of the Worldwide Church of God

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General News and Comments

MAIL SUMMARIES

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

January 5, 1973

The books for 1972 will not be closed out until January 9. By that time all letters with 1972 donations should have been received and processed.

The overall mail for December has been very good, leading the last quarter of 1972 into a 28% increase over the last quarter of 1971.

The total response to the nationwide TV Guide ad is now well over 66,000. The latest Reader's Digest advertisement has climbed over the 1,600 mark.

This weekend the fourth personal appearance campaign will take place. The response to the San Antonio campaign brochures now totals 380, while the St. Petersburg response totaled 850.

LONDON, ENGLAND

December 13, 1972

Newsstand distribution has been so successful in South Africa that an increase of 10,000 Plain Truth magazines for January has been ordered by the South African Office. Further changes scheduled for January include distribution for the first time of the Dutch language magazine on the Dutch newsstands. At the same time, German newsstands will receive their first German language copies. We are looking forward to an increased response from these three areas.

LETTER COMMENTS

MR. HWA'S SUNDAY BROADCAST

I hear Mr. Herbert Armstrong every Sunday morning on WBAL, Baltimore. I have gotten more knowledge of the Bible from him than I have ever gotten anywhere. I hope I can pass some of it on to other members of my family and to friends by receiving your magazine.

— Mrs. Fred B., Aberdeen, Maryland

Last Sunday we heard the hard-hitting sermon by Herbert W. Armstrong over a "local" (area) station. This was the first time I'd heard his voice for several months. Some of the things he was saying about personality development and people who never seem to get ahead really "hit home."

William H.,Adair, Iowa

As I was driving last Sunday night, I "accidentally" got your program on the car radio. It fascinated me and I will continue listening to it each to Sunday. The books will help me as I listen to you. What I heard sounds new to me. Something I hadn't heard before and I'm "hungry" for it as I have always left the book of Revelation alone thinking I couldn't understand it. You seem to make it clear as it should be.

- Mrs. Duane J., Lansing, Michigan

I enjoy Mr. Herbert Armstrong's program very much. I've read the Bible but never understood it. Mr. Armstrong puts it in a way that makes sense and most people can understand. A very wonder-

Personal NOTES

BABY NEWS

Jim and Linda (Correll) Lee (Dallas): We would like to announce the birth of our second daughter, Sherry Lynn, born November 25th at 4:35 a.m. Sherry weighed 8 lbs. at birth and was 19 inches long. Everyone is well and happy.

John and Genie Ogwyn (Cape Girardeau-Paducah): Greetings! Sabbath, November 18, was indeed a very eventful date in this household. Our first child — John Charles — made his entrance at 3:40 p.m. after a relatively easy labor. He weighed in at 7 lbs., 8 oz. and was 20½ inches long. Mother, father and baby are all doing well.

ful person. Why can't they print a Bible that everyone can understand?

— Robert W., Garden Grove, California

MR. HWA'S VISIT TO THE OZARKS

Thank you so very much for the visit to the Lake of the Ozarks. Thank you for braving the cold, ice, sleet, snow and freezing rain, to keep us informed about this great Work. I pray you can visit with us again soon.

— Carole N., Kansas City, Kansas

I would like to tell you first of all how much we, that is, my family and myself, enjoyed your sermon at the Lake of the Ozarks last Sabbath. We braved the ice and sleet 200 miles, but felt most rewarded for it. Thanks for bringing a wonderful message.

Josephine Y.,Trenton, Missouri

I was at the Lake last Sabbath when you were there. Although it was a bit chilly, we all thoroughly enjoyed your sermon and were greatly inspired by your sermonette.

— Donna C., Irwin, Missouri

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EDITOR
HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

MANAGING EDITOR
DAVID JON HILL

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Book Reviews

Sense With Dollars, by Charles Neal, Dolphin Books (Doubleday & Co.), Garden City, New York, 1967, 380 pages, \$1.95 paperback.

Most books on personal finances make the mistake of being *penny wise* (with advice such as "save six cents a pound by buying peanuts in January") yet pound foolish (ignoring the big questions of home-buying, assets management, or church tithing). If this book has a weakness, it is that of being *pound wise* (he lists church contributions as one of ten major expenses for a family, as it is for us) while occasionally allowing penny foolishness. (Why drive across town to save 6 cents a pound?) This reviewer, for one, prefers being pound wise!

Charles Neal's book excels over the other home economics primers because of his common sense blend between formal economics and practical personal experience. He is not only a trained economist (known personally, and interviewed occasionally by Plain Truth economics writers), but he is also an experienced personal finance counselor by profession. For years, he was chief financial counselor with the American Institute for Family Relations, and now he runs his own privately incorporated financial advisory firm in San Juan Capistrano, California.

The book is divided into four major parts: management of *Income*, *Spending*, *Assets* and *Debts*. The first two are current account items, while the latter two are long-range lifetime accounts. In addition, he explains special rules for four excep-

(Continued on page 5)

Church Administration

DAVID L. ANTION

Nineteen hundred and seventy-three is certainly starting off with beautiful weather for Southern California. However, on January 1st we had high winds and quite chilly weather for the Rose Parade. Pasadena officials estimate 1,000,000 people were along the parade route watching the parade. There was one murder — a stabbing — along Colorado Blvd. that evening. The police said it was a little more difficult handling the crowd this year than in the past.

Our student body was doing its best to capitalize on this year's Rose Parade opportunity. They estimated that they would clear about \$15,000 for the student fund. However, due to the cold and chilly weather, people were not as responsive to purchasing film and brochures. Therefore, the best estimates now point to about a \$13,000 gain for the student body fund — not too bad considering the circumstances.

A Potpourri of News

For the last several days and over the New Year's weekend, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong has had a special guest on campus. He used to work closely with this man, a Mr. Clifford De Puy (pronounced Depew), during the early 1900s in the publishing business, and mentions him on pages 217-220 of his autobiography.

It has now been over fifty years since Mr. Armstrong has seen Mr. De Puy. He has been reading The Plain Truth for over five years and was quite impressed with his tour of the campus, visiting various departments and facilities here at Headquarters. As mentioned in the Autobiography, Mr. De Puy was the publisher of The Northwestern Banker. He was in the publishing business for many years and was quite impressed with our press department.

Mr. De Puy addressed the students yesterday (January 2nd) at a special assembly. For a man 86 years old he certainly is quite spry and very alert, with an outgoing and dominating personality.

Since the publication of the Autobiography, a number of people have been in contact with Mr. Armstrong. One man has written him saying that Mr. Armstrong used to call on him for business when he was in Chicago years ago. This man also is following the Work in *The Plain Truth*, and compliments Mr. Armstrong highly on the publications.

Mr. Armstrong is leaving today (January 3rd) for New York, and plans to take Mr. and Mrs. De Puy along. Many of the churches in the New York City area will be meeting together this Sabbath to hear Mr. Armstrong, as did the churches in the Lake of the Ozarks region a few weeks ago.

Mr. Ted Armstrong will be leaving tomorrow for Big Sandy since the campaign is scheduled in Shreve-port for this coming weekend. This series of meetings will be somewhat different from the ones in San Antonio or St. Petersburg. This will be more of a public relations campaign answering questions about Ambassador College and the Worldwide Church of God for the residents of East Texas who know about our campus. I feel sure we will have quite a large attendance with an interested audience wanting to hear first-hand about our Work there.

The conference is almost upon us — just thirteen days away as I dictate this. By the time you receive this Bulletin it will be just a week away.

We are scheduled to have daily evangelist meetings next week starting with Tuesday. This should help us a great deal in pre-conference preparations, as we want to make this conference most meaningful for our men in the field.

The income for 1972 has fallen just a little to about 9.7% increase. There are still a number of letters to count and tally here yet for 1972, so we are hoping that this past December's income will match or surpass 1971's very heavy December.

By the way, you'll be interested to know that Tennessee Ernie Ford recently wrote the Work stating he was very impressed with the telecast aired on Thanksgiving Day. He even requested a copy of the telecast, and had the highest regard for the program.

Ministerial Assistants

We have received inquiries from our men in the field who have had ministerial assistants who were laid off from the Work. One asks if the ministers can continue to use these men as assistants in visiting on occasion, or, if they can give a sermonette now and then.

Certainly these men can be used as they are able to serve. But please do not use them so much that they feel it a burden to earn a living on the outside and then contribute all their spare time to God's Work. Remember that they need to spend time with their own families too.

These men should certainly be some of the outstanding members in the local areas. You can give them opportunities to serve like you do the other local men, but with the advantage that they have already had Ambassador College training and a certain amount of experience in the field.

However, please do not give them the impression they will be rehired in the future. Don't hold out such hope. If it does occur, it will be because of the fruits they bear later on. The chances are that if a ministerial assistant has been terminated, he is not likely to be rehired since we have many new graduates who have not had a chance to serve in the field. Holding out hope of rehiring could prove very disappointing to a man if it does not materialize.

We are coming out with a written policy on ministerial assistants for your policy manual. You should have it before long. You should also be receiving new printed appraisal forms for ministerial assistants.

The general principle we want to apply regarding ministerial assistants is this: we do not want to consider the position of ministerial assistant as a permanent post. That is, no man is going to be a ministerial assistant the rest of his life! It is merely a stepping-stone — a training position or apprenticeship — toward further use in the field ministry. We feel that a man should not be in the position of ministerial assistant for more than a year without a complete review and appraisal of his abilities and suitability for the field.

However, you will be receiving a complete detailed policy in the very near future regarding this.

Ministerial Housing

We need input from the field about ministerial housing. I would like to ask your cooperation in writing to your district superintendent about your feelings on housing. We would like to know how many of you would like to own your own homes. This, of course, presupposes that you will be in an area long enough to build up some equity in the home.

If you have other ideas about ministerial housing, we would certainly appreciate your conveying them to this district superintendent as we plan to discuss this subject with them during the conference.

Regional Changes and Ministerial Moves

I know there is quite a bit of apprehension about the changes that may take place as a result of regional director appointments. Men are writing in asking if they will be staying where they are, or if they can go ahead and purchase a home or renew a lease.

Since we don't know who the regional directors will be at this time, it is difficult for us to give very many definite answers to men in the field about their positions. We are setting a target date of February 19, hopefully sooner, for the announcement of the regional directors. By the last week in February we should know who will be moving as a result of the regional changes.

We do not anticipate many moves! However, we know there will have to be a number of moves in order to make adjustments for the regional areas. So out of consideration for you men, I would like to say it would be best to hold off any definite plans of putting roots down until the end of February or the first of March. At that time, we should know definitely if you can decide on some concrete plans for your own future.

Thank you all very much for your patience and for your total dedication to God's Work. I will try to be as considerate of you as you have been loyal and dedicated. Thanks again!

By now you should all have received the wage increases we put through. We are working with the Personnel Department on a new pay scale for the next few years so that we will have some definite guidelines.

The Ministry and You

There is a lot that your spending habits reveal about you. Are you financially solvent? Do you know how to handle money?

These are very important qualities for those in God's ministry — in fact they are very important qualities for every Christian!

Analogies Jesus gives about those inheriting His Kingdom are based heavily on their ability to handle finances — the parable of the pounds and the parable of the talents are two examples.

A "talent" was not an ability, but a specific amount of money that was given to each of the servants in the parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14-30). Jesus wanted them to increase this money and later appraised their progress. And by analogy the appraisal carries over into their spiritual lives.

What do we know about a man by his spending habits?

Author Jack H. McQuaig says this, "A psychologist once said to me, 'Tell me how you handle your money, and I'll tell you many things about your personality, temperament and character.'

"For example, if a man is inclined to be a spen-

der, if he buys what he wants when he wants it, if he goes into debt and jeopardizes his future by obligating himself beyond his income level, he is probably lacking in self-control, judgment, and foresight.

"On the other hand, if a man is thrifty, and is careful of his money, and has protected his future by good insurance and pension programs, he reveals good judgment, self-control and the capacity to show foresight.

"Each of these men is likely to show these same weaknesses or strengths on the job" (How to Motivate Men, page 33).

So what do you know about yourself from the foregoing quotations?

Do you use foresight and good judgment in the way you handle your own personal finances? If not, are you qualified then to help God's people with their questions about their own personal finances?

These are very serious questions about a very serious area of our lives which we need to consider.

I can recall one man in the field (who has since left the field and the Church) who outwardly had many qualities of promise. He was a good speaker and had a good personality. He seemed to have a desire to be with God's people and to serve them. However, he was totally in debt — in wretched condition financially. He couldn't seem to control his income — or rather his outgo.

He was brought back to Headquarters after some time in the field. It was then that his real character came to light.

He made no plans for the future. He had no really good judgment nor self-control. He had no foresight — applied no wisdom in looking into the future. He did not take his family responsibilities seriously. He threw his money away on needless and fruitless expenditures. He had very little money and he spent most of it on what I would call luxuries. His children went without necessities — his wife also went without necessities while he spent money on luxuries. (In this case, however, his wife was not much better in handling money than he was!)

Our character is expressed in many ways. It shows up in the way we play sports. It shows up in our social life. It shows up in our hobbies. It definitely shows up in our work habits. And it is clearly expressed in the way we handle our money.

God has given each one of us a specific responsibility over this area of our lives. He commands us to pay a tithe to Him. And He watches to see how we handle the rest of our money.

For those of us in God's ministry, this is one of

the key factors which shows how qualified we are for the ministry. For the Bible says, "A bishop must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, and of good behavior, given to hospitality, and to teach; not given to wine, no striker, NOT GREEDY OF FILTHY LUCRE; but patient, not a brawler, NOT COVETOUS" (I Tim. 3:2-3).

So again we must ask ourselves, "How am I doing financially? Do I use wisdom in spending the money that God has allowed me to use? Am I qualified to help others with proper advice in their lives because I use judgment, foresight, and self-control in my own life?"

So wherever we are deficient, let's give all diligence to strengthen that area of our lives. (Be sure to read the Book Review in connection with what I've said about handling finances.)

One thing more: these exhortations are not meant to be accusative. They are intended to help us evaluate ourselves for our good and our overall profit, and to raise the quality of the ministry of God's servants. Use them as tools to grow in spiritual character.

Remember, to be able to really help your people in areas of finance and every other area, you have to set a PROPER EXAMPLE of character, wisdom and judgment yourself!

BOOK REVIEWS

(Continued from page 2)

tional cases: the young man on the way up; the single working woman; the sophisticated investor; the elderly and those soon to retire. Sample book-keeping forms and an excellent index are also included in this complete 380-page home reference work.

Sense With Dollars should be studied by BOTH husband and wife, for the decisions involved must be joint efforts. The time will be well invested, for you will actually be able to spend less time on the tedious chores of personal finance than ever before. Charles Neal is above all practical.

Among ministers Neal's book will also aid in financial counseling of members. Mr. Neal, being a counselor, gears his advice to specific cases and specific needs. Therefore you will not find it hard to apply this book directly to the specific needs of those you counsel. The index will be highly useful in this regard. You may even wish to advise those in need to buy this book for their own use.

Much of the material from this February's PLAIN TRUTH article entitled "More for Your Money," was taken from principles and examples in Mr. Neal's book. He is most adept at advice on

getting out of debt, cutting needless waste, and managing your existing debts. The material on assets management is perhaps geared toward_a less select audience among God's people.

For those interested in short synopsis, here's a summary of the book in twelve words: "If your outgo exceeds your income, your upkeep will be your downfall." If you're interested in 125,000 similar words, buy the book. The \$2.00 pricetag may well be your best investment for 1973.

LETTER COMMENTS

(Continued from page 2)

THE TITHING SYSTEM WORKS

After 3 months of tithing, my income has tripled. It is certainly a blessing to be able to tithe this \$150.00 for the first two weeks of December. Since the Work is in need, especially this time of the year, let this be my way of thanking God for his grace.

— Wyatt G., Bakersfield, California

Mr. Armstrong, this is our first third-tithe year and I just have to tell you how wonderful it is going. The company my husband works for has so much business the men are having to work overtime to handle it. In the past we were afraid it would fold up because they were just hardly breaking even. We are better off financially than we have ever been in our 13 years of marriage. I have always had to keep children to help out with the bills. Now I only have to babysit one little boy and we use that money for extras. I don't really have to keep him but it sure is nice to get my hair fixed occasionally and go out to a nice place for dinner."

Mrs. Donald G.,
 Irving, Texas

Ordinarily we don't enclose notes with our tithes, but as I made out the enclosed check, I could not help but think of the amazing blessings we have received in past months. As you have said so many times, "We cannot outgive God." Since coming into God's Church we have given much more than we had previously, but as our giving continues to increase, our ability to give continues to grow. Last spring when your letter indicated a critical need for funds, we sent an offering which was larger than many of our previous annual titles and offerings. Yet, as we look back, we only

missed the amount temporarily, as God continued to supply our needs and more.

The enclosed check brings our 1972 tithes and offerings to a figure we would have considered reasonable for a year's total income not so long ago, and yet we realize that we are not seeing a limit to our blessings. This is our third year now and there seems to be one blessing after another coming our way. Just last night my employer told me he has instituted a bonus plan which guarantees an annual bonus of \$1500, and which will run over \$2000 this year. This bonus will be received at the end of our fiscal year (in February).

— Mr. and Mrs. Ronald W., Wellington, Kansas

Please accept this check in the amount of \$3,881.25. This money was put in the bank through a payroll savings account. The last two years the deposits equalled about one tenth of my gross income. I will make adjustments later if I am short. This check also includes interest. The reason I did not send this money in sooner was because I was not sure who or what church was really doing the will of God. I prayed earnestly many times that God would open my eyes to understanding and help me to know where He wanted me to send His funds. I believe that God has led me to be convinced that the Worldwide Church of God is His true church.

— William M., Glenwood, New York

Will you please put \$10 of this check toward your building fund. I know it isn't much, but this amount is what I promised God I would give each month for a year. I made this promise three years ago, and until now I have not carried through with it. Therefore, each year since, my rent has been raised \$10 a month. This month when I made up my mind to ask you to use \$10 for your building fund, my landlord told me that my rent would not be raised during 1973.

— Betty E., Phoenix, Arizona

GENERAL COMMENTS

Another Miraculous Healing

October 7, after a 3-day bout with what appeared to be flu, my 4-year-old son was found to have Bacterial Meningitis. Within a matter of hours his white cell count in the spine was over 25,000 and his blood platelet count below 10,000 (150-200,000 is average). His eyes became swollen

shut and black from brain swelling. His right arm and leg joints were double size with swelling, and, of course, his neck and one arm became rigid.

By the 10th of October it appeared as if he was failing. We were waiting — he had been anointed twice and we knew God was going to heal him. I went back to work and my wife and several of the women of the Church sat with him in shifts. Meanwhile the call went to other areas of the Church. How many, we do not know. The Anchorage Church took care of our food, our firewood, and spelling us as we waited.

From that afternoon on there were so many STUNNING miracles, I cannot account them in this letter, though I wish I could. Treatments failed, yet he improved hourly. The brain swelling disappeared — treatment after treatment was cancelled. Nurses and doctors shook their heads! Comments of "luck" were repeatedly heard. One doctor commented: "Normally when a child is this sick, he does not recover. It is obvious he had something special going for him." No prescriptions were given him upon his release.

Today he is home. He returned October 27th. He is a bit weak and thin, but perfectly normal.

How can I say it? This Work must go on! There is a God whose POWER and love is so great we clods can not imagine His greatness. No matter WHAT befalls us there is no need fearing — He knows! He mourns with us, laughs with and at us, and controls all.

Thank you for being His servant and doing His will so we could answer His call. Thank everyone for praying for us!

— Mr. & Mrs. Michael P., Anchorage, Alaska

Our Message Does Get Through To Some

I am very grateful to you for your sending me such wonderful Correspondence Course lessons. I have learned much from your guidance. Since I have been reading your material, I have awakened to the realities of life. For about seven years I had been divorced from my wife, but the little book which you sent to me on "Marriage" has caused me to unite with my wife again. I re-married her and now we are living an enjoyable life together. Thanks for your wonderful guidance.

— Mr. Levy B., Richmond, Virginia

I saw Garner Ted Armstrong on TV the other morning and I was very interested with his talk. Whether it was just chance or whatever that made

me choose his program that day out of 10 programs, I don't know. He was discussing the proof of the Bible and I was intrigued by what he had to say.

I have thought about his show since that day and I tried to find fault with it and could not. I do not belong to your faith (Worldwide Church of god) but another, which I do not accept. My wife belongs to your faith and we are now separated because I know nothing of your faith nor have I a faith that I can accept or believe in.

I love my wife and am amazed that she could believe in something so strongly that I could not comprehend nor deter her. The more I thought about this and my chance turning on of Mr. Armstrong on the TV, the more interested I am.

— Robert R., Bristol, Pennsylvania

I have read the recent articles in the P.T. on prison reform and capital punishment with much interest. I may add that I endorse the contents of these articles 100% because they tell it like it is and where it's at — providing the only one real solution, which is total change of one's attitude.

Each individual prisoner must make his own decision as to whether he wants to change or not—if he wants to reform and be successful at living life, he will. But most prisoners are unwilling to expend the effort to improve themselves, they are waiting for someone else to do it all for them—they just do time instead of using time to achieve something tangible.

Two weeks ago I saw the Parole Board, and I presented them with the article excerpt from the September-October P.T. on prisoner reform and also Ambassador College's book Crime Can Be Stopped - Here's How. I informed them I've studied such A.C. educational material for almost four years and that this literature has been conducive in effecting a change in my attitude which it has. After seven years, I've been informed I will be going home in three months. I consider this a miracle, and so thank God for His help. Perhaps I am fortunate in that I will not be quite 25 when I leave, and am still young enough to enjoy my youth. Thanks to this Work I will have a new life to live governed by a set of worthwhile principles.

> - Frank B., Trenton, New Jersey

You have opened up a whole new world for my husband and I by your telecast which we get at 6:30 a.m. We get you again on Sunday at 11 a.m.

over various Austin, San Antonio and Temple TV stations. You speak with authority — yet dare the listener to find out for himself. We have both been unhappy in our inherited doctrine and could not accept all of it, therefore, we were sinners in the worst degree. We would be so very happy to help in any way you will permit, to further these wonderful broadcasts.

- Mrs. Marie W., Austin. Texas

I think Mr. Armstrong is a very good man. I like to listen to him. Just this morning I discovered he is on in the morning on KTLA. I watched and listened to him instead of letting my 2-year-old daughter watch her children's cartoons. I didn't even know he existed until my husband saw him on a special once. We then began watching his Sunday evening program. He is the first man I have ever heard who really sounds like a man who believes in God. And I have good thoughts for hope of a loving God, again. A past trouble caused me to lose faith, but through many incidents, including discovering a disciple such as Garner Ted is, I have now regained my love for our God. Please tell Mr. Armstrong my story. And I thank God he is alive! I thank God he is not afraid to speak the truth about his beliefs. I'm glad he's able to speak his truths and God's.

> — Mrs. C. M., La Puente, California

Some Answers to Life Found

I have just received my first copy of *The Plain Truth* and also *The Seven Laws of Success*. Wow! This is what I have been searching for all my life. The reading of *The Seven Laws of Success* (I am twenty-eight years old) has just got to be one of the major experiences, if not the most important event of my entire life to this point of time. I am as a man possessed — compelled to act.

— Kenneth O., Jersey City, New Jersey

C. C. Lessons Clear the Air

After six lessons of your Correspondence Course, I have relegated most of my Denominational Semi-

nary Texts to the wastebasket where it belongs. The reason for this is that I am now letting the BIBLE explain the BIBLE. Now, the former apparent contradictions and ambiguities are beginning to clear. My own finding is that the contradictions and ambiguities never existed in the first place; except in my own mind through improper instruction and training. This Correspondence Course is absolutely priceless.

— J. N., Clayton, Georgia

Member Gives Thanks

The more I see happening in the world of confusion, the more I hear people of the world talk, the more problems around me, the more thankful I am for God's calling me and for His truth and His ministers and for a place to meet with God's people for Sabbath services, Holy Days and Bible Study.

I'm more thankful as days go by for all the education I have received from Ambassador College publications and from God's ministers. In spite of all trials and all the ways I suffer, I can still truly say I am one of the most blessed people on the face of this beautiful earth. I have been happier since I've known the truth than ever before in my life. With seven unconverted sons who have wives and children, there are lots of problems, but they don't bother me like they used to. Thank you.

— Mrs. Clarence B., Maynardville, Tennessee

Talk About Missing the Boat

In Correspondence Course Lesson 3, there's something I do not understand on page 4. It says: "Gibbon goes on to show." I have tried to find that word in the Bible. As I thought it was one of the disciples of old. But I couldn't find it or in the dictionary either. What I did find was the word Gibbon translated as a small, slender, long-armed ape of India, South China and the East Indies. Will you please explain?

— Bessie C., Lakewood, Ohio