

---

# RECAPTURING TRUE VALUES

---

*The Story of  
The Worldwide Church of God*

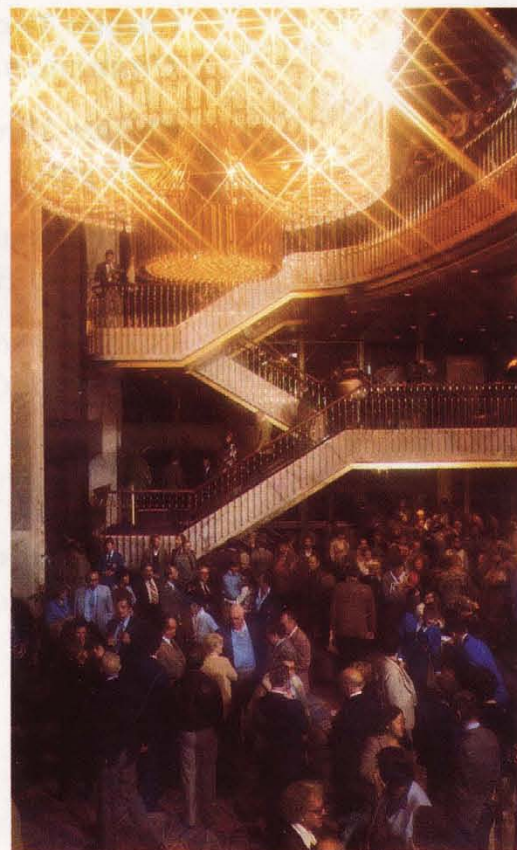
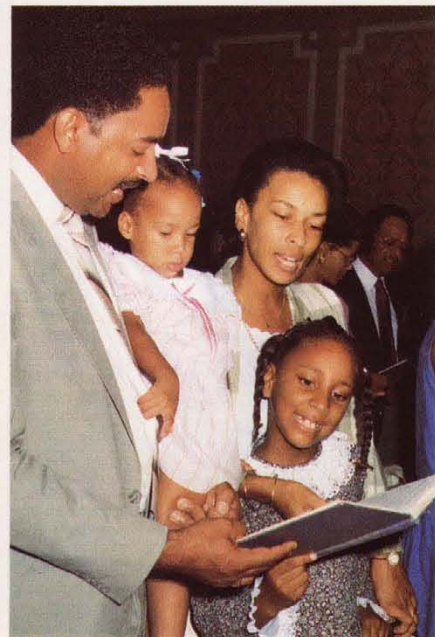
---

# RECAPTURING TRUE VALUES

---

## *The Story of The Worldwide Church of God*

Chapter One	
<i>A Way of Life That Makes Sense . . . . .</i>	5
Chapter Two	
<i>Understanding the Church . . . . .</i>	7
Chapter Three	
<i>A Message of Hope . . . . .</i>	12
Chapter Four	
<i>Building Bridges Between People . . . . .</i>	14
Chapter Five	
<i>A Unique College . . . . .</i>	16
Chapter Six	
<i>Financial Accountability. . . . .</i>	19
Chapter Seven	
<i>Looking Toward the Future . . . . .</i>	20



# *A Way of Life That Makes Sense*

**E**ACH day thousands of letters arrive at Worldwide Church of God offices around the world. Many of them request items of free literature from the selection of magazines, books and booklets offered by the Church. Others ask for ministerial counsel and help.

Meanwhile in Jordan, students from the Church's Ambassador College help handicapped children become productive members of society. An average of 180,000 people a year attend Ambassador Foundation's world-renowned performing arts series in California. The U.S. surgeon general, experts on drug abuse and officials concerned about environmental issues appear on the *World Tomorrow* television program. And after reading a *Plain Truth* magazine article on alcoholism, a woman writes, "You saved my husband's life."

All of these are facets and activities of the Worldwide Church of God. The Church reflects its name by being active in more than 120 countries and territories, with about 132,000 people attending weekly services in more than 800 congregations around the world.

## **Church Beliefs**

Unaware of the diverse activities of the Church, many people ask: "What does the Worldwide Church of God believe? And how does the Church act on those beliefs?"

People often express surprise when they learn that the Church transcends typical religious labeling. The Worldwide Church of God doesn't actively seek new converts. It stays out of the political arena. It doesn't ask for money from the general public. And everything the Church offers is free — including its educational magazines, books, booklets and brochures.

Some may ask, what's the catch? Quite simply, there is none. The Worldwide Church of God follows the guidelines and principles set down by Jesus Christ.

Jesus, whom the Bible identifies as the Church's living leader, so directs his followers: "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8, New King James Version throughout).

## **Two General Purposes**

The Worldwide Church of God embraces two general purposes in its quest to recapture true values: to alert humanity to the problems and challenges it faces today, providing positive solutions from a practical biblical perspective; and to teach and help those who are interested in learning the Christian way of life.

The Worldwide Church of God is an independent organization, not affiliated with any other group. The Church stands by the commitment to live by every word of God, as found in both Old and New Testaments of the Bible. This means that the Church does not hold to religious activities that stem solely from tradition; rather, it upholds biblical practice.

For example, since the Bible does not command Christmas or Easter celebrations (which the record of history shows developed through tradition over centuries), members of the Worldwide Church of God do not observe these days. Jesus taught his disciples to follow his example. Church members strive to fulfill this obligation by holding faithfully to the biblical record and an understanding of history.

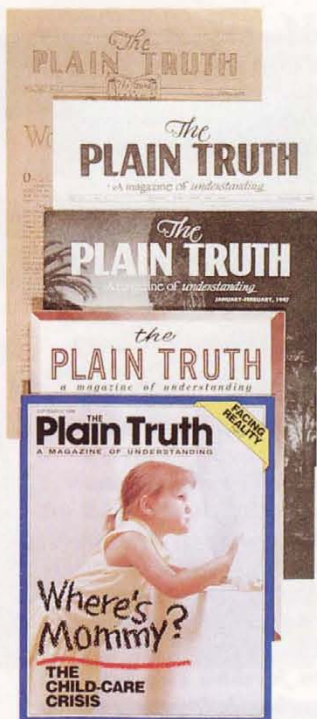
## **Practical Information**

The Bible portrays humanity's existence and behavior in a unique way. People find the information in the Bible surprisingly practical — full of common sense advice leading to more satisfying and happier lives.

Many also express surprise when they learn that the Church does not attempt to convert anyone. The Church believes that only God himself can set such a change in motion. As Jesus said to his

*Members of the Worldwide Church of God strive to live a way of life that provides solutions to the critical problems mankind faces today. It is a way based on caring for others, a way that resolves the strife that has marked much of mankind's history.*

*Clockwise from upper left: A Church family in Bermuda sings hymns during the Church's annual religious convention, the Festival of Tabernacles; an Ambassador College student during a therapy session at a school for handicapped children in Jordan; concertgoers gather before a performance in the Ambassador Auditorium; a portion of the day's mail awaits sorting.*



**For more than 50 years, the Church has published *The Plain Truth* magazine to help spread God's message of hope. In each issue, the magazine's writers and editors shed new light on the problems and challenges facing humanity and show that God's way of life provides workable and intelligent answers.**

disciples, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him" (John 6:44).

Church doctrine clearly states that everyone — all who have ever lived — will have the positive choice of obeying God and becoming part of his kingdom. The Church believes that God's eternal plan for humanity is equally open to all races, cultures and peoples.

### Successful Relationships

Why does the Worldwide Church of God so strongly emphasize the Bible — which is a collection of ancient writings, some sources of which date back before 3,000 B.C.? The behavioral principles found in the Bible simply make sense — they lead to success, greater peace of mind and more harmonious relationships. The Bible describes a Creator God who is deeply concerned with his supreme creation: humanity. In a very real sense the Bible should be considered an instruction manual from the Maker of humanity. As a major part of its mission the Church helps its members and those who are interested to better understand the Bible so as to live successful lives in contemporary 20th century society.

The Worldwide Church of God demonstrates a commitment to building strong families — preserving the unit that bonds nations and societies together into a cohesive whole. For that reason the Church frequently devotes magazine articles and television programs providing information on such topics as how to prepare for marriage, how to rear children successfully and how to hold families together during difficult times. Further, the Church emphasizes the need for its members to devote time and energy to maintaining and improving family relationships.

The Church also encourages its members to build positive relationships within their neighborhoods and communities. As productive members of society, a number serve on civic committees and perform other community activities of a nonpolitical nature.

### Sharing Knowledge

Believing its message to be one of urgent importance and relevance, the Worldwide Church of God uses appropriate methods to reach the broadest

range of people. These include television, radio and the print media. Active since 1933, the Worldwide Church of God has published and distributed more than 1.3 billion free magazines and publications to those who request them.

The Church publishes *The Plain Truth*, a monthly magazine with a worldwide circulation of 6.5 million. Now available in English, Spanish, French, German, Dutch, Norwegian and Italian, *The Plain Truth* has provided insightful commentary and practical solutions to the problems and challenges of humanity for more than half a century. Two other free magazines are also published, *The Good News*, a magazine that delves into biblical topics; and *Youth 89* magazine, designed for the younger generation. In addition, the Church publishes a wide variety of booklets and brochures, all designed to help improve the quality of life.

The electronic companion to *The Plain Truth* is *The World Tomorrow* — a television program seen on about 350 stations worldwide. Each week more than 1.5 million viewers in Europe, Australia, the Caribbean, the Philippines, Canada and the United States take in this popular religious and public affairs program. Topics of interest range from the threat of global nuclear war to the purpose of life, from the growing AIDS crisis to business ethics.

### The Church Today

From its modern beginnings in 1933 under Herbert W. Armstrong, the Worldwide Church of God has grown from its parent congregation in the northwestern United States to become an international Church encircling the globe. Since the death of Mr. Armstrong in January 1986, growth has continued to characterize the Worldwide Church of God, including steady increases in viewership of *The World Tomorrow* and readership of *The Plain Truth*.

Mr. Armstrong's successor, Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach, is a longtime minister and administrator. He oversees all key activities, including the development of *The Plain Truth* and production of *The World Tomorrow*. He also serves as chancellor of the Ambassador College campuses in Pasadena, California, and Big Sandy, Texas; and is chairman of the Ambassador Foundation.

# Understanding the Church

**T**HE WORLDWIDE Church of God believes that human beings were created by God as free moral agents, capable of choosing between two general approaches to life. One way can be simply characterized as the way of “get” — of taking, selfishly demanding personal satisfaction to the detriment of other people. The other way is the “give” way — of loving, caring and sacrificing personal desires to help others.

The Bible presents God’s instruction in the “give” way, and records the unhappy results when humanity chooses the “get” approach to life.

God does not force humanity into obedience — man has a choice. As is firmly stated in Deuteronomy 30, verse 19, “I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live.”

The Worldwide Church of God remains committed to making people aware of that right choice and explaining it to those who express interest.

## A Critical Principle

Explaining a central obligation of Christians, Jesus said, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God” (Luke 4:4). When Jesus made this statement, the written collection of God’s instruction to man was the Law, the Prophets and the Writings, known today also as the Old Testament. For this reason, the Worldwide Church of God takes its beliefs from both the Old and New Testaments. It does not follow religious traditions, holidays and practices not found in the Bible.

As a result of its commitment to observe the biblically commanded festivals, the Worldwide Church of God keeps the days and seasons that Jesus and Church members in the first century A.D. kept. These include Passover, the Festival of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost,



the Festival of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, the Festival of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day. These days and seasons vividly illustrate God’s plan for humanity and point to the bright future.

## A Brief Look

At the beginning of the annual holy-day cycle in the springtime, the Church observes the Christian Passover, which reviews and pictures the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Immediately following the symbolic observance of the death of Jesus Christ — which opened the way for personal salvation — Church members observe the Festival of Unleavened Bread.

Before this season — which lasts one week — members clean their homes of all leavened products. These leavened products, according to the Bible, are to be seen symbolically, to represent sin by the “puffing-up” capacity of yeast and leaven (I Corinthians 5:6-8). As members clean their homes, this process

*One of the spiritual highlights of the year, the Church’s annual worldwide religious convention features eight days of worship services and family activities. Called the Festival of Tabernacles, the event draws members to more than 80 meeting sites around the world. The Festival portrays the time following the return of Jesus Christ, when humanity will finally be able to live in peace and plenty.*

***The Church encourages a variety of stimulating and educational activities for its children and teenagers. At a Church-sponsored summer camp in Orr, Minnesota (top left), a group learns the basics of canoeing.***

***God's family knows no international boundaries and includes dozens of widely different cultures. Church members often travel internationally for the annual religious convention, building worldwide bonds of understanding and unity. At a Festival of Tabernacles site in Fiji (top right), two boys get to know one another. And in Eugene, Oregon (bottom right), small children benefit from some adult coaching.***

physically reminds them of the casting out of sin from a Christian's life. The time of refraining from eating leavened products emphasizes annually how Christians should live apart from sin and follow God's way of life.

Next the Church observes Pentecost, a one-day event that commemorates the giving of God's Holy Spirit to his Church (Acts 2:1-21).

The conclusion of the festival season (autumn in the Northern Hemisphere) begins with the observance of the Festival of Trumpets (Leviticus 23:23-25), a day that pictures the Day of the Lord and Christ's second coming. According to the Bible, powerful blasts from a divine trumpet announce the intervention of God in world affairs and the second coming of Jesus Christ (I Thessalonians 4:16; I Corinthians 15:52; Revelation 11:15-19).

Nine days later, the Church observes the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 23:26-32), a day of fasting that pictures the time when Satan and the forces of evil will be bound at the beginning of Christ's coming 1,000-year-long reign (Revelation 20:1-3).

The season is completed by the seven-day Festival of Tabernacles and by the Last Great Day. The former depicts the time when Jesus will set up and lead a world-ruling government referred to in the Bible as the kingdom of God. The Bible teaches that during that time Satan will not be permitted to sway humanity from God's way of life.

The Last Great Day pictures a time when the overwhelming majority of human beings who have ever lived will be resurrected and given the first real opportunity to choose God's way and receive salvation.

In addition, the Church keeps the weekly Sabbath from Friday evening to Saturday evening — a time of rest and spiritual reflection. It looks back to creation and forward to the coming 1,000-year rule of Christ.

The Bible contains much more than prophecy and philosophy. Perhaps surprisingly, the Bible also provides sound guidelines for promoting good physical and mental health. In keeping with its commitment to live by every word of God, the Church follows biblical dietary guidelines.

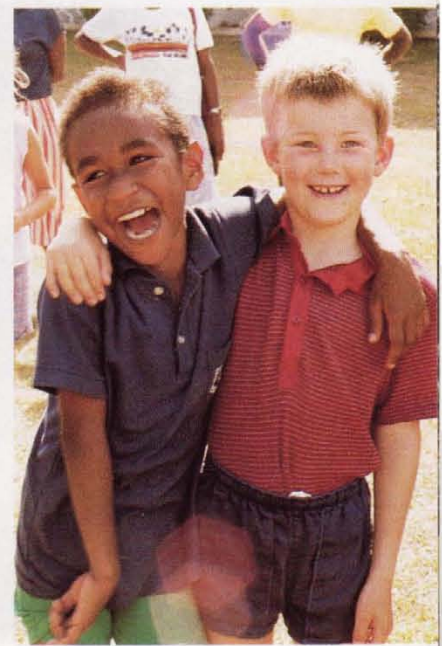
### **Practical Guidelines**

The word of God also provides useful and practical information that helps people prepare for marriage and promote positive family life, including tried and proven principles of successful child rearing.

Biblical teachings also include information that contributes to successful business relationships and the conduct of fair and equitable commercial transactions. Church members use this instruction to promote positive and satisfying harmony in their personal and professional activities.

The members of the Worldwide Church of God follow the biblical example of tithing by contributing 10 percent of their income to the Church. By following this biblical tenet, Church members assist the Worldwide Church of God in making all of its programs and literature free of charge to the general public. The Worldwide Church of God makes no requests for donations to the general public and takes no collections at weekly religious services.

In accordance with biblical teachings, the Church also administers an extensive program of support for its orphans, widows and destitute. The Church encourages its members to follow Jesus' teachings about caring and helping each other — as the apostle Peter wrote: "... above all things have fervent love for one another..." (I Peter 4:8). Church members take this commitment seriously. This charge is explained by the apostle James: "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in



their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world" (James 1:27). In addition to providing direct local assistance, twice every seven years members who are financially able contribute to a special fund used first to help Church widows, orphans and others who need financial assistance, and secondly, to help fund salaries for local ministers (Deuteronomy 14:28-29).

### **Church Services**

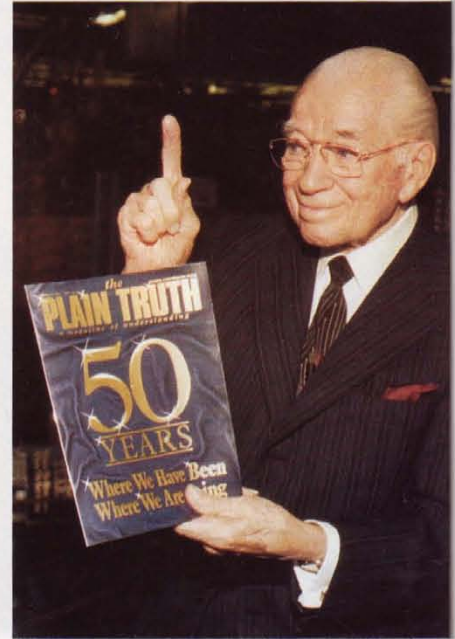
Some letters received by the Church ask about attending worship services and request information on the content and activities of those services.

As previously stated, the Worldwide Church of God does not seek new converts (John 6:44). But the Church does believe that God is actively calling people into the Church. Each year thousands of new people begin attending services and are often later baptized.

Worship services of the Worldwide Church of God generally last two hours. The Church service begins with hymn singing and a short prayer offered by a member of the congregation. A brief







discourse of biblical principles follows.

This is followed by another hymn and general announcements. Then a soloist, ensemble or choir performs an appropriate musical work. A minister then delivers the sermon, which normally lasts about an hour. Sermon topics vary according to the needs of the individual congregation. They encompass reviews and explanations of Church doctrine, including faith, salvation, the nature of God and Jesus, family life, prophecy and prayer. Ministers often relate social trends and current events to biblical issues, explaining the modern relevance of the principles of the Bible. The service concludes with a hymn and a final prayer also given by a member.

#### **“May I Attend?”**

When a person expresses interest in attending services, a local church pastor will often contact the individual to discuss the basic doctrines and beliefs of the Church. After such a visit, some begin attending immediately, others may elect to study further and some may decide not to become involved at all.

The Church welcomes other family members to take part in these ministerial visits and to attend services with mates or children. The Worldwide Church of God considers attendance at church services an important matter. The Bible warns about the seriousness of diligently following God's way of life once persuaded.

According to the words of Jesus and the apostles, a person's salvation can be jeopardized by lightly treating or purposefully scorning the way of life that Jesus taught. Accordingly, the Worldwide Church of God is deeply concerned that interested individuals understand the seriousness of Church doctrines and practices before regularly attending services.

### **"Where Did the Church Come From?"**

Now more than 50 years old as a modern organization, the Worldwide Church of God traces its history back to the original first century Church established in A.D. 31 in Jerusalem by Jesus Christ. Basing its position on the Bible and an understanding of history, the Church believes that following generations slowly lost sight of the original doctrines and practices of Jesus. Several references in the New Testament warn of encroaching contamination of the original beliefs within the Church. For example, well before the end of the first century, one Church leader emphasized that Church members should "contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered" (Jude 3).

Through the centuries, history records major changes away from the beliefs and activities of the early Church. Tradition and local custom, in many cases, were largely substituted for the truth of God.

Church members in the original lands of the Bible, who remained loyal to the teachings of the founding Church at Jerusalem, were widely scattered in the conflicts of the region. Over the cen-

turies their successors slowly migrated from Asia Minor and neighboring areas through Alpine areas of Europe and eventually to Great Britain.

Adherence to early New Testament doctrines and practices brought persecution to the small remaining groups and individual Christians. History shows they suffered imprisonment and at times death for keeping the seventh-day Sabbath and the laws of God. But with the discovery of the New World, the promise of practicing their beliefs in an atmosphere of religious freedom was greatly appealing.

Consequently, some booked passage to the New World. In the 1670s the first Sabbatarian congregations were established in colonial New England.

During the next 2½ centuries, congregations sprang up across North America. In 1926, Herbert W. Armstrong began an in-depth study of the Bible, which led to his ordination in 1931. As a minister of the Church of God (Seventh Day) in Oregon, he established new congregations in the Pacific Northwest.

### **Radio Program**

Through the efforts of the Eugene, Oregon, congregation that Mr. Armstrong established, a radio program began in 1934. From that small activity in the depth of the Great Depression, congregations, in association with the Eugene mother church, were raised up in North America and Europe through the middle decades of this century. The corporate name of the Church was the Radio Church of God.

In 1968, after Church offices were opened and congregations established throughout the world, the Church was officially named the Worldwide Church of God. The Church now has 12 regional offices and more than 800 congregations in more than 120 countries and territories. They are served by more than 700 full-time ministers and more than 800 lay ministers.

***Herbert W. Armstrong (top right), founded the Plain Truth magazine and the World Tomorrow broadcast in the 1930s. He is pictured here at the printing of the 50th anniversary issue. Today, Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach (bottom left) guides the operations of what has grown into an international work. The office in Australia (top left) is one of 12 regional offices that serves the needs of members and coordinates the Church's publishing and broadcasting responsibilities outside of the United States.***

# A Message of Hope

*The biblical message of hope is eternal, as applicable today as it was in Christ's time. The Church uses available modern technology to bring this message of hope to millions.*

*The written word, as in New Testament times, is still a primary tool. High-speed printing technology makes it much easier to reach many more people than Christ's apostles were able to reach in their lifetimes. An issue of The Plain Truth travels through the automated bindery (right).*

*The Church's television production studio in Pasadena, California (far right), is the home of the top-ranked World Tomorrow telecast.*

**E**ACH YEAR the Worldwide Church of God dedicates a substantial amount of its resources to publishing and broadcasting what the Bible calls "good news" (the gospel). The gospel embraces the positive announcement that humanity does have a future filled with vibrant hope, despite overwhelming short-term problems. The hope that the Bible offers is not an ethereal dream, but a way of life that produces happiness, contentment and peace of mind. This positive biblical message sets forth practical and relevant principles for people living in our contemporary society.

## Two Major Communication Tools

Most of the Church's mass communication efforts focus on two major vehicles: *The Plain Truth*, a monthly magazine printed in seven languages; and *The World Tomorrow*, a weekly television and radio program. To serve its readers and viewers, the Church maintains extensive editorial, research and production facilities in Pasadena, California, and regional offices located around the world.

Writers and researchers work on television programs or articles for months, interviewing, studying and revising, to produce the most accurate and timely material possible. The subhead of *The Plain Truth* — "a magazine of understanding" — shows the emphasis and the writers attempt to give their readers insight and an enlightened comprehension of current events.

### A Magazine of Understanding

Now published for more than 50 years, *The Plain Truth* reaches across cultural, political and religious barriers. In easy-to-understand language, the magazine's writers analyze the underlying causes of world events and explain how people can lead more successful and satisfying lives.



Although today the Church publishes *The Plain Truth* in seven languages, the magazine made an inauspicious debut in 1934, the depth of the Great Depression. Herbert W. Armstrong, the magazine's founder and first editor, hand-typed the copy and ran off about 250 copies on an old hand-cranked duplicator.

Today, the magazine employs more sophisticated methods. Each monthly issue requires about 530 tons of paper for printing. To help promote high efficiency, *The Plain Truth* is printed at different presses in the United States, Canada, Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Africa.

From the work of a few people, *The Plain Truth* magazine has grown into a full-scale news collection and analysis operation, drawing on resources from all over the world.

### A Different Kind of Broadcast

From its start on a 100-watt station in 1933, *The World Tomorrow* progressed



to become one of America's most popular religious radio programs. Its television counterpart first appeared in 1955. Mr. Armstrong, the first host of *The World Tomorrow*, shared broadcasting duties with his youngest son, Garner Ted Armstrong, and other Church officials. Garner Ted Armstrong's relationship with the Worldwide Church of God was ended in 1978, and Herbert Armstrong served as host of the program until his death in 1986.

Today, millions of people watch *The World Tomorrow* for insightful commentary on current events, social issues and religious topics, making it one of the most-watched programs of its type in the United States.

Now hosted by four presenters, the program enjoys a growing amount of international viewer interest.

### **Educational Publications**

The Church also publishes a biblically oriented magazine called *The Good*

*News* and a magazine for young people titled *Youth 89*. Following long-established policy the Church makes both available free of charge.

While *The Plain Truth* is produced for a general audience, the Church publishes *The Good News* specifically for those desiring more in-depth discussion of biblical issues and articles on Christian living.

*Youth 89* (the title changes to reflect the year) covers issues and events that young people must face in this complex world. The magazine's blend of practical advice and entertainment helps its readers prepare for their future.

The Worldwide Church of God also publishes brochures and booklets covering a variety of subjects, including the AIDS crisis, drug and alcohol abuse, positive child-rearing principles and numerous biblical topics.

More than 1.3 billion pieces of literature have been distributed free by the Church since 1933.

# *Building Bridges Between People*

**T**HE WORLDWIDE Church of God holds the central belief that people are unique beings with mental, moral and spiritual potentials to be developed. Having established a record of service toward this development of humanity, the Church recognized in the early 1970s the need for a separate organization devoted to this goal. As a result, in 1975 the Ambassador Foundation was established. Since then the Foundation has participated in humanitarian, cultural and educational programs in countries around the world.

These programs have included funded projects in Bangladesh, Belgium, Britain, China, Egypt, Guatemala, Haiti, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Nepal, the Philippines, the Soviet Union, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States and Zaire. The Foundation's activities rise above the political, religious and cultural complexities that divide a world where hatred, prejudice and personal ambitions often rule.

## **Promoting Peace and Understanding**

Church and Foundation humanitarian activities demonstrate rich diversity. For example, in the United States, the Foundation endowed a chair for constitutional law at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, provided funding for AIDS hospices, professional services for physically and sexually abused children and major funding for the rebuilding of a public Olympic swimming facility.

After receiving a proposal from St. Antony's College, Oxford, the Foundation helped establish a mainland China fellowship, enabling senior research fellows from the People's Republic of China to study at Oxford.

In 1989, the Foundation made a major commitment to help rebuild Shakespeare's historic Globe Theatre in Lon-

don. In doing so, the Ambassador Foundation joined several other nations and groups.

The work of the Ambassador Foundation was once described by a government minister in the Middle East as building "bridges between peoples everywhere." Focusing on improving understanding, the Foundation remains especially interested in decreasing age-old tensions in that region. For several years Ambassador Foundation provided major sponsorship to the International Cultural Center for Youth (ICCY) in Jerusalem. Here youths of Arab, Jewish and other cultures learn to better understand each other, laying a foundation for future generations of peace.

In Jordan, the Foundation educates and trains mentally and physically handicapped children. Graduates of this program go on to become productive members of Jordanian society.

In cooperation with the Israel Exploration Society, Ambassador Foundation has provided funding and students for important archeological excavations in Jerusalem. Also, the Foundation has cooperated with the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) and a consortium of other academic institutions in providing funding and student workers to help with excavations in the Syrian Arab Republic.

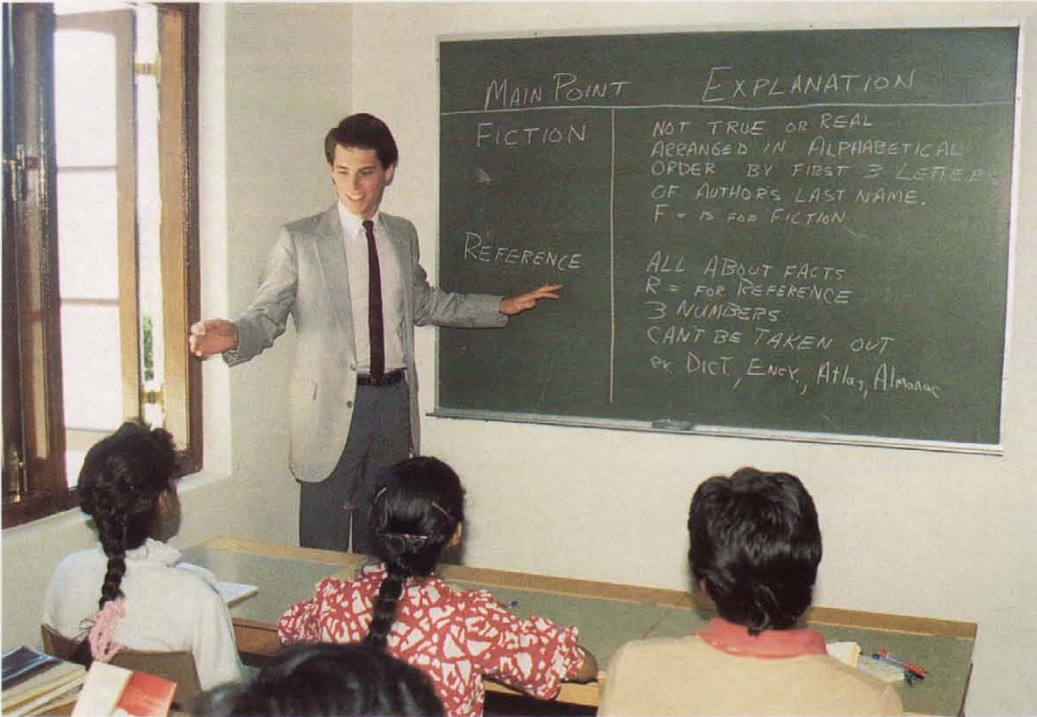
## **U.S.-Soviet Relations**

Improving relations and understanding between the peoples of the United States and the Soviet Union is of great interest to the Foundation. Reflecting the beliefs of the Worldwide Church of God, the Foundation avoids the political arena, focusing instead on increasing understanding through cultural and



*The Ambassador Foundation helped bring the Soviet Union's Kirov Ballet to Southern California (above) and hosts a full season of performances such as the Berlin Philharmonic, led by its late conductor Herbert von Karajan (far right).*

*The Foundation also sponsors humanitarian projects. At Sri Lanka's Waterfield Institute (center), the Foundation and the Sri Lankan government educate young people. In Jordan the Foundation provides therapists, teachers and equipment for a school for handicapped children (top).*



educational means.

Accordingly, the Foundation provided major funding of the acclaimed diplomatic cultural tour of the Soviet Union by America's Dance Theatre of Harlem. Further, it has helped fund a tour of the Soviet-American Youth Orchestra in the United States and the Soviet Union. This well-received orchestra is composed of outstanding young musicians from each of the two countries.

The Foundation, working with others, also helped fund the 1986 performances of Vladimir Horowitz in Moscow and that same year arranged performances of the world-famous Kirov Ballet in Los Angeles. Working hand-in-hand, the Worldwide Church of God and Ambassador Foundation are engaged in providing substantial aid to the victims of the 1988 earthquake that caused widespread destruction in Soviet Armenia.

As part of its commitment to excellence and improving humanity's quality of life, the Worldwide Church of God

subsidizes the Ambassador Foundation and Ambassador College for a performing arts series. This series, centered in the Ambassador Auditorium in Southern California, has an international reputation for excellence.

### Excellence in the Performing Arts

Since its inception, the Ambassador Foundation has presented some 1,500 performances by world-class soloists and ensembles. More than one million patrons have attended these concerts, which are sponsored by Ambassador College, the educational institution of the Worldwide Church of God.

The Ambassador Auditorium, the site of most concerts and presentations of the Foundation, has earned a reputation for near-perfect acoustics. In addition to being a major performing arts center, Ambassador Auditorium also annually hosts thousands of students for special educational performances.

## *Building* A Unique College



*Ambassador's low student-to-faculty ratio allows faculty members more time with their students outside the classroom (above).*

*The Pasadena campus is a tasteful blend of traditional and modern architecture. The Loma D. Armstrong Academic Center houses the main classroom complex (center). Mayfair, an elegant Tudor mansion (top) is now a student residence. A second campus in Big Sandy, Texas, offers students a spacious, rural setting (far right).*

*Ambassador's liberal arts curriculum includes theology, mass communication, languages, mathematics and the natural sciences (bottom).*

**A**S THE WORK of the Church grew in the 1930s and 1940s, the need for qualified ministers and personnel became urgent. It was determined that this need could be met by utilizing a collegiate program to train ministers and personnel for the work of the Church.

At the same time the Church saw that many institutions of higher learning had become little more than "educational factories." In some cases, students were graduating poorly equipped to contribute positively to society. What was required was a different kind of institution — one that would bring an added dimension to higher education. That dimension would be achieved by a broad-based curriculum that included the important spiritual element.

### The College Begins

After much thought, it was decided to take the major step of opening an institution of higher learning. Sponsored and directed by the Church, this new college would serve the dual purposes of providing a trained ministry and also presenting an expanded practical curriculum for students. A site was selected in Pasadena, California, and a small estate purchased for use as classrooms and Church offices. The name *Ambassador College* was chosen in part to reflect the biblical teaching that Christians should be "Ambassadors for Christ" (II Corinthians 5:20). The College opened its doors on Oct. 8, 1947. In 1964 another campus was opened in Texas. Today students from dozens of countries are enrolled at the California and Texas campuses.

From its inception the college has followed a liberal arts curriculum. This approach was adopted to provide students with a well-balanced education. Taking as its motto "Recapture True Values," the college teaches students how to live in addition to teaching them how to make a living.

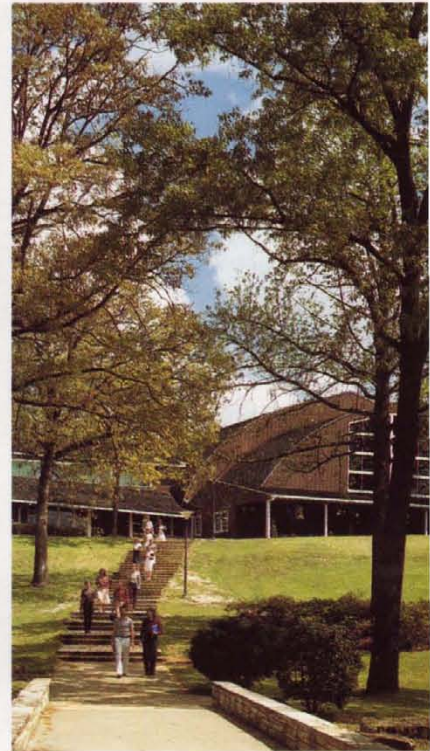
Noting the institution's 40th anniversary in 1987, the governor of the State of California, George Deukmejian, wrote of Ambassador College, "For 40 years, you have compiled an exemplary record of service and have continually demonstrated your commitment to academic excellence and dedication to providing educational as well as cultural opportunities. . . ."

Reflecting the original intent to provide understanding, Ambassador's curriculum includes a broad-based examination of modern life and a core program in theology. Course work in business and economics, mass communication, languages, psychology, the fine arts, physical education, mathematics, the natural sciences, home economics and history provide a solid liberal arts education. Recognizing the need for its graduates to be effective communicators, Ambassador College requires students to develop writing skills and to include in their academic schedule at least one year of public speaking. In addition, all students further develop their social and communication skills in speaking clubs.

### International Service

As part of their education, the College encourages students to serve their fellowman in selected humanitarian and educational projects in the United States and abroad. In the early 1980s Ambassador College students earned the praise of United Nations officials for their outstanding service in Thailand teaching Laotian refugees Western culture and English.

After completing that project, the college continued serving in other areas of Asia. Today, students teach business skills and English in two educational projects in Sri Lanka. Other Ambassador students teach English in Thailand at Chittralada Palace School, Sathit Shula High School and to the Buddhist monks.



As mentioned, another Ambassador student project that has received recognition is the college's involvement with the handicapped at two educational facilities in Jordan.

For several years Ambassador students at both the California and Texas campuses have participated in a service program called "Outreach," where they serve the elderly, widows and disadvantaged. This includes visiting nursing homes, providing transportation and hosting dinners.

By the time a student earns a four-year bachelors degree, he or she will have acquired skills and knowledge to become a more valuable member of society. In addition to supplying the needs of a full-time ministry for the Church, students who have attended Ambassador have gone on to become doctors, lawyers, business executives, teachers and members of many other established professions.





...to build  
...he started in  
...After four or five years  
...alone and three years in semipart-  
(See MAJOR, page 8)

Report from  
**the Treasurer's Office**

PASADENA—The first  
evaluate the financial  
during the  
have

**ARTHUR  
ANDERSEN  
& CO**

**WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD  
AND AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS**

**SPECIAL VOLUME**  
Containing Combined and Individual  
Financial Statements as of December 31,  
together with Auditors' Report of:

**Contribution Receipt**  
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD, PASADENA, CA 91123

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD  
P.O. Box 946, Pasadena, California 91107

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE  
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91102

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD  
P.O. Box 946, Pasadena, California 91107

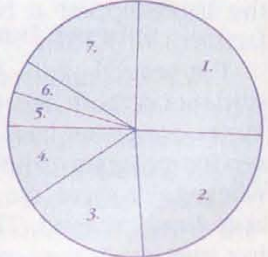
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD  
P.O. Box 946, Pasadena, California 91107

**Sources  
of Contribution  
Income**



The vast majority of the Church's income is contributed by Church members. Although it varies slightly from year to year and from country to country, about 82 percent of income from contributions comes from Church members or those who regularly attend services of the Worldwide Church of God. About 18 percent of contributions come from others who choose to make

**Expenditures**



1. Publishing costs . . . . . 24%
2. Support for local congregations . . . . . 23%
3. Electronic media costs . . . . . 18%
4. Ambassador College . . . . . 10%
5. Aid to needy members . . . . . 4%
7. Management and general expenses . . . . . 18%

(These figures reflect percentages from total expenses in 1987 of \$180 million)

**Publishing costs**

In addition to publishing *The Plain Truth*, the Church publishes two other free magazines, *The Good News*, which discusses biblical topics, and a bi-monthly magazine for young people, *Youth For Christ*.

# Financial Accountability

**A**CCURATE and thorough accounting of finances has been a long-standing policy of the Worldwide Church of God. The Church, in accordance with Biblical teachings, is supported by tithes and voluntary offerings and takes no regular collections at its weekly Sabbath services. To assure accurate accounting of these contributions, the Church receives and processes donations at a central location.

Individuals who contribute to the Worldwide Church of God or its related organizations receive receipts for all donations. Donation receipts are sent monthly and a final statement is provided at the end of the year.

## Integrity and Reliability

The Church has established and maintains a system of internal accounting controls that assures the integrity and reliability of the financial statements, the protection of assets from unauthorized use or disposition and the prevention of fraudulent financial reporting. The Church also maintains an internal auditing program that independently assesses the effectiveness of internal controls and recommends improvements.

To further promote effective use of funds and financial control, the Church's managers and directors prepare annual budgets for all of the Church's departments worldwide. These budgets are monitored on a monthly basis and department managers are responsible to control each operation according to the approved plan.

## Financial Statements

The management of the Worldwide Church of God and its affiliated organizations prepares annual financial statements. The statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a consistent basis. Since 1978, the annual



*The Worldwide Church of God has had a long-standing policy of carefully accounting for all of the funds entrusted to it by its members and by other supporters. The Church makes available general financial information to members, contributors and the public.*

financial statements have been audited by Arthur Andersen & Co., independent certified public accountants.

The Church has made available to Arthur Andersen & Co. all financial records and related data, including the minutes of directors' meetings and other information.

A combined financial statement of the Church's operations worldwide is prepared at the Church's headquarters and then audited by Arthur Andersen & Co.

To keep Church members informed as to how contributed funds are being used, the Church makes available financial information and a summary of Church activities.

Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach also sends monthly letters to Church members and regular contributors to the Church explaining recent accomplishments and activities. In addition, members and ministers receive a monthly financial summary from the Church's treasurer.

## Looking Toward the Future

**T**HE WORLDWIDE Church of God recognizes that unless events change drastically in the next few years, humanity remains on a collision course with disaster. The Church is not alone in this recognition. At the close of the last great world war, American Gen. Douglas MacArthur stood aboard a battleship anchored in Tokyo Bay. He was there to accept the unconditional surrender of Imperial Japan. But in victory the general was not in the mood for celebration. Recognizing the profound folly of armed conflict, Gen. MacArthur made these chilling, reflective comments:

“Men since the beginning of time have sought peace. Various methods through the ages have been attempted to devise an international process to prevent or settle disputes between nations. . . . Military alliances, balance of power, leagues of nations, all in turn failed, leaving the only path to be by way of the crucible of war. The utter destructiveness of war now blots out this alternative. We have had our last chance. If we do not devise some greater and more equitable system, Armageddon will be at our door. The problem basically is theological and involves a spiritual recrudescence and improvement of human character that will synchronize with our almost matchless advance in science, art, literature, and all material and cultural developments of the past 2,000 years.

“It must be of the spirit if we are to save the flesh.”

These words are more profound today than they were when they were first spoken in 1945.

With the advent of modern travel and telecommunications, the world has become a global community. What affects one nation now has unavoidable consequences for people living thousands of miles away.

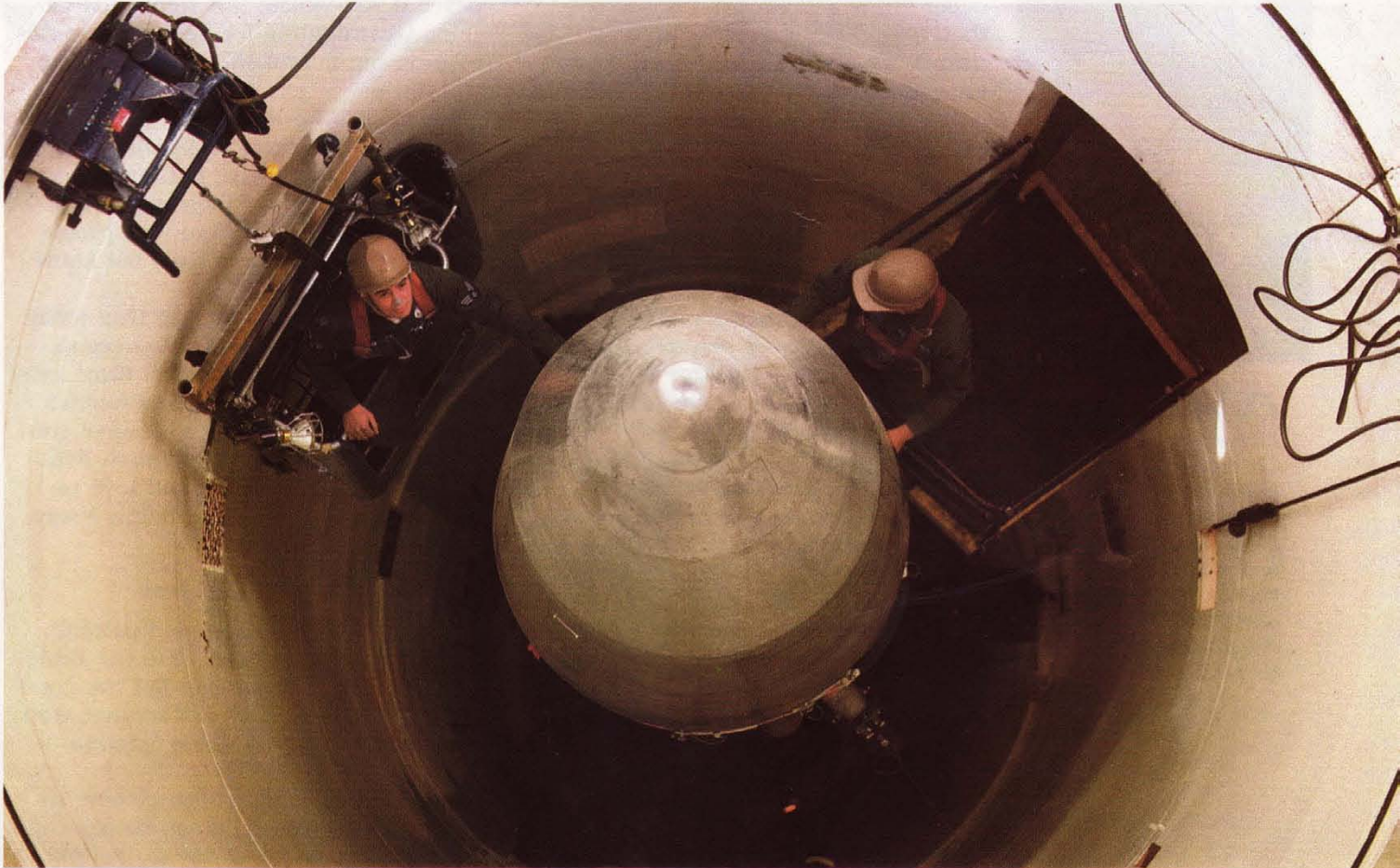
Living successfully in a global commu-



nity requires a degree of maturity never yet evidenced in human history. Technological advances have far outstripped the spiritual and intellectual capacity to handle such fast-paced development. To survive, humanity requires a spiritual renewal — not marginal growth, but a profound change of heart. Destruction of the environment, nuclear weapons, difficult ethical choices — these are not challenges for the immature.

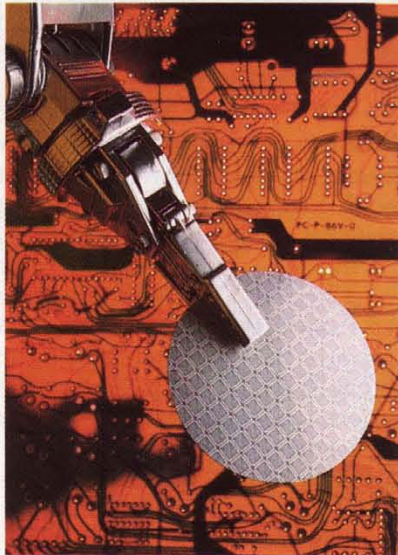
What kind of world do we live in? What is the actual state of affairs? Jonathan Schell, author of *The Fate of the Earth*, wrote this: “. . . if we are honest with ourselves we have to admit that unless we rid ourselves of nuclear arsenals a holocaust not only might

***The devastation of the Second World War caused American Gen. Douglas MacArthur to reflect on the consequences of modern warfare. He sounded a warning: Technology has brought us to the point that we must eliminate war or it will destroy us. Where has humanity come since Gen. MacArthur (far left in the above photo) accepted the surrender of the Imperial Japanese forces more than 40 years ago?***



*If he were alive today, Gen. MacArthur would be startled by modern technology. Computers, just an idea in his time, are now assembled by robots (right). Weapons systems, like this nuclear missile in its silo (above), threaten the existence of all life on this planet.*

*Will we learn to control our technology, or will we, in a moment of anger, unleash forces that are far beyond our control?*



# Looking Toward the Future



**Dr. Charles Malik, former president of the UN General Assembly, pointed the way back from the brink of global suicide: "There is a direct relationship between peacemaking and having the right relationship to God," he said.**

occur but will occur — if not today, then tomorrow; if not this year, then the next. We have come to live on borrowed time: every year of continued human life on earth is a borrowed year, every day a borrowed day."

### The Message of Hope

Will humanity survive? The answer is yes! Jesus Christ's message — which is also the Worldwide Church of God's message — embodies genuine hope. This message offers a way of practical, fruitful living. This message concerns humanity's ultimate deliverance.

History certifies that centuries of irresponsible behavior have brought us to a condition that could shortly result in our extinction. As Gen. MacArthur pointed out, most of humanity has not generally realized that the cause of social, economic and political problems is spiritual in nature. Tragically, humanity has embraced moral relativism — a disastrous way of thinking that allows — even promotes — unacceptable, high-risk conduct. So today the central issue humanity faces is this: the restoration of moral, responsible behavior.

But who can set us on a fair and equitable moral course? We must first come to understand the great purpose for existence — the reason why God created human beings in the first place.

### Peacemakers?

Once an understanding of human existence is in place, then humanity has a real chance for lasting peace. The late Dr. Charles Malik, former president of the General Assembly of the United Nations, said it well:

"The peacemakers shall be called the children of God.' Nothing . . . could be more strange and significant than this statement. . . . It affirms that there is a direct relationship between peacemaking and having the right relationship to God — the ground of being and existence. It implies that you cannot make

peace if you violate this right relationship. All struggling for peace where this relationship is broken is therefore false and futile."

Dr. Malik's words echo those of the ancient biblical prophet Isaiah: "The way of peace they have not known, and there is no justice in their ways; they have made themselves crooked paths; whoever takes that way shall not know peace" (Isaiah 59:8).

The Worldwide Church of God today devotes its energies and resources to proclaiming a way of life that turns away hatred and divisiveness. The Church's message reveals the way to resolve contention and conflict. The Church delivers a message of healing and love toward others — a way that helps, a way that nurtures and heals.

### Human Survival

The alternative is dark and painful. Apart from God, according to the Bible, humanity will not survive. But the good news is that humanity *will* survive. God will not allow his supreme creation to destroy itself.

The Church teaches that all have a choice: God created human beings capable of independent decisions. People can choose the way revealed by God — which leads to peace and a meaningful existence; or they can turn away to a life of uncertainty.

As we saw earlier, God makes it plain in the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy: "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live" (Deuteronomy 30:19).

Recapturing true values is fundamental to humanity's survival. And the Worldwide Church of God will continue to provide help to all levels of humanity, explaining and demonstrating God's practical way of life — a way of life that makes sense!