



The Good News

International Magazine of The Church of God

PETRA

VOLUME 28 NUMBER 10



More About Our Cover

Petra is located in the isolation of southern Jordan—nearly halfway around the world from the United States. This picture shows only one small section of the valley of Petra—a section on a trail high above the actual

valley floor. The main body of Petra is down and to the right as you view this picture. Be sure you read the article regarding Petra on page 13.

What our READERS SAY . . .

Laid Off—Rehired!

"My husband has just begun paying full tithes. Since he refused to work on the Sabbath, he was laid off Friday. Another man worked on the job Saturday and some way ended up in the hospital Saturday. Today the boss came and asked my husband to come back to work. He was out of work for six months before he got this job."

Woman, West Virginia

Defender of the Faith?

"The other night I was able to fight three Jehovah's Witnesses to a draw on the subject of the Ten Commandments. I didn't convince them that the law still stands, but after a two-hour battle—with three of them—I don't think they left feeling they had met a soft one. They asked for a return engagement, so tonight the war is on again."

Man, Maryland

- *Try II John 10.*

Handles Situation Wisely!

"For some time I've wanted to tithe but could not get my husband to agree, and I felt I should not fight with him about it. So last week he gave me the income tax check for my own use—I sent you the first tithe of it. I prayed my husband would come to see we should tithe even if we are not members, for we were really robbing the Lord of what was His. Today he

cashied his pay check and bought a money order for one-tenth of what he made before deductions. I hadn't said a word. The Lord answered my prayer."

Woman, Maryland

- *And you handled your part just right!*

No Doubt Now

"I have been to God's Church before but quit. I told the minister that if I ever came back it would be when I had proven it out. Since I have joined the Air Force I have learned that everything you said was true and now I know you are God's true minister. Now I want to come back. Pray for me and please help me."

Serviceman, Texas

- *Sometimes the "school of hard knocks" is a stern teacher.*

Quits Tithing—Curses Come

"I only make \$18 a week and I am sending my tithes from now on. I pray I will not lose my home. The bank is about to close in on me. I have had nothing but trouble since I quit tithing."

Man, Tennessee

Delivery Room Victim

"This is a prayer request for healing. I have a granddaughter (who is 19 years old), a victim of cerebral palsy and showing no improvement. When this girl was born, the delivery pains

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The Good News

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THE CHURCH OF GOD
*ministering to its members
scattered abroad*

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change in your address. Please inclose both old
and new address. IMPORTANT!

GOD'S WORK

Leaps Ahead!

More NEW CHURCHES raised up—more NEW ministers ordained—more GROWTH takes place than ever before!

by Roderick C. Meredith

I HAVE just returned from a trip around the world. Mr. David Jon Hill and I covered *seventeen* nations and some 35,000 miles on an educational and fact-finding tour through the Middle and Far East—and on around the world from west to east.

Mr. Hill and I were privileged to see the *splendid* offices of God's Church in the Philippines and in Australia. These fine offices are sending out *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine to *multiple thousands* of readers in Southeast Asia who are being turned to God and His Truth by the Work of which all of YOU brethren are a vital part.

More than ever on this trip, I became impressed with the *desperate* NEED for the second coming of Christ and His Kingdom to be established on this earth. Brethren, people in these eastern nations are absolutely in a WRETCHED condition. By the *multiple millions*, they are naked, destitute and *starving to death!* And in no place where we visited do people have any real ANSWER to the wretchedness and frustration that the *wrong way of life* is bringing most of the peoples of this earth.

Truly, as we heard Mr. Armstrong's voice booming out over the air in Australia and the Philippines, Mr. Hill and I realized more deeply than ever that *The WORLD TOMORROW* is truly a "voice in the wilderness" which God is using to give the *last-minute* WARNING to the peoples of this earth before His intervention! God's Work is a beacon light in almost TOTAL DARKNESS. God help us to realize how

VITAL and NEEDED the Work of His Church is in these very last days!

Forming a FOUNDATION For the Final Push to the End

As most of you brethren know, the number *twelve* is God's number of organizational *beginnings* in His Work. And, of course, *seven* is the number of completeness or perfection. It is interesting and significant that these numbers so often follow the progress of God's Work—even when we don't plan it that way at all!

In recounting the growth since the last Feast of Tabernacles, it recently came to my attention that we have founded exactly TWELVE new churches within the last year! Also, during this last year, we have ordained exactly two times seven or FOURTEEN Preaching Elders into the full *ministry* of Jesus Christ! Although some of these men were Local Elders or assistants before, they were ordained for the first time as *full ministers* with the rank of Preaching Elder in God's Church.

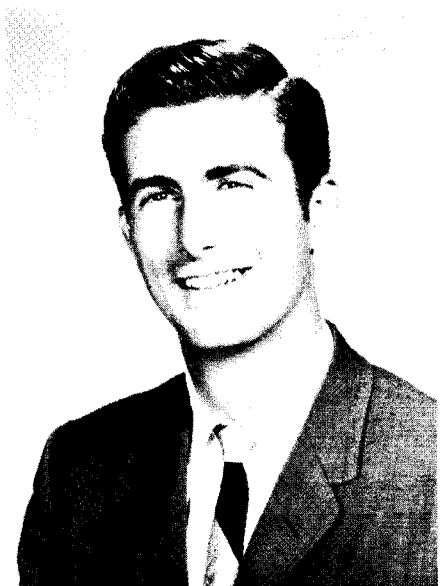
The most recent ordination—making number fourteen—is that of Mr. Sherwin McMichael. Mr. McMichael was graduated from Ambassador College in June, 1962, after having served as Student Body President in his senior year and going on a nation-wide baptizing tour. Since then, he has served as assistant pastor in the Oakland-Sacramento, California, area—assisting Mr. Frank McCrady. This past summer, Mr. McMichael was placed in charge of a nation-wide baptizing tour and was assisted on this tour by Mr. Royston

Page—one of our English transfer students from Bricket Wood, England.

Having thus grown, matured and having brought forth many "fruits" for Jesus Christ, Mr. Sherwin McMichael was ordained as a full *Preaching Elder* during the services at the Pasadena Headquarters Church on the Sabbath of September 7, 1963. And on the *very next day*, he was united in marriage to Miss Beverly Baird—one of our outstanding Ambassador co-eds while in college, and acting as secretary to Mr. Portune since her graduation. This was indeed a happy week-end for Mr. and Mrs. Sherwin McMichael!

And it will prove to be a great *blessing* for God's people in the Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Sioux Falls, South Dakota, areas as well. For Mr.

Mr. Sherwin McMichael—now pastoring the churches at Minneapolis, Minnesota and Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



and Mrs. McMichael have already moved to Minneapolis. He is now in the process of establishing *regular Sabbath services* in Minneapolis for the brethren in that area! Also, as soon as possible, *regular Bible studies* will begin in Sioux Falls leading to a church there in the not-too-distant future.

Mr. David Albert—ordained last June after college graduation—has also taken unto himself a wife and helper. He is in the process of raising up local congregations in Amarillo and Odessa, Texas! Mr. Albert also hopes to begin holding Bible studies as soon as possible with the scattered brethren in and around Roswell, New Mexico. So here is another BLESSING for the people of God—especially in those areas.

Another very happy announcement concerns the transfer of Mr. Richard Plache back to the East Coast. Mr. Plache, assistant to Mr. Raymond Cole and currently Mr. Carlton Smith in the church in Oregon, is now being sent back to Baltimore, Maryland, and Richmond, Virginia, to raise up churches in these vital areas under Mr. Cole's direction immediately after the Feast.

Here then, brethren, are SEVEN new opportunities being made available for God's people for regular fellowship and spiritual worship in these *five* new churches and *two* new Bible studies just described!

Additional Ministerial Changes

Recently, Mr. Raymond Cole and Mr. Carlton Smith exchanged assignments as District Superintendents. Mr. Cole is now assigned as District Superintendent over the churches in the eastern part of the United States, and Mr. Carlton Smith is the District Superintendent over the churches in the Pacific Northwest. Each has served long and well in his own area. This switch will be a challenge to each as well as to their respective congregations and areas over which they are superintendent.

As superintendent of the churches in the eastern part of the United States, Mr. Raymond Cole will be moving into a *mushrooming* area of growth potential with *nine solid churches now established* and two more on the way. Mr. Carlton Smith, as District Superintendent over the churches in the Pa-



Mr. David Albert—now pastoring the churches at Amarillo and Odessa, Texas.

cific Northwest, will also have exactly nine churches under his jurisdiction in the *beautiful, booming and growing* Pacific Northwest.

Besides the transfer of Mr. Richard Plache to assist Mr. Cole on the East Coast, Mr. Rowlen Tucker—formerly assisting Mr. Arthur Craig in the churches in the Southeast, has been transferred to assist Mr. Bryce Clark over the Central Midwest area. Mr. Tucker will be getting married at the Feast of Tabernacles this year to Miss Helen Travis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Travis of the Birmingham Church.

Also, Mr. Jim Redus, a dedicated junior student from Ambassador College, is being "farmed out" a year to assist Mr. Frank McCrady in the Grand Rapids and South Bend, Indiana, churches. And Mr. Ron Goodwin, graduate of Ambassador College, is slated to be sent back to St. Louis, Missouri, to assist Mr. Hal Baird—pastor over the churches in St. Louis and Harrisburg, Illinois.

This is certainly *good news* for the ministers involved—for MORE HELP is constantly being needed in these mushrooming churches which Jesus Christ has established here in America!

Mr. Les McColm and family have returned to Pasadena for a full year of studies here at Ambassador before returning to the field. Their churches in Grand Rapids and South Bend miss them very much but, as stated above,

Mr. Frank McCrady has now taken over as pastor over these churches and will be assisted by Mr. Jim Redus.

At the time of Mr. Cole's departure from Oregon, it was decided that Mr. Dale Hampton and family should move south to the Eugene and Medford church areas, and that Mr. Carlton Smith would take over Portland, Salem and Boise as his personal churches—thus placing him, as District Superintendent, in the more *central location* of the Northwest Church Area. So Mr. Hampton is now minister over the churches in Eugene and Medford. Portland has become the Headquarters of the Northwest Area superintendency.

The Chapmans' New Assignment

Mr. Ben Chapman, ordained minister in God's Church and formerly instructor at Ambassador College in Bricket Wood, England, has now been sent back to Big Sandy, Texas, to fulfill an exciting new assignment. Mr. Chapman helped supervise the construction of our fine radio studios on the campus in Bricket Wood, England, and is slated to do the same in Big Sandy and remain there in the college and area churches as Director of the Radio Studio, instructor in the college and minister.

Currently, Mr. Chapman and his wife—formerly Mrs. Dick Armstrong—will be helping shepherd God's people in the Dallas, Texas, area. Mr. Chapman has been appointed co-pastor of the Dallas church to give Mr. Richard Prince much needed help that is long overdue. He will divide his time between the new college campus at Big Sandy and the church responsibilities in the Dallas area as needed.

So with Mr. Leroy Neff now there as Business Manager and minister, and Mr. Ben Chapman also there to assist in the area, the brethren in the Dallas-Gladewater-Minden areas should be getting extra attention in visiting and personal counsel, and new variety and spark in the Sabbath services. Rumor has it that the brethren in and around the Gladewater area are *most excited* and *enthusiastic* about the coming establishment of the third Ambassador College on our own grounds there at
(Please continue on page 19)

SEVEN PROOFS

of the *TRUE CHURCH* of God

As a member of the ONE TRUE CHURCH — you need to be THOROUGHLY versed in the SEVEN MAJOR PROOFS of that Church! Read, in this brief summary, how to completely understand ALL of Proof Number Two!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

YOU have NEVER HEARD a sermon really *proving* Sunday is to be observed by Christians as "the Lord's day"! You have NEVER HEARD a sermon going "right down the line" from one scripture to another, from one book of the Bible to another, PROVING, *demonstrating*, clarifying, showing the history of, the development of, the approval by Christ and the Apostles for the various "HOLIDAYS" sanctioned by the churches of this world!

YOU NEVER HAVE—AND YOU NEVER WILL!

Why?

Because these days are NOT QUESTIONED by anyone in the worldly churches. They are "par for the course"—they are carelessly *taken for granted*. "Doesn't EVERYONE observe these days?" ask deceived people in the worldly churches.

No—not *everyone*—only those who have NEVER PROVED IT, never looked into it, never researched it, never sincerely tried to find the real TRUTH about which days are to be observed!

Hundreds of "Excuses"

Worldly churches feel *guilty* about their pagan holidays, and their "Lord's Day." They KNOW certain churches seem to make a fair amount of noise concerning the weekly Sabbath, and seem to write prodigious literature claiming to PROVE, and *absolutely substantiate* their beliefs in observing this day.

This leads to feeble attempts by the worldly churches to point to their vast numbers, the universal custom of all "Christians," or vague references to the time of Christ's resurrection.

Every angle and method of attack AGAINST God's true Sabbath Day and His annual Holy Days is used. One method is to freely ADMIT the days were NEVER CHANGED by the authority of Christ or anyone else—and that they ARE a part of the "Law." Then, however, Bible illiterates are unsuspectingly lead through a labyrinth of twisted scriptures which supposedly "prove" that ALL OF GOD'S LAW is done away! This INCLUDES the Sabbath, say the deceivers.

Failing this method—numerous other excuses are given. People reason the Sabbath can't be kept except in Jerusalem, or that it must be kept on Jerusalem time. People reason that you cannot keep a Sabbath if you live in a cave, or deep in a canyon, since your "sunset to sunset" would last only a very few moments. People reason, in their own carnal minds, about Eskimos at the North Pole (and there are no Eskimos at the North Pole) or about the International Date Line or that perhaps TIME could have become lost—and the whole world could have been off the weekly cycle ever since God revealed His Sabbath Day!

And these are only a FEW of the many arguments *against* obedience to God in the observance of His weekly Sabbath Day, and His annual Sabbaths as well!

You Need to KNOW

But you, as a member of God's one and only True Church, need to really KNOW the answer to ALL these "arguments," and you need to know and KNOW that you know that His weekly Sabbath MUST be observed faithfully, and that His annual Holy Days must be observed as well! Remember, the NAME of the True Church—the CHURCH OF GOD—is only *one part of one proof* of that Church!

The second major proof of the identity of the one and only True Church of God is made up of *three parts*. In the last number, I thoroughly discussed the first PART of the second major proof. In this brief summary, I merely want to remind all you members of the great amount of literature available to you on the other two parts of this second major proof. You need to carefully PROVE every one of them to yourself!

The Many PROOFS

First, then, you need to prove carefully that the Ten Commandments WERE in full force and effect even PRIOR to the time of Moses—that they are not now, never were, and never *shall be*, "the law of Moses"! They are the LAWS of Almighty God, the one Lawgiver and Judge! An article is available for any of you who have not yet read it on "Were the Ten Commandments in Force Before Moses?" You need, next, to THOROUGHLY PROVE that God's law is firmly and

positively ESTABLISHED—even TO-DAY! You need to PROVE that "grace" does NOT mean "license," or "permissiveness," or having your *own way*—being free to disobey the law of God! Prodigious amounts of literature have been made available over the years to God's people on this subject! If any of you feel the SLIGHTEST amount of insecurity on the point of "law OR grace" (as the tricksters usually word it) then write for reprint articles on this subject immediately!

You need to PROVE the weekly time cycle has NOT been broken—and can do so by writing for the booklet "Has Time Been Lost?" You need to absolutely, infallibly, irrevocably, and once and for all PROVE that the RESURRECTION was NOT on Sunday—and that even if it remotely, faintly, possibly COULD have been (which is a foolish assumption in the first place!) there is STILL no command, nor any example to perpetuate its observance! Write for the reprint articles and booklets on the subject of the crucifixion and the resurrection!

Next, *The Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course!* Every last member of the True Church of God SHOULD BE taking this wonderful course of study in his own Bible! In this course there are *several lessons* dealing DIRECTLY with God's weekly Sabbath Day and His annual Holy Days! These lessons are thoroughly and CAREFULLY documented, proved, substantiated! You NEED to study them thoroughly—marking these scriptures in your own Bible, taking copious notes on these subjects! Any one of you who has not yet enrolled in *The Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course* should do so IMMEDIATELY—regarding this as much of a sacred Christian duty as any other requirement God lays upon you.

Only a few months ago, Mr. Armstrong wrote a series of THREE articles, entitled "Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?" MOST of you read these articles—and have your own copies in your own home! If you *do not have* these back copies, then be sure to write in for a reprint of these articles—and be sure to STUDY them!

You need to KNOW the *entire story* of SUNday observance, as CONSTANTLY revealed and exposed through *The Correspondence Course*, and as exposed completely in the booklet "The Mark of the Beast"! You need to have your own personal copy, and have it thoroughly studied and *marked* on the weekly Sabbath and the annual Holy Days!

You should have studied, THOROUGHLY—not only from the booklets, magazine articles, and *The Correspondence Course* made available to you through God's Church, but also in your own public library—and from your own *individual research* the true ORIGIN of SUN-day observance and the observance of the PAGAN holidays of this world.

In this way, brethren, when you thoroughly and totally SATURATE yourself with the many hundreds of thorough PROOFS about God's weekly Sabbath and His annual Holy Days,

and when you THOROUGHLY DISPROVE the pagan observances of this world—you will NEVER, not in the remotest reaches of eternity, doubt on this subject again!

So REMEMBER—and *never forget*—that in one or two remote cases, some pagan church of this world may have STOLEN (and that is what they have done) ONE part of *one proof*—which, used in this regard is NOT "proof" at all, but that there is NO CHURCH on the face of the entirety of this earth who could lay claim to ONE complete "proof" out of the entire SEVEN MAJOR PROOFS of the identity of God's True Church!

The SECOND major proof of God's True Church is composed of THREE PARTS: The NAME, the "Church of God," the *weekly Sabbath Day* which is God's *identifying sign* of His true people, and the *annual Holy Days*, which God GAVE to His True Church—and which are still observed by His True Church today!

What Our Readers Say . . .

(Continued from page 2)

were so severe that the nurses were afraid the baby would be delivered before they reached the delivery room. They had been given strict orders never to allow a baby to be born before the mother was in the delivery room where everything was super, super sanitary. So they put pressure on and held the baby back, injuring the brain and causing this so-called cerebral palsy. I know several other children with cerebral palsy whose mothers had the same experience."

Mrs. Maude G., California

• *Yet, when a national magazine exposed these bestial treatments, many doctors had the unmitigated effrontery to defend such pitiless, inhuman, animalistic practices!*

Healing

"A few months ago I asked for prayer for my daughter who had hepatitis. The doctors certainly didn't help her. But the Eternal God healed her. She's over it without damage."

• *Wonderful! We certainly praise God,*

and rejoice with you for this great miracle!

Twelve Years Old—Saved for Seven?

"I have heard your broadcast on the radio many times and I understand you very clearly. God has called me to preach the Gospel too. I am 12 years old and I have been saved for seven years."

Lad, Canada

• *Are you sure you understand clearly?*

Being Humbled!

"I have been listening to your program off and on for about four years. I have been listening and paying very close attention to your program for the past couple of weeks. I am convinced that your program may be the very last hope I have in the world. For the past six months I have never in my life had so much failure. I am 25 years old and I thought old enough to marry. Six months ago I married a woman who had been married twice before. After listen-

(Please continued on page 22)

Geneva--Site of Seventh Foreign Office

Here are the intimate details of the establishment of the French office in Geneva, Switzerland—and the clear living proof of how Christ guides and rules in His Church today!

by Dibar K. Apartian

THE VERY name of *Paris*, without a doubt, is linked in most people's minds with *romance, gaiety and love*, which are today *synonymous with lust, sex and passion*. They picture a city of light, with broad boulevards filled with happy people.

Believing all the misleading publicity about Paris, and the hundreds of books that have been written praising its "charms," many think that Paris is one of the nicest and most comfortable cities to live in. The truth is, however, that it is one of the filthiest and certainly one of the most unsanitary cities on the face of the earth. Houses are as old as the memory of the dead who lived there a century or two ago—and nearly as decayed!

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to fly to Europe to open our SEVENTH office abroad, possibly in the French capital. This trip presented such unmistakable and striking proofs of Jesus Christ *directing His Work*, that I want to relate them to you.

As I began my office-hunting job in the Parisian hustle-bustle, I remembered a sermon Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong gave us some time ago in Pasadena. "Yes—it is God Who did all the work in starting, planning, and building up *His WORK*," Mr. Armstrong explained, "but I had to constantly DRIVE myself and work—I HAD TO WORK as hard as though I were doing the whole thing myself."

This is one of the *keys* of success, and I was determined to follow it during my assignment in Paris.

Jesus Christ Closed the Door

We often read Revelation 3:8, where Christ said: "Behold, I have set before

thee *an open door*, and no man can shut it," but we sometimes overlook the importance of the preceding verse where it shows that Christ *not only* opens doors, but He also "SHUTTETH, AND NO MAN OPENETH."

A striking *example* of this was shown to us in Paris just as we were about to make the final arrangements for opening our French offices there.

Because the demand so greatly exceeds the availability, apartments are at a premium in the French capital. The whole rental system has become a racket. Apartment and office hunters are nowadays charged anywhere from \$10,000 on up just to have "the *right*" to move onto the premises! This lump sum is *in addition to the rent!*

After ten days of knocking on all the available doors, answering the newspaper ads, and contacting real

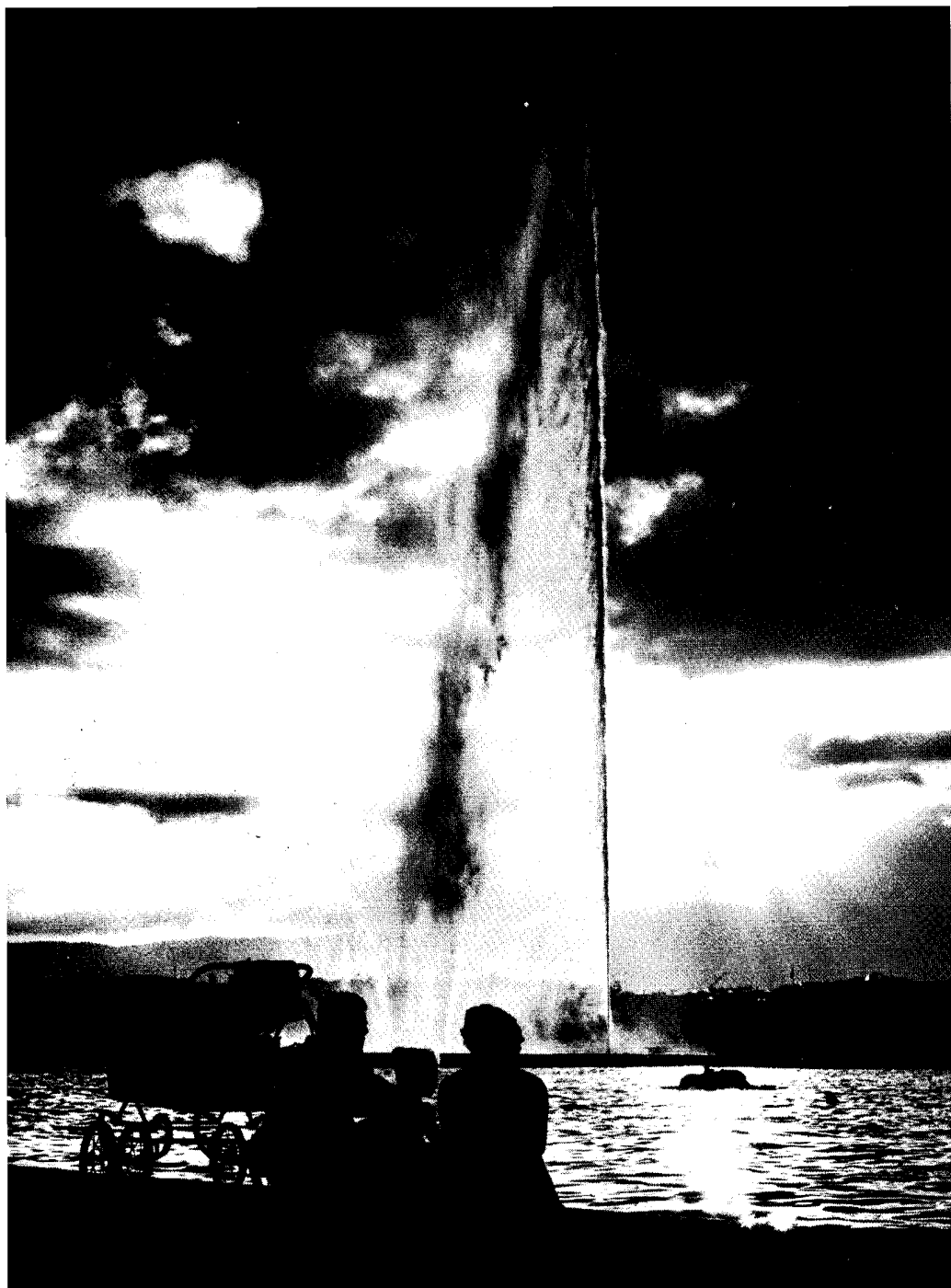
estate agents with the help of one of our church members in Paris, we were able to locate a few premises which could eventually serve our needs. (Incidentally, this Frenchman is now employed in our Geneva office.) These were "mixed" premises—that is, the tenant has the right to exercise a "liberal" *profession* as well as dwelling in them.

It can easily be seen that this "mixed" deal was the most convenient for us because it enabled us to rent both the offices and the flat with *one* simple "right-to-move-in-fee," rather than having to pay two—one for the office, and one for the flat.

The very next day Mr. Armstrong gave the green light to go ahead and rent one of the "mixed" flats, located in the district of Montmartre. He had flown to Paris from London to see

This modern building, still under construction—will house the new office of the French Division of the Work of God.





Swiss National Tourist Office

A beautiful sunset on the shore of the lake at Geneva. The city of Geneva is the location of our new French offices.

them, and was accompanied by Mr. Raymond C. Cole who happened to be in Europe at the time.

Three Unacceptable Conditions

There are two ways of closing a door: one is *gently*, the other is by *slamming it shut!* On this occasion, Christ slammed it with unmistakable finality. Just before signing the lease, we were presented with *three* conditions that were totally *unacceptable* by God's Work. We were told that:

(1) It would take up to six months for the French Government to issue us a "*permit*," authorizing the establishment of our offices in Paris. In the meantime, to hold our offices, we would still be required to pay the rent, as well as the high "*right-to-move-in-fee*," even though we were not allowed to do any work.

(2) *La PURE VERITE* (The French PLAIN TRUTH) would have to pass through *French censorship* before receiving permission to be mailed from within the country.

(3) We were informed that, in accordance with a law dated 1901 (nearly every real estate agent had referred to it as the "1901 Law," without ever telling us what it was), the French authorities reserve the right to serve notice of *immediate eviction* to any foreign organization whose teaching, preaching and policy are *NOT* in full harmony with that of the Government!!

But how can the WORD OF GOD *be in harmony* with the policy of the French Government? How can the preaching of God's True Gospel be in harmony with any of *man's* doctrines? "For what *fellowship* hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what *communion* hath light with darkness?" (II Cor. 6:14).

No, God's Gospel does not stand in harmony with the policies of man-made governments, nor can it be dictated by them.

THE DOOR WAS SLAMMED SHUT IN PARIS!

"Behold, I have set before thee an open door."

Those of you who have read Mr. Armstrong's Autobiography in *The PLAIN TRUTH* will probably recall that, at the time of starting AMBASSADOR COLLEGE in Pasadena, he considered the possibilities of having a college, or at least a "branch" of God's Work in *Switzerland*. Mr. Armstrong had first envisaged it to be in Lugana, later in *Geneva*.

How curious that after all these years, *God would lead us back to Switzerland!* Yes, once again He led us to Geneva as the place where He wanted to establish the French phase of His Work.

Why Geneva? It is the most *international city* on the face of the earth. Located at the western head of a lake bearing its name, and straddling the Rhone River which flows from the lake, Geneva is today *the largest French-speaking city* in Switzerland. According to the official statistics, its population has doubled since World War II.

It was quite refreshing to be in this beautiful modern Swiss city after the hectic days I had spent in the French
(Please continue on page 19)

Should A Christian Take Part In War?

Jesus CONTINUALLY PREACHED about the KINGDOM OF GOD. His message dealt VERY THOROUGHLY with the government of nations. It was intimately concerned with a true Christian's PART in that government. Does THIS Kingdom—then—have ANYTHING TO DO with whether or not a Christian should fight?

by L. Leroy Neff

THE TRUE answer to this question is *amazing* to most people. Satan the Devil has DECEIVED the whole world about the Kingdom of God and its purpose.

Much of this *deception* has come through the religions of this world. They do not really know or understand what the Kingdom of God is, or what its true relationship is to us today. They have lost the Truth of God on this vital subject.

It is time to know for sure just what God's Kingdom is, and what it has to do with whether or not we fight.

Most devout religious people regard this Kingdom as something set up in the hearts of men. This is a FALSE concept not based on Scripture! In this way the greatness and power of God's Kingdom is made to appear insignificant, without power or authority.

First of all a kingdom is a government with subjects, ruled over by a king, having specific territory and laws to govern the people.

People recognize a kingdom of this world to consist of these necessary things; however, theologians as well as lay members explain away the MIGHTY Kingdom of God, saying that it really is not a Kingdom after all but just a "feeling in your heart."

The Gospel of Jesus Christ, as recorded by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, proclaims this very Kingdom,



Wide World

Benedict Arnold—a citizen of one country betrayed IT and fought for another. His name is synonymous with treachery. Likewise, a true Christian is a CITIZEN of the Heavenly Kingdom. To fight for any earthly government would be a betrayal of his real Government.

the Kingdom of God. The parables given by Jesus Christ explain many facets and details of this universe-ruling Kingdom. These scriptures explain in detail what it is like, what it is doing now, who can enter into it, and how it can be entered. They also show where this Kingdom is now and what it will do in the future!

Man has been ruling himself contrary to the ways and laws of Almighty God for almost 6000 years now. He has made a miserable mess of things and is about to annihilate himself! He would commit world suicide except for the soon-promised intervention by

this very Kingdom of God and the return of Jesus Christ to this earth! This Kingdom will then bring peace and happiness to this earth for the FIRST TIME IN MAN'S HISTORY!

What Is the Gospel?

The news concerning the coming rule of the Kingdom of God is VERY GOOD NEWS!

The word *Gospel* literally means *Good News*. It is the news that Jesus Christ came preaching, which was in turn preached by all the Apostles in the New Testament Church. Jesus and the Apostles were continually telling about this soon-coming world Government or Kingdom.

This Government and rule of the Kingdom of God is REAL! It is not imagined, something just "set up in the hearts of men." Even the ancient Prophet Daniel wrote about it:

"And in the days of these kings (during this endtime in which we now live) shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (Dan. 2:44).

This Government of God is now in heaven, and His rule is from there, so it is also frequently referred to in the Bible as the Kingdom of Heaven. It was by this same Government that the world and all things were created.

All *physical* and *spiritual laws* were designed and are now maintained by this very same Government. Through it God rules the angelic beings, and through it He rules His called and *chosen saints* who have lived in the past and are now living on earth. Through this same Government God rules today in His *one and only TRUE Church*. Through it the whole world will be ruled in all the *ages* to come.

Now is the time for Christians to *qualify* for future places of *rulership* in that very *same Government* (Rev. 2:26). Flesh and blood cannot inherit this ruling Kingdom (I Cor. 15:50). But, those servants of Christ who are *faithful* now, and who are *obedient* to the Government of God and endure to the end shall then be literally *born of God* at the resurrection. They will be *like God*, of *His very own Family*. His Family, now consisting of God the Father and Jesus Christ, are the rulers of the Kingdom of God. After being born into this Kingdom of God we shall have the opportunity to be with Christ and rule with Him over all the nations of this world forever.

Those who *understand* and who *reject* this rule will lose their *only* chance of eternal life and be destroyed in the final Lake of Fire.

The inheritance of rulership in this Kingdom of God, on this earth (Rev. 5:10), is described by the Apostle John:

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them . . . and *they lived and reigned with Christ* a thousand years" (Rev. 20:4).

God has promised this great and marvelous reward to those who *really obey and overcome*.

"To him that *overcometh* will I grant to *sit with me in my throne* [this means ruling with Him], even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne" (Rev 3:21).

As Christ rules today with the Father, so shall we rule with Him when we sit down with Him in His throne.

This life is of comparatively *little consequence* and will last but a *short time*. The trials, problems, and persecutions of this life are paltry in com-

parison to this wonderful promise of inheriting rulership with Christ.

The *true overcoming Christian* has come to a firm and sound conviction that he must *act and obey* all of the commands of Almighty God *now*. When new knowledge of instructions and commands is found in God's Word, the Christian must act quickly to obey. He must learn to obey without question—in faith—realizing that God has all wisdom and knowledge and whatever He has commanded is for our good *always*.

The strong conviction that a Christian *must not fight* is one which a Christian comes to take *most seriously*. No matter what the penalty, he cannot enter into military service or take up arms against other human beings. To do so would mean that he would be *rejecting* God's righteous way of life. Such rejection might well determine his rejection by God and final destruction in the Lake of Fire.

Our True Citizenship

Our *spiritual citizenship* is now in that same Kingdom of Heaven. We await a *heavenly Kingdom* that will soon *literally* come to this earth. The inheritance of this Kingdom and position of rulership will be brought by Christ when He comes.

"For our CITIZENSHIP [Greek] is in heaven; *from whence* also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:20).

A private citizen of the United States cannot take part in the wars between other nations or his citizenship will be revoked. Before an alien can become a naturalized citizen of the United States, he is required to sign a statement that he will never fight against this country, nor will he ever enter the armed forces of another government. If he violates this agreement, he automatically *loses his citizenship!*

A private citizen of the United States travels to another country by permission of the State Department, and carries with him a passport. He is *strictly forbidden* to take part in warring activities of other governments. In the same way, *the Christian also carries a passport* which gives him *rules*



Wide World

A Russian diplomat—residing in the United States, a FOREIGN GOVERNMENT to him—is about to attempt to recruit a government employee as a spy. As Christians we CANNOT TAKE PART in trying to solve this world's ills in this way. We are MERELY AMBASSADORS living in foreign lands—and have no authority to meddle in the affairs of earthly kingdoms.

of conduct to follow; in this life, it is his *Bible*. It forbids him to fight. He is also forbidden by his government, the Kingdom of God, to participate in the wars of the nations of this world.

A soldier of an earthly nation who enlists and fights for another country would be shot for treason by his own country. He would be violating *his allegiance to his own nation*. As Christians, we are *soldiers* for a *Heavenly Kingdom* (II Tim. 2:3-4), and therefore cannot under any circumstances fight for a worldly kingdom!

Even understanding all of these things a person may ask you: "But shouldn't you help *defend* this country when it is attacked—when it is the *lust* of an *aggressor* nation which caused it?" A true Christian cannot! Here is why: If a United States citizen, or a British subject, is residing temporarily in Russia, and China should attack Russia, he would automatically lose his citizenship if he joined the Russian army. The Christian forfeits his citizenship in God's Kingdom if he enters

the armed forces of *any* nation of this world.

We need to decide here and now *where we want our citizenship!* Do we want to inherit an incorruptible Kingdom which will not fade away (I Pet. 1:4)? Or, do we want to inherit one of the kingdoms of *this world* which will very soon pass away? If we want to be a citizen of this world then we had better *fight* for this world and *its nations*. But if we do, we become *traitors* to the Kingdom of God. We *lose our heavenly citizenship and inheritance* in God's Kingdom.

Ambassadors for Christ

Paul stated in II Corinthians 5:20 that we are *ambassadors for Christ*. An ambassador is one who is a representative of a government in a *foreign* land.

Christ is in heaven, which is a country *foreign* to this earth. He is ruler in the Kingdom of God and has called His Church to be the personal emissaries and representatives of His Government. He expects His ambassadors to be *virtuous* representatives, living properly for their high calling, setting examples of conduct and propriety. In addition He expects them to be completely and totally *loyal* to their own Government, the *Kingdom of God*. They must be completely devoted and obedient to their Heavenly Government.

Since they are ambassadors of a foreign government they cannot take part in certain activities of the governments of this world.

When the United States sends an ambassador to England, he cannot take part in the government in England. He cannot enter parliament, enter politics, serve on their juries, vote in their elections, nor can he fight in their wars. He must not enter into the army or navy or he would be doing a traitorous act against his own country.

In like manner, a person who is an *ambassador* of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God is a traitor to his own heavenly Kingdom if he enters into the military services of one of the temporary governments on this earth.

A true Christian takes these things *most seriously!* He is *literally* not of

this present world and its confused society. Christians are "called-out-ones" who are just *sojourners* and *temporary dwellers* on this earth.

If we as Christians participate in the wars of *this world*, we are participating in the politics of this *worldly system!* We are commanded to COME OUT OF this system, Babylon the Great:

"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, *Come out of her, my people*, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Rev. 18:4).

If we do not come out of this worldly religio-political system we are directly rebelling against God's *government*. If we do not come out of this system, we will receive the plagues that are going to be poured out on this false system. We are forbidden to become a *part of the world*, to engage in its conflicts, its goals—which are contrary to God's realm.

". . . know ye not that the *friendship* of the world is *enmity* with God? *who-soever* therefore *will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God*" (Jas. 4:4).

In order to be friends with the world it is usually necessary to participate in the politics, religions, and wars of this present *evil world*. By so doing, we become the enemies of Almighty God.

The people of this world have their hearts set on the things of this world. They love the things of this world since they do not have *spiritual discernment* of the better things of God.

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. *If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him*" (I John 2:15).

By having love and affection for the *ways* of this world, its military might and services and its great political system, *we do not have the love of God*. We are to love God and His Way, not worldly ways.

God commands us to live by His *every word* as recorded in the Bible. His instructions have a direct bearing on every facet of our life and involve all we say and do.

God's Way of life is one which *changes us completely* from what we

have been, to be more like Jesus Christ every day. It directly affects our job, our family, our personal life. At the resurrection we will be *changed* completely from physical, material and mortal life, and given *eternal life*, just like Christ has now.

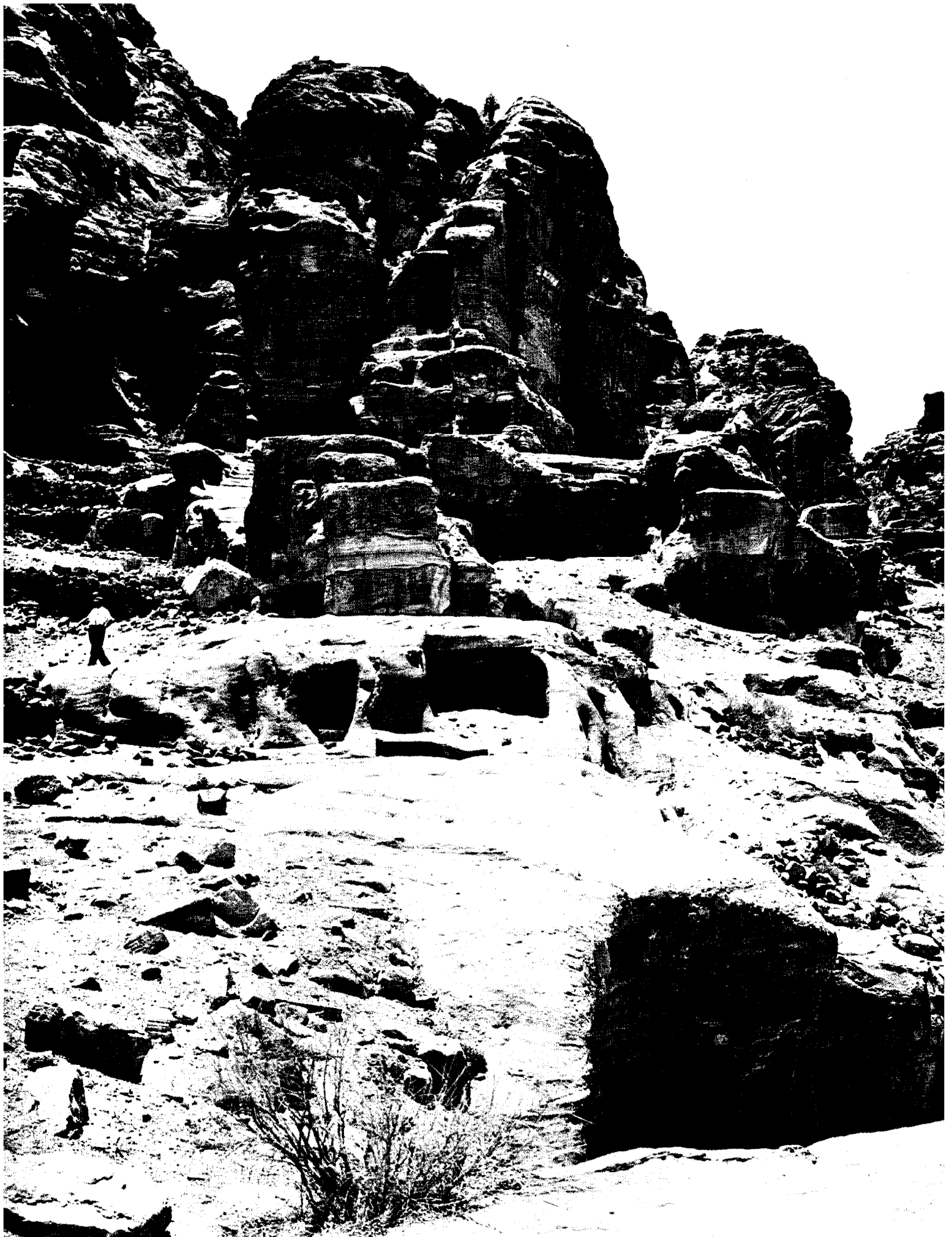
If we desire to *continue* as citizens and ambassadors of the soon-coming Kingdom of God, we must not enter into the wars or politics of the nations of this world. (If you have further questions on the subject of politics, write in immediately for the article "How Would Jesus Vote for President" by Herbert W. Armstrong.)

We have relinquished the right to take part in the political and warring activities of the nations. We are training and qualifying for a *much higher* position in the Kingdom of God which will soon be set up on this earth. Jesus Christ will then do away with *all* of the governments on this earth. There will only be one government on earth then, the Government of God ruling all people in peace and happiness.

Notice, the statement on the U. S. Passport duplicated below concerning the loss of citizenship. In like manner, Christians may lose their citizenship in GOD'S KINGDOM if they meddle in the affairs of nations—or participate in their wars.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOU

- **TRAVEL IN DISTURBED AREAS**
If you travel in disturbed areas, you should keep in touch with the nearest American diplomatic or consular office.
- **PROLONGED RESIDENCE ABROAD**
If you make your home or reside for a prolonged period abroad, you should register at the nearest American consulate.
- **LOSS OF NATIONALITY**
You may lose your American nationality by being naturalized in, or by voting in the elections of a foreign state; by taking an oath or making a declaration of allegiance to a foreign state; or by serving in the armed forces or accepting employment under the government of a foreign state. If you are a naturalized American citizen, you may lose citizenship by residing for 3 years in the country of your birth or former nationality, or by residing for 5 years in any other foreign state or states. For detailed information consult the nearest American diplomatic or consular office.
- **VIOLATIONS OF CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS**
If you use or attempt to use this passport in violation of the conditions or restrictions contained in it, you may lose the protection of the United States while you continue to reside abroad, and you may be liable for prosecution (Section 1544, Title 18, U. S. Code).
- **LOSS OR DESTRUCTION OF PASSPORT**
If this passport is lost, stolen or destroyed, report full details *immediately* to the Passport Office, Department of State, Washington 25, D. C. If the loss occurs outside of the United States, it should be reported to the nearest American Consulate or to the office of the Chief Executive of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Guam, the Virgin Islands or American Samoa. In loss or destruction cases, new passports are issued only after exhaustive investigation.
- **ALTERATION OR MUTILATION OF PASSPORT**
This passport must not be altered or mutilated in any way. You must not alter any dates; nor make any changes in your description, on the photograph, or on any other page of this passport. Alteration may make it **INVALID**. Only authorized officials of the United States or of foreign countries, in connection with official matters, may place stamps or make statements, notations or other additions in this passport.



P E T R A !

Here is an eyewitness report on Petra. The facts and pictures you've been wanting to know and see. But MOST IMPORTANT, an understanding of what your attitude toward a place of safety should be.

by David Jon Hill

Getting to Petra

“**W**E'RE BACK in Jerusalem again—we go across the border tomorrow, early. From Petra to here is even more arid than Arizona—and yet people manage to live in scattered groups. The goats seem to be *eating the very dirt*—camels crossing the road caused us to stop several times. We picked up a little Arab boy a little older than Jonathan [eight years old]. He had walked all the way from Petra [30 or more kilometers] where his father worked. He was on his way to see his mother, traveling across the desert, *alone!*”

This is what I wrote to my wife from Jerusalem just before crossing into the Israeli sector. Mr. Meredith and I have just returned from a trip around the world including an extensive tour of the Middle East, and *two days in Petra itself!*

“PETRA—the Rose Red City of the Dead—half as old as time!” This is how Petra is advertised in Jerusalem and in Amman, the capital of Jordan. It is becoming more and more a tourist attraction as world-wide tourism increases. To most of you brethren the word Petra has a *special* meaning as a possible place of protection in which God will hide us from the Great Tribulation!

Having just been there I wanted to pass on to you an eyewitness report of what Petra is like—to show you some of the pictures I took while there—and most important of all, to explain to you as God's minister the one overwhelming lesson that being in Petra itself taught me!

We left the hotel in Amman at 5:00 in the morning and traveled over an American-built highway for over 100 miles. Then we turned west on a small, but paved, access road to Petra. Just before we got to Petra we stopped at the supposed site where Moses struck the rock and the water came out to save the Israelites—the beginning of Wadi Musa—the River of Moses. Mr. Meredith and I drank from the clear, cold water which was both delicious and clean. Then we drove to within about 200 yards of the entrance of the Siq, got out of the car and climbed on horseback to ride through the Siq.

Many things that I had heard about Petra were flooding my mind at this time and I was comparing the reality of being there with the information I had about it. The Siq is a narrow gash cut through the 500-foot sandstone cliffs that surround the eastern edge of Petra. It is a very narrow cleft or defile through the mountain barrier into the valley. I had always heard and read that this was the *only access* to Petra, and that the Siq was so narrow that you could reach out and touch either side as you walked through it. Actually being there I found both of these impressions incorrect in today's modern world.

The Siq is indeed very narrow but as I rode my horse through I vainly tried to touch both sides and failed every time. Then I began to notice that there were well-traveled wheel tracks at my horse's feet! Much to my surprise—and even a little disappointment I think—I discovered a full-sized dumptruck



Looking up from the floor of the narrow Siq, all you see is a narrow piece of sky between the rough sandstone walls.

parked in the heart of Petra! Also, as I came into the valley of Petra itself I discovered that the other side of the valley was composed of rather gentle-sloping mountains over which any army could swarm! Although there is not any other road built into Petra than the one that comes through the Siq, there is certainly access from many other points of the compass.

I also had the erroneous impression that Petra was quite small, and when I beheld its hugeness I had mixed emotions about it. I felt *good* because I began to realize that Petra would not only accommodate a few thousand but perhaps as many as *a quarter of a million or more!* Multiple thousands of caves dot the cliffs on every side and there are still many areas that could be developed and made comfortable in a very short time within the vast valley. But, looking at it physically I began to feel less and less secure within the much-vaunted protective walls of Petra! I realized that not only was the Siq accessible to armored cars and tanks, but that *any army* in the world could send its forces over the low mountains to the west. I also realized that thousands of paratroopers could be very easily dropped into the great valley. And of course with modern warfare, helicopters even obviate this necessity!

The Lesson I Learned

There is a *difference* between *knowing* and **REALIZING!** Of course I had *known* that Petra was not going to save me from the coming Tribulation. But I had been thinking more about the security of the *physical* attributes of Petra than the spiritual attributes of how our Creator God will save us from the coming Tribulation—Petra only being *incidental* to His Plan.

PETRA CAN'T SAVE ANYBODY!

If you're looking forward to going to Petra to save your skin—thinking it is relatively safe because it is out of the civilized areas of the world—that it is nestled in protective safety in the rose-red rocks of Mount Seir—then you need to have impressed upon you the same lesson I learned. If you have *not* been thinking about Petra in this way, then this lesson will only confirm the *proper way* in which Petra should be regarded.

Petra as the coming place of safety is referred to most plainly in Isaiah 16. "Take counsel, execute judgment; make thy shadow as the night in the midst of the noonday; hide the outcasts; bewray not him that wandereth. Let mine outcasts dwell with thee, Moab" (Isa. 16: 3-4). Moab is one of the areas that will

escape out of the hands of the Beast Power when it sweeps into the Middle East to take over (see Dan. 11:41). Even presently of all of the Arab lands it is the one which has the least hatred toward Israel. Petra *could well be* the place which God has in mind for the safety of the Philadelphian Church in the coming world Tribulation.

But GOD HIMSELF *will have to be our Protection, our Safety, our Buckler, our Shield, our Tower, our Defense*—or Petra will become, as it has for many thousands of others, **OUR TOMB**, instead of our place of safety!

We'll need outright, *daily miracles* from God to keep us alive in that hot, dry and desolate place. Yet *with* that protection from God being given to us for those three and a half years I can think of no other place on the face of the earth that would be more beautiful than Petra!

Petra's Problems

The more I thought about this situation, the more specifically I began to realize how God was going to have to intervene in every way to provide the protection and safety that He promises. Let me explain.

THERE IS NO WATER IN PETRA!

I had heard, and it was true some time ago, that there were two springs in Petra and that Wadi Musa itself flowed into the valley. Now both of those springs are bone dry and have been for some years, and the Wadi Musa is being used by an Arab village *outside* Petra. The government of Jordan is even constructing a special ditch and embankment to be sure that the waters of Wadi Musa *never* flow through the Siq into Petra! In about April of this year 22 French tourists died in a 15-foot wall of water that came surging through the Siq from a rainstorm so far distant from them that they did not even *realize it was raining*. They died with no chance of escape because the Siq walls are as smooth as the walls of your living room and there *was* no escape! As a result of this, the government is determined to keep this from happening again. In so doing it is making sure that

Wadi Musa will not flow into Petra!

GOD, then, will have to *provide water daily* for the thousands that He brings to this place of safety. I can guarantee you that Petra is one of the worst places on earth to be in without water!

The sun is so hot that unless there were some protection from it, activity would be cut to a minimum—especially for the many older people which we have in the Church.

Should any government wish to *attack* us, the Siq is a *natural entrance* through which any number of armored vehicles and tanks could come. And in this modern day and age armies could swarm over the mountains from any side as well as descend on us from the skies!

There is also of course the matter of *food!* I had heard that people were storing great reserves of food in the caves of Petra—although I went into dozens of caves I never ran across any food! There are a number of Arabs—about 150—living inside Petra in some of the caves with their *goats*. But other than a handful of goats there is no other visible food supply in the entire valley!

If you planted a seed in the sandstone it would never come up because there is no water. If there were water the seed would germinate but have a very hard time living because sandstone does not supply the needed nutrients. If the needed nutrients were supplied it would still take an entire season for any crop to come to fruition and we would die of starvation in the meantime! Besides this, although there is plenty of room in Petra for more than a quarter of a million people to live, there is not anywhere near enough land area to support crops which would feed this number of people! So *food* will be a problem from the moment we enter until the moment we leave.

As far as the other accommodations of Petra are concerned, the caves are very interesting and I am sure they will supply adequate shelter—however, they will not be the accommodations we have become used to in this luxury-glutted society.

Summing it up, it seems that the *only* problems that will face us in Petra will be: an utter lack of water, an utter lack of food, an utter lack of any kind of protection—not only from the armies of this world but from the very merciless elements of sun and heat and sand themselves. Petra is literally what it is advertised to be—the Rose Red City of the DEAD!

God's Solutions!

But God *does* promise complete protection! "And to the woman [the Church] were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth" (Rev. 12:14-16).

Since our God is a *very real* God, let's look very closely at this promise that He gives us and see if it contains the necessary things we're going to *desperately need* in Petra. In the first place we're going to have to *get to* Petra. Petra is on the other side of the world from the United States—almost as far away as you can go. So naturally this is the first thing that God promises—"two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness." God will intervene to supply some sort of transportation for those people whom He does account worthy to escape to this place of safety.

The next thing promised by God is, "she is nourished"—now nourished includes *both food and water*. The duration of this nourishment is promised as three and a half years. Will the nourishment be "Manna" as it was in Moses' time? Again God promises *protection*—because Satan will stir up the Beast Power to try to crush the little group of refugees and destroy them from the face of the earth. God promises a very unusual end for these armed forces ("flood")—an *earthquake* to

swallow them up completely just as in the case of Dathan and his rebellion against Moses! (Num. 16).

God has a thousand ways where we have none!

There is NO WAY we can *save ourselves* from the prophesied famines to come upon this land. No matter how much whole wheat, yogurt, honey and blackstrap molasses we have stowed away in a cave we're not going to live through that time of famine except by God's express will and desire and by His direct intervention! "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it" (Matt. 16:25). This vital principle we *must all learn*—and be impressed with more each day—that **ONLY GOD can save us from any of our troubles or problems!**

You see, brethren, the very things God promises us by way of protection in Petra are the things He tells us *not* to be overly concerned about, *not* to have our minds studying on, because to be filled with a desire for these physical things is a Gentile weakness (Matt. 6:32). God's plain statement is for us not to worry about what we're going to *eat* or *drink* or how we're going to be *sheltered* (Matt. 6:25), "But seek ye **FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD**, and his righteousness; and all these *things* shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33).

Another Answer in Our Songbook

From time to time during Sabbath services we sing Psalm 121. When we do we need to realize its *meaning for us* today and in the near future. "The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore" (Ps. 121:5-8). Yes, God is not only going to supply our *basic needs* of food, water and shelter but even protect us from the glaring sun.

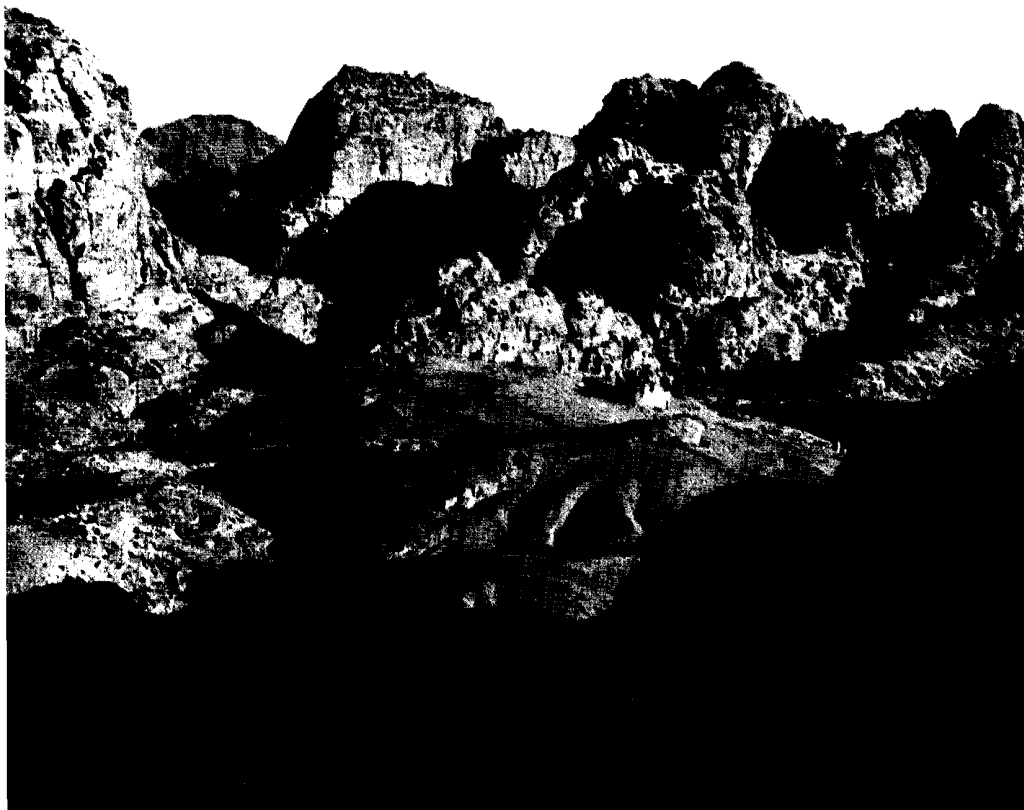
We don't need to be completely dogmatic about these things, but we can anticipate how God is going to work out His protection for us. We learn *what* the mind of God is by studying *His Word*. We are urged to make a thorough study of the Old Testament by many scriptures in the New Testament (Matt. 4:4; Luke 4:4; I Cor. 10:1-11; II Tim. 2:15).

There was *another time* when God protected His people by a cloud—in the Exodus from Egypt. If the cloud God uses to protect those of His refugees in Petra is similar—a great boiling cloud with flashing lightnings and supersonic, tornadic winds—then, at the same time it provides us with rain and shade from the sun it will also provide us with protection from any attacks from the air!

Complete *faith* in God—the *faith of Jesus Christ*—living faith day by day even after arrival in the place of safety is going to be the *only real protection* in those last years before Christ's return!

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the *shadow of the Almighty*. I will say of the Lord, HE is my refuge and my fortress: my God; *in him will I trust*. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling" (Ps. 91:1-10).

In connection with this, brethren, please read Psalm 18 and Psalm 62 as well as the entire chapter of Deuteronomy 32. These are some of the refer-



The Hotel in Petra is behind the ruins in the center.

ences in God's Word which will help you orient your mind spiritually so that you're putting your trust *in your* CREATOR and not in some valley of rock in the Near East—a *rock of death* except for the present and active intervention of your Creator-God!

"And David spake unto the Lord the words of this song in the day that the Lord had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul: And he said, *The Lord is MY ROCK*, and my fortress, and my deliverer; The God of my rock; *in him will I trust*: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence" (II Sam. 22:1-3).

**Learn This Lesson
NOW**

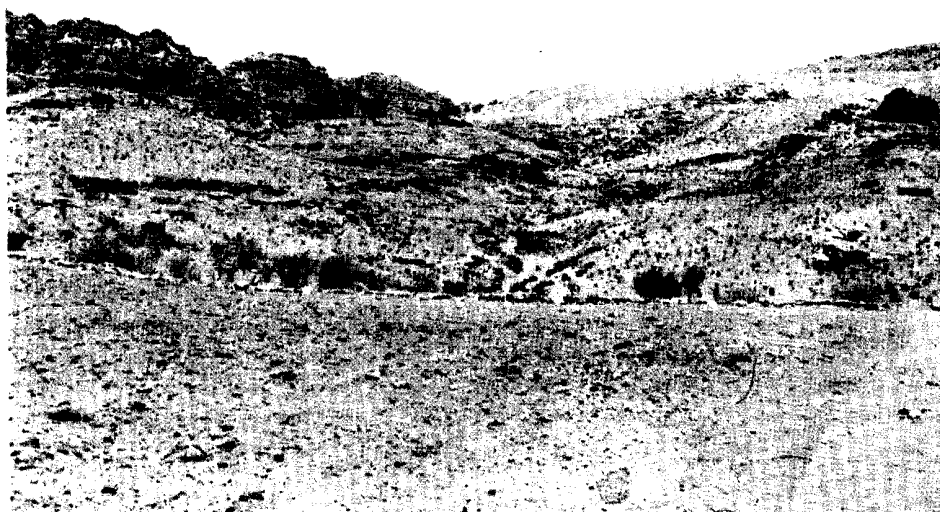
The *only* way you are going to be accounted worthy (Luke 21:36) to escape this captivity to come and BE in Petra, is for you to learn this vital lesson of absolute trust in God for *everything* NOW! Unless you can learn to live by faith *now* (Hab. 2:4), to

your heart out, and asking Him to help you overcome your *daily* problems, you will have no need to exercise faith in Petra—because you just won't be there!

If Petra is your present goal, then you are of all men (or women) MOST MISERABLE! Make God's Kingdom your goal now and in everything you do and forever! The added blessing of being in Petra—or anywhere else—as a place of safety in the time of trouble to come will also be an added time of trial and testing for those who are growing and overcoming the most, in the three and one-half years just preceding the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Forget about Petra! Forget about all the little physical things that stand in the way of your developing the character of Jesus Christ. Get down on your knees and spend more time before God in prayer—keep your eyes open and read the daily news and recognize that the prophecies of your Bible are being fulfilled *every single day before your eyes*—THIS is how you will qualify not just for a brief interim of peace in Petra, but for the Kingdom of God forever! (Luke 21:36).

There is plenty of room within the valley.



Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course

*Here is helpful and practical advice from one of the writers of
The CORRESPONDENCE COURSE.*

by Richard H. Sedliacik

ARE YOU TAKING *full advantage* of *The Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course*?

Here are some interesting facts and helpful suggestions about the *proper USE* of *The Correspondence Course* which you may not have known before.

Why the Course Was Instituted

For many years Mr. Armstrong wanted to start a regular, monthly Bible correspondence course. This Bible course was to be DIFFERENT. The BIBLE *itself* would be the ONLY *textbook!* The ideas and opinions of men *about* the Bible would NOT be taught.

"This course," said Mr. Armstrong in his introductory letter to each new student, "is a totally new, *different* kind of Bible study course, designed to *lead* you, by the study of *your own Bible*, to the UNDERSTANDING of the meaning of today's world-chaos, of the PURPOSE being worked out here below, of PROPHECY, of SALVATION, of this entire Treasure-House of knowledge, which is GOD'S WORD—the TRUTH."

The Bible Correspondence Course is designed for both converted and unconverted. It helps the converted to become *thoroughly* grounded in basic Bible doctrines, and it *leads* the unconverted to SAVING knowledge!

Last December, Mr. Wayne Cole learned just *how effective* the Bible Course really is when he visited 18 people in New Zealand who had requested baptism. These people were not privileged to hear *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast. Yet, Mr. Cole found

them *thoroughly* grounded in the basic Bible truths and THOROUGHLY REPENTANT! The reason? Mr. Cole said it was because they had been led *step by step* in their Bibles to the *knowledge* of SALVATION BY *The Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course!*

Dr. Meredith Appointed Director

Mr. Armstrong instituted *The Correspondence Course* formally in 1954 by appointing Dr. C. Paul Meredith as its director. Dr. Meredith had listened to *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast since 1943. During the succeeding years, he had taken *voluminous notes* on each and every broadcast!

Having *first proved* that this IS God's Work and that Mr. Armstrong IS God's true minister, Dr. Meredith then gave up his successful practice in Missouri and enrolled in Ambassador College. He wanted to *learn more* about the Bible and to SERVE in whatever capacity God would choose. He applied himself *diligently* in Bible and theology courses and obtained a Masters Degree in theology from Ambassador — *already* possessing a Doctor's Degree from Iowa State University.

God *guided* Mr. Armstrong, through His Holy Spirit, to see that Dr. Meredith—with his *scholarliness, thoroughness, and DEDICATION* to the Work of God—was just the man to *direct* the writing of this Course.

Thus, Dr. Meredith found himself in an outstanding special *ministry* within God's Work—the unique field of directing and writing a *fascinating, yet thorough* Bible Correspondence Course

which is now CHANGING *the lives* of and bringing increased *happiness and understanding* to multiple thousands in every continent on earth!

How Lessons Are Prepared

The information which *The Bible CORRESPONDENCE COURSE* *points out* and MAKES CLEAR to you *in the Bible* is something *very precious*—information obtainable nowhere else!

Much of the Truth has been written and published in *The PLAIN TRUTH* and *GOOD NEWS* magazines, and in various booklets. However, it has never before been *systematically* organized to give God's *complete* true message in clear, *simple, UNDERSTANDABLE TERMS*, laid out *step by step* for you, as in each of these lessons. Each lesson — because of its carefully *concentrated* knowledge — is a compact "book" of extremely vital, *spiritually revealed* knowledge given to aid you in achieving your goal of eternal life.

Complicated Process

You can now begin to understand *why* a GREAT DEAL of time is required in preparing each lesson. Staff writers, under Dr. Meredith's supervision, spend many hours in research. They must collect important data, carefully plan, and finally write a lesson. Then Dr. Meredith must carefully scrutinize and edit each lesson. Besides *editing* lessons of the course, Dr. Meredith also *writes* the majority of the lessons himself. Finally, the lesson goes to Mr. Armstrong for his approval, and then to the printer.

The first step leading to the actual



Dr. C. Paul Meredith, Director of *The Bible Correspondence Course* is in the center. He is flanked by two of his assistants.

printing involves setting the lesson to *type*, from which long "galley sheets" are printed. These "galley sheets" must then be checked and proofread by Dr. Meredith and his staff to correct any *typographical* errors.

Then the galley sheets are cut and pasted up to form a "dummy" lesson for the printer. After the printer has rearranged the type according to the "paste-up" (dummy) copy, he prints a "pageproof" copy. Again Dr. Meredith and his staff must check the "page proofs" to avoid every possible error.

Once all of these preliminary steps are taken, the type is etched into thin aluminum plates by a special photo-engraving process. These plates, with etched, ink-retaining letters, are then mounted in our own "offset" press which prints the pages. At last comes the stapling, folding, punching of the holes, and mailing.

It certainly takes a *lot of time* and **WORK** to produce a lesson, but the *value* of the **SPIRITUAL FRUIT** it

produces in thousands of human lives is **PRICELESS!**

Lessons Aid Your Bible Study

Mr. Armstrong has often said that a Christian **SHOULD** pray *at least* one-half hour a day and **STUDY** his Bible a *minimum* of *one-half hour* each day in order to *continue* growing in God's *spiritual character* and remain in the *right attitude*.

Are YOU doing this? *Are you* pouring out your heart to God in earnest *heart-rending* prayer every day? *Are you drinking in* of the spiritual truths and *personal correction* from God's Word?

Here is where *you* can really take *advantage* of *The Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course*.

This course is an *extremely valuable* **AID** in helping you to keep *close to God*. This is because the lessons are intended to **MAKE you study**—to "keep your nose *in the BIBLE*." They

are designed to make your study *easier*, for your course of Bible study is all *planned out* for you in **ADVANCE!**

You *ought* to be taking **FULL ADVANTAGE** of the *hundreds* of hours spent by the Correspondence staff in preparing each lesson for *you*. Jesus Christ expects every *zealous* member in His Church to **STUDY** the Bible *with the AID of this course* which **HE HAS MADE AVAILABLE!**

Do you *appreciate* it?

Christ is using *The Bible Correspondence Course* to help **FEED ALL** the **FLOCK**—just as the local congregations are fed each Sabbath by their ministers. So don't *just read* or *scan* over the words of each new lesson quickly—without even *opening* your Bible. You should always **TAKE THE TIME** to *write down* **EVERY** scripture. This is **VERY IMPORTANT!** Never think it's just "OLD STUFF"—something you've heard many times **BEFORE**. Remember that in signing up for the course you have agreed, covenanted, *promised* to take it '*the way*' the instructions indicate.

If you *are* taking full advantage of the course, Jesus Christ **SEES** that you are not taking His **TRUTH** and the *efforts* of **HIS called servants** for **GRANTED!** You show—by your *actions*—that you **DO APPRECIATE** the **TREMENDOUS VALUE** of these lessons.

Here are some more helpful suggestions which you will want to put into **PRACTICE**.

Schedule Your Time

In order to *really* **BENEFIT** from the course, we recommend that each Bible course student spend *at least* **ONE-HALF HOUR** a day studying his Bible with the lessons. One-half hour *whizzes* by before you know it when you study this way! And you will have already spent one-half of the *one-hour* you ought to be spending in Bible study every day to *grow spiritually*.

If you're like many *zealous* students, you will become so *engrossed* in your study that you won't want to quit until
(Please continue on page 21)

God's Work

(Continued from page 4)

Big Sandy! For this new college will automatically bring into the area many of God's most able ministers, teachers and servants to *edify* and *inspire* the brethren in the East Texas area. Let us REJOICE with them—and pray that they may really *use* and *appreciate* this opportunity as it develops!

The New College Year

The new college year is now fully under way, and our new freshman class—although trimmed in number to 70 because of our Austerity Program—is nevertheless one of the most *dedicated* and *zealous* Ambassador freshman classes so far! As the freshman Bible teacher, I am inspired with their attitude and warmth in class, and want to ask all of you brethren in the field to PRAY that this class and ALL classes in Ambassador College really DRIVE themselves to use the marvelous and God-given opportunities they have here to develop for His service!

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Armstrong are now back at Pasadena Headquarters, and just yesterday Mr. Armstrong held a combined Board Meeting for the Church and College Board members to discuss the progress of God's Work and make plans and resolutions for even greater growth in future months. It was a most encouraging and inspiring meeting.

Brethren, *in spite of* our "Austerity Year," God's Work has made BIGGER strides in ordaining new ministers, establishing new churches, baptizing additional *thousands* of people and reaching this world with God's TRUTH than ever before! As Mr. Armstrong stated, this year is not a year of *retrogression*, but simply a year of *stabilizing* the financial outgo for radio time, printing costs, properties, salaries, and new students, and at the same time keeping up our fine thirty per cent increase in income.

Under the leadership of Mr. Armstrong and our new Business Manager, Mr. Albert J. Portune, we are now in the process of doing just that!

Yet, even though we have not increased the expenditure for radio time, printing and other expenses as we normally might have, God has backed us up and given tremendous GROWTH this year just the same in the establishment of new churches and Bible studies, new ministers being ordained and countless lives being CHANGED to live by every word of God!

This is news to REJOICE IN, brethren! So let us keep our *hearts* and our *prayers*—our GENEROUS offerings as well as faithful tithes—in God's Work during this Austerity Year more than ever before!

This *sick world* NEEDS our help—the help of the Living CHRIST working through us—more desperately than most of us even begin to realize!

Geneva Office

(Continued from page 8)

capital. In Paris, nearly everything and everyone seemed so hostile! Over here, people were friendly. There wasn't the constant need to be on guard lest someone take advantage. If there still exists any honesty in this world, Switzerland is certainly the place to find it!

Cosmopolitan Geneva

Geneva is presently in the midst of a construction boom, with new buildings going up everywhere. More and more foreign organizations are opening branches in the city. Someone told me that over *HALF* of the city consisted of *foreign or international associations* who either have their headquarters or important branches located there. Among these associations are the International Labor Organization, the old League of Nations, and the World Headquarters of the Red Cross. And, as everyone knows, Geneva is a favorite meeting place among heads of state for discussing international diplomatic problems.

It took only a day or two of office-hunting in Geneva to show what our major problem would be. While offices were plentiful, and easily obtainable, it was *practically impossible to find apartments*. The real estate agents

told me that thousands of people were on the waiting list, and that the only foreseeable vacancy would occur NEXT SPRING!

Now what were we supposed to do? Our employees couldn't very well be left out in the street, nor could we put them in a hotel for several months. It was regrettable that the "mixed" premises deal didn't exist in Geneva, for it could have solved our problem.

But JESUS CHRIST INTERVENED! Once again He showed us the way, as He had done in Paris—but this time it was to open the door, not to close it. One of the Swiss members of God's Church, an engineer I had baptized last year during our European baptizing tour, found a real estate agent who apparently had a very good offer to make. We were told that there was a floor-space available in a new building, still under construction, located on the west side of the city. It was on the fifth floor and happened to be *the very last one* left in the immense seven-floor building.

To our delight, this last offer proved to be better than any we had found so far, from every point of view. Besides being clean and modern in every way, we were given the privilege of designing *our own plans* for the office, as the floors were yet bare and no partitions had been erected.

"This office-section is the very last left in the whole building," the agent repeated. "We could have rented it *yesterday*, had it not been for one simple *condition* to which the party interested didn't agree."

"Oh," I said, suddenly becoming suspicious. "*What* was your condition?"

There had been so many *under-the-table* deals in Paris, that I was now suspicious of a similar situation. What was the catch this time?

"The condition is that the party who rents this office-floor, *SHOULD* also RENT THE NEW FLAT which is being built next door," the agent replied. "The flat is also located on the fifth floor, yet it is totally independent from these premises. Actually, there are two different buildings involved."

I was speechless!

What was there to say? What could



Swiss National Tourist Office

An evening meal at a popular Geneva restaurant. This photograph shows the modern aspect of Geneva, Switzerland.



Swiss National Tourist Office

Pully, near Lausanne, on Lake Geneva. This is typical of much of the terrain of Switzerland.

we answer? This was the very thing we had been looking for—the thing which was supposed to be *impossible to find!* Yet, it came to us as a **CONDITION** to our *accepting* the premises!

The flat consisted of five very bright and sunny rooms with a bath-and-a-half. It had a built-in ice box in the kitchen—a rarity in Europe. But to top it all, the total rent for both the flat and the offices was **LESS** than what we had expected to *pay for the offices alone!*

When I asked the agent if we could have option on it until Mr. Armstrong's arrival, he agreed to it without asking for a penny! How strange! Why this *unusual* way of doing business? Why was he so courteous and co-operative in every way? Why was everything coming to us in such a wonderful way?

Simply because **JESUS CHRIST**, the Head of His Church, had *opened the door* for us to **WALK IN!**

"This is it! . . ."

"Yes, this is it," Mr. Armstrong said, as he and Mrs. Armstrong arrived in Geneva a few days later.

The lease was prepared and signed on the **TWELFTH** day of June. We *didn't* plan it that way. In fact, we were supposed to sign it the previous day, but the agent didn't have all the papers ready before the evening of the twelfth.

And would you guess what time it was when we signed the lease? Exactly **SEVEN** p.m.! Actually, it was Mr. Raymond Cole who called our attention to

it. After seeing the offices we had been considering in Paris, he now had the opportunity to witness the signing of the lease for our Geneva office.

And so, **GOD'S WORK** Took Another **LEAP AHEAD!**

Perhaps these figures don't mean anything, but it is certainly most remarkable to see how often they *do occur* in God's Work. Time and again, we have seen them appear whenever we established offices abroad. Incidentally, Geneva is the **SEVENTH** office abroad; its postal zone is **SEVEN**, and I had left Pasadena on May the

A balloon flight in the Alps. Much of the countryside of Switzerland is rugged and picturesque as this—a beautiful setting for our new French offices.

Swiss National Tourist Office



TWELFTH for this mission! Coincidence? Perhaps!

Do You Realize how Blessed You are?

This is but one of the many experiences we witness in God's Church *every day*. Whether it be in going from one local church to another, or in traveling abroad, whether it be in dealing with those in the world or during our baptizing tours, we continuously see *God's hand directing His Work*. Yes, **JESUS CHRIST IS THE LIVING HEAD OF HIS CHURCH!**

We, in the U. S. A., are more blessed than *any other people* on the face of the earth. Our standard of living is higher than any other nation's; our comfort, with its push-button conveniences, and our national wealth are still unsurpassed. The American worker is the highest paid wage-earner in the world and can afford luxuries that even the wealthy do not have abroad.

But *do you also realize* that we, in **GOD'S CHURCH**, in addition to these tremendous material blessings, have something greater—**MUCH GREATER**—to be thankful for? We have God working in and through our lives, and we have the assurance that we can be "**JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST**" if we **GROW** in His knowledge and grace.

It is time we **WAKE UP** and pour our hearts out to God *in thanksgiving* for all the blessings He has showered upon us. But first we have to *check, prove and recognize daily* that **JESUS CHRIST IS THE LIVING HEAD OF HIS CHURCH!**

Bible Course

(Continued from page 18)

you have studied an additional half hour—or MORE! One lady wrote us that she had studied until about 2:00 a.m. one morning *before* she realized what time it was! Remember, God says it is the PROFITABLE servant who goes *above* and BEYOND what is EXPECTED of him by GOD and man! Therefore, as you *are able*, be sure to spend EXTRA time studying your Bible.

Of course, you won't *always* be able to spend extra time studying every day. But what is *vital* IMPORTANT is that you schedule ONE-HALF hour EVERY DAY for studying the Bible with the aid of *The Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course*. This way, you will keep in the HABIT of REGULAR BIBLE STUDY.

REVIEW if Caught Up

If you have completed the latest lesson and have a few days to wait until the next lesson arrives, then take FULL ADVANTAGE of this *extra* time by REVIEWING past lessons. "A waste of time," you say?

Listen to what the Apostle Peter instructs all Christians in I Peter 3:15: "Be ready ALWAYS to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you." Can you *thoroughly* explain the subjects of *heaven, hell, the Sabbath, the mortality of the soul, etc.* to anyone who might ask you for an explanation? Or would you be EMBARRASSED by not being able to answer properly? Many brethren in God's Church do *not yet* have even the most *basic* Bible doctrines well enough in mind to explain them—even to their children!

REPETITION Important

I think you can begin to see the ADVANTAGE of *reviewing lessons* from time to time without having to be *forced* into it. REPETITION is the *best way* to learn a thing well. We can never say we know the Bible *perfectly*. Mr. Armstrong has said in church that he sees something *new* almost every

time he *thoroughly* reviews even the *most basic* Bible subjects. You will *too!*

Unless we're careful, it's *easy* to slip into the attitude the Athenians had in the Apostle Paul's day. They were only interested in *hearing* and telling something NEW (Acts 17:21), thinking what was learned or heard previously was *old* and *obsolete*—"old stuff"—not to be reviewed again.

God also stresses REPETITION throughout the Bible as being the *best way* to learn. Our yearly observance of God's annual Festivals is a good example. Year after year we keep the *same* Feasts and hear many *basic sermons*. God wants to make certain His plan and purpose in our lives is *thoroughly ingrained* in our minds so we will NEVER FORGET IT!

So *take advantage of each opportunity to REVIEW*. Make sure you understand every section of each lesson you have completed. Review your *notes* and *re-study* especially any part which you have partially forgotten. Read lesson #4—the *green-paged* lesson—for more helpful hints about getting the MOST out of your lesson review.

The degree to which you study and REALLY KNOW what is contained in *The Correspondence Course* lessons may determine, to a *great extent*, your future POSITION in God's Kingdom!

Guard Against Laodicean Attitude

It is reported by ministers that *some* long-standing members in God's Church have been very *negligent* in studying the Bible with *The Correspondence Course*. As a result, they're far behind. Some who should be caught up with the very latest lessons *are still* working on some of the beginning lessons!

And *unbelievable* as it sounds, SOME FEW MEMBERS *have NOT YET EVEN ENROLLED IN THE COURSE!!*

Snap out of this LETHARGY—if you are one of these FEW! Remember the parable of the sower. Some were "too busy" with the *cares of this life* to enter God's Kingdom! Others over-

came and grew only *one-third* to *two-thirds* of what they were actually CAPABLE of *accomplishing*.

Let's all get busy and study the Bible with *The Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course EVERY DAY*—one-half hour or more. Let's not think that we are "rich and increased with goods," (spiritual knowledge) as the LUKEWARM Laodiceans (Rev. 3:14-17).

Let's don't feel that because you attend a local congregation, you *already know perfectly* and understand all that is presented in any Correspondence Course lesson! You DON'T!

God has made available *through His Church* these valuable Bible lessons. A means by which you can *grow* MANY-FOLD in the *understanding* and APPLICATION of God's Word in your life. If you do not take full advantage of it, then you're *neglecting* a golden opportunity GOD has made possible! He expects you to take *advantage* of it and make the MOST of it.

Your REWARD To Be Great!

The most wonderful words we can ever hope to hear will be Jesus' own words: "*Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the JOY of thy Lord*" (Matt. 25:21).

Yes, if you have been "faithful" in *studying and learning* the Bible with *The Correspondence Course* lessons so thoroughly that it is a *part of your very being*, then YOU will be QUALIFIED to teach these same things for a thousand years to *thousands*—perhaps MILLIONS—of people!

Later, you will experience the JOY of teaching these same things to *old friends and relatives* who will be resurrected at the end of the thousand years and given their *first* opportunity to receive salvation.

So be very diligent to LEARN and MAKE A PART OF YOUR VERY BEING ALL that you have studied! The way you STUDY *The Correspondence Course NOW* may well determine your *future* in *The WORLD TOMORROW!*

Readers Say . . .

(Continued from page 6)

ing to your program I believe this is the key to my problems. This marriage is a wreck and so am I. I've lost a very good job and am badly in debt. People have given me all kinds of advice and tell me everything will work out and be all right, but nothing has worked out and nothing is all right. Every decision I have made since I was married has turned out to be wrong. Maybe this is God's way of knocking me flat on my stupid face and making me see that I need to obey His laws."

Man from California

• *May God grant that additional thousands can find the true way to happiness!*

Cancer Healed

"About two years ago God, through your prayers, healed me of cancer of the face and cancer of the throat. I have thanked God for it and I wish to thank you for praying for me."

Morgan F., Alabama

God Our Healer

"In February I wrote you for a prayer cloth—I had cancer. I received the prayer cloth and the cancer is getting well. There is no disease that God can't heal."

Callie W., Texas

Parents Need Help

"My son is 19 years of age. He listens to your program and is taking your Bible Correspondence Course. We have a serious problem with him and expect you to do something about it, for by listening to you he is mixed up. He was brought up in a Methodist Church and now will not attend, observes Saturday as his Sabbath. Our problem is this—he cannot get a job to support himself for he will not work on Saturday or Friday after 5:00 p.m. He earn about \$10 per week and sends you 10% or more. Since listening to you he wants to be a conscientious objector. He said he will not go into the service, but will rather go to prison. I cannot afford a psychiatrist for him,

yet something has to be done. I may even concede to let you have him at your College, and you support him. You have him believing the world is coming to an end in five years. No one knows when and surely not you. Write him a letter for me. You *must* do something. If we did not have an army or navy the heathens would have taken over long ago. I need your immediate response to this letter."

Mr. L. N., Ohio

• *God's truth does sound strange to those of the world.*

JEZEBEL?

"I want the book about 'Jessie Bell' on finger nail polish and so on."

Esmia B., Texas

Light for Minister

"In our Bible study at the church we are coming now to the discussions of the church calendar and the holidays that are celebrated in the modern church as opposed to the holidays that were given by God to His people Israel. Would you please send to me information that you have written concerning Christian holidays, especially the Passover and any literature concerning the Christian calendar. With the background of college and seminary Bible training, it is exceeding hard to forget past teaching and to dig out truth. As a minister I have the opportunity to spend early morning hours in study of the Bible. Many of my people are becoming more and more interested in your broadcasts. Thank you for the light you are bringing."

Pastor First Methodist Church,
Texas

Dedicated Co-Worker

"Sir, in your last letter you announced that my name had been placed on the Co-Worker's mailing list. I am certainly very interested in your tremendous job and would like to help you in any way possible, even though I am not a converted Christian. I am a thirteen-year-old boy, but I yearn to become a Christian some day, that is, when I am old enough and mature enough to have the self-discipline needed for true repentance. I definitely plan to attend Ambassador College. At

the present I study all of your magazines and pamphlets that I can. In this case then, sir, do you think that my name could remain on your Co-Worker's mailing list? I certainly hope that it can."

Dale G., Virginia

Stacking Up

"After we had paid our tithe the second time, a sawmill moved into the woods close to us. The man who owns it told my husband he could have the slab wood if he would keep it moved out of his way. In two weeks time we hauled 30 cord of slab wood to our place, which we can sell for \$8 a cord. God has given us 10 times as much as we gave Him. A few of our neighbors are listening to *The WORLD TOMORROW* and receive *The PLAIN TRUTH*. It is amazing the people around here who belong to different denominations that have heard you and are now stacking their church beliefs against what they have heard from the Radio Church of God."

(Member), Virginia

Starts Tithing

"I am 14 years of age and I think I'm going to start paying my tithes. I want to get closer to the Lord. I just have 15 cents at the moment so here is the 2 cents. May God bless you and your ministry."

Miss Phyllis J., New Jersey

Good Example

"Enclosed please find tithes from my son, Daniel. He is a paper boy and has been prospering constantly since he started to tithe. He is 12 years old and a good example to his brothers, who, by the way, are older."

Mrs. Owen M., California

Sends in Cigar Money

"I am sending you a money order for \$2. I denied myself my cigar a day. I am a loused-up Lutheran. I pride myself on my honesty and I must honestly agree with all you say. I am of German descent and your articles on Germany interest me very much. You sure give the Devil his dues. You are my kind of pastor, minister, preacher, and teacher. Keep up the good work."

Man, Iowa

Is GOD the Author of Ceremony?

Is it proper to take photographs during religious services, baptisms, or marriage ceremonies? Here is an answer we all need to understand.

by Herman L. Hoeh

IS IT proper to have flashing light bulbs, strob lights, tripods and general disturbance in order to take photographs during an annual Holy Day at the Feast of Tabernacles?—or on any other Festivals or the weekly Sabbath?

When a minister is speaking from the pulpit, or in an ordination ceremony, should photographs be taken? Is this showing proper respect to the office in which God has placed that minister?

And what about baptisms and marriage ceremonies? While the minister reads the ceremony, when the couple kneels, or when one is buried in the waters of baptism, should pictures ever be taken?

God's Decision

During the 1961 Ministerial Conference the ministers had to take up this question. It had been commonplace for members to take snapshots especially on the closing day of the Feast of Tabernacles. Usually individuals had just forgotten to take them earlier and had thought they must do so that day. Often, during religious services throughout the week brethren had come near the platform to obtain a candid shot of the service.

Was this proper?

This past Festival of Tabernacles the same problem cropped up again. Some seem to have forgotten God's decision on the matter, given *through His ministers*.

What *does* God say?

First, we must come to realize that *God* is the Author of ceremony. He performed the first marriage *ceremony* in Eden when he brought to the man the woman who was to be his wife. Would it have been proper to interrupt Him to obtain a candid shot? Since

God's ministers are divinely authorized to perform the same ceremony today, is it showing proper respect *to the ceremony God ordained* to distract the guests for a candid shot?

In religious services would you interrupt Jesus Christ, if He were personally speaking, in order to photograph Him? Or if He were performing a baptism?

Of course not!

Then would we be showing proper respect to God by disturbing a religious service He ordained in order to take a photograph?

Most people take for granted that it would be improper to interrupt a funeral. It seems that few, however, have thought about marriages and Holy Days God ordains. People appear to show more respect for the dead than for the Everliving God. Even in worldly sanctuaries it is generally forbidden to take photographs during religious ceremonies. Only after the ceremony is over and the participants step out of the sanctuary do the cameramen bustle about.

Should not we—God's very own people—have at least this much respect for our Maker?

Recognizing God as the Author of the marriage ceremony, and of religious services, and recognizing our responsibility under Jesus Christ to teach and instruct His Church, we have had to again make known God's decision in this matter.

IT IS IMPROPER, DISRESPECTFUL TO GOD AND HENCE EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN TO TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS DURING BAPTISMS, ORDINATIONS, THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY, OR DURING ANNUAL HOLY DAYS OR THE

WEEKLY SABBATHS, AND ALSO DURING ANY RELIGIOUS SERVICE ON WEEKDAYS WHEN A MINISTER IS PREACHING, OR ONE IS PRAYING.

When Pictures May Be Taken

There is nothing wrong with taking pictures. But there is a proper time and a proper place to take them.

Many young couples have been embarrassed at a wedding when unauthorized pictures are taken. This should not be. If the bridegroom and the bride want to have pictures taken, it is to be done *after and apart from the marriage ceremony*. That is only proper respect for the ceremony God ordained, and it is respectful to both participants and guests, who have come to witness the ceremony, not the cameraman!

No one should take pictures of religious services *on any Holy Days*. Take your pictures on weekdays.

However, during religious services on a weekday at a Festival there are occasions when pictures may be taken. It is permissible to photograph the Ambassador Chorale, individual singers or groups of singers—or a minister when announcements only are being read—when *proper prior authorization is obtained*. These functions are not expressly a duty of the office a minister occupies. It is respect *to the office* that God has established, which we must recognize.

We want you to have the opportunity to take personal mementos of the Festival home with you. But it is only proper that if a program is being presented to the entire congregation, the audience should not be distracted by dozens of unauthorized individuals attempting to take photographs. It will

be necessary hereafter, that any photographs taken during services be authorized by designated personnel at the Information Booth at whatever Festival location. These designated individuals have the authority to limit the number of people taking pictures—that the audience will not be unnecessarily distracted—and also to designate the areas from which photographs may be taken. Be sure you check with them before any photographs are taken during weekday services. Pictures may be taken before and after such services only when no congestion or confusion would result.

Of course, when no religious services or other programs are being presented, it is quite all right to take candid shots of your friends and relatives whom you may not have seen for the past year. We encourage you to do this—but be sure you do not wait until the last Holy Day. Your candid shots are better taken outside and on days other than Sabbaths. Pictures at baptisms should not be taken without approval of the participants and then only *apart from* and prior to the ceremony.

Lesson of Experience

Experience has taught us that most people do not take good photographs of special programs presented for everyone at the Feast. To make it possible for you to have every picture you want, at far less than the cost of film and development, and to have the right kind of photograph that will be a credit to the Church when you show it to friends, we prepare each year *The ENVOY*.

During the Festivals certain competent men on *The ENVOY* staff will be designated to take pictures of those particular things you would all like to see. They will be able to take them from the right position at the right time. In this way the audience will not be distracted by dozens of people, with tripods, flash blubs and other paraphernalia, stumbling over each other in order to get a single picture for themselves only. We want you all to have hundreds of pictures, and *The ENVOY* is the most satisfactory way we find to enable thousands of you to each have the photographs you cherish.

So let us hereafter show the kind of

respect to God that we should. He is the Author of ceremony, not of confusion. All of us can have every photo-

graph we desire, but we must do it orderly. Be sure to remember this whenever we assemble at God's Festivals.

Your Bible Questions Answered

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

Is it idolatry to salute the flag?

Saluting the flag is *misunderstood* by some sects. It all depends upon **WHAT you understand** by saluting the flag. To salute is not **IN ITSELF** an act of idolatry. It is merely a matter of *showing respect*—the same as when men lift their hats before the President or bow their heads at a solemn occasion.

Through Paul, God commands us to render respect and honor where they are due (Rom. 13:1-7). To pledge allegiance should mean to US that we are willing to *pay taxes*. It means we *pray* for those who are our leaders that our nation may live in peace in order for us to carry out the Work of God.

With the new addition of the words, "one nation *under* God," we are free to take this pledge of allegiance knowing that our allegiance is pledged *only* so far as this country is under God—under His authority in *obedience to His laws*.

The Bible commands us to be good citizens in whatever country we live, but our allegiance **FIRST** belongs to God. *Then* we are to obey all the laws of the land which do not require us to break one of the commands of God (Acts 4:19; 5:29). That is how far our allegiance should go.

The Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 16:20 states: "Greet ye one another with an *holy kiss*." Since we are to live by every word of God (Luke 4:4), shouldn't we also greet each other with a *holy kiss*?

To find the answer it is necessary to understand the history of what a holy kiss *represented* in that time.

An authoritative historian writing of the Apostle Paul's day states: "In the

early Christian Church the kiss of charity was practiced not only as a *friendly SALUTATION*, but as an act symbolic of love and Christian brotherhood" (*Unger's Bible Dictionary*).

The meaning is obvious. In the days of the Apostle Paul it was a **CUSTOM** of the people to greet one another with a kiss. It was *not a law of God*, nor a command from Him to greet people in that way. It was merely the customary method of salutation.

Today, it is the custom to greet one another by *shaking hands*. When WE extend the right hand of fellowship—or shake hands in greeting today, it is the equivalent of the holy kiss used in the Apostle Paul's day.

I have always wondered who the 24 elders mentioned in Revelation 4:10 and 5:8-10 are? Are they angels—or a different type of being?

The Bible does not directly state what their office is. But it is clear they are angelic spirit beings who have authority in God's Government. Revelation 4:10 mentions they have *crowns*, which typify a certain measure of authority.

These elders *are not and never have been men*. They are in heaven. **NO MAN** has ever ascended to heaven except Jesus Christ (John 3:13). Correctly translated, Revelation 5:9-10 should read: "And they [these elders] sang a new song, saying, Thou [Christ] art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed *them* [not us] to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made *them* [not us] unto our God kings and priests: and *they* [not we] shall reign on the earth."