

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1989

The Good News

OF THE WORLD TOMORROW



'I SHALL RETURN'

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OF THE WORLD TOMORROW

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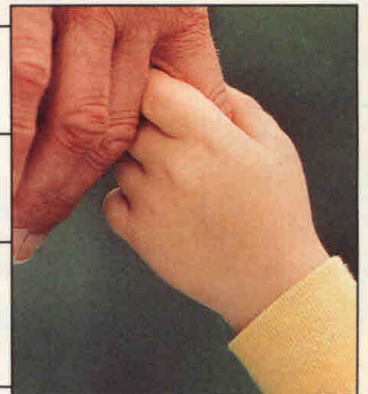
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COVER

Seven symbolic trumpet blasts will announce Jesus Christ's Second Coming and the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth. This issue of *The Good News*—the first ever to be published simultaneously in four languages (English, Dutch, German and Spanish)—contains several articles on the Holy Days that picture those coming events. Photo by G.A. Belluche Jr.

GOOD NEWS PERSONAL



The Most Important Ingredient in God's Kingdom

What would you say will be the most important ingredient in the coming Kingdom of God—the one most significant feature that will shine in brilliant, dazzling contrast to the world we know today?

Would you say it will be unity? In the world tomorrow, there will be perfect unity among God's spirit-born children. There will be perfect agreement and oneness in the government of Jesus Christ as it rules all nations. But unity alone is not always for the good.

It is not unity that will make the Kingdom of God a kingdom of eternal peace and good. Unity is essential, but it is not, by far, the most important ingredient.

The most important ingredient is *love*—godly, spiritual love. "God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him" (I John 4:16). Love is described as the "fulfillment of the law," because it works no ill toward its neighbor (Romans 13:10).

The unity that will be a hallmark of the Kingdom of God will be unity or oneness *with God*, being like Him (I John 3:2)! His spirit-born children will then *be* love, just as God is love (I John 4:8). Such unity among the resurrected and changed saints will result only in good for the benefit of all humanity then living on the earth.

But in this world, unity itself is often used for



evil. Witness the unity of nations that band together to invade other nations. Or thieves that team up so their combined criminal efforts can be more successful. Organized crime is but one testimony to unity founded on corrupt goals.

Unity, harmony of purpose, even loyalty, commitment and hard work are qualities that

are truly good only when they are within the framework of God's purpose and revealed way of life. "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord" (Isaiah 55:8).

To be most effective, then, and certainly to have any lasting or permanent value, unity must be based squarely upon the Word of God, and upon His instructions to mankind about how to live. Unity upon our own terms, or for our own purposes apart from God, will ultimately end in nothing better than chaos.

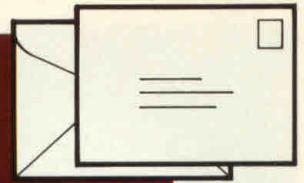
God calls true Christians in every nation, every region, from every background on earth to *follow Him*. They are to grow in His love. They are to abolish, with the help of the holy spirit, their own natural prejudice, partiality, resentment, bitterness, envy and disrespect for the dignity and welfare of others. Godly love, being willing to sacrifice one's own desires and goods on behalf of others, begins to replace the former attitudes of selfish competition, strife and greed.

Unity founded on love is unity that will one day change the world. Until that day, when the King of kings returns to earth in resplendent spirit power to establish the Kingdom of God, His true followers must devote themselves to the miraculous *personal* change that His unifying love produces in all those who are led by the holy spirit!

Joseph W. Tkach

Pastor General
Worldwide Church of God

LETTERS



"Did Jesus Study?"

Mr. Grainger is very shallow in his understanding of the Scriptures by insinuating that Jesus, the Word, author of all



Ken Tunell

the Scripture, both Old and New Testaments, should need to study it. That's humanizing the Creator of this world. As a reader of *The Good News* I demand one of more understanding to set the record straight from this horrible discrediting and repulsive and misleading lie.

J.S.
Ripley, Tenn.

"The Other Helper"

I just received the May-June issue of *The Good News* and would like to thank Clayton Steep for his article "Why You Need the Other Helper." Christ actually lives in us through His spirit, and is always there when we need Him.

I have been thinking about how to get sin out of my life and take on godly character. This monumental task has overwhelmed me until now. I've had the power, but hadn't received the value until now.

P.Z.
San Antonio, Tex.

I just finished reading the article "Why You Need the Other Helper"... and felt com-

pelled to write to you. It is a wonderful truth to know that although Jesus is not living in physical form here with us now that He can be in us and with us spiritually. Thanks for the very inspiring article and the entire *Good News* you send to us freely.

Mitch Davey
Nashville, Tenn.

"For God So Loved the World"

Never before have I read an article so mind-boggling ["For God So Loved the World"]. For the very first time I have a new perspective of Christ's death I never imagined. I was used to simply having a thankful, sentimental attitude toward the popular scripture of John 3:16, but after studying this article, my attitude has changed tremendously.

Bob J. La Cursia
Chicago, Ill.

"Positive Child Training" series

I'm currently in prison, and my worst fear is to see my 3-year-old son in the same situation some day. Therefore, I always extract the "Positive Child Training" series from each issue, and mail them to his mother. It should be a loving parent's No. 1 desire to insure a child's spiritual growth.

T.B.
Concord, N.H.

Unlocks mysteries of life

I have been an avid reader of your *Good News* and *Plain Truth* magazines for the past several years. I find both publications very informative, extremely well written and researched.

These magazines and the companion literature offered with them address many of today's important issues and offer the *only* solutions based upon

the Bible that *will* work. I have proven some of these solutions do work by trying to apply them in my own life and seeing the results with my own eyes.

Your magazines have allowed me and many others to unlock the mysteries of life found in the pages of the Bible.

Randy Schoch
Kitchener, Ont.

For me, *The Good News* is the only magazine today helping the Christians of the world to understand the meaning and purpose of life during their existence and giving inspiration to those who felt neglected, and hopeless, especially in areas where injustice prevails.

Pete A. Perpetua
Cebu City, Philippines

Privilege to read

I appreciate very much *The Good News*. The substance I find therein is indeed very enlightening pertaining to the Word of God. Everyone in the house reads it—in fact, they compete with each other to read it first.

It is very helpful reading for my children and grandchildren as it shows the way to true Christian living. I wish to thank you very much for the privilege of reading your excellent magazine.

Luis L. Casenas
Bohol, Philippines

I am so happy with *The Good News* and *Plain Truth* and the rest of the literature you have offered to thousands and thousands of people who have gotten to know the very truth of God's Word, of which most of us in this country are still in darkness.

Jose Gonzales
Barancas, Venezuela

I would like to renew my subscription of your famous

publication *The Good News of the World Tomorrow*. The magazine is really the best. It sheds light to my withered hopes and dreams.

The Bible's teachings inspire me in times of frustration by reminding me that I have God to lean on.

Gemma M. Cantilado
Surigao City, Philippines

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God Has Something Better in Mind!

Here's an important principle to remember when trials and tests overtake you.

By Clayton D. Steep

What has God promised Christians in this life? A smooth and trouble-free existence?

To be sure, God could give every conceivable physical and material blessing to all of His people at this time. He could here and now grant their every desire. He could make their lives problem free.

He could. But He doesn't.

Nor did He ever promise that He would!

You will search the Scriptures in vain for a godly person who lived a consistently smooth, cushy life. God's servants from Abel to Christ and on through the New Testament to modern times have experienced difficulties that might seem to be at variance with what some scriptures promise. But is that possible?

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away," Jesus stated (Matthew 24:35). God always keeps His promises. His Word cannot be broken.

The difficulty arises when people misunderstand various scriptures. They assume these scriptures to unconditionally promise

what in reality they do not at all promise.

Unconditional promises?

Take, for example, Psalm 34:9. David wrote: "Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him." Can a

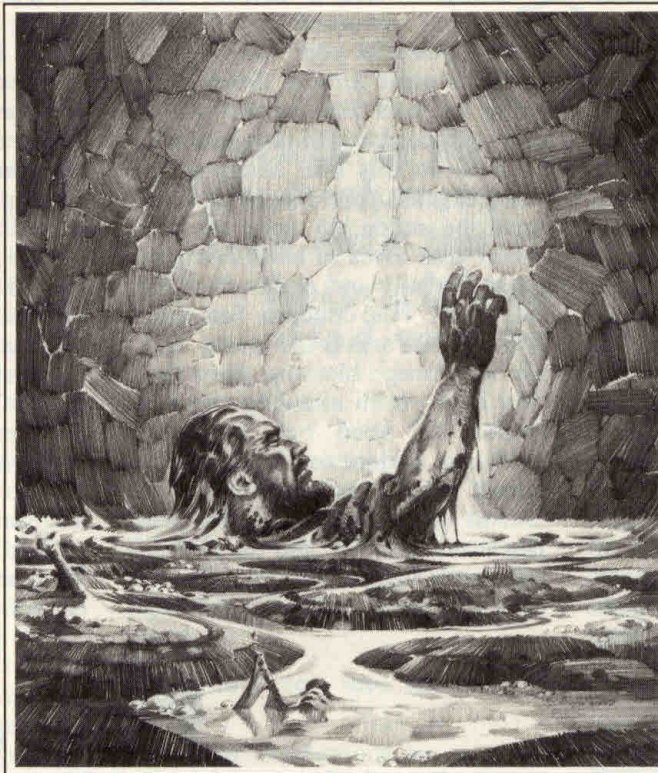
often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness" (II Corinthians 11:27).

Psalm 34:9 is not an unconditionally binding promise of physical and material plenty. David himself, the author of these words, certainly met with his share of serious problems and disappointments in life.

What God's people are assured of not lacking, though, is anything that is really important. Important for what? For their uninterrupted physical comfort or enjoyment? No, for their ultimate good—for their eternal, spiritual welfare. That very eternal, spiritual welfare, though, may at times require being in need physically. Paul said, "When I am weak [physically wanting], then I am strong [spiritually]" (II Corinthians 12:10).

It is important to understand that many passages in the Bible are statements expressing not what God unconditionally

will do now in every case, but what God *can* do and *would like* to do for us. The fulfillment



Christian look at this as an unconditional promise that he or she will never be in physical or material need of any kind? If that were the case, how could the apostle Paul write that he "learned . . . to suffer need" (Philippians 4:12)? The fact is there were times when he was "in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness

God's prophet Jeremiah was falsely accused of defecting to Judah's enemy, the Chaldeans. He was cast into a dungeon and left to sink in the mire (Jeremiah 37:11-38:13). Why did God allow this? Illustration: Ken Tunell.

is always conditional on it promoting God's plan and being in our best interests. What is more, God doesn't always specify exactly *when* He will act.

God "gives food to the hungry . . . gives freedom to the prisoners . . . opens the eyes of the blind . . . raises those who are bowed down . . . the way of the wicked He turns upside down" (Psalm 146:7-9).

Such verses describe God's greatness. Our God is the God who does these things. That's the kind of God He is. But He doesn't do them now in every case, as is easily observable. He does them or will do them if and when it is appropriate—if and when it is best.

When you ask God for something, have faith and trust in His wisdom, His love, His mercy, His power, His care. Have faith that at the right moment He will do what is appropriate—what is for the ultimate good of everyone concerned.

"Trust in Him at all times" (Psalm 62:8). He knows what He is doing.

Better promises

The Old Covenant was based on physical promises. But the New Covenant is different. Its most important provisions are not for this life, but for the life to come. It is based on better promises (Hebrews 8:6).

Under the New Covenant, what matters most is not physical comfort and material wealth in this life, though many Christians have these. What is most important is the next life and preparations for it.

Though God does richly bless His people physically, such blessings are conditional. God simply does not bind Himself to grant all physical blessings in this life to all Christians in all circumstances at all times.

If we may not be assured of receiving every physical blessing in this life, though, "every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3) is available.

"The Lord will give grace and

glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly" (Psalm 84:11).

Material blessings may not always be good for us. But the blessings of God's holy spirit and the fruits it produces are always good for us. The holy spirit is the good gift the heavenly Father gives "to those who ask Him" (Luke 11:13).

Consider the end

Are you being tested right now? Are you undergoing some trial or affliction? Think about this. One of the following must be true: Either God is not aware of the difficulties you are facing, or He is aware but doesn't care. Or He is aware and does care, but is not powerful enough to help. Or—and this is the way it is—He is aware, He cares and He is almighty. He is actively and intricately involved in what is taking place in your life.

God's most fervent desire is to bring us into His eternal Kingdom. Of course, He also wants to bless us in this life. Many scriptures express this. But if a choice must be made, in spite of how much God loves to bless His people materially and physically here and now, His concern for their eternal welfare is so great that He will forego blessing them that way now—even allowing them to suffer "if need be" (I Peter 1:6)—in order to more abundantly bless them later.

God is committed to the plan He has begun for the purpose of enlarging His Family. Our future is so important to God that what-

ever lesson is needed in this life, or whatever it takes to help us build holy, righteous character, God will bring it about.

No price is too great—even to the sacrificing of His own Son. How profound is the love of God! "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!" (Romans 11:33).

God promises, though, that no trial will be greater than what a person can stand (I Corinthians 10:13) and that "all things work together for good to those who love God" (Romans 8:28).

So don't think it strange if you are being tried (I Peter 4:12-13). Rejoice! God is dealing with you as His child (Hebrews 12:7).

God is in control

"The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe" (Proverbs 18:10). God promises to safeguard those who belong to Him.

But some have wondered, then, why serious or fatal accidents and mishaps from time to time occur in the lives of even God's own elect.

God is the perfect parent. He knows what we need before we even ask Him (Matthew 6:8). He is intimately aware of every aspect of the lives of His children. Nothing escapes Him.

David realized this. He wrote: "O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path

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and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O Lord, You know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it. Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?" (Psalm 139:1-7).

Jesus declared that God's attention encompasses the birds of the air and the lilies of the field (Matthew 6:26, 28-29). "Are you not of more value than they?" Jesus asked his followers, potential immortal members of God's Family.

Of course. There is no comparison. Considering the tremendous investment God has in you, you can be sure He watches over you carefully.

No one is assured of a "charmed" life free of all accidents and mishaps, though. God allows such events to happen for our ultimate good. Time and chance happen to all—even to Christians (Ecclesiastes 9:11).

But in the lives of God's elect, time and chance are not allowed to interfere with God's purpose. He doesn't just keep His distance and permit every event in your life to come to its own natural conclusion even when harmful. He is aware of and ready to take a hand in what transpires in your life.

The watchful surveillance of His angels is part of the attentive care God has for His people: "For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways" (Psalm 91:11).

So what happens when an automobile wreck or some other untoward incident suddenly occurs in the life of a true Christian? Are God's angels looking in the other direction at that moment? Are they somehow distracted long enough for something to happen that interferes with God's purpose?

No, such events don't "sneak up" on God or His angels. God is in control.

For one thing, we must re-

member that God is not limited by time as we measure or count it. If a day to God can be as 1,000 years (II Peter 3:8), what is a split second to us can be long enough for God to make any decisions He may need to make, even while an accident, for example, is taking place.

We find a striking demonstration of this time differential in the accounts concerning Jesus' resurrection. One moment His followers were not allowed to cling to Him (John 20:17). Shortly thereafter His disciples could hold on to Him (Matthew 28:9).

Between those two points, close in time, Jesus ascended to heaven, was received by the Father—a momentous occasion that certainly was not rushed—and returned to earth. The point is,

never too late for Him to do what is appropriate.

God allowed Daniel to be cast into the lions' den before He intervened (Daniel 6:10-23).

He allowed Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego to be thrown into the midst of the burning fiery furnace before He saved them (Daniel 3:8-29).

Jeremiah was not delivered from neck-deep slime at the bottom of a cistern until he was first put down there and left to suffocate (Jeremiah 38:6-13).

The apostle Paul was not freed from imprisonments, shipwrecks, deprivations and numerous other hardships until he first got into them (II Corinthians 11:23-27).

These servants of God came through such predicaments because it is never too late for God to do His will.

Our
**future is so important to God
that whatever lesson is needed
in this life to help us build
holy, righteous character,
God will bring it about.**

no untoward event, no accident can hinder God's will. He "who works all things according to the counsel of His will" (Ephesians 1:11) is able to make all situations turn out for the good of His elect.

When is it too late for God?

One of the reasons we mortals often panic when we are faced with huge problems is that we tend to view them from a very human perspective. Being physical, we are deeply aware of physical limitations on everything around us. We fear going beyond what we can understand.

But God is spirit. He knows no limitations. "With God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27). It is

When Jesus was informed that His beloved friend Lazarus was very sick, Jesus didn't rush right over to be with him. Jesus stayed where He was for two whole days, during which Lazarus died (John 11:5-6).

Poor Lazarus. Did that mean it was too late for Jesus to help him, as various individuals thought it was (verses 21, 32, 37)? Of course not. When Jesus finally arrived, He raised Lazarus from the dead, for even death does not hinder God's purpose!

God has the last word. He does "whatever He pleases," whenever He pleases (Psalm 115:3). We need to learn that whatever God pleases to do in our lives, whenever He pleases to do it, is good and for our good. □

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



Q&A

In Matthew 16:28, Jesus said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom." Jesus' disciples died long ago, and Christ still hasn't returned with His Kingdom. What does this verse mean?

Notice that Jesus was talking only to His disciples (verse 21). Then, in verse 28, Jesus showed that He was referring to only *some* of His disciples when He said "*some* standing here."

Next, notice that Jesus said they would "see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom" before they died. He didn't say He was actually going to come before they would "taste death."

The first verse of Matthew chapter 17 continues the same train of thought: "Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, brought them up on a high mountain by themselves." Here were *some* of Jesus' disciples going with Him.

Now read the companion accounts of this event in Mark 9:2-4 and Luke 9:28-32.

Jesus went up into the mountain to pray (Luke 9:28). The next verse says, "And as He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening."

Matthew 17:2 describes this amazing miracle as a transfiguration, and says Jesus' face shone as the sun. God divinely intervened by His holy spirit to change the appearance of His Son.

Trans means "across or beyond," and *figure* means "form, shape or appearance." So Jesus was taken across or beyond in appearance to a future time.

Matthew 17:9 says, "Jesus commanded them, saying, 'Tell

the vision to no one.' " The disciples saw Christ as He would look when He returns to this earth—but only in vision, not in reality. Revelation 1:13-16 describes Christ as He appears now: "And His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength."

The transfiguration of Christ was a transformation of Jesus by God to give Him the same appearance He would have at His Second Coming. The three disciples saw Christ just as they will see Him again when He comes with His Kingdom.

Our 7-year-old son wants to know how he can be happy in the Millennium if he is a flesh-and-blood human while we, his parents, will be spirit beings. He says that if he can't see us at least once in a while, he doesn't want to be in the Millennium. Also, will glorified spirit beings keep their own identities? Will we look just like we do now?

Your son never wants to leave you. He wants to be near you because you have given him life. You give him the food he eats and the bed he sleeps in. You give him correction, you play with him and, above all, you love him with your whole heart.

This is the exact relationship God wants to have with us as His children. God created the human family unit as a type of what He is doing spiritually. We should want to be with our heavenly Father in the same way your son wants to be with you forever.

Your son thinks he will never again see you after you are born into God's Family.

You should explain to him that God is going to return to earth. All people are going to see Jesus when He comes.

You should teach your son to

want to be with God in the same way God wants to be with you. Teach him that God loves him.

If your son obeys you and respects you, he will be protected, with you, during the times of trouble coming on the earth. And the Bible indicates that, if you properly train your son now, you will also teach him during the Millennium.

Read Isaiah 30, especially verses 20-21: "Yet your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore, but your eyes shall see your teachers. Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it,' whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left."

One of the tremendous facts about it is that you will be perfect then! You will show total godly love and concern. What's more, you will have a glorified spirit body just like Christ's.

But your son will be able to recognize his mom and dad in the Kingdom.

Certainly there will be changes in all bodies that are changed to spirit and given immortal life. Jesus' body was changed so that His disciples needed to look closely and even hear His voice before they knew Him for sure. But they *did* know Him (John 20:15-16, 21:12, Matthew 28:9-10). Jesus showed Himself to His followers on several occasions (Acts 1:3). Those who knew Him during His physical life were not left in doubt. They knew Him.

All the other children of God will have Jesus' same spirit composition and ability in the coming Kingdom. They will be able to make themselves known to their loved ones. You will know your son, and even more important to your son, he will know you. □

'I SHALL RETURN'

*Almost 2,000 years ago Jesus promised
He would reappear as the Messiah
—and rescue the human race!*

By Paul Kroll

These were the darkest days of World War II. The Japanese had invaded the Philippines in December 1941, shortly after attacking Pearl Harbor.

The American general in the Philippines, Douglas MacArthur, chose Bataan and Corregidor Island as defensive strongholds.

Defeat of the combined Filipino-American defenders was imminent, however. Bataan fell April 9, 1942. Corregidor would fall 27 days later.

General MacArthur was ordered to leave the Philippines and barely escaped to Australia, with the Japanese desperately attempting to kill or capture him.

A promise to come again

Upon arriving at Batchelor Field, 40 miles south of Darwin, Australia, MacArthur told reporters: "The President of the United States ordered me to break through the Japanese lines . . . for the purpose . . . of organizing the American offensive against Japan."

A primary goal was the liberation of the Philippines, said General MacArthur. He vowed to personally come back: "*I came through and I shall return.*"

General MacArthur was sur-

prised that his casual statement, "I shall return," energized the Filipino resistance so dramatically. He wrote in his *Reminiscences*: "The phrase 'I shall return' seemed a promise of magic to the Filipinos. It lit a flame that became a symbol which focused the nation's indomitable will. . . . It was scraped in the sands of the beaches, it was daubed on the walls of the *barrios*, it was stamped on the mail, it was whispered in the cloisters of the church."

A simple phrase became a rallying cry of hope for millions. General MacArthur was true to his word. He promised to return and liberate the Filipinos from their captors. And come back he did, landing on the beach at Leyte Island in the Philippines during October 1944.

But General MacArthur was only a human being. He merely carried out a temporary liberation from a national conqueror. Today, he is dead and the dramatic events and promises of World War II are but a fading memory.

Jesus' sure promise

Another individual, living many centuries before Douglas MacArthur, also made a pledge to return and liberate His followers. That personage was Jesus of Nazareth.

Jesus told His followers He

would die for their sins, be resurrected and go away to heavenly places for a time. See, for example, Matthew 20:17-20.

Jesus then made a promise to return again as the Messiah or the Christ—and free His followers from the shackles of death: "If I go . . . *I shall come again* and receive you to myself, so that where I am you may be also" (John 14:3, New English Bible).

A yearly religious festival God ordained—the Festival of Trumpets (Leviticus 23:24)—specifically celebrates this future coming of the Messiah to take over the reins of world government.

Christ's Second Coming is to be dramatic, shocking and very visible. Jesus told His disciples, "For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be" (Matthew 24:27).

Jesus said His return as Messiah—the actual "Day of the Lord"—would come after two important events: 1) the Great Tribulation and 2) signs in the heavens.

A time of great trial

Jesus warned that the "last days" would experience this greatest time of trouble in man's history—the Great Tribulation: "For then will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be

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saved" (verses 21-22). However, Jesus held out hope for the human race. He said, "But for the elect's sake those days will be shortened" (verse 22). That period of turmoil called the Great Tribulation will be stopped by God's intervention in the affairs of man and by the coming of the Messiah.

Jesus explained that the Great Tribulation would also be interrupted by extraordinary natural calamities—by atmospheric disturbances and heavenly signs.

Jesus said: "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken" (verse 29).

These awesome occurrences are precursors to the actual "Day of the Lord"—the coming of the Messiah. Christ's coming itself will be an extraordinary sight, startling all the nations.

Jesus explained: "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (verse 30).

Jesus said His appearance would be accompanied by the sound of an incredible trumpet blast (verse 31)—hence, one reason why the Festival that commemorates this singular event is called the Feast of Trumpets.

Coming world government

We read of this striking vision of the future in the book of Revelation: "Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The

kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever'" (Reve-

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G.A. Belluche Jr.

lation 11:15). John saw, in vision, 24 great spirit beings saying: "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come, because You have taken Your great power and reigned" (verses 16-17).

It will be a time of political and military turmoil among the nations: "The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come" (verse 18). Yes, there is to be a "wrath of God" that comes upon the world *after* the Great Tribulation and *before* Christ returns.

The resurrection of the dead

But it will also be a time of great hope. The Messiah will save the world from itself!

One astonishing event will be the resurrection of tens of thousands of the dead to immortal life. It will be the time when those whom God called over the centuries—and who yielded to Him in obedience and faith—receive eternal life.

The extraordinary resurrection of the dead in Christ occurs when this seventh and final trumpet blasts. The Messiah "will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four

winds, from one end of heaven to the other" (Matthew 24:31).

This will be, as the apostle John heard in his vision, "The time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You [God] should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great" (Revelation 11:18).

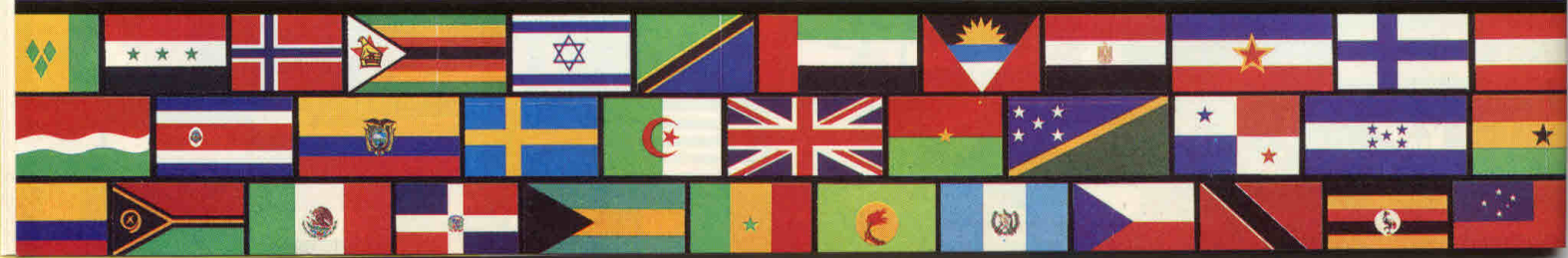
Paul also wrote of that same resurrection to life occurring at the sounding of the seventh trumpet: "Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" (I Corinthians 15:51-52).

The resurrection of the just is an integral part of the Messiah's plan as He comes to rule this planet. It ensures the continued existence of the human race and fulfillments, in part, God's purpose to enlarge His own spirit Family.

Book of Revelation unveiled

Let's now backtrack a moment. The book of Revelation actually shows *seven angels* sounding their trumpets.

All seven trumpets herald the *very last* events just before Jesus'



return. However, the trumpet blasts of the seven angels make up only the seventh or *last* seal.

Let's briefly look at all seven seals. They are found in the book of Revelation. The details of these events were all written on a scroll, sealed with the seven seals in question (Revelation 5:1). As the scroll was unrolled, one seal after the other had to be broken. As each seal was opened, John heard and saw in vision the details of another event to occur before and during the time of the Messiah's coming.

The information behind the first four seals explains the four horsemen of the Apocalypse (Revelation 6:1-8). Here we have the white horse (false teaching), the red horse (war and turmoil), the black horse (hunger and famine) and the pale horse (disease epidemics).

The fifth seal gives information about the Great Tribulation, to which Jesus referred in Matthew 24. John described it this way: "When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held" (verse 9). Obviously, this is a reference to a time of great trial and tribulation.

The sixth seal refers to the heavenly signs—the powers of the heavens being shaken—immediately *after* the Tribulation and before Jesus' return.

John wrote, "I looked when He [the Lamb of God, or Christ—see Revelation 5:1-7] opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood" (Revelation 6:12). (Compare this with Matthew 24:29.)

Final trumpet blast

The seventh and final seal is described beginning in Revelation 8. John wrote: "When He opened the seventh seal . . . I saw the seven angels who stand before

God, and to them were given seven trumpets" (verses 1-2).

As each angel sounds his trumpet, another plague strikes mankind. The first six trumpet blasts announce plagues that destroy vegetation (verse 7), sea life (verse 8), water (verse 10) and atmosphere (verse 12), and two phases of the final struggle between supranational military-political blocs (chapter 9).

Then comes that seventh trumpet blast announcing the Messiah's coming. That's why the Festival is called the Feast of Trumpets—plural—in the Old Testament. There are *seven* trumpet blasts, each announcing a specific event to occur at the *very end* of human-directed—and Satan-influenced—civilization.

Suddenly, the Messiah is seen by everyone on earth. Tens of thousands of others, now immortal beings, are rising to meet Him in the air. People are terrified, confused, angry.

What happens now on this day of the final trumpet? Where do the Messiah and the saints made immortal go? In a sense, they don't "go" anywhere. They come to the earth—right to the environs of the city of Jerusalem.

Future world capital

About 1,958 years ago, the disciples were standing on the Mount of Olives, opposite Jerusalem, watching Jesus ascend into heaven. It was 40 days after His resurrection. Two angels said to the disciples: "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:10-11).

The Messiah, or Christ, will indeed come to the Mount of Olives and Jerusalem. The city will become His headquarters from which He rules the world with the risen, immortal saints.

The Old Testament prophet

Zechariah captured that dramatic moment when the Messiah arrives at Jerusalem with tens of thousands of His immortal ones: "And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south" (Zechariah 14:4). Zechariah tells us the Messiah will come with all the saints (verse 5). For what reason? To rule the nations! "And the Lord shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be—'The Lord is one,' and His name one" (verse 9).

God's government to prevail

The Messiah will restore order in the world. He will govern with wisdom and justice and bring true righteousness to the inhabitants of planet earth.

Isaiah put it in beautifully poetic terms. "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever" (Isaiah 9:6-7).

The events surrounding the Day of the Lord, culminating in the coming of Christ, will be the most significant and decisive time in man's history. That is why God tells His people to memorialize in advance this future coming of the Messiah—each year—in the Festival of Trumpets: "In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation" (Leviticus 23:24). □



The Spiritual Feast

*Do you know
why God designed
the Day of Atonement
the way He did?*

By Jerold W. Aust

Physically, the Feast of Atonement can be the most rigorous of God's festivals to keep.

On this day, God's people obey God's commandment to "afflict your souls" by fasting (Leviticus 23:27). The New Testament even refers to Atonement simply as "the Fast" (Acts 27:9).

Let's face it: When the body is denied food and liquid for a full day, it reacts with discomfort and pain. This is natural. As the saying goes, the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

But when we understand, the temporary discomfort we feel on Atonement gives way to tremendous anticipation and joy!

So why does God command us to fast? What does the Day of

Atonement point to in God's plan of salvation? What makes this unusual day a "feast" among God's seven annual festivals? God does

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everything for our benefit, and with specific purpose!

God's amazing plan

Fasting actually is one of the most important of God's many benefits for mankind.

The big key is to know that God has planned for man to become God, just as God is God! I John 3:2 tells us: "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." We are composed of physical matter. But God is made of spirit. That gap must be bridged. Or, as I Corinthians 15:53 says, "This corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality." But how?

Jesus Christ is our example. God the Father changed Jesus from flesh into spirit at Jesus' resurrection. God intends to do the same with us at the resurrection when Christ returns to this earth. But there is an even more important way in which we must become like Jesus!

How fasting helps us

God allows us to have a hand, so to speak, in our becoming a spiritual creation. We must take on Christ's own mind—God's own character—before we can be given immortality as spirit beings in God's Family!

It all begins in our minds. Through the power of the holy spirit, God injects His character into us as we strive to live in a manner pleasing to Him, by obeying His law. And fasting is one of the greatest tools God gives to help us do our part in

this incredible process. Along with Bible study, prayer and meditation, fasting helps us draw closer to God, to think more like Him, to act by nature the way Jesus Christ acts, to take on "the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

Yet we cannot make ourselves into God. It is Jesus Christ who is carefully shaping and molding our spiritual thinking to His thoughts and goals.

This is what makes the fast of Atonement into the Feast of Atonement! This is the knowledge that adds the joy and anticipation to this physically rigorous



Barry Stahl

and discomforting day. Our bodies do feel the temporary affliction, while our minds feast on God's spiritual banquet for that day.

Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

Jesus should know. He had just fasted 40 days and 40 nights and was ravenously hungry! Yet He was *at one* with God spiritually—and strong enough to repel Satan. Read about it yourself in Mat-



threw 4:1-11. Jesus is our example on the subject of fasting—not that He requires us to fast anywhere near the length of time He did.

Christ required His disciples to fast (Luke 5:33-35). That requirement is on us today, especially during the Feast of Atonement. Those in ancient Israel who refused to fast on Atonement cut themselves off from the nation. And those who understand God's commands and do not fast on Atonement today cut themselves off from God's Church—God's begotten family.

Just as Christ did, we as Christ's followers must do battle with the ultimate cause of all this world's evils—Satan the devil. We can be thankful God promises to remove this powerful spiritual enemy from the world. This is one of the main meanings of the Day of Atonement!

The binding of Satan

Unlike the confusing, conflicting and meaningless holidays of this world, God's Holy Days reveal God's plan of salvation for mankind.

Atonement in particular reveals God's binding of Satan at the Second Coming of Christ to this earth (Revelation 20:1-3). With Satan bound, humanity will become *at one* with God.

For 1,000 years, Satan will have no influence over mankind. Christ will rule uncontested on this earth.

Depend on God

The Atonement fast also helps Christ's disciples learn to depend on God for nourishment and the very breath of life. Complete abstinence shows our utter weakness as humans while reassuring us of God's supreme power to uphold us.

When a man brought his demon-possessed son to Jesus for healing, Jesus rebuked the demon. It came out. Jesus' disci-

ples wondered why they couldn't do this.

Jesus explained it was for lack of spiritual power. "This kind does not go out except by prayer *and fasting*," He said (Matthew 17:21). Fasting is a most important key in overcoming the evil influences of this world.

The Atonement fast teaches us to depend on God at all times for sustenance, protection and guidance. If we are keeping the Day of Atonement as God commands, we are actually feasting with God!

Help in overcoming

God's nature is totally unselfish, giving, outgoing. Man's nature, on the other hand, is self-centered, lustful, antagonistic toward others. We humans don't naturally do anything for others without expecting something in return.

Jeremiah wrote, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9).

To take on God's nature, we must first overcome our own carnal nature, along with the pulls of Satan and this evil world.

Fasting lets us receive God's help in our struggle to overcome. Isaiah 58:6-12 lists many of the major areas of human nature that we need to overcome, along with many of the godly attitudes and actions we need to adopt. The true fast—the fast with the right purpose of drawing close to God, of becoming *at one* with Him, of thinking as He thinks—this is the fast God will bless.

Conquering the weaknesses of the flesh and replacing those shortcomings with godly actions is our goal as Christians. When we fast as God commands, God gives us more strength and help to become like Him.

Coming—life inherent!

Finally, fasting—and spiritually feasting—on the Feast or

Day of Atonement reminds us that one day, we will enjoy life inherent just as God does!

We will live eternally in incorruptible spirit bodies (I Corinthians 15:51-54). We will not need food or drink, although we will be able to enjoy them if we so desire (Luke 24:36-43). We will not grow weary (Isaiah 40:28). We will not have the common aches and pains of this fleshly body, physically or mentally. We will not suffer from the many addictions Satan has inflicted on a deceived and oppressed worldwide human family.

And we will not sin (I John 3:9)! When we are spirit and not flesh, we will not struggle with the pulls of this flesh anymore. What a tremendous blessing!

Feast with God

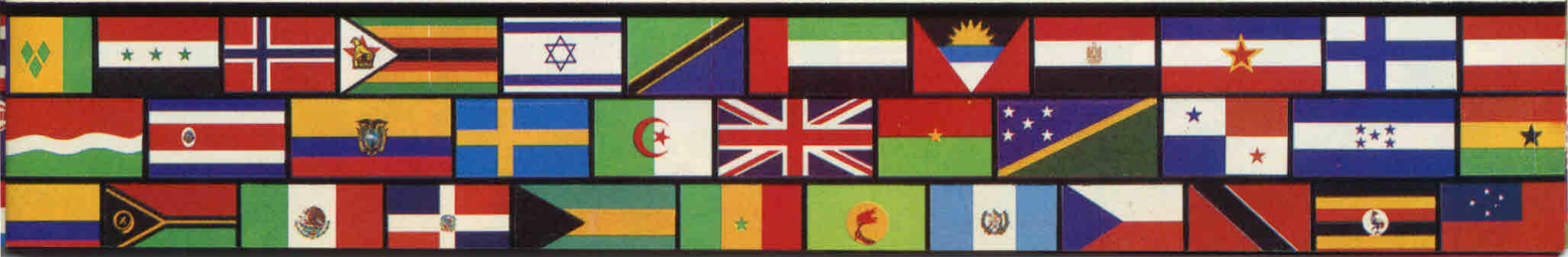
When we fast on the Day of Atonement, we experience some slight discomfort. That should be expected. God expects that we will. It simply reminds us that we are physical, temporary, weak.

Because of severe health problems, some might be wise to check with a health professional before undertaking a fast. Even a fast for only 24 hours might not be advisable in some rare instances. God surely understands these unique circumstances.

But for the broad majority who enjoy relatively good health, even fasting for purely physical reasons might allow their bodies much-needed rest and recuperation. And for this majority, especially those of God's Church, this spiritual fast is commanded from sunset, October 8, to sunset, October 9, this year.

For more information, call or write for a free copy of our fascinating booklet *Pagan Holidays or God's Holy Days—Which?* and a free copy of *God's Sacred Calendar*.

May you enjoy the Day of Atonement this year. May this *fast* become a *feast* for you! □



Sell your possessions! Give the money to the poor, Jesus told the young rich man.

But he couldn't do it. His possessions seemed too valuable, too precious—even more important than eternal life (Matthew 19:16-22)!

What if you were told the same thing? Would you sell everything you owned? Would you give the money to the poor? Or would you be like the rich man who couldn't bear to part with his material possessions?

Few could do it!

It would be extremely difficult for most to give up everything they have. What if you had to sell your dream house, the one you for years scrimped and saved for? What about your car, clothes and furniture? Some have rare antique, coin or stamp collections. How easily could you give them up?

Then, after selling everything, you have to turn around and give all the money to the poor. You would be left with nothing.

How could Jesus ask such a thing? How could He expect anyone to do it willingly? What would be the trade-off? Listen to what He said in Matthew 13:44:

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

Do you realize that with this special joy, you *could* sell all your possessions—you *could* do whatever God required of you? This is why the joy of anticipating God's Kingdom must be the strongest influence in your life.

But is it? Does the joy of desiring God's Kingdom burn brightly in you? Does it fill

GOD'S KINGDOM: Picture Yourself...

*What will your life be like in
God's coming Kingdom?*

By George M. Kackos



Warren Emms

you with zeal for doing God's will? Does it help you pray more fervently and serve others?

Sad to say, many people find things in this life more influential than God's Kingdom. Like the rich man, they lack the zeal to do God's will.

But you can be different! You can build zeal for doing God's will by developing more of this joy—this happiness that comes from anticipating God's glorious Kingdom.

But how can you increase this joy? How can you enlarge it? By having a vague, irrelevant picture of God's Kingdom? No, that leaves you wanting things of this world.

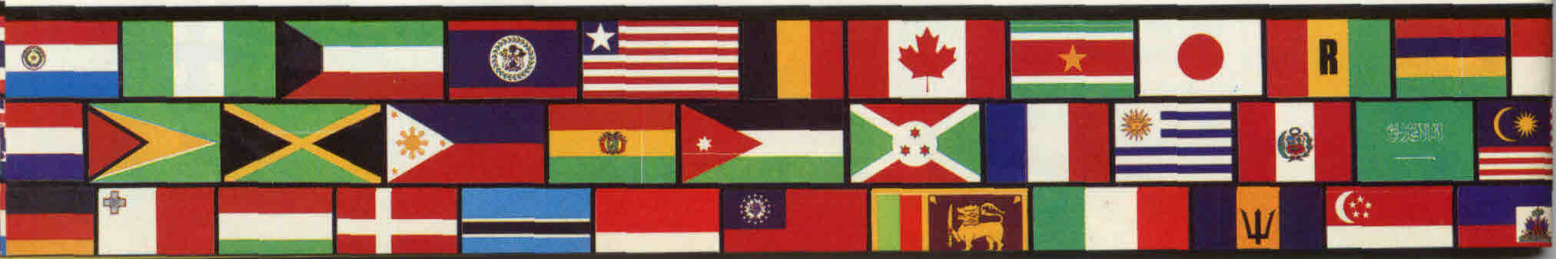
What you need is a vivid, clear picture of your incredible reward—that treasure in the



Greg S. Smith

field—a picture that makes you want to fulfill your eternal destiny. So let's take an imaginary trip into your future. Let's picture what it might be like. Re-

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member, what we are about to see is not idle speculation. It is based on the plain revelations of God's Word, the Bible.

Awaiting the resurrection

Picture yourself living during the Day of the Lord. Much of the earth's vegetation has been destroyed. Water has been turned to blood or made bitter. Hundreds of millions have died from warfare, famine and diseases. This is the chilling prophecy of Revelation chapters 8 and 9.

But you have survived, thanks to God's protection in a special location (Revelation 12:13-16). Now you and other true believers anxiously await the seventh trumpet blast, the final trumpet that signals the return of Jesus Christ (Revelation 11:15)—and your transformation into a literal member of God's Family!

You wonder what the resurrection will be like. How will your mind and body be changed? What will your life be like?

Then it happens. The blast of the seventh trumpet pierces

your energy—incredible vitality—fills your well-proportioned body.

Your mind is instantaneously made free from temptation, guilt and feelings of inferiority, free from the negative pulls you've had to struggle against. Positive thoughts and feelings abound. Never have you felt and looked so good.

The joy is incredible!

Then—you rise to meet Christ!

Now notice the amazing prophecy of I Thessalonians 4:16-17:

"The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air."

Freed from the confines of gravity, you ascend to the clouds. You marvel at your bright, white garments, described in Revelation 19:7-8.

Looking around, you recognize other members of God's Church who were supernaturally changed at the same moment you were—perhaps your spouse and children, if they have answered God's calling and remained faithful until Christ's return. Like you, they radiate beauty and happiness.

Tears of joy fill your eyes as you embrace one another. You rejoice in your blessings, knowing that they will never be taken away.

And then you see the returning Jesus Christ and the angelic armies of heaven! Revelation 19:11-16 describes the picture this way:

"Then I saw heaven opened,

and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

"He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

"Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

You watch in awe as the glorious, powerful Jesus Christ and the angelic host descend to do battle with the defiant, warring humans below who have insanely turned their weapons of destruction upon Him. Earth's armies are soon defeated. You can read about this in verses 17-21.

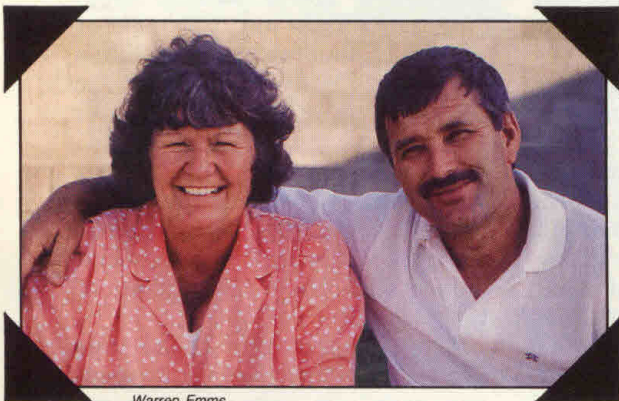
Your new responsibilities

With Satan bound (Revelation 20:1-3) and Christ in absolute authority on earth, Jesus greets His new Family. Imagine the rejoicing! Everyone is excited about working together and ruling the world in righteousness.

Think about it: How will *you* feel when Christ addresses *you* and says: "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord" (Matthew 25:21)?

Christ will organize and run the world's new government using the vital, *family-centered* principles God's people have learned and practiced within His Church.

United with the faithful ser-



Warren Emms

through the sounds of a world poised at the brink of destruction. Before you can blink your eyes in amazement, you are transformed. The fleshly body you once knew is gone—replaced by a spirit-composed body the same as God's (I Corinthians 15:50-52, Philippians 3:21).

The change is extraordinary. Aches and pains are gone. Enor-



vants of God down through history, now resurrected, you are given authority in that government (Revelation 2:26-27). And you have the privilege of sitting with Christ on His very throne (Revelation 3:21)!

Under Jesus' guidance, you are taught how to use the power of God and serve in His government. You can appear in the flesh when necessary, as Christ did to the early apostles (I Corinthians 15:4-8). Eating and resting are now only optional—not required—for you (Isaiah 40:28)!

Ruling with Christ

Healing the sick draws you close to the physically and psychologically scarred human refugees from the last days under Satan's rule. Teaching them God's way of life produces obedience and zeal in them. Human leaders are appointed to serve in an effective government.

Because of your efforts, people are blessed. Cities are beautifully rebuilt, pollution-free. Agricultural areas produce abundant crops without harmful pesticides or fertilizers.

Opportunities abound for productivity and growth in all areas of life!

And relationships are totally changed from the way they used to be. Marriages are truly happy. Children are reared properly—"in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). Employers and employees get along in peace and outgoing concern for each other.

Throughout the Millennium, life improves constantly. Wars cease. Starvation doesn't exist. Peace, harmony and happiness increase.

In short, the entire world is rebuilt according to God's law and plan.

As the Millennium comes to a close, you await the

second resurrection—the time when those uncalled before Christ's Second Coming are resurrected to physical life.

During that time, which God's Church has come to call the Great White Throne Judgment based on the prophecy of Revelation 20:11-12, seeing your relatives and friends resurrected brings you great happiness. You help them learn to live God's way of life so they can become members of the God Family.

After that—new heavens and new earth

But what will happen next? What is the next phase of God's plan?

Revelation 21:1 tells: "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away."

Think about it! With the new heavens and earth comes an even more exciting phase of God's plan.

New Jerusalem, a city 1,500 miles in length, breadth and height, descends to the earth (verses 2, 16). Layers of precious gems sparkle brightly in the walls surrounding it.

And—God the Father Himself descends at last to live on this new earth!

"And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God'" (verse 3).

Brilliant light from God the Father and Jesus Christ floods the city. A transparent street of pure gold leads to the tree of life (verse 21, Revelation 22:1-2). From the tree come 12 delicious types of fruit. Flowing from God's throne is a crystal-clear river of the water of life.

This magnificent city is now your home. With others in the Family of God, you carry out your responsibilities and activities

from this regal setting. Everything becomes new. Advances are made in the arts and sciences. Godly creativity changes the way things are done. Recreational activities change and expand and improve. New responsibilities are undertaken (Revelation 21:5).

Your relationships with others in God's Family are tremendously joyous and fulfilling (Revelation 21:4). God's Family members respect each other and serve with one another with unique abilities.

And—if you can believe it—there is much more to come. Isaiah 51:16 gives us the briefest hint. Here God says, "And I have put My words in your mouth; I have covered you with the shadow of My hand, that I may *plant the heavens*."

What can God intend to do with this lifeless universe with us as His born children? The possibilities stagger the mind!

Pleasures forevermore

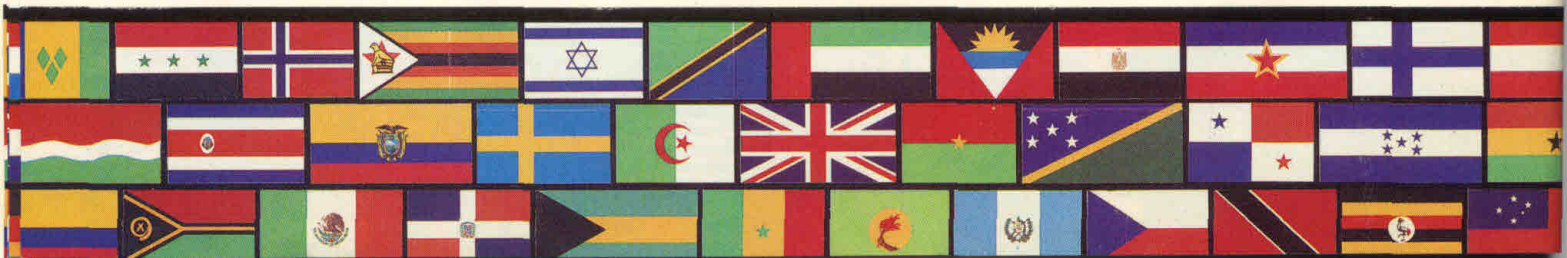
When you think about your amazing future, you can understand why David said to God, "You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Psalm 16:11).

This means complete joy, not dashed hopes and dreams. It means everlasting pleasures, not temporary, cheap thrills that end only in death, like the pursuits of this world.

When you really desire this life—when anticipating it gives you great joy—you can put everything into right perspective. You can look at what God requires in a positive way. You can obey His every command.

And you can join the apostle Paul in saying, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18)! □

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FAVORITE FEAST MEMORIES

This year, upwards of 150,000 people will celebrate God's Feast of Tabernacles at more than 90 sites worldwide.

The Feast, which pictures the 1,000-year reign of Jesus Christ on earth in the world tomorrow, is the most joyous time of year for God's people. The Feast is a time of physical and spiritual refreshment, family togetherness, travel and learning.

We asked Worldwide Church of God brethren from a broad variety of backgrounds, including many ministers and Ambassador College students, to share with us their favorite memories of the Feast of Tabernacles.

We were camped on the banks of the Zambezi River between Zambia and Zimbabwe to keep the Feast. Services were held in a big tent.

Suddenly families of monkeys and baboons began running for cover—desperate in their efforts to escape being

Good News photos



“... a fun show at Jekyll amidst rushing hurricane waters that saturated the tent and kept feet ever damp ...”



trampled by stampeding elephants. The service was in progress. Ten tons of destruction were headed our way!

We yelled “Sit still!” The beasts, trumpeting as they ran, came within feet of the tent, then suddenly divided, going around the tent, two on one side and one on the other. A millennial setting? Not really! But enough to let us know—God was with us!

Harold Jackson
Pasadena, California

A few years ago in Hawaii I had the opportunity to play my flute in a small ensemble for special music every day.

From my vantage point on stage, I could see one lady in the front row who always caught my eye and gave me a big smile and the “thumbs up” sign. Whenever I would become nervous performing, I would look for her.

I was even more thankful for her encouragement when I finally met her and discovered she was one of our deaf brethren. Although she did not hear a note I played, she wanted me to know that I had a fan in the audience.

Brynda Chalaris
Pasadena, California

Whilst riding in New South Wales on the third day of our six-day motorcycle ride from Perth, Western Australia, to Cairns, North Queensland, some passing Feastgoers driving to Adelaide, South Australia, witnessed a bag slip, unnoticed by us, from my motorcycle, and stopped. Unable to catch us, and surprised to find Bibles and Feast itinerary inside, they happily handed the bag to a Perth member at the Adelaide site, who passed it on to us, to our surprise, when we returned home.

Eric Chandler
Cooee, Australia

In 1965 while my husband was a sophomore at Ambassador College in Pasadena, our son Philip (now a senior at Ambassador in Pasadena), was due on the fourth day of the Feast. Since I was from Big Sandy, Texas (the Feast site) and knew about a clinic near there, I flew down 10 days early, made arrangements for Philip's birth and, on the day the Feast started (October 10), Philip was born on his father's birthday!

Mary Ann Aust
San Diego, California

My family of six, including a 6-month-old baby, traveled to the Solomon Islands





Fiji (Christine Leon)

for the Feast in 1986. The trip was to take almost 40 hours from our home in Huntington, West Virginia.

We had been promised a bassinet on the plane from Los Angeles, yet we found ourselves on a packed 747 rows away from the bulkhead where the bassinets were located. We saw people without infants sitting in those spots, so we asked the hostess if we could swap places. None of the people without children was willing to trade.

But a family with a small child overheard the hostess and offered to trade. Their child was too big to use the bassinet. But there is considerably more legroom in the bulkhead. We were shocked when we heard of the offer. But guess what? They were Church members traveling to Fiji for the Feast.

Mr. and Mrs. Rod McQueen
Westbury, Australia

Attending God's Feast means traveling several hours by plane for me and my three daughters. Fortunately, we can fly at much-reduced fares through my husband's job, but on condition that space is available. The time before the day of departure is often quite testing because of the uncertainty.

Many years ago I had a special experience. Our flight was to leave at night. On the morning of that day we were told that it was fully booked. I prayed, but by early afternoon nothing had changed.

Never before had I felt so terribly

helpless and completely secluded from the rest of the world on this faraway island! I desperately wanted to go to the Feast. Only God could help. He could perform a miracle. And He did!

In the evening my husband came home with the bad news: The situation had not changed. So we sat down to dinner. The time when we should have left for the airport had already passed when the phone rang and somebody from the airport said that there had been some cancellations. We rushed to the car and just made it in time. For me the Feast had already started at the very minute I sat in that airplane!

Catherine Okano
Abiko-Shi, Japan

1988 was a busy but exciting Feast. I was on the Festival support staff, made up of Ambassador College students, who stayed in Pasadena to maintain headquarters and serve the brethren.

To keep the campus neat, I was assigned to work on the landscape crew.



Jordan (Doug Rendall)

Days began early, usually before sunup. After services each day, there was time to fellowship with brethren from all over the world who had come to headquarters. I can't help but smile when I remember the words of appreciation about the beauty and serenity of the campus that so many expressed. This sent sparks of zeal into me and I was driven to work harder.

I also served refreshments one evening at the family dance. Cheerful hellos greeted my hungry ears. "There surely has been a lot of work put into this dance," a Feastgoer remarked. I nodded and smiled back. Thanks to the support staff.

The opportunity to help others enjoy the Feast made my 1988 Feast the best ever.

Kalengule Kaoma
Lusaka, Zambia

The first time I ever prayed for an hour was on one of the mountains sur-



“I flew down 10 days early, made arrangements for Philip's birth and, on the day the Feast started (October 10), Philip was born on his father's birthday.”

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Peru (J. Angeles/C. Estrada)

rounding the Feast site at Siegler Springs, California.

It seemed that I had prayed soooo long, so I looked at my watch and it had only been 20 minutes.

Next I felt something in my pant leg. Would God allow an Ambassador College freshman to die from snakebite while praying for an hour the first time in his life? Surely not! Opened eyes revealed a stout, slick weed that had frightened me.

Then came a rustling in the brush. It was surely a wild mountain bear coming to devour this novice Christian invading his territory. But, surprise, there was no bear, only another distraction for this "rookie" Christian.

What a long hour this seemed, yet such a rewarding and full hour unequaled.

Dean Blackwell
Pasadena, California

Those of us who have kept the joyous Feast of Tabernacles for well over 25 or 30 years always delight in early Feast memories. Those were the days of Feasts in Big Sandy and Jekyll Island—Feasts of two services each day, of long lines waiting for meals and other activities, of special chorale rehearsals that resulted in daily presentations of most inspiring music, a fun show at Jekyll amidst rushing hurricane waters that saturated the tent and kept feet ever damp or, in Big Sandy, ever dusty, walking the then unpaved paths.

Those memories are with us forever: Feasts so special, so filled with joy and living lessons of love and endurance that set us elder members in good stead for all to come, to profit by and to enjoy.

Joan C. Bogdanchik
Pasadena, California

Early members may recall the Feast in Scottburgh in 1964 when evangelist Gerald Waterhouse led songs, gave the sermons and sermons—in fact, did everything. Everyone was very new. One morning he announced his intention to baptize 12 people that afternoon in the beach pool. At that time of the year the beaches were crowded. There was a ripple of consternation as everyone pictured Mr. Waterhouse leading the new members to the pool and baptizing them on a crowded beach. Mr. Waterhouse was unconcerned and had asked the Eternal to take care of the matter.

About five minutes before he finished counseling them, a cloud came up suddenly and it poured with rain, clearing the beach of people. It stopped raining soon and the group was baptized.

Thirty minutes later the sun shone and the crowd started returning to the beach. Talk about a faith builder.

Bryan Mathie
Cape Town, South Africa

We were enjoying a fine Feast meal in a restaurant with our daughter, who was under 5 years old. The owner of the restaurant came up to us towards the end of the meal and said that he was so impressed with our daughter's behavior—how she had sat still while eating her food—that he wanted to give her a reward. With that he presented her with two carnations. That memory has remained with us, and reminds us how important it is to set the right example while at the Feast—you never know who is watching.

Mr. and Mrs. John Low
Duxford, England

One member's recent Feast itinerary made fascinating reading! His trip (from



Thailand (Susan Thomas)

Borneo Island) included part bicycle ride (with suitcase strapped on), part boat navigation downstream, then a motorbike ride, taxi, a plane flight, followed by coach, then another taxi ride! Little did we realize that this member had to take so much time (two days) and trouble, not to mention expense, to keep God's Feast. It surely must be a moving example of faith and dedication to God.

P. Sellappan
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

As a high-school and then university student, I was financially unable to contribute much to our family's Feast fund. Always my mother had to scrape by with what she had and, as my father was not in the Church and Mum devoted her time toward homemaking and loving her children, we had no regular income. So you can imagine our joy when we received at one Feast a mystery gift of money from anonymous brethren.

In 1988, at long last, I had finished my studies and was out working. It was my great delight and privilege this time to be the "mystery" donor.

Sarah Miller
Cremorne, Australia

Jekyll Island. October, 1964. My second Feast, which was also my once-a-year opportunity to attend Church services! After Sabbath services the day





Jordan (Doug Rendall)

before the Feast, I was sitting on a bench by the seashore when a young man appeared.

"Hello! I am Gene Hogberg, from Pasadena."

"Nice to meet you. I am Pablo Gonzalez, from Puerto Rico."

"Oh, do you know Dr. Benjamin Rea?"

"Yes, sir. He baptized me a couple of years ago in Puerto Rico."

"He will be here for the Feast."

"Great! Thanks for letting me know. I will be looking for him."

Look for him I did. Little did I know then about the end results of my long chats with Dr. Rea during the Feast. By 1967 I found myself doing the Spanish version of the *World Tomorrow* radio broadcast. And one day during the 1973 Feast at Tucson, Arizona, while I was enjoying lunch, someone whispered in my ear, "Could you and your wife come to Mr. Herbert Armstrong's room around 3?"

"Yes, sir" was my answer. What did I do? was my only thought. It didn't take long to learn about another responsibility given me—that of a minister.

"Why me?" was and has been my question ever since. I know I will have the answer during the best Feast ever, yet to be enjoyed at Christ's coming. For the time being, I pray constantly for that most joyous occasion!

Pablo Gonzalez
San Juan, Puerto Rico



Martinique (Rony Philbert)

Before the trip home, I filled the tank once more in Bonndorf, Black Forest. When I wanted to pay, the gas attendant spoke to me, "Surely you also belong to the Church!" As I looked a bit astounded, he replied smilingly: "You know, your people are so much different than my usual customers. No one in your group gets pushy or swears when the line is long and I can't get to everybody immediately. You always have a friendly word, and that's rare. You're really pleasant customers!"

Hannelore Tuerling
Luegde, West Germany

When we arrived at the town of Big Sandy in the fall of 1953, the redwood Tabernacle building, now the College Library, was only partially completed. It was open on the north and south sides to wind and weather.

We were assigned a site for our 9-foot-by-9-foot tent. A few days earlier someone had driven a bulldozer through the area to clear out the brush.

We found out why they called it Big Sandy. There was sand everywhere, only it was more like powder. There was about six inches worth! The children became dirty very quickly. Our 5-year-old daughter delighted in pouring the sand over her pretty, dark, curly hair. Our tiny tent had wall-to-wall people with the five of us.

Most of the brethren camped. A few of the "rich brethren" stayed in motels at Gladewater or Longview. A few cooked their meals, but most ate at the cafeteria located in the Tabernacle building. The lines were long, but we got a lot better acquainted with brethren from far and near.

There were about 600 of us at the Festival. There were at least two services



Australia (Bruce Lehmann)

every day. We really had all-day services! The sermonettes, the announcements, the sermons were l-o-n-g! We had air conditioning in the building. It came and went through the open north and south sides of the building, as did the Texas-sized bugs.

The weather was either very hot or very cold, and it was either very dry and dusty or very wet. We thought Texas was going to be hot. We had never heard of a norther, but we found out what one was in short order. It got very cold. People took blankets to the night services to keep warm. A few wore hats in church. Mr. Armstrong preached while wearing his heavy overcoat.

Most of this sounds bad. It was not all easy, but what a wonderful time we had! This was the high point of the year. Before we left for home, we were already planning for the next Feast. The spiritual part of the Feast more than made up for any inconvenience or discomfort.

L. Leroy Neff
Pasadena, California

A roller-skating afternoon was organized for the YOU [Youth Opportunities United] and singles. My daughter, Caroline, enjoyed the event very much, and commented on how helpful the YOU had been.

Later, when I asked my children if there was anything they'd really like to

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Thailand (Susan Thomas)



India (Joseph P. Moses)

do, the answer was "go roller skating, please." This time, there were no other Church members at the skating rink and my daughter didn't enjoy the visit. The music was louder and there wasn't the same atmosphere. Caroline said, "I didn't like it—it isn't the same without Church members being there." I didn't regard the afternoon as being wasted, though. She had learned the difference Church people make to a situation.

Margaret Harrison
Chester, England

We didn't have very much money at all during the first Feast my husband and I kept after being married. On the very first evening we were invited out to a meal. Later during the Feast I checked the mail and found that £50 (\$75) and an unsigned card had been left for us. We hadn't told anyone about our situation, but by the time the Feast ended, we had been given so much that we could treat others.

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Bayley
Prestatyn, North Wales

When I was younger, one of the most exciting aspects of the Feast of Tabernacles in Nigeria was that it was a period of "newness." As children, we would be given new clothes and new toys, and possibly go to a new Feast site where we would have fun participating in activities we had never done before. The fire of anticipation had been carefully kindled in us by our loving parents, and each year we just couldn't wait for the Feast to roll by again.

Anthea Edalare
Ikeja, Nigeria

I began listening to the *World Tomorrow* program in the mid 1940s, corre-

sponded with Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Armstrong and, in the fall of 1949, they sent me a round-trip train ticket from central Texas to Pasadena and a bus ticket on up to Belknap Springs, Oregon, for the Feast. Though I had never met them, their love and sharing made it possible for me to attend my first Feast of Tabernacles! This fall will be my 39th Feast.

Dorothy Williams
Big Sandy, Texas

I was new to the truth, not yet baptized and celebrating my first Feast at George in 1969.

My three young sons were exhausted (two services every day), and I decided to miss the evening service.

That night a severe earthquake occurred 200 miles away. I woke up with the entire bungalow and my vehicle outside shaking violently.

Oh, no! I thought. It's the end of the world—and I didn't even go to church tonight.

Wilma Nigrini
Cape Town, South Africa

I have never tried roller skating before. So when my friends invited me to a skating rink, I became excited!

Putting on a pair of skates, I eagerly took off just like a young boy on his first bicycle ride. But before I could make my second stride, my uncoordinated feet quivered and bang! I fell to the hard wooden floor. My friends struck out a chord of laughter—fortissimo!

Skating is not as easy as it seemed to me, so I learned. After I fell the *n*th time, I eventually "skated"—awkwardly and slowly.

This did not lessen the enjoyment of my Feast. Instead, I find satisfaction in

what I've learned. If others can, why can't I? This is one of my best Feast memories.

Eric Tipon
Blue Diamond Village, Philippines

The Feast I spent in Australia two years ago impressed upon me more than any other how we, who are members of the Church, are part of a growing worldwide family.

From the time I was greeted at registration, I was treated with warmth and hospitality. There was outgoing concern to include everyone in the activities and in fellowship, and so successful they were, that the local community referred to us as the big family reunion. Many of the brethren I met still write, keeping in touch, just like family.

James Shoaf
Pasadena, California

The whole 1988 Feast of Tabernacles was a wonderful Feast for my family and me. I found the YOU Day the very best of all. The morning sermon was directed especially to us youth, and it helped me very much. In the afternoon, the YOU went ice skating and had to really hurry to make it back for the evening dance.

It was a wonderful day—my first YOU Day—and also a wonderful Feast. I am very thankful that I could be there.

Talitha Händeler
Bonn, West Germany

As head of a personnel department, I'm often confronted with problems involving lack of cooperation among employees and their superiors. How different at the Feast! One feels a deep joy to be able to participate with a job. It's an atmosphere of willingness, consideration and a deep interest in fulfilling the





Zimbabwe (Napoleon Mutatiwa)

task. Truly, a foretaste of the teamwork in the world tomorrow!

Rainer Tanner
Arbog, Switzerland

I was born in Prince Edward Island, Canada, 91 years ago, so it was a thrill to go to the Feast there two years ago. It was my 25th Feast. I was also able to see my brother in P.E.I. for the last time. He died shortly after my visit, at age 93. Several young people accompanied me on the trip and we had a great time touring around the island. They didn't believe me when I told them the water was cold!

Rose Horan
Pasadena, California

We were returning home to Brisbane from the Feast of Tabernacles at Blackheath when it happened. I was following Russell Couston into Willow Tree. On the town side of the railway line there was a dip in the road. As Mr. Couston's Hillman rode into the dip I was horrified to see the left-hand rear wheel go over at



Spain (Melvin Hinton)

a sickening angle. The left-hand rear axle had snapped. Willow Tree is a "one horse" town miles from anywhere, with only one small garage.

Where would we obtain a left-hand Hillman axle? God is a miracle-working God! At the rear of the garage a Hillman of the same model as Mr. Couston's was being wrecked. And guess what? Yes! It had a left-hand rear axle still intact.

Reg Wright
Burleigh Heads, Australia

On the way to the Feast, our car developed a problem and we had to stop and call out a mechanic. The man was very upset about being bothered on a Sunday, and blamed the trouble on me because I had bought a foreign car. He did a temporary repair and charged me £30 (\$50).

At the Feast, members were more than helpful in giving us lifts and helping me to fix the car. They willingly gave of their time and didn't expect anything in return.

That's the contrast. The world says, "You'll not get anywhere without paying me." Members say, "We'll all pull together to help."

Bob James
Leicester, England

In 1988 I had the opportunity to keep the Feast at God's headquarters in Pasadena. What a blessing!

I was impressed by many things at the Pasadena site—the Ambassador Auditorium, the beauty and order of the Ambassador College campus, the tireless effort of Mr. Tkach to meet the brethren and the hard work and effort of the Pasadena brethren to help us all have a well-organized and enjoyable Feast.

But to me the most unique thing about the Pasadena Feast site was that I did not



Australia (Olve Baker)

experience that feeling of "It's over, time to go home" when the last prayer was given on the Last Great Day. I didn't want to leave. I wanted to stay and for a while longer be part of the place where God places His name all year long!

Shirley Everman
Lee's Summit, Missouri

Three men from Switzerland visiting the Feast in Bonndorf, West Germany, ordered a buffet in a separate room in a quiet restaurant. Then each invited a single person or family and asked them to bring another person or family along. Like a stone thrown in the water, the circle grew to about 40 invited people, who had little previous opportunity to get to know each other.

Most came from other congregations and some from other continents. Conversation was rich with ideas and impressions of other parts of Germany. It was a joyous Festival atmosphere with brethren of like mind.

Mrs. Dagmar Hohmann
Hamburg, West Germany

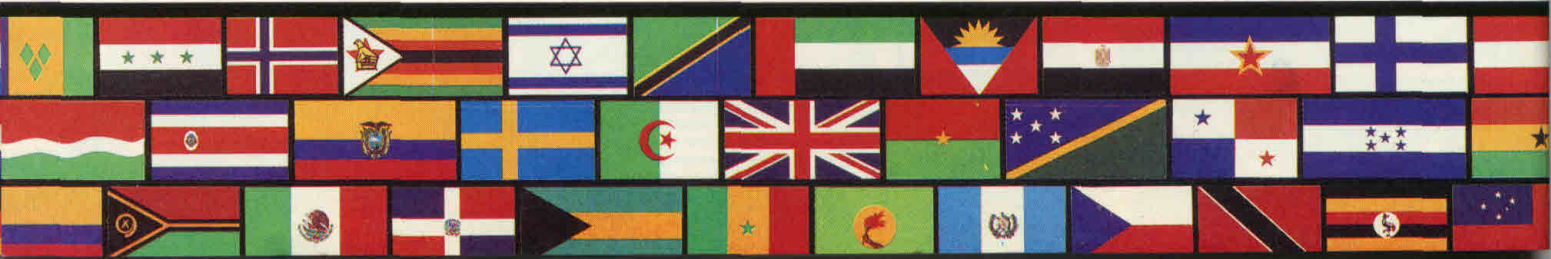
The thing that really sticks out in my mind is that last day of the Feast at Paignton.

As we were leaving the hall, an official from the town was shaking hands with members. He grasped my hand and said: "It's been really lovely having you here. Please come again."

Mona Rushton
Lancing, England

This feature was compiled with the much-appreciated assistance of Neil Earle, Bryan Mathie, Rod Matthews, Wilma Nigrini, Carla Pearson, Sio Oui Shia, Philip Stevens, Earl H. Williams and William Winner.

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Everyone Is Important!

You and all your loved ones really matter to God. The Last Great Day proves it!

By John Ross Schroeder

Great Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was discussing her religious beliefs with David Frost on television. Mrs. Thatcher said: "I believe that we are ultimately accountable and I think that if you did not have that belief you would really wonder what life was about."

The prime minister went on to say: "You have the duty to think out what is the right thing to do. It is a very active thing, belief But it is a realization that each and every person matters" (emphasis mine).

Accountability, judgment, a sense of the worth of every human being. A laudable approach to mankind, but not always shared by others.

One intellectual once said: "For my part, if I didn't know what to do with 9/10 of mankind, I'd take them and blow them up into the air instead of putting them in paradise. I'd only leave a handful of educated people, who would live happily afterwards on scientific principles."

This is how some react

to the plight of the masses. Past dictators have sacrificed thousands of human beings with a wave of the hand—cruel, cavalier treatment of living, breathing, suffering human beings.

But does each and every person really matter to God? How does He view all of those who have lived their lives through without even so much as having heard the name of Jesus Christ? Is God concerned with all of humanity—past, present and future?

God's master plan

Writing to the Church of God at Ephesus, the apostle Paul said: "For he [God] has made known

to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fulness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth" (Ephesians 1:9-10, Revised Standard Version).

God has a master plan!

And that plan is being carried out under the active leadership of Jesus Christ, who is called "the captain of [our] salvation" (Hebrews 2:10, King James Version).

Christ is, in a sense, the "executive director" of the plan of salvation. He is actively carrying out the purpose and will of God the Father, with whom that plan originated.

God's divine plan involves the establishment of the Kingdom of God upon this earth and the subjection of all things to Christ's government. The plan involves all people who have ever lived. However, many of them are already



Good News



dead—and God is not the God of the dead, but of the living! Dead people can have no part in the Kingdom of God, so a solution had to be found for the problem of sin.

Adam and Eve were the prototypes of all humanity to follow. As they went, so went the world: “Through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned” (Romans 5:12).

Sin is universal in the human realm: “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Somehow the people of God had to be saved from the consequences of sin.

Reason for the Passover

God’s principal act of salvation for all mankind was prefigured in the greatest single event in ancient Israel’s history—the Passover.

The Israelites had been in Egypt for centuries. To a large extent they had absorbed ancient Egypt’s morally degenerate way of life. Ancient Egypt is used in the Bible as a type of sin (Revelation 11:8). Had it not been for God’s merciful graciousness, the children of Israel would have died in sin.

But God devised a means by which they could achieve physical salvation from Egypt. The whole procedure is explained in Exodus 12. It prefigures the sacrifice of Christ.

Those who come under the blood of Christ will escape divine wrath: “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life” (Romans 6:23). It is by God’s grace that Christians may claim the blood of Christ. It is

through faith in that blood that we are justified, though we are all sinners.

Each year the Church of God ob-

serves the Passover to symbolize and renew the covenant made by each Christian with God at the time of baptism. Each year we are reminded of our need for faith in Christ’s sacrifice—the only means by which we can be justified in the face of our own sinfulness.

Christ’s universal sacrifice

The “golden text” of the Bible says, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

But how does this sacrifice apply to all those who have already died and yet never even heard the name of Jesus Christ? Plainly, God “desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (I Timothy 2:4).

Again, God’s grand master plan comes to the rescue. Each of God’s seven Holy Days and seven festivals pictures the divine plan of salvation. And it is the last one in particular—the Last Great Day—that applies to those who have died before.

Right in the midst of the verses of Revelation 20 that describe the coming thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ on earth is a key statement depicting what is to happen immediately after the Millennium. Notice it in verse 5: “The rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished.”

So here is a statement that actually tells us when “the rest of the dead” (those not raised in the first resurrection as spirit beings) will live. It is immediately *after* the Millennium.

Verses 11 and 12 give more detail:

“Then I saw a great white throne and Him [God] who sat on it... And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And

the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.”

Here John describes a prophetic vision of a general resurrection and a “great white throne” judgment involving most people who have ever lived on this earth. All will be given an opportunity for salvation—for eternal life in God’s Kingdom.

This Festival and you

If you are a true Christian and remain faithful until death, you will be privileged to partake of a “better resurrection” (Hebrews 11:35) at Christ’s Second Coming. But what about your friends and relatives (living and dead) who have known little or nothing of Christ, His Gospel and the Kingdom of God?

Here is your future legacy! After reigning and ruling with Christ for a thousand years (Revelation 20:4-6) in a world of generation after generation of new people who have never lived before, you will then be privileged to see the resurrection of your ancestors, kinfolk and acquaintances. You will help teach them God’s way of life.

Every human being is important to God! He is always willing to go after the one lost lamb. He is “not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (II Peter 3:9).

This, then, is the vital meaning of the Last Great Day kept around the globe by the Worldwide Church of God (October 21 this year). Can you begin to see why God’s people observe it year after year?

When one observes this annual Festival, he or she is tasting the good powers of the age to come! He or she is actually acting out a preview of the wonderful world tomorrow—a time when all those who have lived in past ages will have their first and only chance for salvation! □

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POSITIVE CHILD TRAINING

Rearing a 'Can Do' Child

BY DEXTER H. FAULKNER

PART ELEVEN

I am shocked at the large number of books available on self-esteem.

It seems many people today have, or think they have, low self-esteem. Psychologists and self-help experts have capitalized on the average person's feelings of inferiority.

What is self-esteem? Is it important? Should you try to give your children self-esteem?

Esteem means "to appreciate the value of." Self-esteem, for a Christian, means having a positive, yet balanced, view of yourself. It doesn't mean vanity, self-centeredness or thinking you are better than someone else. It means seeing yourself clearly, faults and all. And it is not dependent on outside factors, but comes from within.

Humans are God's greatest creation—with a potential far beyond our imagination. We are created in God's image (Genesis 1:26-27), and our ultimate purpose is to be born into His Family! But we need to realize that without God we would be nothing



and we'd be going nowhere. Why do your children need self-esteem? Self-esteem is important in motivating children to do their best, to try new things, to resist

pressures from other people to do wrong things and to feel good about themselves.

A child with low self-esteem feels inferior and self-conscious and lacks courage. He will carry these negative feelings into adulthood and they'll be hard to overcome. Low self-esteem is linked to teenage pregnancy, crime and drug addiction.

On the other hand, a child with high self-esteem will grow to be a high achiever and a secure, confident, happy person. Children with proper self-esteem will not be afraid of failure, because their self-esteem doesn't rest on what they can do or what honors they can achieve.

It's never too late to build confidence and self-esteem in your child. You can help your child determine the way he *thinks* about himself. We are what we think (Proverbs 23:7)—whether positively or negatively—and thus we set our course for success or failure.

Do your children have it?

How does your child perceive himself? Listen for the phrases "I can't," "It's too hard" and "Nobody likes me." They could indicate that your child needs a boost in self-esteem. Here are key ways to encourage healthy self-esteem in your children.

- Give your children unconditional love. Feeling loved and ac-

cepted is a deep, intense need God has created in us. We need it to love ourselves and others.

Love your children. Make them feel they are important to you. There is no substitute for your time as a way to show them you love them.

Don't be there just for the big events like graduations, recitals, championship games and so on. Spend time playing with children every day.

• *Respect your children.* Remember that as a creation of God, you, and all people, deserve respect. Don't tolerate disrespect from your children, and treat them with respect as well.

When you discipline your children, do so privately. Don't punish children in front of others, or belittle or humiliate them when punishing them.

Make sure you praise them when they deserve praise and encourage their efforts to change. Noticing their behavior only when it is bad will make them feel unloved.

Let your children know you are really interested in them. Ignoring or belittling your child's thoughts, questions or ideas can instill feelings of rejection and inferiority.

• *Be a positive thinker.* Parents need to set the example of positive thinking. Children are sensitive to the positive and negative attitudes around them.

God gives us instruction to counteract our tendency to worry and look at life negatively—we are to dwell on the positive things (Philippians 4:8). In fact, He commands us not to worry (Matthew 6:25-34).

Help your children have a "can do" approach by showing them the source of their strength and abilities. Teach your children that God is their helper and that He will give them comfort and strength. Let "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13) be their motto.

• *Help your child have high*

standards and reach goals. Children are curious and want to explore. Some parents are so over-protective and fearful, their children are not free to do things that will build their self-esteem.

Parents need to let their children seek new experiences, within reason, so the children can learn about their abilities and limitations.

Facing and overcoming setbacks teaches children that they can succeed, even if they face challenges along the way.

Also, help your children set realistic goals. You know your children's strong and weak points and can help them avoid discouragement if a goal is unreachable. Help them learn what their strengths and weaknesses are by giving them opportunities to learn new skills at an early age—for example, music lessons, sports, drawing or cooking.

Don't try to pattern your children after *your* talents and interests, but direct them in the areas in which *they* show interest and aptitude.

Encourage your child for the little events, like learning to tie his or her shoelaces. Out of many

portant you see your child's strengths!

Certain strengths are readily recognized in some children, like the ability to sing, play the piano or handle a basketball. Other talents aren't as noticeable, like being a good listener, having sensitivity toward people's feelings and the ability to encourage others. Search out all possibilities with your child.

Children are impressionable

While your child is learning, don't give him negative nicknames or label him as slow, clumsy or dumb. Children will believe the things you say about them.

Also, don't let your children label themselves negatively.

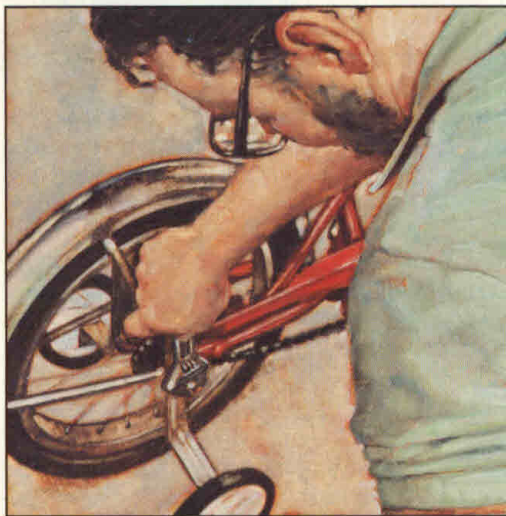
Here is where the principle of Colossians 3:21 comes into play: "Fathers [and mothers], do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged." Parents can create deep, lifelong depression in their children by being insensitive and uncaring in the tenderest years.

Help your children see that the world's awards, recognition and praise are not the most important things in life. Remind them that they are still worthy, even if they aren't No. 1. No one wins every race. Teach your children true values.

Rearing "can do" children

You'll notice I titled this article "Rearing a 'Can Do' Child," not "Raising," which is a popular term. Being an old farm boy, I still firmly believe you *raise* cattle and, as a conscientious parent, you *rear* your children. There's quite a difference.

Self-esteem must be nurtured and built over time with love and diligence. Parents, rear your children to have self-esteem. Point them toward a healthy, balanced view of themselves. □



Illustrations: Dan Andreassen

little experiences of mastery, a child builds self-esteem.

Teach compensation—that is, counterbalancing weaknesses by capitalizing on strengths. It is im-

How to Make Your Job Work for You!

Millions of people are unhappy in their jobs and careers because they overlook the biblical principles that ensure success at work!

By Richard E. Walther and Norman L. Shoaf

Do you consider yourself a success in your job or career? Are you really happy with what you're doing right now?

Just what do we mean by the word *success*, anyway?

The sad reality is that millions of people are *unhappy* in their work. They're like the proverbial square peg in a round hole. They fell into whatever job they have by chance, or because circumstances or someone else pushed them into it, or because they didn't really know what they wanted to do. They don't like their present situation, and they don't know what to do about it.

Others are out of work right now. Some are at their wits' end trying to find solid, steady, profitable work to take care of themselves and their families.

Does any of this describe you, or someone you know?

The pursuit of success

Walk into any bookstore. You're almost sure to find dozens of books on the subject of "success." They'll tell you how to get ahead on the job, how to invest wisely, how to acquire more wealth.



Photos: Comstock Inc.

You get the same message from television, from school, from friends and relatives: They say that nothing is more important than getting out there and getting this type of "success."

But what is true success? What kind of success ensures happiness? Does the world have the right definition?

To most people in the world, success means little more than physical items: financial wealth, smart investments, having the highest job possible within a company, staying one step ahead of everybody else.

Yet millions of supposedly successful people are miserably unhappy. All the wealth they have acquired has been unable to give them happy families, personal

fulfillment or a real, solid purpose for living.

And you can't take money or physical possessions or fame with you when you die!

Now, there *is* a success book that most of the world has totally overlooked. This book reveals foolproof, surefire secrets that lead to true success at work.

And not only does this book address the subject of success at your job, it also shows you how to make your marriage more satisfying—how to enjoy stronger family relations—how to build warm friendships—how to raise happy, successful children—and how to achieve success in every other area of life.

Who wouldn't like to know about this book?

Well, this book is the Holy Bible!

Did you ever think of the Bible as a success book? It contains practical advice that you can use, even in today's world, to be successful in life.

Regular readers of *The Good News* know that the Bible is

not just some dry, old, out-of-date religious book that has nothing to say about life today. We've proven time and again that the Bible is the very mind of God in print.

The Bible talks, directly or indirectly, about every area of life that anyone might be interested in. It reveals the laws and principles that God built into His creation, to make our lives work the way they should.

So let's look into God's instruction Book for us, and see what it has to say about the subject of success at work.

What the Bible says about success

In the book of III John, verse 2, God tells us His overall desire

for us: "I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health" (King James Version).

There it is! God doesn't want us to have job troubles. Or to be faced with long droughts of unemployment. Or to be unhappy in the work we are doing. And the Bible goes on to tell us what we can do to improve our situations.

The first and most basic law of success is setting goals. As the old saying goes, if you don't know where you're going, you'll probably wind up somewhere else!

Proverbs 21:5 says, "The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty; but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty." If you are wise, you'll think about where you're going. You'll plan your education, your work, your business goals and your life.

Having a concrete, definite goal is the first step toward work success. You have to decide what you want to do or be in life, and not just let circumstances knock you around. Goal-setting helps you take charge of your situation, rather than letting your situation take charge of you.

The next or second step toward success is getting the right education. Once you know exactly what you want to do, you must take whatever steps are necessary to learn how to do that.

Proverbs 12:1 shows the importance of education: "Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid."

Education is a major key to job success. In this rapidly changing



world, you must be willing to keep up with major trends.

Prepare yourself for opportunities that will open up. Educate yourself so that you are more valuable on your present job, or so that you will be qualified for other jobs. You might think about taking some classes, if you can, or just read more widely in your career field and in other fields.

Importance of diligence

Proverbs 6:6-8 contains an interesting observation on the vital quality of diligence—another step toward success: "Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest."

God doesn't
*want us to have job troubles.
Or to be unemployed. Or
to be unhappy in our work.
The Bible tells us how
to improve our situations.*

The diligent get ahead. People today seem to think that escaping from any kind of work, especially hard work, is the best thing anyone can do. But the Bible shows that hard work is a major key to success.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 says, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might."

You ought to be able to work without being supervised. You shouldn't procrastinate or wait until the last minute to do what needs to get done.

Surely these important concepts are not alien to you. They're all just commonsense, useful tips that God gives us to help us live life successfully. And they can help you get ahead on your present job. Or they can help you find a new job.

Everyone who truly succeeds at anything worthwhile, whether he knows it or not, is applying one or more of these principles—usually several of them. But most people don't even know that this invaluable advice is in the Bible! How about you?

In Proverbs 12:24 we find another comment about the importance of diligence and drive: "The hand of the diligent will rule, but the slothful will be put to forced labor."

If you have drive and take control of your life, you will succeed. If you are lazy, unambitious and just let events knock you around,

you will never get on top of things. You'll always be dependent on the whims of time and chance. You'll probably even have problems with being in debt—"forced labor" for someone else!

Relations on the job

The Bible even contains advice about how to get along better with your boss:

"Servants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord" (Ephesians 6:5-8).

As you work at your job, it helps to remember that, after all,

you're doing your best to obey God's laws, God can even soften the heart of an unfair boss toward you, depending on how you approach the situation.

As Proverbs 15:1 tells us, "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

One of the things that destroys a good work environment is gossip—office politics—slander behind people's backs. Such situations can be miserable to work in. But Ecclesiastes 10:20 says: "Do not curse the king, even in your thought; do not curse the rich, even in your bedroom; for a bird of the air may carry your voice, and a bird in flight may tell the matter."

Yes, the negative comments people make seem to have wings, don't they? They eventually get back to the person who was being talked about. They create anger and resentment, and spoil a good working situation.

***S*uccess is not a copyrighted formula or an expensive cassette program. Success costs only the effort you put into applying the basic laws revealed in the Bible. The Bible is the most effective success book of all.**

you are really working for God and not for any human. If you are striving to obey all of God's laws, it is God who will reward you for your labor, who will fight your battles for you, who can give you job success.

Do you have trouble getting along with your boss? Proverbs 16:7 says, "When a man's ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him."

Not that you should look at your boss as an enemy! But if

Have you been in the habit of complaining about your job, about your boss or about the conditions where you work? Then don't be surprised if you have problems with your superiors or with your fellow workers. Nobody likes someone who is constantly in a negative frame of mind.

The Bible tells us to take a positive attitude toward every situation, to fill our thoughts and conversations with the good and uplifting:

"Whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things" (Philippians 4:8).

A positive, cheerful, can-do attitude is a common element in every person who has achieved any kind of success.

Laws that produce success

Did you ever realize that the Bible was so full of knowledge on the subject of success at work? Success is not a copyrighted formula or an expensive cassette program that you have to buy. It's not necessarily found in all those success books you'll find in the bookstore.

Success costs only the effort you put into applying the basic laws revealed in the Bible. The Bible is the most effective and most profitable success book of all. And it covers not only work and careers, but every other area of life, too!

People who have achieved any measure of true success in the world have, knowingly or unknowingly, applied some of the principles of success that are found in the Bible.

The Bible emphasizes the virtues of hard work, of optimism, of turning every challenge into a positive opportunity. And these Bible principles work even in the face of adversity!

Perhaps you are thinking right now: "Well, that all sounds nice, but it won't work in my situation. You don't understand the problems I have!"

But God's laws are sure. They produce absolute results, according to whether we obey them or not. And when we do obey them, we are blessed.

Next issue, we'll look at more of the biblical principles that ensure success at work—even in difficult situations. You'll learn more about how to make your job work for you! □

(To be continued)

Older People Need Love, Too!



Here's a priceless opportunity to enrich your life!

By Bill Butler

It was late in the afternoon one cold, dreary, December day. A little old lady, carrying heavy shopping bags in each hand, hobbled down a side street in New York City.

She struggled to walk as quickly as she could. She was frightened. Behind her, several 6- and 7-year-old boys were throwing stones—using her as

a target. “They don’t even think of me as a person,” she mumbled to herself.

However, there was something unusual about this “little old lady.” She was not really old at all. She was 26-year-old Patty Moore disguised as a woman in her 80s.

This young woman wanted to see firsthand the problems and frustrations the elderly face. She wanted to experience what it is like to live as an old person in a youth-oriented culture—a culture that often rejects the elderly.

With the help of a friend who was a professional makeup artist, she disguised herself as a feeble, old woman. She dyed her hair and put latex on her skin to create the impression of wrinkles. Bandages wrapped around her joints made them appear stiff.

Elderly often ignored

Let’s go back to the beginning of her story. Patty chose to start her experiment by donning her disguise and visiting a conference for professionals working with the problems of the aged.

She wanted to observe how these men and women, who were devoting their working lives to the elderly, would treat her. With graying hair, wearing a tattered coat and leaning heavily on her cane, she quietly entered this crowd of young professionals.

Groups of people were standing around talking before the first lecture. A young man turned to several younger women nearby and, ignoring Patty, asked if he could get them a cup of coffee. Patty felt like a nonentity.

This was the first lesson she learned: The elderly are often ignored.

During the next three years

she went into public many times in her disguise. She found clerks in stores turning to others who were younger, waiting on them first. They apparently assumed older people could wait because “they have nothing better to do anyway.”

Often she noticed that nobody attempted to help her when she struggled with a heavy door.

Those in a hurry bumped and jostled her. Had she really been 85, she surely would have fallen. She discovered how difficult it is for elderly people to get off a curb when their knees won’t bend easily. She felt so vulnerable—virtually at the mercy of every minor problem or rude person.

One day Patty found herself sitting on a park bench talking to three older women—all widows. They were complaining about how long it had been since anyone had hugged them. It seemed to be their favorite topic. They all agreed that human beings never grow old emotionally. People always need to feel loved.

Surveys show that most older people believe life’s most precious possessions are their children, friends and relatives. When asked what they miss most about the “good old days,” personal relationships top the list.

The Christian responsibility

Incidents like those experienced by Patty Moore occur every day. Many elderly people endure this same kind of disrespect and neglect.

How do we treat the elderly we come in contact with? What is our attitude toward them?

As Christians, we must not neglect our responsibilities to respect, honor and help those of advanced age.

We especially need to realize our responsibility to care for those who are striving to live God’s way. “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10).

It is also important for us to take care of those in our own family. In doing so, we honor

God by obeying the Fifth Commandment: "Honor your father and your mother" (Exodus 20:12).

We read in I Timothy 5:8 that "Whoever fails to provide for his own relatives, and especially for those of his immediate family, has disowned the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (Williams translation).

If everyone cared for family members properly, think of how much burden would be relieved from government social services. And financial needs are only a part of the picture. Family members can supply emotional needs far better than any agency.

Getting to know and appreciate older people is one of life's richest opportunities. How can you improve your relationships with senior citizens? Here are a few ideas.

Invite older people you know to your home or visit them. Take them to Sabbath services with you or out to eat. Or take a hot meal to a shut-in. An older person's finances are often limited and he or she might be grateful for the kind gesture.

But remember: Do it because you *want* to, not because you think you *have* to. It will only discourage the person if he or she is made to think you are only serving him or her because you want to do a "good deed."

In short, learn to really *care*—and show that you do!

Transportation is often a problem for the elderly. Housewives may wish to take an elderly person shopping or help him or her get to and from a doctor's office.

You may be able to help older people understand the different forms of government aid to which they're entitled. Many overlook some sources of income and other assistance available to them. Of course, make sure you know what you're talking about before you give this kind of advice.

The Bible tells us in Leviticus 19:32, "You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man."

It is customary in many societies to stand when an older per-

son enters the room. But this scripture encompasses more than that. It is speaking of an overall approach to those of advanced age.

Teach your children

Children need to be taught to respect older people. For children to learn to do this, they must be around older people. Often grandparents and other older relatives are separated from young children by great distances. Yet, young people need these older personalities influencing their lives. They benefit emotionally from these relationships.

There is a gentleness about many older people—a certain natural, loving warmth. Are your children and family enjoying this?

Older people have an asset that no one else has. Think of it as the power of their years.

They have lived history. They are walking, living, breathing history books—filled with exciting pages and chapters of experience!

They are a gold mine of information and often have a better perspective on what is really important in life.

Here is an interesting poem that illustrates the warm relationship that is possible between the elderly and children:

"Grandpa Doesn't Care"

*My ice cream dripped on his
good pants,
But Grandpa doesn't care.
His fishing tackle's tangled
up,
His rod is who knows where?
I lost his keys in the garage,
I've made a mess out there.
I'm always getting into things,
But Grandpa doesn't care.
I help him in the garden
'cause
We're really quite a pair;
I pull the plants out with the
weeds,
But Grandpa doesn't care.
When I am grown and on my
own,
When visits become rare,
I won't forget the love I'd get
When Grandpa didn't care.*

God has great concern for all who are disadvantaged. He knows their needs, and He wants to see them cared for properly.

Many elderly are women whose husbands have died. God warns, "You shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child" (Exodus 22:22). He is protective of them and says if we mistreat or neglect them, "I will surely hear their cry" (verse 23).

God compares Jerusalem to a widow: "How lonely sits the city that was full of people! How like a widow is she . . . She weeps bitterly in the night . . . all her friends have dealt treacherously with her" (Lamentations 1:1-2).

She was once involved in a busy family and felt the security that came from her husband and children. Now her children have moved away and her husband has died; the house is quiet and lonely. All her friends are busy with their own families. She needs others to replace these losses in her life.

What does God say is a sign of a true Christian? It isn't the ability to prophesy, preach or work miracles—it is taking care of people in need.

In James 1:27 we read: "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble."

Psalm 68:6 says, "God sets the solitary in families." How does God do this? He works

through human beings. He gives you the opportunity to be family to those in need!

Life is unhappy for many senior citizens. They are often treated coldly. We must treat the older people in our lives with love, honor and respect.

Let's serve the elderly whenever we can. We should care for them as our own grandparents and look forward to the day when the whole world will do the same. □



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