is called the ruler and god of this evil world.

Yes, America’s stealth bomber may or may not succeed. But one thing is sure: Satan the devil, a hidden but powerful foe of mankind, is indeed the original — and most deadly — disappearing act of all time! □

Festival '87



The Feast of Tabernacles gives God's people an exciting preview of the coming Kingdom of God.

The fall Holy Day season is a wonderful time of exhilarating joy and excitement for all true Christians!

And no wonder!

These deeply meaningful Holy Days foreshadow the climactic events *just ahead* that will culminate in the first resurrection, the change from mortal to immortal of God's firstfruits and the establishment of the glorious Kingdom of God over all nations under the perfect rulership of Jesus Christ.

These days are of supreme encouragement to God's people because they bring into sharp focus the *end product* of our calling — the *fulfillment* of God's promises toward us, and the time when the *solutions* to the grievous problems of mankind will at last begin to be put into effect.

What a Wonderful Time!

By Joseph W. Tkach

God's coming government

When Jesus returns to earth in glory as *active, supreme world Head of state*, He will rule in a way that the inhabitants of the earth have not experienced rulership before. For the first time in man's history since Eden, there will be true *justice* for *every* human being.

Every law, policy and ordinance of the new government will be *fair*. This government will, in *truth*, be *for* the people.

Jesus Christ will not judge after the sight of His eyes nor the hearing of His ears, "but with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. Righteousness

Photos: Warren Watson; Don Ferguson

shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist" (Isaiah 11:4-5).

As the begotten children of God and future joint heirs with Christ (Romans 8:14-17), we need to understand that righteousness will also be the belt of *our* loins, and faithfulness the belt of *our* waists! We must become *just like Him!* Our judgment must become *righteous* judgment. We must come to understand how to be fair and equitable.

That is why God has called us *now* rather than later, when He will call the rest of mankind. We in the Church have received the firstfruits of His Spirit, and through that Spirit He is building in us the *mind* of our Master, Jesus Christ.

In short, God is preparing us for the brilliant future responsibility of exercising rulership in exactly the same manner as Jesus Christ!

That is why God has made us His firstfruits. We are to be priests of God and reign with Christ for a thousand years (Revelation 20:6).

The wonderful future

Human governments have proven their inability to provide a safe, productive, clean environment for their peoples. They have *rejected* what God is implanting in us. The wretched problems facing mankind today *cannot* and *will not* be solved by man alone.

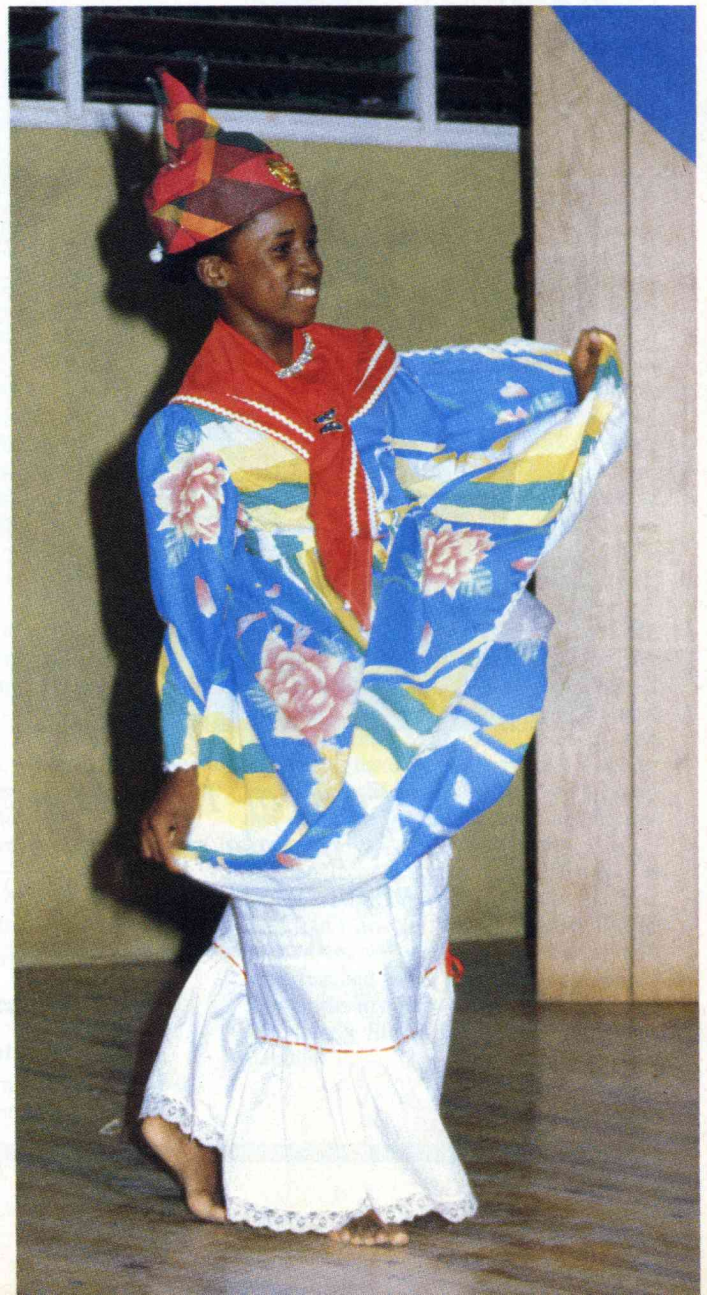
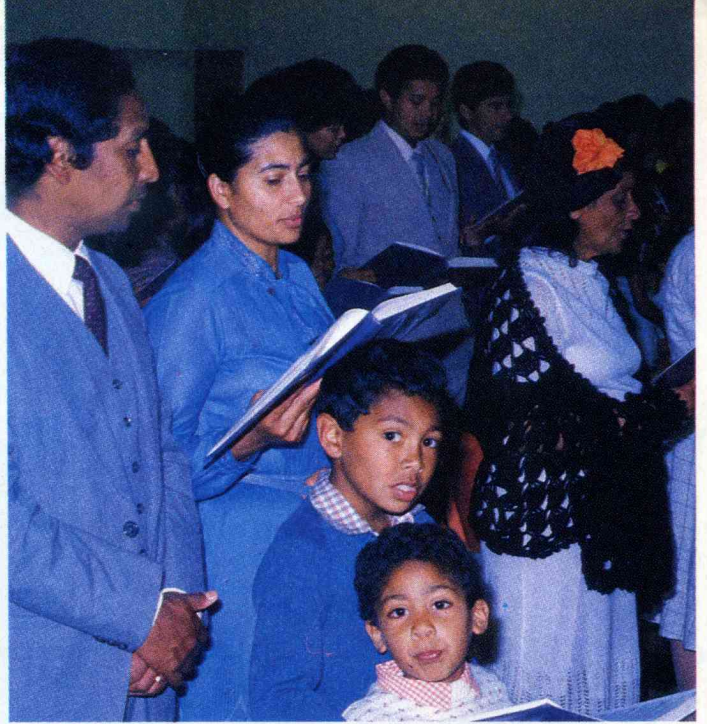
The earth and its inhabitants *groan* for change, for hope, for deliverance. The only way out of the incredible mess the world is in, the only hope, is the return of Jesus Christ and the establishment of His *perfect* government.

But Jesus will not be ruling alone! His government will be made up of spirit-born children of God, the *firstfruits*, who have submitted their lives, hearts, minds and attitudes wholeheartedly to Him *now*, in *this* physical, human life!

The awful state of this world should not discourage us, but *motivate us to redouble our efforts* to draw close to God, and come out of the ways that have produced these desperate conditions!

God calls us the salt (a preserving agent) of the earth (Matthew 5:13). But we can be effectively used as salt only if we *understand* our calling and truly *submit* ourselves to the great Master Potter who is fashioning us into perfect sons — fully prepared to take on the awesome responsibilities He is anxious to give us!

My dear brethren, let's keep the vision of what God is doing in and through His Church in clear focus! As we keep this year's Feast, let's praise and thank God for the unswerving *confidence* He has given us about the wonderful future that truly *does* lie ahead! □





Step Into the Future at the 1987 Feast of Tabernacles

*At more than 90 sites worldwide,
God's people will gather to enjoy an advance
glimpse at the wonderful world tomorrow!*

By K. Neil Earle

We have seen the future — and it works! That's the way we in the Worldwide Church of God feel — and with good reason! — when we contemplate the marvelous Fall Festival the Scriptures call “the Feast of Tabernacles” (Leviticus 23:34).

Why?

Because at that Festival the future is working itself out already. And it is an amazingly bright, hopeful and positive future! The great Fall Festival points the way to a Millennium of peace, prosperity and plenty for all (Revelation 20:6).

Let's explain: The Feast of Tabernacles is as old as Moses and as timeless as the example of Jesus Christ, the world's greatest peacemaker. Christ observed this Festival (John 7). He commanded His disciples to do so as well (Matthew 28:20).

Why? What was there about the Fall Festival that emphasized Christ's role as the Prince of peace?

The surprising good news is that the greatest contribution to peace a human could make is to

keep the feasts of God! That is a bold statement, we know, but hear us out.

World leaders are alarmed

First, consider this: For almost 6,000 years of recorded history humans have wanted peace. They have worked for peace, they have prayed for peace, they have marched for peace. They have even fought and killed for peace.

Yet, despite many altruistic efforts, we are still a long, long way from true peace on earth.

Some of humanity's best minds put it very eloquently. Former U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower said this: “In the swift rush of great events, we find ourselves groping to know the full sense and meaning of the times in which we live . . . How far have we come in man's long pilgrimage from darkness toward light? Are we nearing the light? Or are the shadows of another night closing in on us?”

And U.S. President John F. Kennedy pointedly warned, “Mankind must put an end to war, or war will put an end to mankind.”

The late U.N. Secretary-General U Thant asked: “What ele-



Photos: (counterclockwise from top left) George Saville, Basil A. Beckles, Graham Macklow, Francisco Esparosa, Peter Mills

ment is lacking, so that, with all our skill and our knowledge, we still find ourselves in the dark valley of discord and enmity? Why is it, that for all of our professed ideals, our hopes and our skills, peace on earth is still a distant objective?"

How pointed: "What element is lacking . . . ?" Does anyone have the answers? Is there a world view that could show hope for humanity, point the way out for perplexed world leaders?

Yes. The Holy Days and festivals of God, the sacred days Jesus Christ continually observed as a human (Luke 2:41) — if rightly understood — point the way out for suffering mankind.

Seven pillars of wisdom

Anciently, God revealed these seven festivals to His people Israel. They were to be annual days that pointed out the seven steps in the plan of salvation. They fell

at three seasons of the year (Deuteronomy 16:16).

The first of these sacred observances, the Passover, reminds us of the supreme significance of Christ's death for all humanity. Each Christian who quietly ingests a morsel of unleavened bread and sips a tiny glass of wine at the Passover (Matthew 26:26-28) is in effect saying: "I'm the problem. My sins killed Christ. I'm the one who needs to change. Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me."

That is a far cry from the attitude others in this world hold!

That is the attitude of a peacemaker, the attitude Jesus Christ requires of His servants (Matthew 5:9).

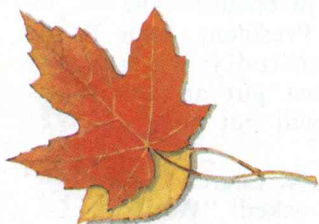
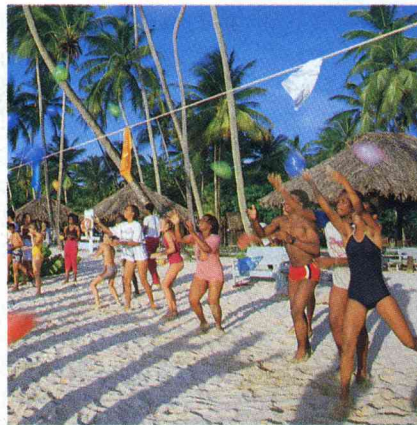
In the Tabernacle of God built millennia ago, the blood of sacrificial animals was put on the four horns of the great altar (Leviticus 4:7). This signified Christ's sacrifice reaching to the four corners

of the earth, reconciling all people, eventually — restoring them to a peaceful relationship with their Creator.

The seven days that follow the Passover, the Days of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:6), picture a world free of the arrogance, jealousy and carnality that trigger the struggles that have blighted humanity for 6,000 years.

The seven days of flat bread, bread with all the puffing agents removed, are a physical reminder of the way nations and individuals will conduct themselves in the world tomorrow (I Corinthians 5:1-8). "Blessed are the meek," Jesus promised, "for they shall inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5).

And we will all need help to live that way. That is one reason the prophet Ezekiel was given the vision of an immense healing river flowing out from the Temple after Jesus Christ returns to take charge of the governments



of the earth (Ezekiel 47:1-12). Water symbolizes the Holy Spirit (John 7:38-39) God sent to His Church on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4).

Pentecost was the 50th day after the first Sunday following the Passover (Leviticus 23:15-16). The disciples of Christ, who fearfully abandoned Jesus during His crucifixion, suddenly found themselves transformed into dynamic leaders. Such is the impact of the power of God's Holy Spirit.

A part of that same power is given to every human who repents of his old, carnal ways, is baptized and has hands laid on him or her by one of God's ministers (Acts 2:38). The human mind is then impregnated, for the first time, with the very nature of God (II Peter 1:4). And then real change begins!

In the Millennium Christ will freely offer His comforting help

and the power of God's Holy Spirit to all humans.

The next Holy Day, the Day of Trumpets (Leviticus 23:24), pictures the return of the coronated King of kings to this earth to enforce the laws of God. That will bring peace to this earth.

Christ's assistants will be former humans who will have been born into the very Family of God at Christ's return. They will have been trained in the application of the way of God, the way of peace, during their human lives.

One of Jesus Christ's first acts will be to institute the observance of the festivals we have been describing (Zechariah 14:16-19).

Satan, the unseen manipulator of this world's political, religious and economic systems (II Corinthians 4:4), will be forcibly removed from the scene. A strong angel will bind Satan for a thousand-year period (Revelation 20:1-3), the Millennium.

How interesting, then, that the fifth festival God gave ancient Israel, the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 23:27), featured the ritual leading away of a goat into the wilderness by a strong man (Leviticus 16). That goat pictured Satan the devil, the great counterfeiter, the arch-deceiver of humanity (Revelation 12:9), who contaminates the human race with his attitude.

With Satan removed and his spirit no longer able to stir the nations for war and vengeance, Christ will set His hand to save the world at last!

A new world coming

The world's vast deserts will be irrigated and will be made productive (Isaiah 35:7). Great construction projects will link the nations in an unsurpassed transportation system (Isaiah 19:23). This will help trigger an economic boom. World hunger will be erased as a new civilization springs up employing the best technologies of all nations and peoples (Isaiah 61).

The result will be stupendous, amazing progress: "In this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all people a feast of choice

pieces, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of well-refined wines on the lees" (Isaiah 25:6).

Is it any wonder that the Worldwide Church of God delights to "step into the future" at the Feast of Tabernacles? This Feast was the sixth festival God gave Israel (Leviticus 23:34). It included fun, food, fellowship, family feasting and togetherness (Deuteronomy 16:13-15).

It still does!

Rejoicing at the Feast

At more than 90 sites around the world the Church of God will observe the Feast of Tabernacles this fall. The rejoicing, the activities, the spirit of camaraderie and enthusiasm are vital parts of the Feast. Also the order, the attentiveness to the preaching services, the fervent resolve to carry out the necessary instructions that make it possible for a godly community to function — these, too, are vital.

A great witness is given: God's people are obedient to God's government and in harmony with each other, just as the nations will be in the soon-coming world tomorrow (Isaiah 19:24-25). All of this makes this Feast something special.

At the Feast of Tabernacles the incredible drama of the Last Great Day, the seventh festival, is thoroughly expounded. At the end of the Millennium all the rest of humanity will be resurrected and given the opportunity for salvation (Revelation 20:11-12)!

But wait a minute! Tranquility *and* enthusiasm? Peace *and* rejoicing? Government *and* good order? Family fun *and* spiritual intensity? Impossible?

No. Blending these concepts is what the Feast of Tabernacles is all about.

The Church is, of course, still human, just like each human in it. But God's Spirit covers the minor flaws and irritations. That is why most people who have attended once wouldn't miss the Feast for the world.

After all, how often do we get to step into the future? □



Photos: (clockwise from far left) Robert Campbell, Max Lai Leung, Terry Cooper, Bob Schimmel, Arthur Allender

If you are trying to obey God now, you may one day find yourself ruling over five or even 10 cities in the Kingdom of God!

Those who don't believe the Bible would consider this far-fetched. But even those of us who *do* take God at His word may find it hard to grasp.

Five cities? Or 10? Who, me? It may be inspiring to read and nice to dream about. But when we get down to the practical, nitty-gritty facts about ruling cities, what do we know about it? Most of us are fairly ordinary people struggling to make ends meet, with too much to do, not quite enough money and never enough time. We have to struggle to manage our own jobs, homes and families.

Ten cities? Aw, c'mon.

But Jesus is confident that we will be ready. In the parable of the talents, He showed how He will reward our diligence, thoroughness and faithfulness.

You remember the story. A nobleman, before going on a journey, gave his servants some money and told them to use it wisely while he was away (Luke 19:12-13).

When he returned, he found that one servant had used his head and managed his affairs wisely, and had increased his share tenfold. This servant was rewarded by being given authority over 10 cities (verses 16-17). Another had increased fivefold, and he got five cities (verses 18-19). The nobleman realized that since the servants were "faithful in a very little," they would also be faithful in much.

Another servant, of course, did nothing and received no reward (verses 20-26), but we will leave him in his frustration. This arti-

Ten Cities Now!

Here's how you are being prepared to rule in the world tomorrow!

By John Halford

cle is not about failing. It's for those who *want* to live up to Jesus' expectations.

New leaders needed

What Jesus taught here is that the way we handle our responsibilities *now* shows Him how much He can trust us to do in the future.

Let's think for a moment about the needs of the cities in the Kingdom of God. When Christ comes, this world will be a shambles. Civilization as we have known it will be in ruins. Those who survive the end-time holocaust will be shattered and dazed, wondering what has happened to the world.

As the representatives of broken nations come to Christ to learn His ways and walk in His paths (Isaiah 2:3), they will begin to understand a way that works. As they return to their homelands, perhaps they will be accompanied by a qualified representative of the Kingdom of God.

That might be you, if you have been faithful even over very little! Then you will be given authority over much.

Surely, that would be the ultimate blessing — to be able to serve, heal and help thousands of worried, disillusioned people, and to teach them how to live. That, in practical terms, is what the Kingdom of God is all about!

So how do you prepare? How do you show Jesus Christ that you are building the characteris-

tics of a good servant who can be trusted with a major responsibility in the world tomorrow?

Since the parable of the talents shows that the number of cities you will rule over is based on the way you handle your responsibilities now, let's turn the analogy around. Consider each of the various responsibilities you have *now* as cities. Think of your life as a piece of territory, or a mini-kingdom, that you rule.

A kingdom now

In your kingdom are "cities," or responsibilities. For instance, you have a family "city" and a work "city." If you are a homemaker, your home is a "city." If you are a student, your studies are a "city." Whoever you are, you have a prayer "city" and a Bible-study "city."

Now, look around your little kingdom. What kind of shape is it in? Have some of your "cities" been neglected? Do some desperately need attention? If that is the case, what you are showing Jesus Christ is that you may prove to be no better than some of the rulers of this world today!

There are countries like that: They seem beautiful, but suffer from serious problems. You arrive at the airport and everything is sparkling and new. You think, This place is not so bad after all. You drive along the beautiful four-lane highway to the capital city. The downtown area features modern high rises — gleaming



towers of concrete, steel and glass. There are air-conditioned shops and fine restaurants. You stay in a luxury hotel specially built to impress foreign visitors.

But it is all an illusion.

Behind the facade are dreadful slums and grinding poverty. The people live in broken-down shacks and hovels, in sickness and disease. The country, except for the capital city, is a shambles. The leaders have put all their resources into making an impression, while their people live in frustration and confusion.

The Kingdom of God will not be like that. It will be a quality kingdom through and through. Everyone will share a fine environment. The whole world will be filled with the knowledge of God's way of life. God's knowledge will cover the earth like the waters cover the sea (Isaiah 11:9).

So back to your own little kingdom and your "cities." When you put all your efforts into just one or two of your responsibilities and neglect the rest, you're showing God that you will be an unreliable and inefficient ruler.

Remember how Jesus corrected Martha (Luke 10:38-42)? She was so busy fussing about her home "city," that she had no time for another important "city" in her life — to hear what Jesus was teaching.

Christ needs balanced helpers who won't put everything into one showcase city while the others become ramshackle, run-down slums.

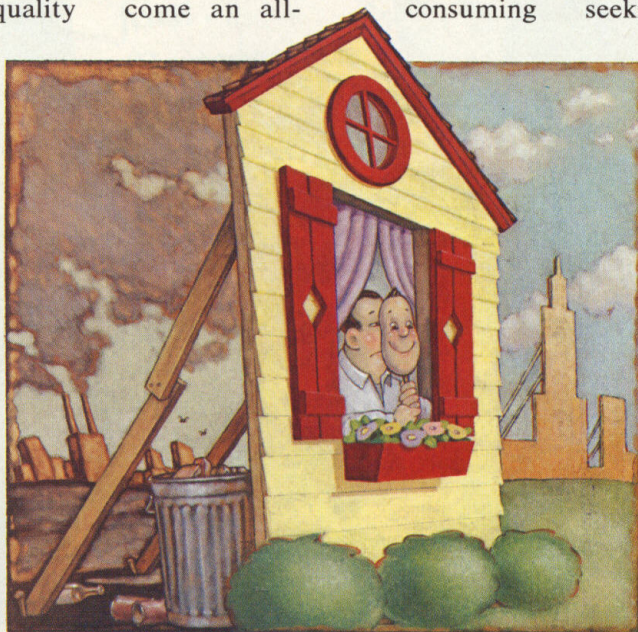
More cities

Every kingdom has a financial capital. What is yours like? Are your finances a hopeless muddle? Are you always in debt, never able to make ends meet no matter how much you have? Have you overextended yourself with credit cards?

What about your marriage? Is it getting better or worse? God

places much emphasis on the marriage relationship and child rearing. The Bible teaches that if a person cannot manage his own house — that is, his own family affairs — he cannot be trusted with further responsibilities now, let alone in the Kingdom of God (I Timothy 3:5).

What about health? Are you overweight and out of condition? Do you eat only junk food? Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 6:19). You have a responsibility to look after it. But don't go to the other extreme. Diet and exercise can become an all-consuming



fad — and other important "cities" will suffer.

Every good kingdom has a leisure resort. Everyone needs a break from time to time. Your leisure city may be a hobby, a handicraft, a vacation or whatever else provides you with a change of pace. You can't neglect your leisure city forever and expect it to be in good shape. Go and visit it regularly.

By now you've got the idea. How many cities do you have to rule now? More than you may have thought!

It takes effort to properly manage every aspect of a busy life. But it is worth the trouble. You are learning valuable skills.

Think about the cities you have now. What shape are they in? If

your cities represented a real kingdom, would the people living in them be happy? Do all the areas where you have responsibilities reflect the standards and quality of the Kingdom of God?

... And one more

There is one more important city that we all must maintain. In Numbers 35, you will see that Moses was told to set aside six cities in the promised land as cities of refuge. These cities were places where people who had accidentally killed someone could flee for protection from relatives seeking revenge.

The mayor of a city of refuge had to carry out the normal day-to-day functions for his citizens, but he also had to be ready for emergencies. He never knew when some desperate person would come rushing through the gates, fleeing for his life, needing food, shelter, clothing and maybe a job.

A fugitive was entitled to live in the city of refuge until the death of the high priest, and that might be years. So the mayor had to plan his responsibilities so there was always some time to help those in need.

Our society today is structured differently, but this is a good principle. We never know when a fellow human will need our time or our resources. We must not become so busy, so organized, so disciplined that there is simply no time to help others.

Perhaps thinking of your life as a kingdom, and your individual responsibilities as cities, will help you see your future in the Kingdom of God more realistically.

One day you will hear Jesus Christ say, "Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities" (Luke 19:17).

Instead of thinking, Who, me? — you will, with confidence and gratitude, roll up your spiritual sleeves and get down to work. □

Illustration by Dan Andreasen

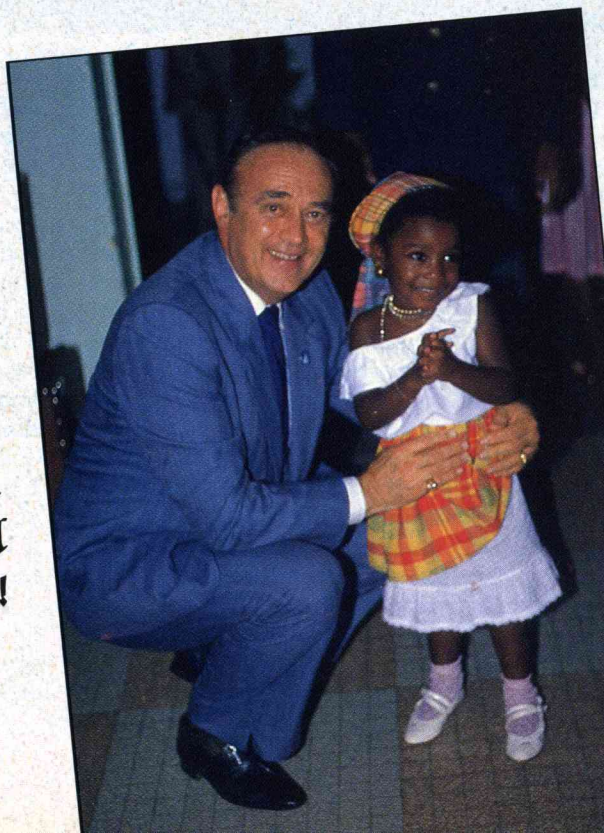
We are Family!



Good News photo



Warm fellowship, powerful preaching from God's Word, balanced recreation — all blend in the Feast of Tabernacles, the happiest time of year for God's spiritual family, His Church. Here God's people taste what the world tomorrow will be like!



Michael Rasmussen



Don Ferguson



Peter Mills



Geoff Fuller

"And you shall rejoice in your feast . . ." (Deuteronomy 16:14).



Michael Rasmussen



Norman Koon



Ideas You Can Use

THE FEAST: GOD'S FAMILY REUNION

Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach has set family unity as the theme of the 1987 Feast of Tabernacles.

We are family, brethren. We should look forward to this Feast of Tabernacles as one big happy family reunion, because that's just what it is!

You know how it is when families get together. First you look for the familiar faces and reacquaint yourself with them. There's a lot of catching up to do. You like to sit around and talk, share some meals together and reminisce about past experiences. Then you look for the new babies and children you haven't seen. Or perhaps there's a newlywed who has married into the family.

A family reunion gives you time to become

better acquainted with your physical family.

The Feast of Tabernacles does the same for the spiritual family of God's Church. Even more than our physical families, we have a lot in common with our Church family, and we should feel comfortable with them. We should be happy to see them and learn how they've been doing since we saw them last.

When you meet someone new in the family, make them feel welcome. Your family is now their family. If you're a new member, don't be shy about meeting some of the old-timers. If you wonder what to say, just ask them how they first found out about God's Church. That's a good way to get into an interesting conversation with any Church member.

Have you ever wished you could remember just who you saw at what Feast site? To refresh your memory, just like at a family reunion, take snapshots and exchange addresses.

Consider making a Festival album. That's a good project for your family right after the Feast. All during the Feast you can collect matchbooks, postcards, maps, tickets and

programs to add, along with your snapshots, to your album.

Mr. Tkach is working hard to unify the Church, because he knows it is a responsibility from God. God wants His Church to be closely knitted in one strong family unit so we can help one another through the trials ahead.

Get to know your family. We are our brothers' keepers. Only by getting acquainted with our brethren can we know and understand their needs. And just like in your physical family, getting to know your spiritual brethren helps you to better understand yourself and how to deal with your own problems.

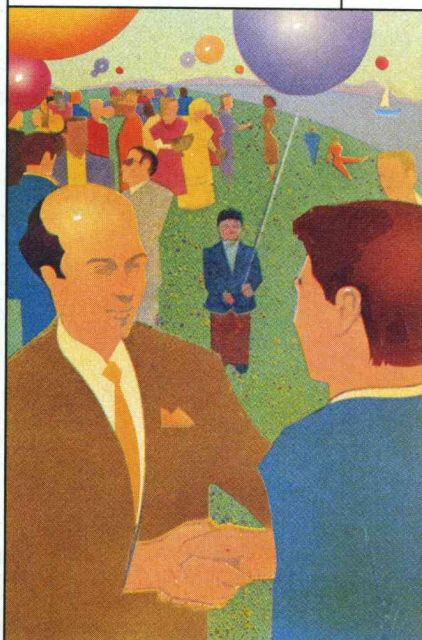
Don't be timid. Timidity is not one of the fruits of God's Spirit. Why not try to meet at least one new person at each service or activity at the Feast this year?

If you find yourself frequently eating at the same hotel restaurant where other Feastgoers eat, take the initiative and plan a meal together.

Help your children

make friends by inviting their Feast acquaintances to your campsite or hotel room. Perhaps their new friends could join you on a family outing.

Take time to get closer to your own mate and children, and make time to build relationships at your reunion with your spiritual family in God's Church. We are truly family! — *By Dexter H. Faulkner* ■



FINANCES AND THE FEAST

It's almost time to set out on another Feast trip! For members of God's Church, this is the most exciting time of the year.

If you have been faithfully saving your second tithe, now you must consider how to properly spend it (Deuteronomy 14:22-26). The second tithe ensures members will have a joyful time acting out a type of the wonderful world tomorrow. Here

are some points to consider:

It is the wage earner's duty to carefully plan the financial aspect of the Feast. According to God's instructions, we should have one tenth of our annual salaries to use at the Festival seasons. Of course, some of our funds will have been used during the spring for Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread, for Pentecost in the early summer and for the two early autumn Holy Days of Trumpets and Atonement.

As the Feast of Tabernacles approaches, we should be certain we have sent to God's Church what we have



come to call our "tithe of the tithe" — that is, 10 percent of our second tithe savings. These funds allow the Church to arrange for the auditorium and motels for the Feast of Tabernacles, as well as to obtain equipment for musical performances and special broadcasts from headquarters. This way we all share together in funding the general costs of the Feasts.

The next consideration, typically, is travel. Many drive to the Feast, leading to the question, "How much may I spend to prepare my car for the trip?" There are normal expenses of gas and oil. If your car needs repair, a simple approach is to spend no more on preparing your vehicle than it would cost to rent a car of the appropriate size for your family.

If you choose to fly to a Feast site, be sure you have enough money left to acquire adequate housing and to feed and entertain your family. Every year, it seems, a few ignore this obvious point.

A frequently posed question is, "How much can I spend on gifts for my spouse or children?" Keep these four guidelines in mind:

- 1) Will buying the item adversely affect the amount of money for travel, housing and meals?
- 2) Will buying the item assist in the physical and spiritual appreciation of the Feast?
- 3) Will buying gifts take away from my ability to help others?
- 4) Will the purchase of the item assist in focusing on the family at the Feast of Tabernacles?

It should be obvious that what is acceptable for one family may not be as wise for another family. In any case, the

Feast should not become a sort of "Christmas." This can easily happen if we focus on buying gifts for everyone.

Many members of God's Church have been blessed so much that even after enjoying a nice Feast, they find they have extra funds.

The question that then arises is, "What shall I do with my excess second tithe?" This is one of those questions that takes many different forms, such as: "May I save my excess second tithe to supplement the amount I will have for next year?" "May I give some of my second tithe to others who do not have much?" "Should I turn in all my excess second tithe?" "May I supplement my offering with second tithe?" "May I save some funds for a special trip next year?"

Again, there are guidelines we can use to answer such questions for ourselves. Do you have significant excess tithe? People who find themselves in this position could be host to an occasion or two and

entertain others who may not have the same abundance.

For those who wish to financially assist others, here is a question: Do you know the reasons why someone else does not have enough second tithe? Desiring to help another person or family is fine; however, a person may be paying the penalty for mishandling finances, and your invitation to assist without knowing the facts may not help that person. Seek ministerial counsel before giving large sums of money to others.

What about using second tithe to supplement Holy Day offerings? The Bible makes it clear that the second tithe is "for whatever your heart desires" in connection with the Feast. Thus it would be appropriate to use some second tithe to supplement offerings.

And that is the key — *supplement*. Giving an offering is a personal form of worship in which you honor God for the blessings He has given you during the year. You

must make sure you have enough second tithe to return home and an additional amount in case of emergency.

What about keeping the Feast in an exotic setting the following year? Many members might like to one day keep the Feast at God's Headquarters in Pasadena. Or see the Holy Land. Or make an international trip. Carrying over a reasonable amount of second tithe to make such an event possible can be discussed with your local pastor. He can give you advice based on your circumstances.

By using these principles, you should be able to answer many questions yourself about the proper use of second tithe. But in this brief article we have covered only a few of the most-often-asked questions about second tithe. Seek counsel from your local pastor about other questions you have. He is there to serve and help you enjoy the Feast to the full. — *By Joseph W. Tkach Jr.* ■

HOW TO HELP OTHERS REJOICE, TOO

Want to have a *miserable* Feast this year? Of course not! But you will — *if* you go with the exclusive goal of having a "good time" just for yourself.

Notice God's command in Deuteronomy 16:14: "And you shall rejoice in your feast, you *and* your son *and* your daughter,



your manservant *and* your maidservant *and* the Levite, the stranger *and* the fatherless *and* the widow, who are within your gates."

Your rejoicing shouldn't just include

yourself. Unless you try to help others have a wonderful Feast, too, you yourself won't be able to rejoice as God intends.

A major aspect of rejoicing at the Feast is *servicing others*. Here are

Illustration by Kirk Bolero, photo by L. Greg Smith

four ways to serve others at the 1987 Feast of Tabernacles:

1) *Stay close to God.* If you fail to fulfill this point, nothing else you try to do will work out right. Study the Bible and pray daily. Pray for others, especially. Ask God to help everyone rejoice!

2) *Follow instructions.* You can help everything at the Feast function smoothly by listening to and following the instructions of those in charge (Hebrews 13:17). This includes attending all the services. It includes being on time to all activities.

3) *Promote unity.* Unity in the Church depends on unity within individual families (Malachi 4:6). Emphasize family togetherness.

4) *Give to other brethren in special ways.* Remember less fortunate people who for some reason become ill at the Feast, or who have to stay home instead of attending the Feast. Why not send a card or flowers to someone like that just to express your love? Also, include singles, the elderly and spiritual "orphans and widows" (James 1:27) in your activities.

At the 1987 Feast of Tabernacles, remember Christ's admonition: "But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant" (Matthew 23:11). Concentrate on serving others at this Feast. When you help others rejoice, you'll be doing your part to make this the best Feast ever! — *By Norman L. Shoaf* ■

MAKE THEIR DAY!

I remember the first time I attended a service of the Worldwide Church of God. I hadn't been to church — any church — for years, and I felt very uncomfortable pretending to sing the opening hymns. I don't remember what the sermon was about, but I do remember what happened afterward.

People came up to me to welcome me, to shake my hand, to ask who I was. They were so genuine and sincere. I had not felt such friendliness!

I went home that evening feeling warm and wanted, and eagerly looking forward to the next Sabbath, when I could meet my new friends again.

I have not forgotten those first people I met. They went to the trouble of making a rather nervous young man with a funny haircut and a

beat-up, old overcoat feel like he belonged. If they hadn't done what they did, you might not be reading this today.

As we get accustomed to attending church services, it is easy to take each other for granted, and neglect the art of fellowshiping and meeting new people. The Feast is a good time to sharpen those skills. You are away from your usual congregations, surrounded by hundreds, maybe even thousands, of people you don't know yet. It is tempting to take the easy route and spend the time with the usual people.

But what a chance you could be missing!

This year, make an extra special effort to meet some people you don't know. Like that family sitting behind you — or the elderly couple across the aisle — or that foreign-looking fellow over there. Perhaps he is visiting from another country. That gives you a chance to get to know someone from a different part of the world.

Be on a special lookout for lonely people. Most

of us would never admit we are lonely, even when we are desperate for company and friends. So here's a tip that I have never known to fail: Ask God to help you find such people.

God says that He sets the solitary in families (Psalm 68:6). Are you helping Him do the "setting"? Pray each morning of the Feast that God will bring you into contact with someone who needs your help in some way, and then be on the lookout for opportunities. You will be astonished at how well this works.

Realize that you have it in your power to make someone's day. Look for the person eating by himself or herself. Is that person going back to an empty room? Would he or she like to join in your activity? Why not ask?

The Feast of Tabernacles is a unique time to rediscover the joy of making someone's day. Those opportunities usually start with a "Hello, how are you? My name's . . ." — *By John Halford* ■

COULD THIS BE YOU?

"Oh, no!" Carol moaned as she rummaged through her suitcase. The opening-night message was about to start in 20 minutes, and she didn't have one dress that looked presentable. And getting to the convention center took 15 minutes. So Carol threw on a dress, raced to the elevator and hoped a taxi would be available. She made it on time, but

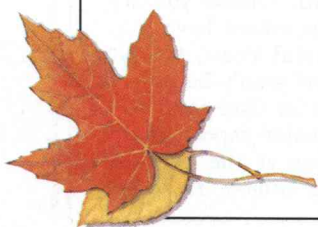


wished she could hide. Her wrinkled dress looked like an accordion.

"Oh, no!" John moaned as the emergency alarm screamed. During the first service the minister warned everyone not to use the door in

the southeast corner of the meeting hall. But John forgot. He was too busy reading restaurant guides during the announcements that day to pay close attention.

"Oh, no!" Shelly moaned as she saw three



families come into the restaurant. She recognized them as Feastgoers. They are nice people, she thought. But she knew she would run herself ragged serving them and get only a couple of dollars — or nothing at all — for a tip.

“Oh, no!” the maid moaned as she came into the suite. Strewn across the room were beer bottles, half-filled wine glasses and plates of dried-out cheese. Smashed crackers and nuts adorned the floor. All the result of “rejoicing at the Feast” till 1 a.m.! Not only was the room a mess, but so were the partygoers.

Chuck fell asleep during the opening prayer, Lori’s notes looked like hieroglyphics and Bill was half an hour late to services.

None of these situations happened because of ill intent or a “bad attitude.” They came about from poor planning, not paying attention, ignorance and lack of discipline.

Don’t let the Feast just “happen.” It takes effort and forethought to set a good example in all areas. Plan your time wisely. Listen carefully to announcements. Read up on etiquette and tipping. Use self-discipline during the Feast. — *By Lana Walker* ■

YOUR GAME PLAN FOR A MEMORABLE FEAST

Is your trip to the Feast each year something you really look forward to — or a family endurance test? To avoid the latter, now is the time to create your game plan for the trip.

Begin by planning to arrive at the Feast site in plenty of time to settle in with your family before the first evening service. Include in your travel plan reasonable time for rest stops, and allow for emergencies.

If you dread taking your children to restaurants and miss half the services at the Feast taking them out of the meeting hall, today is the time to start doing something about it. Educate and train your children now.

Make good manners the rule at all times, not just in public.

Daily, have quiet times with your children, no longer than 30 minutes, where they are expected to sit and play quietly in a chair or on a blanket on the floor. Make these times positive, with special toys reserved only for that time, but be firm with them about staying in their chair or on their blanket.

If you’ve done your homework, discipline should not be a primary concern at the Feast. When it is necessary, be circumspect. Some parents have been seen leaving services with their child in one hand and a large paddle in the other. Loudly scolding or



slapping a child in public makes quite an impression — a bad one. Not only does it humiliate your child, it generates questions about your qualifications as a parent.

Good health is another key to a successful Feast. Applying principles of good health long before the Feast can mean the difference in the way you and your children enjoy this Feast of Tabernacles. — *By Sheila Graham* ■

YOUR WORDS COUNT

People at sales conventions talk about sales. People at science conferences talk about science. People at art shows talk about art. And those of us keeping the Feast talk about the Feast.

Or do we?

Do we really talk in depth about the meaning of the Feast and the messages we’ve heard? Or are our conversations shallow and meaningless, centering on things not related to God’s plan?

Realize this: God expects His people to talk about His Kingdom, which is the focal point of the Feast (Psalm 145:10-12, Malachi 3:16). By talking about God’s great plan and the happy world tomorrow, we please God and deepen our understanding (Proverbs 27:17).

Of course, not every conversation is going to



be “spiritual.” After all, God instructs us to keep the Feast by experiencing physical pleasures, too. Maintain balance. Don’t be self-righteous or a Bible know-it-all.

Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach, under the inspiration of Jesus Christ, has set the theme of family in the Church. Sermons and sermonettes will center around this theme. Listen carefully to the messages and discuss the reality of the coming Kingdom of God in your conversations.

Then your “fitly spoken” words will be like “apples of gold in settings of silver” (Proverbs 25:11). — *By George M. Kackos* ■

GAINING THE MOST FROM THE MESSAGES

Jesus Christ’s true ministers feed His Church meat in due season! And during the Fall Festival season God’s people will be able to enjoy eight days’ worth of spiritual meat served up by Christ’s ministers at Festival services.

Listening carefully is important in remembering and applying what you are

taught at the Feast. Here are several tips on effective listening:

● *Desire to learn and change.* Those who desire to hear instruction are wise (Proverbs 1:5, 8:32-34). You must be in a continually repentant attitude, willing to admit error and take correction (I John 1:8-10). Think about how to apply in your life what you hear. Listen as though the speaker were talking directly to you — he is!

● *Realize that spiritual understanding comes through God's Spirit.* Humans cannot discover, on their own, the knowledge of God (I Corinthians 2:12). God

must reveal it through His Spirit. And Acts 5:32 tells us God gives His Spirit only to those who obey Him. Obedience is vital. So is prayer: Ask God to bless the delivery of the messages and also your hearing and understanding.

● *Concentrate.* Begin concentrating before the speaker says a word. This requires preparation. Make sure you have had a good night's rest the night before. Books, pen and paper should be ready — briefcases and purses put away. Give the speaker your undivided attention, even if other distractions occur

(for example, babies crying).

● *Take effective notes.* Taking notes helps you concentrate, and it provides a way for you to review what the speakers said. This promotes learning.

Learning to listen effectively is important to every Christian. God is revealing to us knowledge that the vast majority of people have never before understood! At the 1987 Feast of Tabernacles, let's hear and apply the knowledge God gives us — the meat He provides in due season — to change our lives! — *By Dan Rogers and Norman L. Shoaf* ■

quality of your Feast experience.

Socially, we should strive for balance in what we do at the Feast, as well as with whom we do it. You may love to skin-dive with a close friend, for example. That's fine. Enjoy it. But to spend all your free time during the Feast pursuing that activity alone is not balance. Better to also engage in other activities, meeting new people, confronting new experiences and challenges.

Make it a point to go out of your way to think of others. Be on the lookout for opportunities to serve and be helpful. Meet some of the elderly and infirm. Take someone out for a meal. Participate in at least some of the Church-sponsored activities. Do things in family-type groups — groups that include old friends as well as new acquaintances of different ages.

Physically, balance at the Feast is vital. Certainly we will all probably eat somewhat richer diets during the Feast than we normally do. But we shouldn't make ourselves sick by overeating and drinking too much for eight solid days, or by failing to get adequate exercise and sleep.

Our bodies are temples of God's Spirit (I Corinthians 6:19). They ought to be kept in prime condition during the Feast so our minds are sharp and alert and ready to be taught by God's Spirit.

Whatever we do spiritually and physically, we should ask ourselves, "Does this glorify God?" (verse 20).

A balanced Feast is the best Feast. Try it — you'll like it! — *By Clayton D. Steep* ■

KEEP YOUR BALANCE!

Workmen who build towering skyscrapers must master the ability to keep their balance. High above the street below, they think carefully about what they are doing and what they are about to do. They know how essential perfect balance is. Their future depends on it.

So does ours! God is a God of balance. Perfect character includes perfect balance. It means doing what is appropriate in any given situation. God wants His Kingdom to be composed of balanced individuals. We should strive for balance every day of our lives.

How much more, then, should we strive to accomplish this during



the Feast of Tabernacles, which pictures us living in the Kingdom of God?

Spiritually, it often seems especially difficult to maintain a right balance at the Feast. There are so many things to see and do, so many opportunities for diversion and recreation.

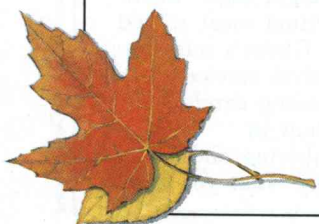
The Feast, if one is not careful, can easily become a nonspiritual event. Some people have actually returned home from the Feast so worn down that they would have welcomed a few days of rest and spiritual rejuvenation!

This ought not to be. The Feast should be one

of the spiritual high points of the year.

Don't neglect personal contact with God during the Feast. Put God first. Bring Him into all your activities. The Feast is not a time to just rejoice. It is a time to rejoice "before the Lord" (Deuteronomy 12:12, 18). If Jesus Christ is not present in the good times you are having, you are not rejoicing "before Him."

You may have to be resourceful to find a place and occasion to pray and meditate each day. But do it. It will make all the difference in the world in the



Resurrected in Eden!

Because the first humans sinned, God drove humanity from the Garden of Eden. Yet prophecy shows that God will surround His people with an Eden-like environment in tomorrow's world.

By Jerold W. Aust

It was gorgeous! Never would a garden be so beautiful for the following 6,000 years.

Plush green hills caressed pleasant valleys and meadows sprinkled with every hue of colorful flowers. Fertile fruit trees bent their boughs, offering their luscious fruit for the picking. Overhead, the sky was clear and serene.

Altogether it was a utopian scene, with all manner of animals placidly roaming about while brightly colored birds glided through the air above.

Two people — only two — were allowed to enjoy this flawless environment. They were in love in this romantic setting. They knew nothing of competition, of greed, of envy, pride or vanity. Their Provider and Sustainer was God Himself — in person.

The Creator God walked and talked with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. He taught them His way on the first holy Sabbath. Their minds were untainted by the perversions of the evil world you and I live in today. They listened and responded with clear minds, clean hearts.

Think of it — living in a world unpolluted by Satan!

Enter the snake in the grass who began to reason with the first woman. Notice! Satan did not directly accuse God of lying. He cleverly introduced the “what if” idea into Eve’s mind.

“And the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil’ ” (Genesis 3:4-5).

This was the beginning of the “scientific method” to determine right from wrong. Today, humans commonly refer to this as the college of hard knocks. It is the way of experimenting and deciding for oneself what is good or evil — of taking no one else’s word for it, especially God’s!

Satan’s deception

Understand, now, the insidious reasoning of Satan



the devil — and perhaps spare yourself some future hard knocks!

If Satan lied in all he said, you could always know the opposite is true. But Satan is clever. He mixes some truth with much error. Therefore if you don’t know the whole truth on any subject, you can easily be deceived.

Eve knew what God had told her, but she didn’t have the power of God’s Spirit to help her resist Satan’s pull. She succumbed to “the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life” (I

John 2:16).

Satan took advantage of her. He suggested that she try the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He omitted reminding her that she would ultimately face eternal death for disobeying God, unless she repented. He even told her it was certain she would *not* die. From this lie sprang the false doctrine of the immortal soul.

Adam and Eve committed the first human sin. It was to be a great lesson for us today: In every



Illustrations by Ken Tunell, photos by Richard A. Sedlack



situation, we need God's instruction and rulership over us!

Adam and Eve failed. We've all failed (Romans 3:23). But when Adam and Eve failed, they were driven from the Garden of Eden lest they take also from the tree of life and live forever while suffering the results of sin.

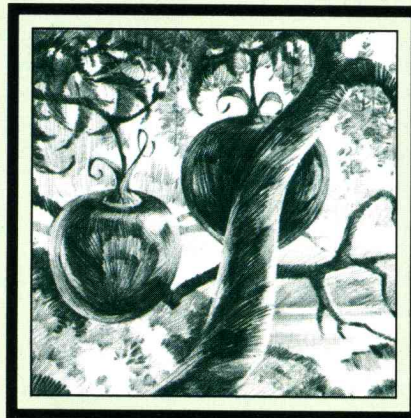
Closing the way to the tree of life was an act of mercy on God's part. For God knows the misery of Satan and the demons, who forever will suffer the torment and misery they have reaped from the scientific method of selfish experimentation!

Paradise lost

Paradise had been spoiled — but the tree of life had not been touched (Genesis 3:22-24). Now the first family would make their own decisions, without God's guidance, but with Satan's deception, in life — and suffer the results. They would, for example, raise Cain, the first murderer, who would kill his brother Abel. What pain. What heartache. What memories.

Yet this was not to be the end of it. For God promised a second Adam — Jesus Christ — who would qualify where the first Adam failed. Christ would restore God's government to the earth. He would have the power of God's Spirit without measure — unlimited access to the tree of life. He would have eternal life abiding in Him.

Jesus Christ would also bring an environment like the Garden of Eden to the whole earth — and then resurrect mankind to live in, dress and keep it — to learn to live the godly ways Adam and Eve re-



jected! The Last Great Day of the Feast of Tabernacles (Leviticus 23:36, 39, John 7:37) symbolizes that glorious time when all humanity will finally be given a chance for salvation. It's called the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11). Isaiah 65:20 strongly indicates it will last 100 years.

Resurrected in Eden

The earth will have been restored to an Eden-like state during the previous 1,000 years. And those humans who lived and died in a miserable, Satan-deceived world during the previous 6,000 — who otherwise would have been lost and without hope — will be resurrected to human life (Ezekiel 37).

What an environment they will enjoy! We can only imagine exactly what the original Garden of Eden was like. But however beautiful and good Eden was, that condition will be multiplied many times over in both quantity and quality all around the earth.

Those multiple billions of resurrected humans will learn, in that environment, the joys of living God's way. They will also take of the tree of life — God's Holy Spirit — to beget them into God's Family. It will help them as it helps God's people today. Through His Spirit, God and His spirit-born children will comfort, inspire, instruct and govern those people. The Holy Spirit will give them the down payment or earnest of eternal life (Ephesians 1:13-14).

They will experience a physical existence none of us have ever seen or felt.

Portrayed by Last Great Day

Now notice a prophecy that unmistakably applies to the Great White Throne Judgment period as well as to the Millennium preceding it:

"Thus says the Lord God: 'On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will also enable you to dwell in the cities, and the ruins shall be rebuilt. The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by. So they will say, "This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited"' (Ezekiel 36:33-35).

And read this inspiring and sure prediction from Isaiah 51:3: "For the Lord will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her wasteplaces; He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in it, thanksgiving and the voice of melody."

Though the first humans were driven from the Garden of Eden, most of humanity will be resurrected into a gloriously restored and universal Garden of Eden! You portray that time on the Last Great Day of the Feast! □

COMING

IN THE GOOD NEWS

◆ **What Bible Prophecy Reveals NOW**

Where are we now in the relentless march of prophesied end-time events?

◆ **Do You See Your Calling?**

How does God call? Does He pull your name out of a hat? What does it mean to be called? If God calls you, what does He require of you?

◆ **Ezekiel — From Now to Eternity!**

Is there a connection between the startling visions of an Old Testament prophet and the end-time commission to the Church of God?

◆ **Dating Toward Remarriage**

Ideally, marriage is for life. If you are divorced or widowed and want to remarry, here is sound advice to help you reenter the dating scene. Our dating series continues with this eighth installment.

◆ **Why I'm Not Going to Heaven**

What are your chances of going to heaven after you die? Read this article to discover the staggering future that lies beyond this human life!

The Good News
Pasadena, CA 91123

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Worldwide Church
of God