

Ambassador-Spokesman Clubs

How did these clubs develop? How important are they to YOU? How can you benefit from them? Here are the answers to these questions, written by the assistant to Mr. Jack R. Elliott, the Executive Director of Ambassador-Spokesman Clubs.

by Paul Kroll

ONE OF the most important activities carried on by the Work of God today is the system of Ambassador-Spokesman Clubs instituted by God in His CHURCH and Colleges.

As Mr. Armstrong himself wrote in the Introduction to the Ambassador-Spokesman Speech Manual, "Nearly all the leaders in God's great Work—in God's CHURCH—perhaps every one—has received a great part of his training in an Ambassador Club at Ambassador College, or in a Spokesman Club at his local church.

"Without these speech clubs I do not believe any of those God uses as His leaders would possess either the speaking ability or the leadership exerted today."

How Important?

Just *how important* are the Ambassador-Spokesman Clubs to YOU? It doesn't matter if you are IN a club or not. If you are a member of the Church of God—and a part of His great endtime Work—they should be VERY IMPORTANT TO YOU!

Not that each church member should selfishly strive to grasp some church office. *God puts* a man in office. The Spokesman Clubs are not a "stepping-stone" to the ministry. *Let every man*—and for that matter—every member in God's Church realize that! This is not the purpose of the Spokesman Clubs. But more of their vital purposes later.

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong in his Introduction to the Speech Manual—



A big welcome for Spokesmen in Shreveport, La.

which is the basic guide to the function of the club—outlined the GREAT VALUE of the Spokesman Clubs to *all members*.

"The value and importance of your Spokesman Club, to YOU, and to *God's Work*, is beyond evaluating. It means development and growth as a MAN, as a HUSBAND, as a FATHER—in addition to development and growth in spiritual character and in ability to serve, as a BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD."

Notice that these clubs are of tremendous value to *God's Work*. You

should be praying that God would guide those at Headquarters to set the *right policies* for the Spokesman Clubs—regardless as to whether YOU think that *you* personally will ever be in the club.

Since it affects the Work, it involves YOU PERSONALLY! It also involves you personally in the *local church*. If the men in the local club are growing as men, husbands and fathers—their wives and families will also grow. As a result, your *local congregation* will also grow.

Spokesman Clubs Increase

At the writing of this article, there are ONE-HUNDRED-TEN SPOKESMAN CLUBS. *Today, THE SUN NEVER SETS on the Spokesman Club locations!* There are clubs in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, South Africa, Australia—with perhaps one to be started in the near future in the PHILIPPINES!

The clubs generally average twenty members each. Immediately, it is apparent that a great part of the church is DIRECTLY INVOLVED. This is a total of 2,200 men—adult, baptized members of God's Church—attending one of the Spokesman Clubs—plus some THREE HUNDRED MEN in the Ambassador Clubs, at the three Ambassador Colleges.

When you realize this will also affect the *wives and children* of these men directly, it becomes quite apparent WHY the Church of God at Headquarters regards this function as a tre-

mendous way in which to help shepherd the flock.

Club Organization

Today, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong directs a Headquarters Executive Committee which supervises the ever-increasing world-wide activities of the Ambassador-Spokesman Clubs. Mr. Ted Armstrong is the Chairman of the Committee.

However, the chief officer of the Committee—responsible to oversee the policies and programs of all the clubs—is Mr. Jack R. Elliott, who is also the Dean of Students at Ambassador College, Pasadena, California.

Of course, the clubs are *locally* administered as an activity of the CHURCH!—not the other way around. The Spokesman Clubs are one of the functions and agencies which the church uses to guide the TOTAL GROWTH of *all* its members.

Although locally supervised by the *minister*—they are an extension course and activity of the Ambassador Colleges. Thus, they achieve the status of an educational, college extension but church-oriented function.

Today, the Ambassador-Spokesman Clubs are a smooth-flowing organization complete with a very effective

Speech Manual. It has its *own* Constitution and Bylaws which are based on the principles of *God's Word*.

For example, here is an excerpt from the Constitution expressing the basic purpose of the clubs. "The purpose of the Ambassador and Spokesman Clubs . . . is to qualify church members to *better represent* the Kingdom of the Eternal, Living God by training in *character development*, leadership within God's Church, effective organization of right thoughts and ability to put them across in plain, understandable speech."

Many times when the local minister is planning a church-sponsored outing, he may call on members who have developed leadership through the Spokesman Club to *help him organize* the function. In this way, THE WHOLE CHURCH benefits from what these club members have learned.

Intriguing History Unfolds

As all aspects of God's Church, this *now* very effective tool, the Ambassador-Spokesman Clubs, began in a tiny, *insignificant* way. Let's take a quick behind-the-scenes look at the fascinating story of the history and development of this most important activity.

Ambassador clubs began in the seventh year of the College and are now



The presenting of the awards highlights this evening Ambassador Club at Brickel Wood, England. Gerald Crosswell, a transfer student from the United States, is receiving this trophy as Mr. and Mrs. Garner Ted Armstrong join in the applause.



twelve years old. Little is remembered of that monumental first meeting on February 10, 1953. The secretary's Minutes reveal little except that it was decided to hold weekly meetings.

The club was organized and set in motion by Mr. Elliott only after its purpose and proceedings had been reviewed and approved by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

Mr. Roderick C. Meredith, now an Evangelist and the Second Vice-President of the whole Work of God, was the most effective speaker that evening. Mr. Kenneth Swisher, now a Pastor and District Church Superintendent, was acknowledged as the one who gave the best Table Topics comment. Dr. Herman Hoeh, another Evangelist, Managing Editor of *The PLAIN TRUTH*, and Dean of Instruction at Ambassador College, gave the most helpful evaluation.

Later Minutes reveal that Mr. Dick Armstrong was the first Ambassador Club president and Mr. Meredith became the first vice-president. The original membership was *twenty-one!*

Today the Ambassador Clubs have grown to a total of FOURTEEN with nearly *three hundred* students inside their ranks.



Here you see a panorama of a Spokesman Club during ladies' night. If the faces do not look familiar to most of you, it is because this is the Spokesman Club, Johannesburg, South Africa. This serves to illustrate the world-wide scope of these speech clubs. Mr. Gerald Waterhouse, Evangelist and Director of the Work in South Africa, is seated, back-center, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Williams at his right.

The first meeting of any Spokesman Club was at Pasadena on October 24, 1956—some eight years ago! At the time, it was called the "Senior Ambassador Club." The Minutes reveal that Mr. Sidney Hegvold, now an instructor at Ambassador College, Big Sandy, Texas, was the *first president!* It also was started by Mr. Elliott, after its purposes and format were approved by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

The first meeting was held on the Pasadena campus in what is now called "Murphy House" and houses Ambassador College co-eds.

Another club was soon started in Big Sandy, Texas. This was followed by those in Houston, Texas and St. Louis, Missouri. These were all under the Headquarters supervision of Mr. Dick Armstrong.

On October 2, 1958, the FIRST ANNUAL Spokesman Club meeting was held in the Lounge Room of the Old Tabernacle—now the Dining Hall at the Festival Grounds in Big Sandy, Texas. It appears from the Minutes that there were then FIVE SPEECH CLUBS—Dallas, Texas; Gladewater, Texas; Houston, Texas; Pasadena, California, and St. Louis, Missouri!

New Name Adopted

It was here that a HISTORIC EVENT took place! The name "Spokesman Club" became the official title recognized at Headquarters. Here is an excerpt from that meeting:

"Mr. Hill"—now a Pastor in God's Church and Managing Editor of *The GOOD NEWS*—"stated that there is some confusion concerning the names being adopted by the speech clubs in the various churches outside Pasadena. To avoid future problems of this nature, Mr. Hill moved that we unanimously accept the name "Spokesman."

This name, along with a number of other suggestions, was taken into consideration by those at Headquarters. The name "Spokesman Club" was approved by Mr. Armstrong and finally adopted for all clubs.

The Minutes for the combined club meeting at Gladewater the next year reveal that there was a total of ELEVEN CLUBS! Thus, that year *seven* more were added.

The records for the next years are

not complete. But in 1960, probably some EIGHT additional clubs were added. The big jump in new clubs occurred in 1961 when NINETEEN new clubs were added to the existing ones.

By January, 1962, some THIRTY-SEVEN Spokesman Clubs were in existence. *Twenty-one* were added in that year to bring the January, 1963, total to approximately FIFTY-NINE!

In 1963, there were also TWENTY-ONE new clubs founded. This past year up to the writing of this article in late November of 1964—a record TWENTY-EIGHT clubs have been established—to make a grand total of *one-hundred-ten* Spokesman Clubs!

What IS a Meeting Like?

No doubt, many of you have wondered, "What do they do in the Spokesman Club?" For this purpose many of the clubs have an "open house" inviting many of the congregation, perhaps the widows, or other guests, to see the men in action. Probably every club has had one or more *ladies' nights*, where the wives can "look in on" what their

husbands are doing and learning in these vital speech clubs.

But here is a behind-the-scenes view of a typical Spokesman Club in session.

At the time when the meeting is to begin, the Local Director—who is usually the minister of the church—begins the club with an opening prayer.

He may then appoint someone to lead in a brief, fast-moving "vocal exercise" session. This is to get the men limbered up and to get their vocal mechanism in shape.

The vocal exercise leader may have the men do "tongue-twisters" such as, "A big black bug bit a big black bear, made a big black bear bleed!" See if you can say that RAPIDLY—without stumbling!

Or he may have them do "barking" exercises—or go up and down the musical scale. Anything to get them limbered up.

Next, the men sit down to enjoy the meal (if it is a dinner club) and some scintillating conversation for ten minutes or so. Here in a relaxed but formal atmosphere the men may discuss anything from *world news* to the personal tidbits of the week.

Business Session

The president rises, makes a few opening remarks and calls for the introduction of the guests. Then he will have the club secretary succinctly sum up the gist of the *previous* meeting. Special emphasis is given to the business which the club is undertaking.

Then comes a most interesting portion of the evening—the *business session*. Here the members discuss club activities which are pertinent to them—ladies' nights, dues, meeting places, or other business of such a nature.

This lasts for fifteen minutes. Members receive the opportunity to bring up SOUND IDEAS—and to think them through to achievement.

After business comes the Table Topics session. Here the men are mentally challenged to comment—on the spur of the moment—on almost any given topic. This session offers an opportunity for EVERY MAN in the club to jump to his feet in stimulated discussion of thought-provoking subjects.

This is a time to learn to THINK ON YOUR FEET!

Anything from a "most embarrassing experience," or current events topics, to answering Scripture questions may be asked by the Table Topics Chairman.

This twenty-five minute period ends and a short recess of about five minutes or so begins.

Stimulating Second Portion

Then the men return for the second portion of the meeting. The president calls for the "Toastmaster" of the evening. It is his responsibility to get the five speakers off to a *zippy start*! He must take the responsibility of a genial host—and create an atmosphere of eager interest for the speakers.

When he gets through with his introduction of a speaker the audience should be thinking, "I *really want to hear* from this speaker!"

When each speaker is through he receives a short but thorough evaluation from one of the men of the club designated as his evaluator.

Immediately after the five speakers plus their evaluators have finished, the president calls for the "opinion slips" of the men. Each club member puts down his opinion as to who he thought gave the most effective speech and evaluation and the most improved speech.

But this IS NOT VOTING!

In the Goals and Purposes section of the Speech Manual, this principle is illustrated, "There is *no voting* in conducting the Ambassador - Spokesman Club business! An opinion poll may be taken to quickly determine the wishes and counsel of the club membership as a whole, for 'in multitude of counselors there is safety' (Pro. 24:6)."

But throughout it is the *Government of God*—and members learn this. The Director in some cases may go AGAINST THE CHOICE of the members when he sees that the majority has been wrong. But often the impression the speaker left on the audience has been correctly indicated by the club members.

This gives the members the opportunity to *discern and judge* as to what

are GOOD speech traits—and gives them the insight to correct any defects or improve good points in their own speaking.

Director Gives Evaluation

As the opinion slips are coming in, the Director takes the speaker's stand and begins the *most important portion* of the evening—his over-all evaluation of the club.

In Spokesman Clubs these evaluations may take half an hour—with all emphasis on getting to the one or two main problems of the club that evening.

His is an OVER-ALL evaluation. Usually one or two good or bad points have consistently cropped up during the meeting. These will affect the average member of the club. This is especially what the Director watches for.

At the end of such a meeting, each man has had an opportunity to speak and to be evaluated. He comes away from the meeting with a *greater understanding* of his weak and strong points. He is now armed with greater knowledge as to how to work on himself.

That evening the average member has probably had to master his *self-will and vanity*. He has had to have the *self-discipline* to prepare effectively. Above all he has had to *grow in humility* to take the sometimes strong correction.

His whole personality has become broadened. He has had the proper Christian fellowship and recreation. The *principles and workings* of God's Government have become more obvious. He has had an opportunity to demonstrate leadership and service among his fellow club members.

In short, this is a great opportunity to become closer to the *stature and fulness of Christ!*

No individual realizing this tremendous benefit will forsake his duty and at the same time this opportunity—if he is in a club. If he is NOT IN A CLUB—and should be—he is missing a tremendous opportunity to grow, serve others—and better fit himself for a position in God's Kingdom, because the benefits extend beyond the individ-

ual—to his wife and family, plus to the entire church! It is evident that *God is blessing* the Ambassador-Spokesman Clubs. He has shown by its OWN GROWTH—and the *fruits and products* of the clubs—that they are good! He has put His stamp of approval on them.

Anyone who is able to attend, *should* attend to be part of this great church function—so that ALL MAY BENEFIT! And those of you who are *not* ABLE to attend? Are you supporting the

clubs in your area by your *prayers*? Are you praying for their success—especially for guidance of those at Headquarters?

Are YOU taking advantage of this great opportunity? If you are in a club, are you putting forth *total, one hundred percent effort*? If you are NOT in a club—is there a reason, or are you simply *shirking* your responsibility and missing out on a great blessing? Only you know—and God!

The Bible Answers Your Questions

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

Just what is a "saint"?

According to Webster's Dictionary, a saint is "A holy or godly person; especially one regenerated and sanctified or undergoing sanctification." A saint is "One of the beatified souls" or "one who is canonized by the church."

Similarly, E. Royston Pike declares that the term "saint" refers to the BLESSED DEAD (see *The Encyclopaedia of Religion and Religions*). He explains, "... a saint is one, man or woman, who has been canonized for having displayed the virtues of faith, hope, and charity, prudence, justice, and fortitude in a heroic degree, and furthermore has *performed miracles*."

Is this definition *true*? Not according to the plain Word of God! Notice what the *Bible* says!

The Greek word in the New Testament translated "saint" is *hagios* and simply refers to a holy person or object (see *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*). Therefore, *saints* are simply those people who have been set apart by God for His purpose—those people who have repented of their sins and have come under the government of God!

The word "saint" merely means a TRUE CHRISTIAN!

The Apostle Paul called all the brethren in Christ *saints*. He wrote to the

Corinthians, "Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to *them that are sanctified* [set apart for a holy use] in Christ Jesus, CALLED TO BE SAINTS, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours" (I Cor. 1:1-2).

Notice! Paul calls all the Christians at Corinth SAINTS—as well as "all that in every place" call upon the name of Jesus Christ and serve Him!

Furthermore, we read in II Corinthians 1:1 that Paul writes to "... the church of God which is at Corinth, WITH ALL THE SAINTS which are in Achaia." And, Paul also wrote the Romans, "To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, *called to be saints*..." (Rom. 1:7).

Writing to the Ephesians, Paul declared, "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but *fellow-citizens with the saints*, and of the household of God" (Eph. 2:19). And, Paul exhorted the Hebrew Christians, "Salute all them that have the rule over you, *and all the SAINTS*. They of Italy salute you" (Heb. 13:24).

How clear—the word "saint" merely refers to a *true Christian*—and "the saints" are true Christians everywhere!

But what makes a person a saint? What "sets us apart," or makes us

"holy" to God? Christians are sanctified or set apart from the world by one thing—the INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!

True Christians have been begotten by God's Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13-14; II Cor. 5:5). We become Christ's when we receive the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul explained, "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the SPIRIT OF CHRIST, HE IS NONE OF HIS!" (Rom. 8:9.)

How plain! Having God's Holy Spirit is what sets a person apart from the world—makes him a true Christian—and makes him a SAINT! All those people who are begotten by the Holy Spirit ARE SAINTS!

Contrary to the definitions of *men*, and the opinions of *men*, a "saint" is NOT a "beatified soul," or an heroic individual "canonized" by the church for having lived an abstemious life and performing miracles. *Such is not Biblical teaching!*

No, rather, if we are true Christians—if we are truly Christ's—then, brethren, *we ARE saints!*

If God changed His mind in Exodus 32 about destroying Israel, how can I be completely assured that He won't change His mind about healing me?

First let's look at some of the examples in the Bible which record God changing His mind.

In Exodus 32 we find God planning the destruction of all Israel. In fear of the entire nation being destroyed, Moses fasted for forty days and forty nights beseeching God for mercy. Then, in Verse 14, we find, "The Lord repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people."

Another example is in Jonah 4. Again, God seriously considered destroying the entire city of Nineveh for their uncontrolled wickedness. But Jonah began to preach God's Word there and the *people repented*. Once again God changed His mind (Jonah 4:11).

For one more example, turn over to