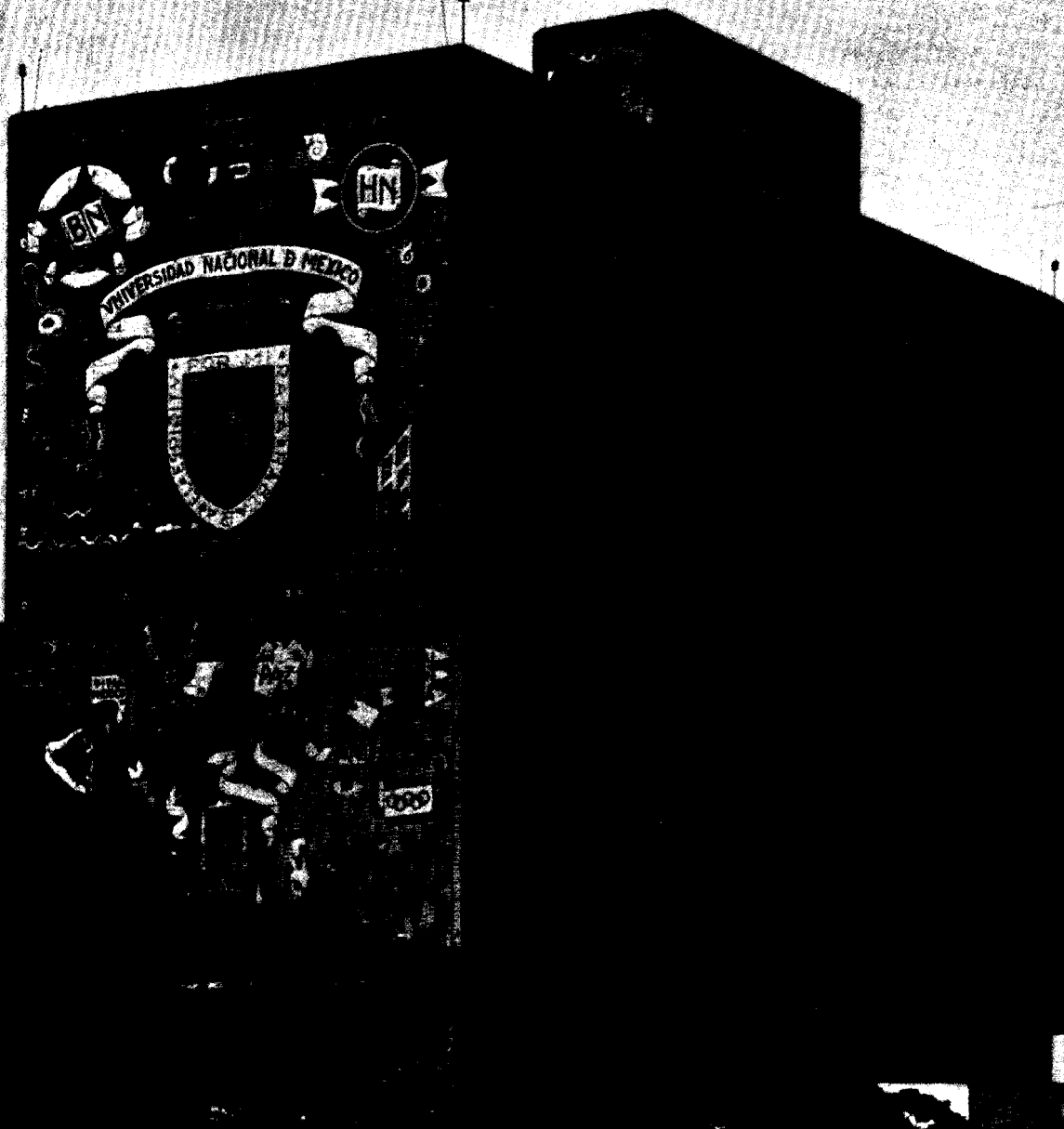


The

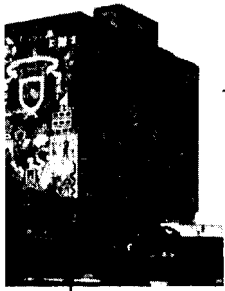
Good News

International Magazine of The Church of God



MEXICO CITY —
Springboard for the Spanish Work

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1997



More About Our Cover...

The University of Mexico (La Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), with an enrollment of over 100,000 students, is one of the largest and best-known universities in the world. Situated on the south side of Mexico City, a tourist mecca boasting over 7,000,000 residents, the university is a symbol of Latin America's struggle to find its place in today's modern world. Our cover features the colorful library building which is totally covered with murals and mosaics — a lively blend of Aztec, Spanish and modern motifs. It was in Mexico City that the Spanish Work's first office in a Latin country was established. Read about the fascinating history of the Spanish Work in the lead article.

Ambassador College Photo

What our READERS SAY...

Dear Mr. Armstrong: I just wanted to take a moment from your busy schedule to tell you how much I appreciate all the work that you, Garner Ted, and all the people who work at the college are doing for us. I have been a member of the Church of God for almost a year. I don't know what I would be doing now if I hadn't been shown the truth; probably drugs and rock festivals would have been my scene, or else married to an irresponsible boy. But now I am striving to overcome my human nature and grow to have good character so I can help others when Jesus Christ will rule the earth. And I can't wait until that day arrives!

I have been blessed this past year by striving to follow all the commandments. So I just say "thank you" from the bottom of my heart. I hope we will continue to produce the good quality literature that God has provided for us, to help others change their lives too. My prayers will always be with you and all the brethren around the world.

P. F., Kettering, Ohio

I am 15 years old and a freshman in high school. As of yesterday my parents have been in the church one year. Last year's Feast of Tabernacles was our first. At first I didn't want to go because I didn't want to leave my friends at school and I really didn't know any kids in the church. But I can say that I learned more there and had more fun than ever in my life. I hated to come back home. It really shook me up to compare kids' fun here and the kind of fun we had at Big Sandy.

Right now as I write this I think back to when we first started going to church. To me it was a big bore. I felt sorry for myself because it happened to me. Gradually I liked being around these people more and more. It seemed to me I didn't have as much fun with my school friends anymore. As much as I hated to admit it, I really liked

my new life. I didn't want to tell anyone because at first I let my parents know I didn't like this one bit. When I finally did tell them, I felt better and so did they!

Now that I understand things better I would like for you to enroll me in your new Bible Correspondence Course. Right now I am reading *God Speaks Out On the New Morality*. I am enjoying this very much.

Teen-ager, Odessa,
Texas

I have been listening to your broadcast, reading your literature, and attending Sabbath services for approximately eleven years. I have just gone along, understanding the principles and seeing how, if applied, they could make for a happy and successful life. I have always looked at other people and seen how, if they would do this or that, their life could be happier. But, up until now, I could never get it through my thick head that if I would apply all these lessons and principles to my life, it could be a fulfilling and happy one. I don't know what opened my eyes, but I suddenly began to realize that I had better start obeying God's laws.

Since the age of five or six, I have gradually learned more and more truths from the Bible through your great work and also from my parents. I am only too happy that God saw fit to wake me up to my self-righteous attitude and make me see what I have been doing all these years. Oh, I have tithed and kept the Sabbath and gone to the Feasts, but never with the right attitude. I've always done it for a selfish reason — that maybe I will be blessed. My parents have been and are now being blessed. I obeyed my parents as much as I had to in order to get by. They are wonderful people and have tried to show me that I can't do just what I have to; I've got to obey completely and wholeheartedly. I am now sev-

(Continued on page 13)

The Good News

International Magazine of
THE CHURCH OF GOD

ministering to its members
scattered abroad

September-October 1972

Volume XXI

Number 6

Published at Pasadena, California
© 1972 Worldwide Church of God

EDITOR

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

MANAGING EDITOR

David Jon Hill

SENIOR EDITORS

Roderick C. Meredith

Albert J. Portune

Herman L. Hoeh

Associate Editors

Richard H. Sedliack

Ronald Kelly

Contributing Editors

David Albert

Dennis G. Luker

David L. Antion

Ernest L. Martin

Dibar K. Apartian

Leslie L. McCullough

Frank Brown

Bill L. McDowell

Alfred E. Carrozzo

Raymond F. McNair

C. Wayne Cole

L. Leroy Neff

Raymond C. Cole

Richard F. Plache

William Dankenbring

John E. Portune

Ronald L. Darr

John Robinson

Charles V. Dorothy

Paul S. Royer

Charles F. Hunting

Norman A. Smith

Paul W. Kroll

Dean R. Wilson

Robert L. Kuhn

Clint C. Zimmerman

Lawson C. Briggs, *Copy Editor*

Thomas Haworth, *Art Editor*

BUSINESS MANAGER

Albert J. Portune

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS to the Editor, P. O. Box 111, Pasadena, California 91109.

Canadian members should address P. O. Box 44, Station A, Vancouver 1, B. C., Canada.

Our members in United Kingdom, Europe, and Africa should address the Editor, P. O. Box 111, St. Albans, Herts., England.

South Africa: P. O. Box 1060, Johannesburg, Transvaal, R. S. A.

Members in Australia and Southeast Asia should address the Editor, G. P. O. Box 345, Sydney, NSW 2001, Australia.

In the Philippines, P. O. Box 1111, Makati, Rizal D-708.

BE SURE TO NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY of any change in your address. Please include both old and new address. IMPORTANT!

THE SPANISH WORK THEN AND NOW

Just how and when did the Spanish Work begin? Whom did God use to raise it up? What growth has taken place thus far, and what must be done in the future? The Director of the Spanish Department of the Foreign Educational Service answers these questions in this interesting and informative report.

by Charles V. Dorothy

HOW ABOUT a trip to exotic South America? Surely you've heard of the "country" called South America — the land of Spanish señoritas, hot tacos, chili peppers, the giant cataract called Iguasú Falls, sleepy natives under a cactus, the "end of the world" of Cape Horn and the Straits of Magellan, the famous Mardi Gras of Rio!

Wouldn't it be exciting to travel there? Well, then, take out a pencil and paper (not a suitcase and airline ticket) and we will travel to this exotic area to see what God is accomplishing there.

Test Yourself

To comprehend this area better and to understand how God is working in this vast part of the world, you need to be able to answer a few questions to put yourself in the picture. Don't be afraid of the test — it won't spoil your trip even if you don't know all the answers.

QUESTION 1: Spanish, with several slight variations, is spoken throughout South America. True or False?

QUESTION 2: If you are in the U. S., which direction would you go from your area to arrive in South America?

QUESTION 3: If we draw a line due south from the state of Florida (no fair looking at a map now), that line would pass

(a) through the center of South America.



Ambassador College Photo
Dr. Charles Dorothy (right) Director of the Spanish Department, confers with Mr. Enrique Ruiz, manager of our office in Mexico City.

(b) to the west of South America, missing most of the continent.

(c) through the eastern tip of Brazil, missing most of South America.

QUESTION 4: Brazil is larger than the continental United States. True or False?

Let's see how you have done in preparing for your trip. First of all, South America is not a "country," of course, but a huge *continent* in which are nine Spanish-speaking countries, Portuguese-speaking Brazil, English-speaking Guyana and two "semi-colonies" (Surinam and Guiana). Latin America is a term which includes Central America and Mexico in *North America*, as well as the Spanish and Portuguese-speaking parts of South America. (The realm of the "Spanish Work" consists of 23 Spanish-speaking nations in the world, including Spain and the Spanish Sahara.)

If you said you would go *south* from your location — *wherever* that might be in the United States or most of Canada — you are only partly right. You would have to go *southeast*. Your line due south from Florida would pass *WEST* of the

Panama Canal, barely touch the westernmost tips of Ecuador and Peru and remain in the *Pacific Ocean*, *missing the whole landmass of South America!*

For the answer to the final question, Brazil, occupying nearly one half of the continent, including its easternmost

part, is larger than continental United States.

Now that you are coming along with me on this armchair trip, I am tempted to recite some of the exciting history of these intriguing lands "south of the border." But it would take many articles to cover the exciting adventures of the first man to attempt to explore South America (Ojeda in 1500), or Orellana's almost legendary sail down the Amazon River from Peru in 1541 and his account of the "topless" women, called Amazons, with whom he fought. (Since no pictures were taken of them, people still doubt he saw what he claimed). We could go on to the great liberator and world-government visionary, Simon Bolivar, and the heroic struggle of the *mestizos* and *criollos* for independence, but alas . . . that must be for another time.

What interests us now is the history of God's Work in the vast Spanish-speaking areas of the world.

How the Spanish Work Began

The Spanish Department has a somewhat privileged place in the annals of the Church of God, Philadelphia era. It started with two men — Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong and Dr. Benjamin L. Rea (then *Mr. Rea*) — and a fact-finding tour to South America in 1954. Their tour produced two clear-cut results: a first-hand familiarity with Latin culture and with anti-Americanism; and a conviction that our Spanish neighbors were rapidly developing ties with our rising competitor, *Europe*.

Back in those days the "foreign work" (as we called it then; now the Foreign Educational Service under Mr. Ronald Dart) was striving for "firsts," that is, new breakthroughs in carrying the truth to the world. Due to Dr. Rea's dogged perseverance, by 1958 we had a good number of Spanish booklets (including the Work's first booklet in any foreign language) and we were on 13 radio stations in South America in the Spanish language! That radio door was another "first" for the foreign work in this age. The Spanish Department enjoyed a heavy share of "firsts" in its early days.

For those of you who may not know

or remember, Dr. Rea was a Louisiana-born American with a Spanish-sounding name. In the service he became a medical corpsman and was wounded on Iwo Jima during World War II. Returning to civilian life, he received a master's degree in International Economics and Business Administration from Louisiana State University in 1948. Soon after taking a position as an investigator for about 300 insurance companies in Louisiana, he came in contact with the Church of God. Scigler Springs, California, in 1952, was his first Feast of Tabernacles. The following Passover in Texas he was hired as Professor of Spanish for Ambassador College at Pasadena.

Continuing to study and work diligently summers and between sessions, Dr. Rea received a Ph.D. in Spanish from *La Universidad Interamericana* in Mexico in 1960.

Dr. Rea was then transferred to England in 1960 to be a pillar in the raising up of a new college at Bricket Wood. He also continued with the Spanish Department. Structuring the new college and nourishing the Spanish Work, he drove himself constantly . . . to the detriment of his health. Suffering from very high blood pressure and a severe heart condition, Dr. Rea collapsed and died early in 1965, shortly after an upsetting interview with a persecuting London reporter. His last act was performed on behalf of the Work he so dearly loved.

He was a personal friend of mine and a fine person to be associated with. Most of all he was the one God originally used to build a four-year Spanish program at Ambassador and to initiate the World Tomorrow program in the Spanish language.

The Spanish Broadcast

After Dr. Rea's second trip to South America in 1957, his account of it was published as a "diary" in the then 24-page English-language PLAIN TRUTH. In it he wrote:

We are commanded to *watch* as we see the end approaching (Matt. 24:42; Mark 13:35). But before we watch we must know *what* to look for. . . . This, then, is the prime purpose of the present trip.

Another purpose is to lay the foundation, or to break ground, as it were, for the evangelization of the countries south of the frontiers of the United States. This Gospel of the Kingdom of God *must* be carried to these Gentile nations *as a witness* before the return of Jesus Christ (Matt. 24:14). There is nothing that is more sorely needed by these people than God's truth. (The trip has already been made. Plans are being made and time is being negotiated to begin broadcasting in South America this coming January!)

This broadcast did begin soon after that time. It was heard at first only in Montevideo, Uruguay and in Lima, Peru a *very small* beginning — and our poor-time, once-a-week, 15-minute *El MUNDO DE MAÑANA* program seemed very unpromising indeed. But God blessed that small effort. The earliest records I now have (1957 — before we began broadcasting) show a total of 282 letters (including those from Spanish-speaking people within the United States borders). In 1958, *after* we began broadcasting, 474 letters came in. That was a whopping 68% increase. I remember our excitement — our exultation: "the Spanish Work is *alive!*" In 1959 the letters jumped to 664 or a 40% increase. Yet our income for 1960 was a modest \$1,607.48. Reminds you of Mr. Armstrong and the Work in Eugene, Oregon, during the '30s, doesn't it?

For several more years we had startling *growth* percentages like 149%, 118%, etc., but of course the size of the Spanish Work was still very, very small. Then came the tragic and untimely death of Dr. Rea in England. In March of 1965, Mr. Ted Armstrong transferred the Spanish Department to Big Sandy under my direction.

Yours Truly

As for my background, I graduated from the University of Washington in Seattle with a B.A. in Political Science, and was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the Air Force Reserve. Then I came to Ambassador College in 1955. My plan in coming was a very un-Christian one: to strip the scales from the eyes of my longtime best friend and "adopted brother," David Jon Hill. His "embarrassing" religion — with its emphasis on literally believing the



Bible — seemed like a fraud to me. Thinking Mr. Hill had been deceived, I boldly dared to think I might be able to “un-deceive” him!

Instead it worked the other way — I got “un-deceived.”

With four years of Spanish and two years of Portuguese behind me, I continued Spanish classes at Ambassador out of sheer pleasure in that beautiful language. When Dr. Rea was transferred to Bricket Wood in 1960, it fell my lot to teach the Spanish classes and to supervise the fledgling “department,” such as remained on the Pasadena campus at that time. After receiving a Ph.D. in Latin American Studies in 1963, I was sent as a faculty member to help establish Ambassador College at Big Sandy, Texas in 1964.

The Smallest of Mustard Seeds

All this time we were planning a PLAIN TRUTH in Spanish. Those days before the birth of *La PURA VERDAD* (the Spanish PLAIN TRUTH) were sometimes very dark indeed, but our faithful department employees never lost hope. Principally we never lost hope because of the letters we received from questioning, excited, zealous and happy, or depressed and pleading human beings. *The Spanish-speaking people* kept us going.

We maintained a mailing list by sending out either a monthly letter or, as often as possible, a reprint article. This list had grown to almost 2,000 people when the department transferred from England to Big Sandy. Believe it or not, we thought that was an *impressive figure!* The next year it grew to 3,000 and in 1967, to 4,500 — an increase of 50% every year! That growth rate seemed phenomenal, considering the critical problems we faced not even one office in a Latin country, mail delays of up to three months, and long waits between published articles.

There was no advertising in periodicals, nor were we on top radio stations — still, a trickle of mail kept coming. The stations continued broadcasting and re-broadcasting Dr. Rea's tapes even though we repeatedly wrote them and even personally visited them *asking them to stop playing old, nearly worn-out tapes!*

Then in what seems now like very rapid succession (but at the time it seemed such a slow, up-hill fight) three things happened: we hired a broadcaster, opened an office in Mexico City, and began the Spanish PLAIN TRUTH magazine, *La PURA VERDAD*.

While the department was getting established in Big Sandy, Jesus Christ had been laying the groundwork for something we thought would be a long way off in the future — an office in Latin America. Mr. Enrique Ruiz, Mexican by birth, bilingual in English and Spanish, and a former Arthur Murray dance instructor from the Phoenix area, came to Ambassador College and graduated in 1967.

So it was that Mr. Ruiz, accompanied by his beautiful and artistic wife, Holly, and their son and daughter, soon took up residence in exotic Mexico City to staff and manage an office which Mr. Ted Armstrong and I opened there in late 1967.

On an earlier baptizing tour for the Spanish Work in 1962, Dr. Rea had met a tall, husky, jovial Puerto Rican named Pablo Gonzalez. Mr. Gonzalez was baptized at that time and continued working for the Government Printing Office, never dreaming what God had in store for him. In 1967, he was chosen by Mr. Ted Armstrong to become our broadcaster and moved to the United States to work for the Spanish Department at Big Sandy. Mr. Gonzalez, who ably assists me with editorial responsibilities (along with Mr. Victor Gutierrez and Mr. Dennis Peabworth, who is Managing Editor of *La PURA VERDAD*), is now (as we kid him) “almost 40” and is complemented by his very pleasant wife, Aurea, and two pretty little girls.

Very shortly thereafter, on the 34th anniversary of the beginning of the English-language edition — February, 1968 — the first issue of *La PURA VERDAD* came off the press.

A Big Breakthrough!

From November of 1968 until March of 1970, advertising in *Reader's Digest* Spanish editions swelled our circulation from just about 6,000 total subscribers to nearly 90,000 — the largest response to ads for any of

the foreign language departments.

A year later a vigorous renewal program endeavored to cut that list back to possibly 55,000, but we never again hit as low as 75,000 circulation. Almost mysteriously, the growth equaled — that is, balanced out — the cancellations! I say “mysteriously” because the Spanish broadcast is aired on only eight radio stations and for only 15 minutes *once a week*.

It is obvious that 15 minutes a week will not build much of a listening audience. Furthermore, there is no longer an advertising campaign in Spanish and there has not been *for over two years*. STILL *La PURA VERDAD* CONTINUES GROWING BY 2,000 NEW SUBSCRIBERS A MONTH! (At the time of this writing 100,000 subscribers are receiving *La PURA VERDAD* worldwide.)

Of course it is not entirely mysterious. First of all, God is blessing the Spanish Work. Secondly, the Latins have a free and open way of passing on and spreading around whatever they consider to be “a good thing.” While a British, American or Australian reader, for example, may tend to keep *The PLAIN TRUTH* to himself, a Latin will tend to share it with all his family *and his friends*. A third factor is that there is less competition in Latin America from high-quality magazines. *La PURA VERDAD* has some virgin fields in which to expand!

Into Southern South America

Possibly the most exciting and far-reaching “first” for us took place through a strange set of circumstances at the end of 1967. We had been sending literature to a small sect headed by a Señor Loje of Lima, Peru, after he had responded to our program on radio *La Cronica* in Lima.

This small group of Peruvians literally believe themselves to be of full-blooded Jewish descent — observing the Jewish festivals, practicing circumcision (without which, they believe, one cannot be saved), and *animal sacrifices* — but using New Testament phraseology. They claim Christ as their Savior, yet very much practice “salvation by works.”

(Continued on inside back cover)

"OBEDIENT" CHILDREN ARE NOT ENOUGH!

Some parents are making a fatal mistake in their child rearing and heading for heartbreak in the years ahead. You could be one of them. If merely making your children OBEDIENT is your only goal, you will probably find yourself with an uphill battle for 10-20 years, ending with great disappointment and a tremendous "generation gap."

by Robert E. Fahey

WHAT DO you wish to accomplish in training your child? Have you ever stopped to consider?

What overriding GOAL do you have in mind as the ultimate end point of approximately twenty years of feeding, clothing, protecting and teaching your offspring from infancy on through babyhood, childhood, teen-age?

Unless you can see, and consciously work toward the *right* goal, right results *cannot* be guaranteed.

What Is the Right Goal?

The overall purpose of your child rearing should be to develop your children into balanced, happy, mature, well-adjusted, GODLY ADULTS. They will need to become capable, reliable persons prepared for the *responsibility* of adulthood, and the PROBLEMS of adulthood.

Ideally they should be able to take their place in society without the hang-ups and complexes *you* have had to fight all these years! That should be your overall goal!

So how would you approach such a goal? Obviously the best of all examples to look to is that of your spiritual Father. God the Father is doing a great deal of child rearing Himself. He

knows how to do it. He has already SUCCEEDED — having "reared" Abraham, Moses, David, Daniel and many others. *His system WORKS!*

More Than Just Punishment and Obedience

Some parents seem to think their only job is to discipline. They seem to feel the only thing that counts is obedience. Why? Actually it's often just because they are so selfish themselves. Such parents just want their children to stay out of their hair — not to "bother" them.

Others may strive to have obedient children for vanity's sake. When friends or relatives visit, they show off. "Sit down!" "Go to your room!" they bark. Their children obediently trot off to bed. Guests are supposed to be impressed.

But what if the only way God worked with *you* was through discipline? What if every error received a sound whack? What if every wrong thought, selfish act, foolish mistake resulted in so many swats? What if not one sin passed "unnoticed" and there was no warmth, no love, no evidence that God was "concerned" FOR YOU, except for a continual rain of swats, spiritual spankings, and a constant negative "NO" booming in your ears?

You would become so discouraged, so despondent and terribly UNHAPPY, that if you didn't openly *rebel*, you would turn inward, and shrivel up within your own personality. You would feel that you could *never* really accomplish what your Father expected of you. And so you would probably *quit trying!* Except — just enough to keep from getting "swats."

YOUR children will react the same way if treated that way! And you will someday wonder why your children who *seemed* so obedient as youngsters have become so distant, so *heartless* and *unfeeling*, as adults.

Discipline *alone* WILL NOT WORK! Some parents have tried it and ulti-

mately have actually come to say something like this: "I have spanked him till I am blue in the face and he *still* doesn't obey me." Something more important was *lacking*.

Your spiritual Father is known for His love and mercy.

Even when He punishes, He doesn't give you what you really deserve. Rather, His *heart* is turned toward you.

He *forgives*. Do *your* children think of *you* as merciful, like your heavenly Father? Is your heart turned toward them and their hearts toward you with warmth, trust and affection?

A characteristic of God's true Church, bearing to the world the last warning message before Christ's return, and preparing the way for His appearance, is expressed in the prophecy of Malachi 4:6: "And he [speaking of the combined Work of God today] shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers. . . ."

Is your son's or daughter's heart turned toward you? Is yours turned toward him or her? If not, your *basic approach* to child rearing is wrong!

God gives you more than mercy. He constantly works to ENCOURAGE you. He makes you laugh. He rewards your efforts with blessings. Even though you had much to unlearn as a newly baptized Christian, but with *good intentions*, He blessed you, leading you gradually along the right way. This is the way you must do with your children.

Child rearing is synonymous with LOVE and character building. Discipline is a *part* of both. But so are encouragement, affection, listening and positive instruction. If temporary obedience is your goal, and you use *only discipline* to get it, your children may flee from you when they are able, just as the inmates of the concentration camps fled from their Nazi persecutors whenever they had the chance.

Many children have run away from home because of the intolerant behaviour of parents. Each week 10,000

American children run away — or over half a million a year!

Don't push your children into making a similar mistake which they'll regret later. **DON'T MAKE DISCIPLINE YOUR ONLY FORM OF CHILD REARING!**

Training in Making Decisions

When your child is a baby, you must totally dominate him. You decide what he will eat, what clothes to wear, where he should be and when. As he gets older, you can give him more freedom in these areas. Still maintaining overall supervision, you gradually widen the area in which you let him make decisions.

Let your child decide what colors to use in his coloring book. Then, what clothes to wear. Still later, give him a chance to decide how to spend part of his savings or allowance.

Let him even decide to buy something, occasionally, that may be a waste of money. Better for him to waste a little when he is young and learn from it, than to lose much more when he is older, with the responsibility of a wife and child of his own. Unfortunately, many have not learned the right use of money until the stakes are so high that permanent damage is done to their marriage and financial security!

God is teaching you to decide — on your own. He calls it building *character*. He guides you, gives you the principles involved — warns you that obeying His laws brings blessings, and not obeying them brings curses. He gives case studies in His Word. He even **COMMANDS** you to choose His way. But, the final decision is in your hands. As God's son, you must decide — and bear the consequences of your decisions.

SO TEACH YOUR CHILDREN TO MAKE DECISIONS. When they start school, they will have to decide what friends to spend time with, what books to read, and later whether to engage in premarital sex and use drugs. **YOU** may not be there to guide them at each crucial, decisive moment. They will have to decide **BY THEMSELVES**. Equip them for that time *ahead* of time! Give them practice **NOW** in making sound decisions.

The key is to have areas in which your child can feel free to make up his own mind. *You* decide whether he should put his hand into a fire. *You* dictate to him about going into the street. Those areas are not for him to decide for himself. But is it really so critical which playsuit he wears? Or what toys he takes to church services, as long as they are suitable for the time and place?

Your daughter may feel she has invented a new way to sew. You know it won't work. Explain it to her. Show her *why* it won't work, without mocking her for coming up with such a *childish* idea. If she doesn't feel you know what you are talking about, *let her try it!* When it doesn't work for **EXACTLY THE REASONS** you said, she will learn more than sewing.

And she will see you aren't as dumb as she might have thought — which will be crucial for her when she is seventeen and deciding if she should follow your advice about avoiding sex before marriage — or drugs — or whether to marry Freddie anyway when you tell her it would be a bad match.

But leave off the "I-told-you-sos" which only serve to tickle your vanity and widen the gap between you and your child.

Main Principle of Rulership

You are the ruler of your child. But you need to realize the cornerstone principle for rulership God's way. "You know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great *exercise authority upon them,*" said Jesus Christ. "But **IT SHALL NOT BE SO AMONG YOU:** but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister, and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your **SERVANT**" (Matt. 20:25-27).

Have you ever thought of it this way? You are your child's servant. You are to **SERVE** him by preparing him for adulthood. Not like a demagogue who will not tolerate any difference of opinion, nor any delegating of decision making, but like a wise teacher, teaching your child the way to make proper decisions. He can only learn that by

PRACTICE. And **PRACTICE** implies some **MISTAKES.** *Your* job is to make sure they are *little* mistakes, not life-shattering ones.

How much better it is to serve the children God has given you by helping them to learn that they do need their parents' advice as they walk the road of life. How much better that they learn that when mom and dad say "no," there is usually a very good **REASON.** They have seen the *proof.* Let them be used to admitting, "I was wrong," without shame or jeering.

If you rule your children Christ's way, they will **WANT** your rule. They will learn it is for their good. They won't feel fettered by it, as if bound in a straight-jacket. They will be *free* in it. They will respect you for it. And God will guarantee them a long, happy life for respecting their parents (Ex. 20:12).

What to Teach Your Child

There are many other things to teach your child to prepare him to be a godly adult.

First, teach him to express himself. You can do this by letting smaller children go over the day's events before bedtime. Sure, listening to him recount an event that happened while you were at work can be tiring and boring — but it's profitable to the storyteller. It's something similar to Spokesman Club, where the men of God's Church learn to put their thoughts, opinions, questions, doubts and fears into words. They receive a diploma **AFTER** they can speak from the **HEART!**

You should also teach your child to express himself by **LISTENING** to and **ANSWERING** his questions — not squelching them. Treat his bold or heretical questions with respect. A question that sounds terrible to you must have been in his *mind* before it comes out of his mouth. And if it is there, it needs an answer!

Also, one question lays the groundwork for others. Sometimes the proper answer to one of these questions, if heeded, will save him untold trouble. Too many parents squelch the "silly" questions. So they never get a chance to hear the big ones!

Third, teach your child to DO THINGS. Ever see a young boy standing awkwardly beside a swimming pool while all his friends are enthusiastically in it? He can't swim. He is self-conscious. An outsider. And *very* unhappy. He is also losing valuable leadership training. Avoid allowing inferiority and other personality complexes to develop — teach him to swim.

If possible, give him or her opportunity to go horseback riding. Teach him or her to make things, such as cookies and doll clothes for girls and model airplanes and boats for boys. Go on hikes, picnics, buy a kite and help him fly it, take him to sports events.

Fourth, develop your child's interests as fully as you are able. His whole life will be richer. He will be able to mix with all kinds of people and realize his full leadership potential. Did you ever notice that the leaders in God's Church have a broad range of interests and well-rounded personalities? Help your child to become like Christ in this as much as in other ways.

Fifth, teach him the proper *use of power*. Money is a form of power. Your child should learn how to use it wisely. A car is power. So is a boat, roller skates, BB gun or a bicycle. Children will misuse these unless trained.

Sixth, teach your child to FACE TRIALS BRAVELY. A broken toy can be a major crisis if you're four. So can a dead pet. Take time to put these "trials" into perspective. A broken toy can open the door for you to explain the importance of buying quality items. Or proper care of possessions. Or even principles of maintenance and repair. The dead pet is different from a dead human. Teach your child the difference. Just your sitting down and explaining the overview will take much of the sting out of the "trial." It also narrows any potential "generation gap."

Your own example in facing YOUR trials is also important. If you are dressed to go out and your child spills milk down your best outfit — YOU have a trial. If an otherwise genteel mother becomes a screaming witch, hurling abuse at a glass-shattering

pitch, your child learns BY EXAMPLE *not* to face trials bravely. He will also tend to fly apart in the face of trials.

Actions speak louder than words. To expect your child to stand firm in a crisis, you must stand firm first.

Teach Them to Face the World

You should also teach your children that there are problems in the world — horrible, heartrending problems. Then demonstrate that GOD HAS THE ANSWERS.

If someone becomes ill or involved in an accident, THERE ARE REASONS — usually easily defined. Teach your child. Show him the *cause* and *effect* principle. Show him how to avoid the effect by following God's way of life in the first place. Older children will see girls drop out of school, pregnant. Show them the effect on the girl, her family, the boy and his family and even on the unborn child itself.

But take care! All children are idealistic. They view the world through rose-colored glasses, and it's a good thing they do. If any of us could see all the evil, and all the trials and problems ahead of us, *at once*, we would feel defeated before we start.

The rose-colored glasses gradually have to go. But remove them gently; don't rip them from their faces.

If you tell your child how rotten the world is, he will likely not believe it is so bad. And there is no purpose served by shouting, "You wait till you have to earn your own living, it's *tough* out there!" What you say is true. But you will make more progress by *positive* instruction. Show the FRUITS of the wrong way. Point to the FRUITS of the right way. When *all the facts* are presented, in an atmosphere of reason, few children will knowingly and imperiously choose the automatic curses of the wrong way.

It is up to you to maintain an atmosphere of reason. If you continually discourage your child, he will become bitter and resentful. Then Satan can more easily influence him. You must keep an atmosphere of reason by being *reasonable* and fair yourself. God tells us — and let's always remember it — "Fathers, provoke not your children to

anger, lest they be discouraged" (Col. 3:21).

How to Teach Obedience

Finally, you should teach your children obedience mainly by *setting them an example* of respect for the laws of God and man. As God is doing with you, teach them to respond quickly when instructions are given. Be sure you have your child's attention, then tell him what you want him to do. Back up your words with discipline *if necessary* — in love.

Above all things, don't constantly use the phrase, "How many times do I have to tell you . . .?" or "Do you want a spanking?" (talk about ridiculous questions — no wonder there is a generation gap!) or "If you don't do as I said, I'm going to . . ." — that is NOT effectively teaching OBEDIENCE. Instead, you are encouraging delayed response, the psychology of last-minute escapes, the deathbed repentance syndrome.

You should also teach your children the principle behind obedience. In your regular Bible studies, point out the clear lessons of what happened to those who obeyed God and those who disobeyed. Always stress this vital principle so that the lesson is always driven home.

Remember your real goal is *long-term, willing* obedience. It is not something short-term like getting your child to go to bed. You certainly cannot expect real lasting OBEDIENCE to God or man if you take such a short-sighted approach.

Keep your long-term goal in mind. Solomon described it: "My son, if your heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine. Yea, my reins shall rejoice, when *thy lips speak right things*" (Prov. 23:15-16). Solomon saw the proper goal was more than temporary obedience.

When your child, no longer a child, reaches maturity and enjoys a life of happiness, balance, wisdom and sound judgment, without the cares and kick-backs of disobedience, then you can say that your child training has been a success. You will have accomplished the real goal of child rearing! □

An Open Letter

TO YOUNG PEOPLE

by Tom Carrozzo

WHEN I was about five years old, I remember going to literally dozens of churches with my parents. First one and then another. My dad was searching for something, and I don't believe *even he* knew what.

One night on our way to a sports arena in San Diego, California, to hear an "evangelist" named Jack Shuler, my dad's twisting of the radio knob stopped abruptly as he heard Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's voice. Little did my parents know that from that point forward our lives would be drastically changed!

At last my dad found what he had been searching for! My mother, however, did not share his enthusiasm. "He is just another crackpot," she retorted in regard to Mr. Armstrong. (By this time, she had "had it" with religion.)

But the fruits proved Mr. Armstrong was not "just another crackpot." A short time later both my parents were baptized.

What a dramatic change took place! Suddenly we could not observe Easter, Christmas, or any other pagan holidays, nor could we eat pork, shrimp, lobster or clams. Our whole world was turned upside down! My life was suddenly changed very abruptly and, I thought, cruelly. Overnight I became an "oddball" and a "freak."

I soon learned that I wouldn't get anywhere by telling my classmates about the pagan origins of this world's holidays, or about pork being unclean. So I decided to *compromise*. I would live a dual standard, one standard at home, and one standard at school.

I had no idea to what extent I would have to fight this habit of "dualism" later on in life. However, for the time being, the compromise theory seemed to work fairly well. I took notes in Sabbath services, and everyone thought I was a "good boy." But when I was at school, I would act like all the others.

When Valentine's Day came around, I made valentines, and I received them. But before I got home I got rid of them. I sang "Silent Night" at the "Christmas" assembly we had at school — after all, everybody else was singing, and I didn't want to be different. And anyway, that was "dad's religion," and since he couldn't see what I was doing while at school, why kick the system? — Why go against what all my friends were doing? It was a lot easier to go with the tide than to stand up for what *dad* believed. For some reason, at age eight or ten, it was far more important what my "buddies" thought of me than what God thought, or what my dad thought.

My philosophy of life began to cause problems for me. I found myself compromising more and more. I began making up stories about the times I missed school for the Holy Days and became more and more a follower. My two best friends were not teaching me anything good. They taught me a lot of nasty, dirty, vile little things that were the exact antithesis of the way of peace of mind and *true* happiness.

Down, down, they pulled me to the depths of childish depravity. I began a lonely, disappointing, heartbreaking, futile search for some new thrill that could somehow give my life more spice, more meaning, more of a "kick."

A song that was popular when I was a teen-ager should have given me a clue as to how far I would get. It was called "Kicks." Part of the words were: "Kicks just keep getting harder to find, and all your kicks won't bring you peace of mind; before you find out, it's too late. You'd better get straight, but not with kicks."

But somehow I just wouldn't listen. I had grown up in the shadow of the Ark, so to speak; I had grown up with the words of Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong reverberating and echoing in my ears, and nothing he or my parents said had any meaning to me. I had heard it all before, and my only hope was that I could "get mine" before the bombs fell.

The knowledge I had was not precious to me. It had turned me into a "freak" when I was in grade school, and in high school it kept me from having any "fun."

So I ran as far away as I could from the truth. I closed my ears to it, and I had a "good time."

Or did I?

I got into one kind of trouble and then another when I was in junior high and high school. The world was a brightly wrapped package of tinsel and glitter that whispered in my ear and enticed me to come and have my fill of the cheap thrills it had to offer. And I was too weak to resist. Yes, the thrills were cheap in that they had no real value — but what a bitter price I had to pay for them! The price was paid in mental and physical suffering that I would never wish on anybody.

I spent countless nights lying in bed at night, staring at the ceiling wondering if someone was going to find out about the times I sneaked out at night to ride my Honda in the mountains against my parents' orders, or something else I had done. What had been sweet in my mouth became bitter in my stomach, but somehow, after I had vomited it up, I went back to it and started the process all over again.

I just *wouldn't* learn the lesson. The worry, the heart-ache, the trauma of getting caught did not even begin to compare with the momentary kick of doing what was wrong.

I cursed the fact that I had been the child of a member of God's Church. I knew too much, and everytime I did something wrong, I knew what was coming.

Why wouldn't God just leave me alone? Why couldn't I have a few minutes of "pleasure" here and there without someone finding out about it, or without my own feelings of guilt coming up to choke my "good times" away, turning them into a horrible nightmare?

Why did it bother me so much? My guilt seemed to eat at me like some kind of cancer that started in my intestines and spread its corruption through my entire body. I tried to rationalize it away, but it was like a ghost that came to haunt me at night and steal my sleep.

As time progressed, I found myself relieved when I got caught.

Yes, I walked down the road some of you teen-agers may be walking down right now. I tried to reject the training I had received. I turned my back on God, and I found out how easy it is for Him to bring a person back.

He didn't let me get *too far* before I got on my knees and called His name — and amazingly, in spite of my rebellion, He heard me.

Throughout this entire time, I never once considered what I was doing to my parents. My dad was so totally dedicated to the Work I had grown to resent, that there was no communication between us whatsoever. Thankfully though, something happened to change all that.

When I was a senior in high school, I had a "good time" — but it seems the teachers found out about what a "good time" I was having. I found myself in the same old mess. After telling the principal my side of the story, he said: "Well, Tom, I want you to tell your dad what you have done, and we will talk to you later."

Oh, boy! Was I ever in trouble! My dad was going to kill me! He would beat me until the flesh fell off my bones and I died — or so I thought.

After many hours of torment and mental anguish, I finally got the courage to tell him what I had done, and then I braced myself for the verbal onslaught I knew was coming.

I was in for a surprise.

I watched dad, and I couldn't believe what was happening. I might as well have hit him in the face with a brick. I saw the hurt of many years come up from somewhere deep within him and spread itself over the lines that I had helped etch into his face. He grabbed a chair and sat down, and with head in hands, my dad cried.

Suddenly it dawned on me how much I had done to hurt him over the years, and as that realization came, so came my own tears.

And there we were. He stood up and hugged me, and we both just wept for a long time. And do you know, at that precise moment a bond was created between my dad and me that will never be broken.

I wish some of you could have what we have. I waited until just before I was graduated from high school to get to know my parents, and then I went off to college. I missed them then, and I wished I had gotten to know them so much better, so much sooner.

Isn't it time some of you young people got to know *your* parents? Don't wait as long as I did. Don't be like I was. When you know too much, you can't just reject the knowledge you have been given. Believe me, I tried!

When I realized that God was really working with me and calling me, it was not hard for me to heed that call. I had been beaten down until I had no more strength to resist. I had resisted what, deep down inside, I had known was true for years. I had seen too much to ever really turn my back on the truth for very long.

Let me give you a few illustrations.

My entire family was involved in a car accident on the way to the Feast of Tabernacles in 1957. My mother sustained internal injuries which were of a very serious nature. She lost more blood than the average human being could normally stand to lose. She didn't have a blood transfusion — she was anointed and relied on God for healing. Physically speaking, she should have died — but she didn't.

I believe God healed her.

That same year, ignorantly, we drove our twisted, broken, imperfectly repaired car home from Big Sandy, Texas, without knowing the steering column was not properly connected to the wheels. Over tortuous, winding roads we drove, across the burning desert and through rugged mountains to San Diego. And there, as we reached home, we found we could not even turn around on the street in front of our house. The insurance man was horrified when he learned the condition our car was in.

Oh, I suppose you could explain that one away somehow, but I think it was a miracle.

As a result of the car accident I mentioned, my mother was unable to have any more children. I was an only child, and I was sure I always would be. And then came the time, 19 years later, that I held the new life that was my first little sister in my own trembling hands. She was half an hour old, and tears streaked down my face as I looked at her sleeping form and realized what a miracle she was! Now to top it all, I have *another* sister!

Well, I guess I am an emotional person. But when I think of the tremendous way God has worked in my life, and in the lives of my parents, I can't help being very deeply moved.

Not only did I experience these miracles with my parents, but I saw many more signs of God working in *MY* life.

I was *personally* healed many times. I *personally* had many prayers answered, even when I was still finishing high school. I *personally* had it proved to me time and time again that this is *God's* Church which I have been associated with now for over fifteen years. I have seen literally dozens of prophecies from the *World Tomorrow* broadcast come to pass. I would have to be a raving imbecile to so blind myself to the prophecies being fulfilled, the handwriting on the wall for modern civilization.

(Continued on page 13)

An Open Letter

TO PARENTS

by Alfred Carrozzo

ONE OF the most important God-given responsibilities we parents have is our children. Their safety and future depend on how we fulfill our responsibilities.

Part of the great commission given to us in this end time is the task of turning the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to the fathers (Mal. 4:6). We should be the ones setting the example of proper parent-child relationships. How are we doing?

What do our children *really* think about “our” religion? What effect has the truth of God had on them? Do we just assume they are agreeing with us?

One of the greatest mistakes we parents can make when we come to the knowledge of God’s truth is to neglect, ignore, or otherwise disregard our children. If we, as God’s people, neglect our children, tragedy will result.

I want to share with you some personal experiences. Perhaps you can learn from the *mistakes* I have made. Maybe you can avoid the same mistakes and spare yourself a mountain of disappointment, grief and heartache.

There was a time when I was miserable. Nothing was right in my life. Looking around, I found the same miserable condition everywhere. My neighbors on the left were terribly unhappy. Those on the right were even worse off. The people across the street were in the same miserable state.

I began to ask: “Why? Why so much suffering in this life?” I had always been taught about God. I was told God was kind, loving, perfect. I was told He cared for us. But now it seemed to me He didn’t care.

I viewed all humanity and saw nothing but unhappiness and suffering. I thought if God existed He must be a monster. I wondered why He would allow war, sickness, depravity. If He existed, I thought, He must surely enjoy seeing people suffer, because the world was filled with misery, heartache and sorrow.

I wanted answers. Surely there must be someone somewhere who could tell me what was happening. I turned to religion first. Being reared as a Catholic, I went to the priest. I asked the most basic questions about life: “Who are we? Why are we? Where are we going? What is life all about?”

It was a shocking experience. He didn’t really know! I was told to “have faith, but don’t ask such questions.” He said: “Trust God and the church — only believe. God will work it out.” But I continued to be plagued by my thoughts.

I thought surely God wouldn’t leave humanity helplessly lost in this vortex of suffering, anguish and despair.

Having been taught the Bible was God’s Word, I began to study it for some answers. As I continued to search the Bible, I found that God said He would build His Church. He said the gates of hell would never prevail against it.

Somewhere, I said to myself, that Church exists. This was the beginning of a two-year search for God’s true Church. I began going to one church, then another — searching, seeking, questioning. I listened to radio preachers, evangelists and ministers of all types. I attended evangelistic campaigns and studied the Bible diligently.

Soon I began to understand God’s Word. I could see how the basic teachings of “Christianity” were contrary to the Bible. I began to talk it up among my friends and relatives, thinking someone would come up with the answers.

Finally, I heard the voice of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong come thundering over the car radio one night. He was completely captivating. I could hardly believe my ears! Everything he said *rang true*. It was totally compatible with the Bible. He dared to “tell it like it is.” He even dared to cover Bible prophecy, and he didn’t apologize.

This was the end of my search!

It was so thrilling to learn the truth of God that I devoured every magazine, every booklet, the *Ambassador College Correspondence Course* — everything! My whole life began to change. I wanted everyone to have what God was giving me.

I immediately jumped on the proverbial soapbox and began to “preach” to others. It began with my wife, who said she could see no difference in this religion from any other. She had been through the mill with me for over two years, and by this time she had had as much as she felt she could take. But I was persistent. I insisted this was *different*. I quit all other activities with other churches and concentrated on the truth of God.

Soon the rest of the family began to feel the impact of my “ministry.” I was “shouting from the housetop.” The shouting began to alienate my mother, brother, five sisters and the rest of the family. Little did I realize what a giant mistake I was making. The scars of such mistakes remain to this day.

I had more zeal than wisdom. I was a gung-ho, let-’em-have-it, no-holds-barred enthusiast. I just knew the whole world would want to know of these precious truths God was revealing to me through *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast and *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine. And of course, I

took it for granted my wife and son would *automatically* go along with it.

My son, Tom, was five years old at the time. I reasoned that he was much too young to understand or be affected in any way. I was going to wait until he grew up a bit more, and then I would begin to explain all about the way of life we were now beginning. I was certain he would understand and accept it all when he was old enough.

I zealously began to "preach" against Easter, Christmas, and all the other pagan holidays. I "preached" about the evils of pork, shrimp, rabbit and all unclean foods.

Soon we began to keep the Festivals of God. It was thrilling. Our lives were being turned right side up. God was providing the answers to the most important questions in life. Everything was beginning to fit into place. It was fantastic!

Little did I realize the profound effect this dramatic and drastic change in our lives would have on our five-year-old. I didn't even consider Tom's feelings. I didn't look at it from his point of view.

Whether a child is five, ten, or *two* — he is profoundly affected by his parents. Tom was no exception. He began to be ashamed. He began to apologize to his friends. He was confused, bewildered, dumbfounded.

Where could he turn? What could he do? His whole world was suddenly changed, and he didn't know why. And no one explained, least of all his dad. I didn't think he could understand, nor did I think it mattered. My attitude continued through the most important, formative years of Tom's life. It had a deep and lasting effect on him.

I have sat with my head in my hands and shed many tears of sorrow over the many mistakes I have made as a parent. I've said: "If I had it to do over, it would be very different." I seemingly did everything wrong.

Let me tell you about some of the most serious mistakes I've made. Perhaps some of you are making the same mistakes right now. But you can *change* before it is too late.

I suppose the first mistake I made was taking Tom for granted. I considered him as chattel. He would *automatically* go along with everything I did, I reasoned. *Surely*, I thought, he wouldn't dare think for himself. *Of course* he would understand dad was concerned for his welfare. He didn't have to be told everything dad was doing would be for his good. *Undoubtedly* he would understand and appreciate it — so I thought.

Even at five years of age, Tom had ideas of his own. He didn't really like sitting in Sabbath services for two hours or so. He rather enjoyed his Saturday afternoons in the park or over at Grandma's. He resented the sudden change in his life, *even at age five!*

But I didn't consider his feelings. I just TOOK HIM FOR GRANTED!

Don't you make the same mistake with your son or daughter. It could be tragic!

One of the greatest mistakes I made with my son was to simply *neglect him*. I got so involved in my own personal Bible study, prayer and overcoming, there was no time left for the family.

I vividly remember coming home from work and

heading directly for the back room where I would study the *Ambassador College Correspondence Course* until my wife would call me to dinner. She would usually have to call several times before I would drag myself away. Once at the table, I gobbled my food down without a word. As soon as I had finished, I headed for the back room again.

About eight-thirty, my wife would bring Tom in to say "Good night" before she put him to bed. I would take a minute or so to say "Good night," and that would be the last time we would see each other until dinner the next night, when we would go through the same routine again.

Night after night, we would go through the same ritual. Never did I consider that *Tom was hungering for my attention*. I neglected him at the time he needed me most — the time when his whole little world was being turned upside-down! It was a drastic mistake!!

You may be making the same mistake now. Stop, before it is too late!

I suppose I could write a book about the many mistakes I have made with my Tom — mistakes that caused him to resent me and "my religion."

Parents, LISTEN!

Your children may *resent* the fact that they are your children. They may wish their parents hadn't been called at this time. They may wish they weren't "second-generation Christians." They may wish God would leave them alone.

But He won't!

Your children are special. They are special because they are *your* children. God has special concern for each of them. He doesn't take them for granted. God isn't going to neglect to do His part. How about you?

Don't you make the same mistakes so many have made before you. As I look back over those early years of my Christian life, I can plainly see the mistakes I made. If I could relive those years, it would be very different.

I would make a lot of changes. First of all, I would *PRAY* for *guidance*. I would beseech God to show me *how* to always make the right decisions regarding my son. I would pray every morning for the wisdom to know what was best for him each day. I would break my prayers up fine. I would go into detail. I would ask for specific answers in each situation.

I would never lean on my own understanding, but I would always rely on God to show me, teach me, guide me. How often do *you* seek God's help with your children? He is waiting eagerly to show you the way. All you need do is ask. Parents, a large portion of your daily prayers should be about *your children*.

Our children need love and affection. Given another opportunity, I would be sure to show Tom proper LOVE AND AFFECTION. I would be very considerate of his feelings. I would be understanding. I would show sincere interest and concern. I would hug and kiss him. I would break down any mental barriers there might be between us. He would know I really cared. He would be able to see that the truth of God made me a better father. I would TAKE TIME with him!

Every child needs to feel secure. When his whole life is changed and the whole world seemingly comes crashing down on him, he needs to know someone cares. If his

parents don't have love and concern — and show it — it could be tragic.

As I reflect back over the early years, I can clearly see that Tom was starving for that love and affection. He needed to be assured someone cared.

Your children at this very moment may be in that same condition. You may be so involved with your personal "Christian growth" that you don't have *time* to provide the attention your children so desperately need.

You may find you and your children drifting apart when you really should be drawing much closer together. It has happened before, and it probably will happen again. But it need NOT happen to you — if you can learn from the mistakes of others.

In those early years particularly, Tom and I should have spent a lot more time together. But I neglected him. If I had it to do over it would be different. We would do things together. We would wrestle around in the yard together.

I would be sure to set aside a Sunday regularly to spend with Tom. We would go places alone, as a family or with his friends. We would hunt and fish. We would play tennis or pool. We would swim together, go to the beach together, go boating together. We would plan special trips, events, outings, far in advance. We would talk about them and look forward to them.

I would be sure always to communicate with Tom, if I could do it over. I don't mean just "talk" to him — I mean *communicate* with him. It would be a two-way street. I remember how he would go to others with his problems rather than his own father. I remember how uneasy he was when we would talk, because we didn't communicate. It was not a two-way conversation — he just listened, I talked.

It would be different if I could do it over. I would *LISTEN* to his problems. I would show a genuine interest in *all* his activities. I would ask each day: "How did it go today?" and be really interested in his answer. I would ask about school. We would talk about his problems. I would be sympathetic and listen intently when he would tell me about his frustrations with other children. I would take time to explain how he should handle each situation that might come up, whether with the school "bully," or the kids that might tease him about the Feast of Tabernacles.

Whenever he had a problem, I would always be there to listen. I would gain his confidence, and he would always come to me when he needed help. It would be very different — if I could do it over.

How are you doing with your children right now? DO YOU COMMUNICATE?

Failing to communicate with their children is one of the biggest mistakes parents in God's Church make today. Your children need to understand. They need to know why *your* religion is different from every other religion.

I remember the first time Tom and I had a good heart-to-heart talk. I was astounded to learn what he was thinking. I can see vividly the expression on his face when I began to tell him why I believed God's truth. I could see the relief he experienced when he learned how deeply I believed in the

God of the Bible. He had not understood it was my very life. He thought I was just trying to be different, and he wished he could just be like everyone else.

When he began to understand why, it made a great deal of difference. We began to communicate, and it made all the difference in the world — but it came too late to save years of anxiety and moments of agony.

You have the opportunity now to communicate before it is too late. You have the opportunity to *listen*. Don't let that opportunity slip by!

One other thing I would be sure to do is set a proper example. I would show, by example, by the way I lived, that God's way of life is the best. Tom would be able to see how obedience to God is the only way to true happiness, peace of mind and abundant living. He would be able to see the evils of Easter and Christmas. He would rejoice in the Feast of Tabernacles and the Passover. There would be no doubt which is the best way.

Everything I did or said would be an example of what he should do and say. He would be able to say with conviction: "Dad knows best." My example would be before him wherever he would go, and he would remember it always.

Another thing we would do is have *regular daily Bible study* together. I would teach Tom God's truth in a *positive* way. I would show how time is opening up to all God's people — not closing in. I would show the fantastic future for each of us personally in the wonderful World Tomorrow. He would begin to see the evils in today's world. He would see that man's way really does lead to death. He would begin to realize at an early age that the only hope for humanity is the divine intervention of the great God whom we serve. He would begin to look forward to the Kingdom of God. He would begin to work and qualify for a position in that Kingdom.

I would gain his complete confidence in such a way that he would believe me when I talked about God and His way. I would never disappoint him. I would work with all my might to do my part in rearing him in the way that he should go — God's way.

These are some of the things I would do if I had an opportunity to do it all over — *and I do!* I have an opportunity very few people on earth will ever have. My wife shares that opportunity. Three years ago our first daughter, Paula Jean, was born. I realized we would have an opportunity to do it over! We had the knowledge, experience and background. And then ten months ago, our second daughter, Christina Ann, was born. Now we have *two* young daughters!

What a fantastic blessing! We have experienced the wrong way. With God's help, we will do it *right* this time. We will try to avoid all the mistakes we made before.

Our hope is that *you* can also learn from our experiences. And please read Tom's letter, even if it is for *young* people. I'm sure you'll get his message.

Alfred E. Lanzetta

Readers Say...

(Continued from inside front cover)

enteen years old and ready to make something of my life. From now on I intend to listen, study, and use what I hear and read after I have proven it correct. My last year of high school I intend to make one of research and study. I'm going to do more than try, as I've done for so long — too long.

G. W., Junction City, Oregon

We just want to thank you and express our deep gratitude for your summer educational program. Our son, 12, and daughter, 15, were both able to attend this year — we consider this another third-tithe blessing.

The program motivated us to purchase a second-hand canoe and our son and daughter are teaching us how to canoe now. They've taught their younger brother how to square corners in his bed-making, fold his clothes, and you should see their dresser drawers! We're so happy to see those drawers stay neat and clean.

We're aware it takes lots of planning, organization, and plain hard work to make a summer educational program successful. We're also aware this program has God's blessing. We haven't stopped thanking Him for it. We wanted you and all those working on it to know how we felt.

Mr. and Mrs. K. O., Pasadena, California

Dear Mr. Hill: Since the July GOOD NEWS arrived, I have had the urge to write you so

that I could let you and those who work with you know the great inspiration the whole magazine was to me, and to all the brethren I talked to. For me, the articles on Loyalty and Righteous Character fit in with things I had pondered about. They certainly supplied the much needed answers. Mr. Schroeder's "Never Give In" was certainly outstanding, too.

Then, as sort of frosting on the cake, the booklet *This Is The Worldwide Church of God* came in the mail. We, as church members, know what we are striving for, but to see it put down in print in such simple style gave me a thrill and brought tears to my eyes. Knowing those who read the booklet will be watching us makes me realize that I must strive harder.

So I wish to thank you and everyone who works so hard to write the magazine and booklets. They have a great part in the building of our character which will endure forever.

V. N., Campbell, California

Dear Mr. Portune: Your article on "How to Build Righteous Character" in the July GOOD NEWS is one of the finest articles I've ever read. It was a real pleasure to read, and one which we should strive to put into practice. I've already read it three times and expect to read it many more times.

Mrs. M. W., Madison, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Schroeder: Thank you SO much for the most wonderful, inspiring and much needed article "Never Give In" in the July issue of the GOOD NEWS. It was for me a "strong hand" from someplace. No — I

didn't stumble, I was flat on my face (however, things look better now than before).

I couldn't help but ask WHY did I feel like quitting? Then He answered me! I was serving myself instead of God. I had an in-going concern instead of an out-going concern. Like a garbage can with the lid off, I was really beginning to stink. I keep forgetting and rely on the wrong one. I must remember I can do nothing spiritually of myself, but God can do everything.

I will keep this article as a daily guide reminding myself that I will NEVER say "I quit" again. What a great blessing to receive the GOOD NEWS and having eyes to read it.

Member, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Armstrong: Your staff has done it again! Or perhaps I should say God has done it again through them. Just about the time I'm desperately seeking the answer to some question or the solution to a problem, I receive a PLAIN TRUTH or GOOD NEWS magazine with just the right article. And how thankful I am this time.

I just received the July issue of the GOOD NEWS and there it was, the article in answer to my weeks and months of prayer — "How to Teach Your Children About God." Mr. Arch Bradley is to be congratulated on such clear, concise and practical guidelines about a subject of concern to any Christian parent. I've made a brief outline of his article to carry in my Bible in order to refresh my memory from day to day while teaching my 4 and 5 year-olds the "stories" of God's people and His princi-

(Continued on back cover)

YOUNG PEOPLE

(Continued from page 9)

Any of you young people who really want to CAN prove that God exists, that the Bible is His inspired Word, and that this is the ONE TRUE CHURCH. The key, is, you have to WANT to prove it. You need something very few people possess today — an open mind.

I think that in a great many cases, the young people in God's Church don't want to believe the truth. Why do I say this? Because that was my attitude! However, the only thing that can come from such an attitude is an untold amount of heartache, misery and pain. You can take the route I took if you want to, but I wouldn't advise it.

You see, I had one thing working for me that you may not have — time! You may have more time than I think you have, but then you may not have as much time as you think you have. Why gamble with your life? Consider the facts.

Coming to conversion can be a slow agonizing process for a "second-generation Christian." We take too many things for granted, including repentance and conversion. No one can come to repentance on his own (John 6:44); however, if you ask God for it, He will grant it to you (Matt.

7:7). But you must begin demonstrating repentance by keeping His commandments (I John 3:22).

"Here comes the pitch — here comes the altar call," some of you are now probably thinking.

Well, whether you like it or not, the fact that God has called your parents is a pretty big indication that He is also in the process of calling you. Most of you will come to the point sometime in your lives when you will realize that you can't go on anymore — that you need God's help.

Don't kid yourself! You are receiving a witness right now! You know too much! Sometime in the future, you will come to a crossroads in your life, a time when you will have to make the choice mentioned in Deuteronomy 30:19.

If there was some way I personally could help you make that choice, I would. But it is entirely up to you.

Don't choose to die! Choose life, and experience how truly full, rich, abundant and thrill-filled it CAN BE!

And why don't you read dad's open letter — parents are just people too; they need understanding just like we do.

Tom Carozzo

Spiritual Heroin

There is a drug worse than heroin — a drug which is more addictive and harder to withdraw from once you are “hooked.” It has caused a number to MISS OUT on salvation! Read what you can do to avoid getting hooked.

by William F. Dankenbring

THE TYPICAL heroin addict becomes a human derelict. He lives from “fix” to “fix.” His whole life becomes totally preoccupied with heroin. He rapidly finds he is an *object slave* to the drug. It becomes his god.

Worthwhile character traits gradually disappear. In time, boils and abscesses start to break out on the skin. Imaginary fears blight the mind; sometimes insanity occurs, or death from an overdose!

Once a person becomes addicted to heroin, there is very little chance that he will ever permanently escape.

The Living Death

The heroin addict literally goes through a “hell on earth” to free himself from the clutches of this drug.

The experience of “withdrawal” is excruciating torment, a nerve-shattering ordeal. Severe shooting pains constrict the abdomen, knotting it up like a sheet of corrugated tin. Explosive waves of contraction rake the stomach walls. Addicts experience violent vomiting, often stained with blood.

Said ex-boxer Barney Ross, describing his fight with addiction: “Well, you start to scream. The nightmares, all kinds of horrors, you are always thinking that there are monkeys jumping up and down your back. You turn around and see there is nobody there, and find yourself screaming and find yourself on the floor many times from rolling off

the bed, and I got to a state one time where I was ready to cut my throat with a razor blade.”

Yet after enduring this sheer torture, about 95 percent of addicts turn right back to heroin when the chance presents itself. Some addicts have gone through addiction and withdrawal as many as fifty times! That’s just how *tenacious* the grip of heroin is!

However, bad as heroin addiction is, there is a spiritual addiction which is far worse. There is a spiritual narcotic which can begin to dominate your life even more than heroin addiction.

Brethren, there is a *spiritual addiction* which also enslaves, captivates, leads to total character degeneration. The spiritual addict’s love for God vanishes. His love for God’s people turns inside out, his love for God’s Law metamorphoses into hate and hostility!

He becomes one of the “walking dead,” spiritually.

The recovery rate of those who become enslaved by “spiritual heroin” is likewise virtually zero. Once hooked, a person’s chances are slim indeed!

What is this spiritual narcotic — this mind-twisting spiritual drug? How do people become addicted to it? How can you AVOID it?

A Poisonous Root

Heroin comes from the opium poppy. The opium is refined into pure heroin, usually smuggled from one country into another, and finally reaches the heroin addicts through “pushers.”

Spiritual heroin also has its source of supply, and its legion of pushers.

Satan the devil is the source and grower of this spiritual poison. He is also the one who “refines” it, boils it down into potent doses, and then *injects* it into your mind. He doesn’t take a hypodermic needle to inject it into a vein — he puts it right where it will do the most damage — into your *mind*.

Satan is also a master pusher. His tactics are subtle — seductive — ever

so sly. If you allow him to begin to inject *just a little* spiritual heroin into your system, at first it will seem to give you a sense of pleasure — a “thrill” — but soon you will be *hooked*, if you continue receiving his doses. Your system will demand more and more. You will crave it, even when there is no more “pleasure” or “thrill” involved.

And once you are *hooked*, your chances of escape are almost nil. Seeds of suspicion and doubt will sprout and bear fruit. Discontent, envy, or jealousy will rake your mind. Your mind will become warped, twisted.

But just what is this sinister drug? It is a “*root of bitterness*.”

A Grim Warning

The Apostle Paul was inspired to write: “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; *lest* any ROOT OF BITTERNESS springing up *trouble* you, and thereby MANY be defiled” (Heb. 12:14-15).

The original Greek word here translated “bitterness” is *pikria* and means “acridity, especially poison.” It has to do with sharpness, pungency, acidity. It might be compared to the taste of a bitter lemon or other harsh, acidic, astringent flavor.

The Apostle Peter said of Simon Magus, the arch-apostate and deceiver of his age, “For I perceive that thou art in the *gall of bitterness*, and in the bond of iniquity” (Acts 8:23). That man, as far as history relates, *never repented*. Despite this admonition straight from God’s apostle, he apparently remained in a state of bitterness toward the truth. He perverted the true gospel of Christ and led many people into deception!

Paul knew the danger of bitterness. He instructed the Ephesians, “And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let ALL BITTERNESS, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you,

with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Eph. 4:30-32).

Bitterness is contrary to the fruits of God's Holy Spirit. It is a fruit of the carnal mind — and of Satan the devil. He is, without a doubt, the bitterest being in existence today — bitter against God and all He stands for.

Notice the admonition of James: "Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? Let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have *bitter envying and strife* in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This [supposed] wisdom descendeth not from above, but is *earthly, sensual, DEVILISH*. For where envying and strife is, there is CONFUSION and every evil work" (James 3:13-16).

Satan is the author of bitterness. He was the first to become embittered against the way of God — the first to become dissatisfied and to allow a "root of bitterness" to spring up in his mind.

When any man becomes bitter, he is allowing the worst "pusher" of all time — Satan the devil — to peddle his wares to him. He is going the way of the devil. He may think he has every excuse, every reason to become angry, resentful, *bitter* — but he is allowing himself to be deceived, twisted in his thinking, warped in his reasoning and filled with addictive poison!

How Some Become Bitter

How does one become addicted to bitterness? Essentially the same way hundreds of thousands in the United States and millions around the world have become addicted to heroin. Evidence shows that the vast majority of heroin addicts actually *began* by using other drugs — weaker drugs, such as marijuana or LSD. One drug led to another — not necessarily a scientific cause and effect relationship, but an atmosphere of social rebellion and wrong associations certainly encouraged it.

The Los Angeles Police Department investigated youths who had been arrested in 1960 for illegal possession of

relatively mild *marijuana*. Within five years, 16 percent had been rearrested for possession or use of *heroin*!

A woman who was a heroin addict for 25 long, miserable years firmly said: "I don't *think* marijuana leads to heroin and cocaine, I *know* it. I know a thousand junkies, and they all started with pot, like me."

So it is also with spiritual heroin — bitterness. Generally, a person starts out with harboring just a *little* resentment in his heart — not full-fledged bitterness. He allows a *little* jealousy, a *little* envy, a *little* spirit of dissatisfaction to dwell in his mind. It is comparable to a weaker drug, such as marijuana. He allows this weaker "spiritual drug" to sway his mind; he muses, and contemplates on negative thoughts continually. Gradually his mind becomes *filled* with such thoughts. Each thought "fix" leads to becoming a little *more* resentful, *more* unhappy, *more* hostile and bitter.

Finally he becomes hooked on the hard stuff — the heroin of *acute bitterness*!

But why do some people allow even the FIRST THOUGHTS of resentment and envy to lodge in their minds? Why do some brethren allow such negative poison to even enter their minds in the first place?

The answer is simple: they don't really discern the outright deadliness of it — the full danger!

Just a *little* complaining seems innocent enough. Just a little grouching or grumbling about something, whether it is the weather, the job, the boss, the house, the yard, the car, the wife or husband, the children or any number of factors, "won't hurt" — so people reason.

"EVERYBODY DOES IT! It doesn't seem to hurt *them* any. So it won't hurt me, either!"

It's not true, of course. But it provides a convenient excuse. So some start complaining and grumbling about God's Church, or His Work, or the way things are done. The spirit of complaining rubs off on them from the world and from their worldly associations. Everybody else seems to do it, so they carelessly follow suit.

But brethren, such thinking is abso-

lutely WRONG — fallacious — erroneous. It overlooks the sinister DANGER that a *little* complaining, or a *little* bitterness, can become HABIT — ADDICTIVE! After a person becomes accustomed to it, he finds he doesn't want to live without it. It becomes a "crutch" — and before the poor hapless soul realizes it he is *HOOKED*!

Oh, at first there may be a temporary satisfaction one seems to achieve from it. At first there may be a perverse type of euphoric "pleasure" associated with griping and complaining, just as there is a sensation derived from being "spaced out" on drugs.

But in the long run, this "pleasure" turns to horror — a nightmarish world of spiritual suffering and death! One day, the hooked person — whether on heroin or bitterness — finds his whole life is "drug-oriented" and his whole future is ruined!

Could It Happen to You?

What about *you*? Have you been injected with spiritual heroin? Is this spiritual "monkey" about to jump on your back? Have you already allowed a degree of bitterness, resentment or jealousy to enter your mind? Have you begun, ever so slyly, to *find fault* with God, His Work or His Church?

If you know in your heart that you've sinned in this area, then TAKE HEED — *repent* NOW before it is too late. BANISH all such thoughts from your mind NOW, before you become irrevocably hooked. Get on your knees and implore God's forgiveness before it is too late.

Beware also if you feel smug and secure, and think "it could never happen to me." Remember the words of the Apostle Paul: "Wherefore let him that *thinketh* he standeth take heed lest he *fall*" (I Cor. 10:12). Do as the Apostle Paul commands: "EXAMINE YOURSELVES, whether ye be in the faith; *prove* your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that *Jesus Christ* is IN you, except ye be reprobates?" (II Cor. 13:5.)

You are in charge of your own mind. Don't allow *Satan* to innoculate your mind with spiritual heroin. Paul said MANY had been defiled with this spiritual drug in his day (Heb. 12:15).

They had allowed rebellion to enter their lives. They had gotten into a wrong frame of mind — a wrong attitude. Soon they became completely ensnared in the tentacles of bitterness and were garroted spiritually.

How to CONQUER Spiritual Heroin

How can you AVOID this terrible fate? What can you do to CONQUER every insidious root of bitterness?

If you have tended to associate with people who are “users” of the drug of bitterness, who complain about circumstances, situations, people, places, government, authority or any number of things, then *remove yourself* FROM SUCH INFLUENCES! Remember another warning the Apostle Paul wrote: “Be not deceived: evil communications [or associations] corrupt good manners” (I Cor. 15:33).

Don't maintain close fellowship with people who are bitter. *Don't assume* that you are strong enough to withstand their evil influence, and maybe you can help them to change and overcome their weakness. Almost certainly *they* will begin to tear down *your* attitude, *you* will become weak and sickly, spiritually, and before you know it YOU may become “hooked”!

Most drug addicts would freely state that they began using drugs because of associating with others who used them. And many people who are bitter got that way by the identical route! Said the Apostle Paul: “Know ye not that a *little leaven* [sin] *leavens the whole lump*? PURGE OUT therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump . . .” (I Cor. 5:6-7).

Solomon warns in the book of Proverbs: “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: *but a companion of fools shall be destroyed*” (Prov. 13:20).

Remember, Adam and Eve “associated with,” and listened to, Satan. They allowed the serpent to beguile them, partook of the forbidden fruit, and thereby sinned against God. Their “association” with the serpent led to DISASTROUS results, including banishment from Eden and access to the tree of life.

Don't take foolish chances, brethren. Don't be like a small child playing

with matches, unaware of the holocaust that could ensue.

Operation INTERCEPT

You should also consider another necessary operation toward the solution of this problem. When drugs were pouring across the Mexican-American border a few years ago, the United States launched a massive campaign to stem the tide. It was called “Operation Intercept.” Customs officials searched every vehicle that crossed the border to stop the smuggling.

You can do the same thing — launch your own personal “Operation Intercept.” Catch those resentful, bitter, envious thoughts at the *border* of your mind — DON'T EVEN LET THEM ENTER!

The Apostle Peter tells us: “Be *sober*, be *vigilant*; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom RESIST steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world” (I Peter 5:8-9).

The Apostle Paul carries that instruction a step farther: “Finally, my brethren, be *strong* in the Lord, and in the power of his might. *Put on the WHOLE ARMOR of God*, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness [or wicked spirits] in high places” (Eph. 6:10-12).

How are we to resist or fight the devil?

We have weapons with which we can fight his spiritual heroin addiction. We have spiritual armor. Notice verses 14-18: We must put on truth, righteousness (obeying God's Commandments), peace, faith, the knowledge of salvation, God's Spirit, His Word, and faithful *prayer*! And that's not just spiritual phraseology — it is practical, it WORKS!

Do you pray DAILY to God, seeking spiritual contact with Him? Do you study the Bible, and read it EVERY DAY so you can be strengthened spiritually?

Or, have you “let up” in Bible study and prayer? Have you begun to neglect these powerful spiritual helps?

Bible study and prayer build faith. And with the shield of *faith* you can “quench all the *fiery darts* of the wicked” (Eph. 6:16), including those darts dipped in the poison of bitterness.

You must do your part. You must *make the effort* to GUARD the doors of your mind. God holds YOU responsible for the abundance of your heart's thoughts. But if you allow resentful, jealous, bitter, envious, contentious, hostile thoughts to take *root* in your mind, you are standing on the brink of spiritual destruction.

Spiritual heroin addiction CAN be overcome — before it gets a fatal grip on its victim. *With God's help*, none need succumb to this bitter “heroin.” None need ever become fully and fatally addicted!

Develop a POSITIVE ATTITUDE

The best defense, of course, is an alert, vigorous OFFENSE. In other words, the best way to overcome any spiritual weakness, whether griping, complaining or a generally negative attitude, is to aggressively replace it with a POSITIVE, thankful, appreciative, happy attitude of mind!

As Mr. Herbert Armstrong has said, overcoming sin is analogous to getting air out of a milk bottle. The best way to do it is to pour milk or water *in*, thus displacing the air. Even so, the way to overcome bitterness or any of its attendant species of sin is to replace them with the POSITIVE FRUITS of God's Holy Spirit! Develop a positive, happy, radiant, thankful attitude. Count all your blessings — which, if you really stop to consider them, are innumerable.

Brethren, this principle WORKS! It is Biblical, scriptural, and divinely inspired. DON'T THINK on the negative things which may happen from time to time. As an old song says, “ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE, *eliminate the negative*, and don't mess with Mr. In-between”!

Do as the Apostle Paul wrote to the Philippians: “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are *true*, whatsoever things are *honest*, whatsoever things are *just*, whatsoever things are *pure*, whatsoever things are *lovely*, whatsoever

things are of *good report*; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, THINK ON THESE THINGS" (Phil. 4:8).

If you will follow this apostolic advice, then you will be able to do as Paul says in verse 4: "REJOICE!" You will find a great number of things to be happy about, to rejoice over, and to praise God for. But it all boils down to your basic attitude and frame of mind. *You* must make the decision as to what you are going to think about.

All of us in God's Church have *so much* to be thankful for. But we do need to stop and *count* our blessings — often — and not allow ourselves to forget them. It is easy to forget the miracles God has performed in the past, to forget His loving kindness toward us, to FORGET His mercy and patience. It is easy to get overly involved with physical things, to become entirely too engrossed with our jobs, occupations, pleasures, pastimes, families — or our problems, difficulties — and to FORGET the loving hand that is ever ready to intervene for us and to deliver us from trouble!

It is easy to forget, and to begin to question God, or decisions made in His Work, and to become disgruntled or embittered at some affront or imagined slight or snub.

But, as we have said, the way to eliminate such evil thoughts and reasonings is to replace them with POSITIVE thoughts — STUDYING the Bible every day, drinking in of those positive examples and case histories in the scriptures which inspire and stimulate us to draw close to God.

Entering the Kingdom of God is *not* as easy as rolling off a log. It requires positive, diligent EFFORT.

The Apostle Paul declared, "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) CASTING DOWN *imaginations* [or reasonings], and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and *bringing into CAPTIVITY EVERY THOUGHT to the obedience of Christ*" (II Cor. 10:3-5).

Examine *your* life. Have you been as cheerful, radiant, contented, happy as

you *should* be? Have you been as thankful, appreciative, and joyous as you should be? Or have you allowed a measure of resentment, a bit of envy, or an ounce of carnal comparisons to twist and pervert your thinking? Have you been expressing the fruits of God's Holy Spirit — LOVE, JOY, PEACE — in the way you lead your life? Or have you been negligent? Check up on yourself.

"Nobody Beats It"

One young drug addict told others who might be tempted to try heroin: "When I started, it was a big kick. I was doing something nobody else was

doing. It was a thrill. *But now I know better...*

"I would tell kids today, *don't go near it. Don't* think you can beat it. NOBODY BEATS IT."

His words apply equally well to spiritual heroin. Don't go near it! Don't think you can beat it. NOBODY beats it!

If you think you are an exception — that you can "toy" with wrong attitudes, or "play around" with spiritual heroin — complaining, griping, grumbling — if you think you can get away with it, then you are kidding yourself. Far too many have made this mistake — and have paid the consequences. *Don't let it happen to you!* □

SPANISH WORK

(Continued from page 4)

In numerous letters to us, Sr. Loje traced many similarities between his teachings and ours (Sabbath observance, Feast of Tabernacles, clean and unclean meats, etc.), while he indulged himself with lengthy, sprawling treatises on why we were wrong on this or that doctrine. Yet, strangely, it was through this man that God led a large group of people to us — and led us to open a Work in Southern South America!

Following is a translation of the first letter we received from a member of a church which was composed of a number of congregations in Chile and Argentina:

Dear Brother in Christ:

I am very pleased to address this letter to you and all your fellow laborers in the Work of God. During a recent trip to Peru in order to study various doctrines and Bible prophecies with the members of the "Asociación Israelita Evangélica del Nuevo Pacto" [Evangelical Israelite Association of the New Covenant], I learned from Sr. Jose Alfredo Loje, the president of this group, that he had various booklets and Bible courses which you had sent him. During my stay I had the opportunity to read several of these.

I've found your literature to be remarkable. I'm very impressed by your full knowledge of the Bible, its doctrines and prophecies. Maybe I'm particularly impressed because I am a member of an old, although small, religious group in Chile called, "Iglesia Israelita del Nuevo Pacto" [Israelite Church of the New Cov-

enant]. I was told by some of our elderly members that our group was started by a missionary named Zegers, at the turn of the century or thereabouts.

We number about 20 churches [in Chile alone]... practicing God's laws, commandments, and statutes, just as God gave them to the people of Israel by Moses and just as God has promised in the New Covenant to write them in our hearts.

By prophecy we have understood that God would in the latter days begin a Work which would eventually restore the truth of God to a world that has stamped it out by the feet of her false prophets. We believe that if we're faithful to the light God has already given us, He will give us more and more truth so that we can form a part of this worldwide Work foretold in Bible prophecy (Acts 3:21; Matt. 24:14). Please send me the same literature you've been sending Sr. Loje. I'd like to take it back to our churches in Santiago, Chile.

In mid-June of 1968, after having sent our literature to this organization in Chile, we received the following letter from a man named Manuel Garrido. It was the first fully descriptive letter we received regarding these Chilean people. Sr. Garrido eventually, and to this day, has proved a very valuable link to the group. This is his letter, dated June 18, 1968:

Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for the literature I've just received! I'm just thrilled that God has brought me in contact with you. The booklets are a great blessing to my family. My wife and I read them over and over again, especially *La PURA VERDAD!* As I mentioned in my first letter to you,

we have been practicing all these things for several years. But, after reading your booklets on God's Holy Days, I find a few differences with your understanding. We had been using the Jewish Calendar and following their observances. Please continue sending us your literature so that one day we can become *one* body.

The church to which I belong in Chile has been here for about 80 years although I don't know exactly the date it started. Some of the older members say that a gentleman named either Sbegezel or Seguesel came here from a distant country (either England or North America — I forget) and started preaching among the Seventh-day Adventists. Only one person believed what he said. A man named Manuel Avalos who then continued Seguesel's work after he returned to his homeland. Avalos understood only about there being three festivals: Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles. Several people then left the Adventists and other sects and started what came to be called the "Israelite Church of the New Covenant." Although we all assumed that elsewhere on earth there were others believing as we do, it was only recently that we have contacted other congregations in other countries with the same beliefs.

And now, miraculously, we have come in contact with you!

We are not a very numerous body of people. There are about 1,000 of us in Chile and a similar number in Argentina.

Please forgive me for writing such a long letter — it's just that I'm so happy God has led me to you!

About this time we became aware of Pope Paul VI's planned visit to Colombia for the Eucharistic Conference. We knew our Latin American readership would be interested in reading about his visit in *La PURA VERDAD*. And a trip to Colombia would place us in a position to visit Chile at comparatively little additional cost. So with two objectives, covering the Pope's visit for the worldwide editions of *The PLAIN TRUTH*, and visiting the newly interested group in Chile, Mr. Gonzalez and I journeyed to South America.

In firsthand contact with the Chilean feast-keepers, we were told that the man who first brought the message to that remote corner of the world was a "North American" (the Spanish name for a U. S. citizen) named William Shegers who arrived in 1896, began preaching in the town of Vic-

toria in 1897 and whose first convert was Martin Avalos. We know the exact chain of authority through successive ordinations from Shegers and Avalos on down to the present day.

Where Matters Stand Today

In the summer of 1969, we sent Mr. Robert Flores, a long-time member of the Worldwide Church of God and an ordained local elder, first to Chile, and later to Argentina, to visit and teach those whom God is calling from these groups. We knew from the outset that not all 1500 to 2000 Sabbath-keepers there would be called into the Philadelphia era of God's Church, though our goal was to reach all, or as many as possible, with the truth. Once they were reached, about 14% seemed willing to come out of old ways and begin to follow seriously the biblical teaching on church government, Passover on the 14th of Nisan, Pentecost on Monday, and so on. But physical death in some cases and spiritual defection in others has dwindled that number to about 10%.

We have 70 bona fide baptized members in Chile today. In Argentina — in the area of Bahia Blanca, on the coast five hundred miles south of Buenos Aires — we have 60 people in attendance under the pastorship of Mr. Flores. So far he has baptized or approved the baptisms of approximately 20 people. Scattered elsewhere throughout Argentina are a dozen more members, some of whom have recently been baptized as a result of Dr. Rea's old programs!

Somewhat to our surprise, God has opened up a foothold in the small but fairly prosperous democratic nation of Uruguay — we have seven members there. At this time more of the people of the "Israelite Church of the New Covenant" are avidly studying our literature. We thrill to see what God has done with these faithful people and what has been produced through the untiring efforts and the personal sacrifice of Mr. and Mrs. Flores!

What Lies Ahead?

All the figures and statistics you have read may make the Spanish Work seem to be rather large, but do not be

misled. The Spanish Work is in one sense the *smallest* "foreign work" in the Worldwide Church of God today!

How can this be so when it has the largest circulation of the foreign editions of *The PLAIN TRUTH*? Here's how: there are 300,000,000 Spanish-speaking people in the world, so our operation compared with the field we need to cover is the *SMALLEST BY FAR* of any presently going on in the Foreign Educational Service. We have farther to go than anybody now operating as a department, with the possible exception of the Japanese.

We have a solemn commission to reach the 23 Spanish-speaking nations of the world. But that job is not easy. We fervently request your prayers for God's Spirit and power to penetrate old, time-worn, crusty, religious and traditional barriers, and for success in planning so the Spanish Work can pay its own way.

You can have a part in helping to accomplish these goals by joining us in prayer to the Captain of our salvation and to the Almighty Father who is a God not only of Israel, but also of the Gentiles worldwide! □

Readers Say . . .

(Continued from page 13)

ples. We start today, and how eager I am to begin an adventure of dramatization and storytelling about some of the greatest men and women who ever lived.

~~I feel confident now that with God's help and His dear sure of guidelines, my children will begin and continue to grow in knowledge and wisdom of God. Thanks again.~~

Mrs. B. G.,
Hebron, Indiana

The GOOD NEWS (July 1972) has the most marvellous articles. All the articles are good — but as our little daughter would say, "these are gooder."

L. P., San Mateo,
California

I really want to thank those at Headquarters for the tremendous articles in the July *GOOD NEWS*. They have really helped me in a time of some of the most severe trials I've had since being in God's Work. I will continue to read them often to keep those principles alive and firm in mind. Again, thank you.

B. M., St. Louis Park,
Minnesota