

The Good News

International Magazine of
THE CHURCH OF GOD

VOL. IX, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER, 1960

God's Work in Britain *Leaps Ahead!*

New churches have been raised up. Scores have been baptized. The new college is off to a wonderful start!

by Roderick C. Meredith

WE WERE sailing across the Atlantic but a few short months ago on the SS United States. With us on board ship was the Treasurer of the United States, Ivy Baker Priest, and many other dignitaries.

With my recently-purchased tiny transistor radio—small enough to fit into your coat pocket—I made my way up to the sports deck. It was a cold, black night. Most of the passengers were either already in bed or having a last “fling” in the ship’s cocktail lounge and ballroom, as we would be landing in France early the next morning. Then the ship sailed on to England.

But soon—alone up there with the wind and the waves — I was in an entirely *different* atmosphere.

“And GREETINGS friends!” the voice boomed across the water, “this is Garner Ted Armstrong with the *Good News of The World Tomorrow*.” Here was the VOICE of God’s Church ringing across Europe over powerful Radio Luxembourg. It had *prepared the way* for the blessed and busy summer’s work that lay ahead of us. And it sure sounded GOOD to me that black night on the ocean!

Traveling with Mr. and Mrs. Herbert W. Armstrong and others in God’s work, we were soon to reach the shores

of England to begin the busiest and most fruitful summer so far for God’s Church in Britain. This past summer has *multiplied* the scope and influence of the Church of God in the British Isles!

Good Progress

Arriving at Southampton, we were met by Mr. and Mrs. Raymond McNair, Mr. George Meeker, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Woodie, and a host of others. We felt at home immediately, for we were among brethren. But we could already see *many new faces* among those brethren, for the London church had multiplied nearly *four times* since my wife and I had left it in April of 1957.

We found that Mr. Raymond McNair — Evangelist in charge of God’s churches in Britain—had built up the work here a great deal. Beside the fine increase in the London church, a small church had been raised up in Bristol composed of about eight to ten adult members. This solid nucleus of converted members was to prove the needed “backbone” of the larger Bristol church that resulted from the Evangelistic campaign there.

In addition, a Bible study had been formed of the seven baptized members in Birmingham. It was only meeting twice a month, but the local members

there had been strengthened greatly to act as “pillars” in the church that was to be raised up.

In addition, under Mr. McNair’s supervision, property developments and improvements were constantly changing the face of our future college campus. It was really becoming a *fabulous* place!

At this point, I cannot help but mention the outstanding example of *zeal, dedication and hard work* set by two of our “pioneer” London church members, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Silcox. They began attending the London church steadily after the campaign held in London in January and February of 1957. Soon after, they were baptized in the “ice-cold” water of the Thames river.

As most new members do, they had many trials and tests at first in keeping the Sabbath and making a complete break with the world. But they were *faithful*, and they kept on growing.

After the property for our college here in England was purchased, an unusual opportunity for service opened up to them. It was known that Mr. Silcox had done a great deal of gardening, and he was asked to move his family to Bricket Wood and help get our college grounds and gardens in shape.

As it turned out, he was an even more

experienced and competent man than we had realized. He was soon put in complete charge of our gardening crew, and began doing a magnificent job restoring the grounds and gardens here to their former beauty.

Mr. Silcox believes in WORK! And he *drives himself* to accomplish the work normally done by several men. He literally works from dawn to dusk most days, and often far into the night.

In addition, his wife and two sons have donated countless hours of their time to the job of keeping the trees and bushes pruned, and the flower beds in good condition. In fact, they often work harder than most outsiders would if they were being paid for it!

Well, I give this just as an example illustrating that many of our British brethren have their entire lives and hearts wrapped up in God's work. The Silcox's example reminded me of how our beloved brother Bill Homberger—in the early years of the college in America—gave up his outside job and all past associations in order to move to Pasadena and help get things in shape. He, too, worked long and hard hours—donating extra hours of love and service constantly.

Now *he*—like the Silcoxes—is blessed with the privilege of working and living right in the midst of "the happiest spot on earth," Ambassador College.

This example also parallels that of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hammer, of Glade-water, Texas. They too gave of themselves unceasingly in the arduous job of maintaining the big Tabernacle there, being the backbone of the local church, and planning and doing the literally hundreds of things necessary in the physical arrangements for the church festivals each year.

Now they, too, are blessed with the privilege of not only working but living on the very grounds they have worked so hard to make beautiful. And, not surprisingly at all when we understand, they may also have the additional blessing of sharing the atmosphere of yet another Ambassador College campus—a Junior College possibly to be established there within a year or two!

Haven't you noticed that people who go "all out" for God and His work are really BLESSED for it?

A Busy Summer

Upon arrival, Mr. Armstrong immediately set himself to the task of completing all plans and arrangements for the new Ambassador College. There was remodeling to be done on the buildings, new property to be purchased, college equipment to be purchased and literally scores of other details to see to.

Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong had a busy

summer directing these many activities, and then flew back to America for the start of the college year there. And, of course, Mr. Armstrong's major responsibilities of directing the entire work of God, preaching in the churches, and writing for the magazines and bulletins continue wherever he is.

Meanwhile, after a few days at our new headquarters on the college grounds at Bricket Wood, England, Mr. Ernest Martin and I left for Bristol, England. We needed to make final preparations for the Bristol Evangelistic Campaign which was to begin on Monday night, June 20th, in the Y.M.C.A. auditorium.

Evangelistic Campaign "Team"

Before describing the Bristol meetings, let me tell you about our campaign "team"—and how we were organized for conducting three evangelistic campaigns in a row. For last summer God's Church—*your* Church—held three important evangelistic campaigns in England.

Mr. Ernest Martin—one of our ministers now stationed in Britain and the Registrar of Ambassador College there—was the song leader and campaign manager. Mr. Martin and his dedicated wife, Helen, were there each night to greet the people, handle any arrangements and answer literally hundreds of questions after the meetings.

The brilliant piano accompaniment to the hymn singing—and special solo numbers—was provided by Miss Ruth Myrick. Miss Myrick, as many of you brethren know, is the piano virtuoso of Ambassador College. You may remember her as the young lady who accompanied the hymns for us during the Feast of Tabernacles last year, 1959.

This year, Miss Myrick has been sent to England as one of the pioneer students of the new Ambassador College here. Together with other advanced students, Miss Myrick is here to help "set the pace" and aid in establishing the Ambassador atmosphere in the new college.

In addition to her musical accompaniments, Miss Myrick also did an important job in counselling with scores of people.

My wife, Margie, had a real job on her hands taking care of our two small children and also getting moved into a new "flat" each place we went. But she did a remarkable job of this, and found time to counsel with and encourage many of the other ladies attending the meetings!

Mr. Robin Jones joined the campaign "team" at the start and finish of the meetings in Bristol and Birmingham, and took over the job of song leading for the Manchester campaign. This was arranged so that Mr. Martin could take

up his duties as Registrar of Ambassador College in Bricket Wood.

Your author was the campaign speaker, and it was a challenging assignment. For we were conducting meetings five nights a week for *twelve solid weeks*—and preaching once or twice on the Sabbath beside!

The Bristol Campaign

We knew that our Bristol meetings would be the smallest we would hold. But we had been urged to hold these by Mr. McNair on behalf of the local church brethren.

As it turned out, they were quite successful considering that our listeners in the Bristol area are comparatively few. Remember, brethren, that our campaigns are not primarily designed to attract huge crowds of people who know nothing of the truth, but are rather intended to reach primarily our own listeners and readers of The PLAIN TRUTH who have at least a general knowledge of, and interest in, God's plan.

There was excitement in the air that first night in Bristol! The audience was expecting something different from the average evangelistic campaign, and *they certainly got it*. The prophesied future of England—and of Bristol—was laid bare. A warning was sounded and a witness was given. From then on, a regular chain of prophetic events was given through the meetings, and the spiritual revelation of *what to do about it!*

Many people had come over from Wales and other areas who could not attend regularly. However, according to pattern, the attendance held up well. There were 112 people attending the first night, and at the end of four weeks 56 people—exactly half—were there to hear the closing sermon.

The first Sabbath after the campaign, the little meeting room where the Bristol church meets was packed with 44 people! As Jesus prophesied, a few have since fallen by the wayside. But latest reports indicate that about 35 are still attending in Bristol, and it has now become a full-fledged church with a good foundation for future growth.

Mr. Ernest Martin is now the Pastor of the Bristol church and reports that they are a very zealous and enthusiastic group. Remember to PRAY for Mr. Martin, and our new brethren in Bristol!

Blessings and Problems in the Birmingham Meetings

Satan was waiting for us in Birmingham! Through misguided human instruments, he tried to upset the audience in the first two nights of our meetings there.

Without realizing it, we had rented

the very hall used regularly by a certain religious sect for holding very special meetings. When they discovered that we had rented this hall for a series of evangelistic meetings to proclaim God's TRUTH—which they fight and oppose—they were apparently quite upset.

They tried to bring *confusion* into our meetings! But God gave us His *wisdom* and *POWER*—and the meeting was handled so that they were shown in their true light as instruments of the Devil.

After that, the meetings proceeded peaceably, and God blessed us with a *good harvest*. Beginning with about 170 in attendance the first night, the attendance held up over or near a hundred for the first two weeks. Then, when the strong spiritual "meat" was presented, some dropped away.

But the campaign closed with 68 adults in attendance for the very *first* Sabbath services of God's Church in Birmingham. Most of these still remain, and the church shows prospects of becoming a really large church in the future.

Since the campaign, Dr. Benjamin Rea and I have handled the ministry there as co-pastors in Birmingham—one of us driving up each Sabbath from our college headquarters. The church there is becoming more warm and friendly each week, and is beginning to remind us of the church in San Diego, Calif.

Brethren, PRAY for God's church in Birmingham! And give Him *thanks* for these new brethren in Christ!

Final Campaign in Manchester

Humanly speaking, after eight solid weeks of every-night preaching, I would have enjoyed a rest before the Manchester campaign. So would the rest of the team, I am sure.

But, in another way, it was good to tackle a new challenge. And Manchester seemed a very friendly city, and we had a wonderful hall there in which to meet.

I had been forced by circumstances to send my wife and two children back down to London after the Birmingham campaign. She was expecting another child soon, and in addition to this burden we had found it intolerably difficult to find a decent place to live during our short campaign stopovers in each city. So she went to stay with her brother, Mr. Raymond McNair, and his wife and family. I tried to get down and see her when I could on weekends, since I was going halfway in order to preach in Birmingham each Sabbath anyway.

Thus, I was forced to carry on without my wife, and Mr. Robin Jones and I stayed in small private rooms in the Y.M.C.A. But somehow that made all of us, I think, work and pray all the harder during the Manchester campaign.

In any case, God was with us and really BLESSED this final campaign of the series. Starting with only about 130 in attendance the first night, we completed the campaign with more than 60 adults in attendance.

Next day—in a city where we previously had practically no real church members, and no church or Bible study group of any kind—the Manchester Church of God started with 51 adults in attendance. Most of these people's lives had already been CHANGED by God's Spirit and His Truth.

Since then, the attendance has held up extremely well, many have been baptized, and the church in Manchester may well prove to be one of our most zealous churches anywhere!

PRAY for this new church, brethren! Remember that most of these people are very new—still "babes" in the true knowledge of Jesus Christ. They need your *help*—your *earnest prayers* that they might remain faithful to the truth God has so recently granted them!

Feast of Tabernacles in Britain

A few weeks after the campaigns were completed, it was time for the Feast of Tabernacles!

Plans and all arrangements had been made to hold the Feast here in England on our own college grounds. A large marquee—or reinforced tent—had been set up for the services and special kitchen facilities and help was provided.

Last year, the maximum attendance at the Feast here had been reported at 117 people. This year, people kept coming in until last year's attendance was *more than doubled!*

Since Mr. Armstrong was at the big Tabernacle in Texas for the first half of the Feast, Mr. Raymond McNair and I took charge of the festival here in Britain until he arrived. We were powerfully assisted in the preaching by Dr. Benjamin Rea, Mr. Ernest Martin, Mr. George Meeker, and Mr. Robin Jones.

Mr. McNair gave a series of very informative sermons vividly portraying what the millennium will be like. He also gave a very moving sermon on the importance of prayer.

In my sermons, I thoroughly proved that God's Holy Days should be observed by Christians today. In addition, I spoke on the subject of "Worldliness" and the tremendous DESTINY that awaits us as God's sons.

Dr. Rea gave a fascinating and important sermon showing *how* and *why* Almighty God has placed the various nations and races of men in the locations in which they find themselves. And, of course, many other important sermons were given on doctrine, prophecy and Christian living.

There was certainly a feeling of *peace*, *unity* and *love* among the brethren here. Although perhaps a little more reserved than our American brethren, God's people were joyously WORSHIPPING Him in this Feast.

There was a particular *intensity* of interest in the spiritual truths that were revealed in the sermons. For these people do not get the daily broadcast as do you brethren in America. And most of them are relatively new to the wonderful truths God has revealed to His Church. And so they were deeply *interested*—literally "soaking up"—the sermons from God's ministers.

Mr. Armstrong Arrives

The sixth day of the Feast Mr. Armstrong arrived with a JOYOUS report on the festival in Texas! Next day, he spoke on man's tremendous potential to be *like God* and have dominion over the world under Christ.

On the final Great High Day, Mr. Armstrong brought *both* of the main sermons! In the morning, he spoke on the Great White Throne Judgment—the time of salvation for all not being called now. That afternoon, he spoke on the tremendous world upheavals to come—and the CHALLENGE that is placed before each of us in God's Church to do our part in carrying Christ's true MESSAGE of salvation to a sick and dying world.

It was a sobering but stirring message, and a fitting climax to the Feast of Tabernacles. As the last hymn came to a close, all of us from America realized that we had definitely NOT "missed" the Feast of Tabernacles! Some human reactions were different, but the attitude of *love* and *unity* in Christ was here. And the spirit of genuine SURRENDER to the will of Almighty God was felt and experienced here as much, I am sure, as anywhere else on earth.

And it should have been. For this was the *place* which GOD had chosen for the observance of His Feast in Britain. It was HIS presence and HIS Spirit which made God's Feast of Tabernacles, 1960, a *great success* in Britain!

Next month, we hope to bring you more news about the new Ambassador College here in England and report on the continued growth of God's work and churches here in the British Isles. Meanwhile, *remember your brethren* here in "Ephraim." PRAY that God will open more and better "doors" of radio and television to reach those whom He is calling here.

And let us give God *great THANKS* for these tremendous *leap ahead* taken by His Church and work here in just the last few months!