

The

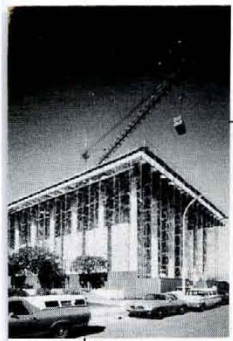
# Good News

*International Magazine of The Church of God*



**NEW AUDITORIUM**

JANUARY-MARCH 1973



## More About Our Cover...

Since ground-breaking ceremonies on Friday, January 14, 1972 when Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong scooped up the first shovelful of dirt to officially inaugurate the project, progress on the Ambassador College Auditorium has been moving along very rapidly. Construction is now over halfway done — ten to twelve weeks ahead of schedule! If progress continues at the present accelerated rate, the building will be completed well ahead of schedule, very early in 1974.

This "house for God," as those of us in God's Church will look upon it, will be a beautiful cultural center, and a fitting building with which to honor our God. Dark-green polished marble walls on the outside will be highlighted by contrasting white precast concrete columns and beams, adding a classic dignity to a truly inspiring edifice. For those at Headquarters, it is a thrill to be able to watch the day-by-day progress of this beautiful building!

Cover Photo by Warren Watson — Ambassador College

## What our READERS SAY...

I can never thank you sufficiently for sending me *The GOOD NEWS*. The September-October number is the first one I have ever received. I have learned valuable lessons in child rearing from Robert Fahey's article on "Obedient Children Are Not Enough." From "An Open Letter to Parents" by Alfred Carrozzo, I have seen one of my short-comings — I have not been asking for God's guidance to enable me to make the right decisions. I am thankful for this valuable lesson. All the other articles in this number are very instructive. I think the one on "Spiritual Heroin" has no equal. I shall study it daily for many weeks so that its lesson will sink well into me.

Please, if the July number is still available, send me a copy. In fact, I shall ask for any past numbers of *The GOOD NEWS* that are available to be sent to me. I can see that they contain valuable and down-to-earth instructions on being a spirit-led child of God.

L. N., Enugu,  
Nigeria

The articles in the September-October *GOOD NEWS* were so timely, instructive, to the point and eye-opening I just had to write to tell you that I so much appreciate the effort, time and love the writers put into their articles. It is true that the Work of God is to proclaim the good news of God's coming Kingdom to the world as a witness. The job being done is the greatest, I'm sure, that could be done, but the sheep must also be fed, warned and corrected. This time I think all have done an excellent

job. If only all will read, take heed and beware. Thanks to everyone for a job well done.

A. S., Bartlesville,  
Oklahoma

Just finished reading and studying the September-October *GOOD NEWS*. The whole magazine is so inspiring. I can hardly explain how much it means to me. It has such straightforward articles that make me think and meditate; that correct and encourage me. I am so thankful for it. Please keep them coming!

T. T., Aurora,  
Colorado

I want to thank you Mr. Armstrong, and the writers of the articles in *The GOOD NEWS*. All the articles are so good it would be hard to say which was the most inspiring. I really enjoy reading about the brethren in other countries. It makes me want to pray more fervently for God's Kingdom. Then they, too, will enjoy the blessings Americans (which most don't appreciate and are not thankful for) enjoy. But then we will have so much more love, peace and happiness.

L. D., Marion,  
Virginia

My deep-felt thanks for such articles as Mr. Fahey's "Obedient Children Are Not Enough" and the Carrozzo letters. Just tremendous! To really complete a great *GOOD NEWS* issue, Dr. Dorothy's article on the  
*(Continued on inside back cover)*

# The Good News

International magazine of  
**THE CHURCH OF GOD**  
ministering to its members  
scattered abroad

January-March 1973

Volume XXII

Number 1

Published at Pasadena, California  
©1973 Worldwide Church of God

### EDITOR

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

### EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Garner Ted Armstrong

### MANAGING EDITOR

David Jon Hill

### SENIOR EDITORS

David L. Antion

Albert J. Portune

### Associate Editors

Richard H. Sedliacik

Ronald Kelly

### Contributing Editors

Dibar K. Apartian Leslie L. McCullough  
Alfred E. Carrozzo Raymond F. McNair  
Raymond C. Cole L. Leroy Neff  
William Dankenbring John Robinson  
Ronald L. Dart Paul S. Royer  
Charles V. Dorothy Norman A. Smith  
Charles F. Hunting Dean R. Wilson  
Robert L. Kuhn Basil Wolverton  
Ernest L. Martin Clint C. Zimmerman

Lawson C. Briggs, *Copy Editor*

Thomas Haworth, *Art Editor*

### DIRECTOR OF PUBLISHING

C. Wayne Cole

### 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 New Zealand, P. O. Box 2709, Auckland, New Zealand.

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!

If all you read is the  
title, you may have —

# FATAL FAMILIARITY

by Charles F. Hunting

**Y**OU have just been challenged! Your first reaction to the above title will perhaps be to assume that you *already know* what is to come next in this article — or in other articles which might appear in *The GOOD NEWS*.

"It's just another article, in another guise, on some old and *familiar* subject," you might think.

But wait a minute!

Why do writers of *GOOD NEWS* articles hear such comments as: "I read your article *three times*" or "Your article has really had an effect on me and I'm determined to change my life — thank you very much for it!"

Strangely enough, these comments have been made on articles written about "old and *familiar*" subjects.

Suppose familiarity *were* your big problem — big enough to keep you out of God's Kingdom — wouldn't you want to know what to do about it?

Tragically, though, those who suffer from the deadly disease of familiarity are the *least* likely to listen and heed a God-given warning.

## A Tragic Example

Brethren, I have *LITERALLY* witnessed a man's death resulting solely from overfamiliarity! I'd like to tell you about it.

In World War II thousands of young men were called into the service of their country. Many were trained physically, technically and psychologically to face the dangers of flying combat missions from aircraft carriers.

Demands were exacting. Special training was given. Special flight rules were carefully, methodically ground into each pilot. No cost was spared, and in

spite of wartime urgency and a desperate need for pilots, no time was eliminated which was deemed *necessary* to instill into each flier the rules which could save his life.

We were repeatedly told: "Watch OUT! If you lose respect for your airplane, it can kill you." We learned a healthy respect for the laws of aerodynamics — they were a matter of *LIFE* and *DEATH*!

We were young, we thought life held a good future. We knew the war wouldn't last forever. And so we wanted to survive. Yet we all learned *one thing* — all rules had a safety factor. If you didn't fly at the prescribed altitude, you could still survive. If you didn't fly at the recommended speed, your survival wasn't necessarily at stake.

You could shade these rules . . . *until* trouble came.

Trouble came for one young man as I watched in numbed fascination. There was a sickening, grinding tearing of metal — an explosion — then the last-minute attempts of asbestos-covered fire fighters to smother the flames. But it was too late. The young navy pilot's life was snuffed out.

The fire fighters quickly succeeded at their task. But all they were able to extricate from the still-smoldering airplane was the partially-charred and lifeless body of the young man. Like too many others whose bodies were sent home to their grief-stricken parents, this man never fulfilled his commission. His death was totally futile. No glory. No medals — no recognition. Nothing but a sad memory.

Why did he die?

This young pilot found he could survive when flying at below-recommended altitudes. He was so skillful he

could literally make the water foam with his propellers close to the surface of the water — but this wasn't what killed him.

He also discovered he could fly slower than the recommended speed during his final approach to the landing field.

And he got away with it time after time. That is — until one time. His *last* landing.

It isn't too difficult to reconstruct what took place in the cockpit of that airplane. As he approached for landing, the signal officer frantically warned him to add more power. Once again he was getting away with it — until a slight gust of wind caught his wing.

In quickly spreading terror he felt the sluggish response of the plane as it started to roll over from this sudden current of air. In panic he jammed the throttle forward. The engine roared its response — but too late. Nothing could change the inevitable now — no skillful maneuvering, no frantic surge of power could prevent the inevitable grinding, wrenching of metal on the unrelenting concrete pavement. The plane was upside down with the pilot trapped in the cockpit, soon to die from suffocation as the high octane gasoline-filled fuel tanks burst into flames.

I was an eyewitness to this tragic event.

What was the cause?

FAMILIARITY!

## He Knew Better!

At first this pilot was very careful. He knew he had much to learn. He feared to break the rules. He believed what his instructors told him.

With us, the analogy shouldn't be too difficult. When we first came into

God's Church we took seriously the admonition to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:12). We really *believed* God meant it when He said: "And if the *righteous* SCARCELY be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" (I Pet. 4:18.) It wasn't something to be taken lightly.

When we first heard that we were to become the very sons of God, we were astounded at what we began to understand — and at the blindness of others. We realized that a merciful God had reached down to our minds and miraculously given us a tremendous gift.

We didn't deserve it. We hadn't earned it. We knew it was a gift and WE WERE THANKFUL!

We desired rulership with God. We were willing to work for it.

Fasting? We did it whenever the need arose! No price was too great for this calling. It wasn't that we felt we could *earn* our salvation — we knew that it is God's gift — but we wanted to respond to God, childlike and eager to do what His Word showed us was our part.

But sadly, too much of this attitude is now in the past tense. Fasting, praying, the excitement, the thrill, the gratitude — is it all past history with you?

Are we becoming just plain bored? When the Feast days come along and the sermon starts, "Now, brethren, why are we here?" do we have to battle to maintain interest? Or have we already lost this battle? Is it now a question of keeping ourselves from being critical?

I know I have described a growing number in God's Church. Some of us are only *partly* guilty of this.

Just "partly guilty"?

That is akin to saying we only have a "small" case of cancer. It's *dangerous* to have cancer in any degree. Cancer spreads. And as with cancer, familiarity is slow death!

### What Is Familiarity?

One definition of familiarity is: "An *intimate* acquaintanceship with something." It only happens after a period of time — after we have become intimately acquainted with something.

Do we as long-time members see the danger?

It's only going to happen to those who have an intimate knowledge of the Church, our calling, the great plan of God and how we are part of that plan. Prominent members who have been intimately associated with God's Work for a long time are prime candidates for becoming infected by familiarity.

As I was a helpless witness to the death of this young pilot, so ministers may be having to watch with horror as others are perishing *spiritually* because of familiarity.

I want to show you how we can escape this spiritual destruction — how we can avoid and conquer familiarity.

### Beginning of Fatal Familiarity

Let's go back to the origin of fatal familiarity. This kind of familiarity is older than man. Fatal familiarity was and actually is the attitude of Satan.

Satan was once Lucifer. That powerful being must have stared in wonder at the spectacle he beheld in the day of his creation. His powers of perception were many times greater than ours. What we can only understand in physical terms of the magnificent splendor of God, Lucifer saw intensely magnified because he was created a spirit being.

He saw the glorified magnificence of God. He saw God's power and His beauty. He knew he was created by God. He was so aware of the awesome power of God that to this very day he stands in terror and fear of Him (James 2:19).

Lucifer knew the inner workings and the intricacies of God's government. He must have stood in awe and amazement when God revealed to him His perfect plan. The angels shouted for joy! (Job 38:7.)

But what came from that intimate knowledge and acquaintanceship with God?

### A Weakness in God?

Something happened. After a long acquaintance, Lucifer saw something. In spite of his awareness of God's tremendous power, he *thought* he saw one weakness in God.

Impossible? Not at all! The fact is Lucifer came to believe he could ex-

ploit God's *apparent* weakness and gain control of the universe himself.

Lucifer was no robot. He was and is a thinking being. But like any thinking being, he could make mistakes.

The angels are also thinking beings. And one third of the angels made the mistake of thinking as Lucifer did and followed him into error.

What was that "weakness" Lucifer thought he saw in God?

Lucifer misunderstood one of the qualities of God's love — His *great* mercy. Do we?

Surely we can all say, "But I don't want to exploit God or to conquer His universe." And right you are. We know our physical limitations — and we are not so ambitious.

But isn't this the area where we test God the most — in the area of His mercy? Isn't this the area where, perhaps unknowingly, we can be mistaking God's mercy for weakness, or in some way be presuming on that mercy by beginning to act as if God will do neither good or bad (Zeph. 1:12)?

### What Time Is For

God gives us time. Time to do good or evil. He gives us time to work out our salvation. Time to overcome our weaknesses — time to do the Work of God.

But familiarity is a product of time. Tragically, some of us begin to presume upon God's mercy and love and grow slack in overcoming and doing the Work.

God grants us time to repent of this. He corrects and warns us through His Word and His ministry not to settle into a continuous pattern of sin and rebellion: "But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" (Heb. 3:13).

Remember the mistake of our young pilot. It finally became exciting fun for him to see *how close* he could come to the ultimate limits of safety. It became a pattern — a way of life to him.

If he could talk today he would have one request: "Just give me five more seconds of *time* for that last landing." That's all he needed. But his time had run out.

## Time Is Running Out!

Is time running out on us? Are we settling into a wrong pattern of behavior — of sin, or neglect, or of worldly physical pursuits — are we going THE WAY OF DEATH?

Do you know that the process of our changing, overcoming and growing is limited by one commodity — TIME? Building character takes time.

David said, "Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know WHAT TIME I HAVE HERE" (Ps. 39:4, margin).

Wrote Peter F. Drucker in *The Effective Executive*, page 26: "Time is a unique resource. Supply is totally inelastic. No matter how high the demand the supply will not go up. Moreover, time is totally perishable and cannot be stored. Yesterday's time is gone forever and will never come back.

"Time is totally irreplaceable."

In one chapter of Revelation, God warns us five times that time is short:

"The Lord God . . . sent His angel to shew unto His servants the things which must *shortly* be done" — "Behold I come *quickly*" — "Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is *at hand*" — "Behold, I come *quickly*" — "Surely I come *quickly*" (Rev. 22:6, 7, 10, 12, 20).

Notice something else in Revelation 22 that you may never have connected with ourselves. Between verse 10 which says, "The time is at hand," and verse 12, "And, behold, I come quickly" is verse 11. In this verse God says, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still . . ."

The implication here is that it is too late for these people — the wicked. Time for them to repent has run out — they will have to SUFFER the plagues of God, the curse of disobedience, because they were not willing to change when they had time. How can we avoid that problem?

The key is *never lose the sense of urgency and of time!*

Do we realize that for over nineteen hundred years time has been limited for the Church of God — and is more acutely limited today than ever?

Since our work was not over last

year, and may not be over in the next two, or three or more years, do we now have MORE TIME?

What deceptive reasoning!

Sound logic would show we have *less* time now than ever before!

Each passing day brings the "end" one day nearer. The majority of us have had years in God's Church. That time is gone. We can't bring it back. That time will never return. Every passing second gives us not more, but *less* time. This is a hard, cold fact.

Any miscalculations do not add to time. Maybe God in His great mercy has permitted our time to go on longer because we need it both to qualify and to do His Work. But still it is "borrowed time."

When you read the theme of many of the recent Co-Worker letters, "Brethren we don't have much time left," do you consider this a cry of "wolf"? If we do, we're in trouble — *mighty serious trouble!*

### The Old "Familiar" Story?

For over nineteen hundred years the ministers of God's Church have thundered this *same warning* — "TIME IS SHORT!"

Peter thought Christ's coming was imminent. He honestly thought the prophecy of Joel 2 applied to the day and age he lived in (Acts 2:17) — and it did, but its fulfillment only *began* in Peter's time; it is to *end* in *our* time!

About A.D. 55 the Apostle Paul wrote an urgent letter to the Church at Corinth and warned them that the examples in the Old Testament were written for their warning because the END of the age was imminent! (I Cor. 10:11.) At this, the "old-timers" undoubtedly rolled their eyes and began to question the credibility of Paul.

Some began to question Paul's veracity — literally. The sharp ones remembered other warnings of time running out on them. Paul had been preaching this same message for years.

They smiled to themselves, slowed down and could not understand why Paul got so uptight about their conduct. They probably thought he was getting a little too old.

It has an old "familiar" pattern to it, doesn't it?

About five years later James warned

the people, "Be patient . . . for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh" (James 5:7-8). You can be sure that by this time some of the old-timers who had heard this message *before* yawned. They had heard this old "familiar tune" many times before.

At the time Peter warned his people, not long before 70 A.D., "The end of all things is at hand" (I Peter 4:7), you had better believe that a lot of disillusioned, cynical and thoroughly incredulous people couldn't believe the old "familiar" story. It was almost *forty years after* Peter made his first statement (Acts 2:17) that time was close to completion. Maybe even he had to fight to keep from losing his sense of urgency.

By the time John finished the Book of Revelation, about sixty-five years after Peter first said that the prophecy in Joel 2 applied to his day and age, there were probably not many people around who took the message seriously.

But remember one thing — *time ran out for every one of them*, JUST AS IT WILL FOR US — either as we die along the way before the end, or when the calamities at the very end begin to occur. Therefore, we had better be busy building character and getting rid of sin — while we *still have time!*

If we don't, "Therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, WHOSE BREAKING COMETH SUDDENLY AT AN INSTANT!" (Isa. 30:13.)

### Punishment Will Come SUDDENLY!

God warned His people fifteen hundred years before Jesus came the first time: "Is not this [the character and deeds of every person] laid up in store with me, and sealed up among my treasures? To me belong vengeance and recompense; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity IS AT HAND, and the things that shall come upon them MAKE HASTE"! (Deut. 32:34-35.)

Do you get the significance of those words? Both punishment and reward is *laid up in store* with God! In a sudden and calamitous way this whole society is going to be upended. Then the rewards will be given.

(Continued on page 31)

# THE WORK IN CANADA

## CANADIAN OFFICE BUILDING

Eighty percent of the Noresco Building in Vancouver, British Columbia, houses our office, warehouse and church hall — a total of 28,700 square feet. Forty employees carry on God's Work for all of Canada from this base of operations.

*Clark — Ambassador College*

**In this issue we continue our series of articles on the Work of God around the world with a report from the manager of our office in Vancouver, British Columbia.**

by Dean R. Wilson

IT IS surprising to Canadians how little most people in the world really know about their vast country. This lack of information was emphasized by President Richard Nixon's now famous *faux pas* referring to Japan as the United States' biggest trading partner, when in actuality Canada's trade with the United States is far greater.

This basic lack of general information carries over into God's Church. We in the Canadian part of God's Work have found that most of the brethren in other areas are not very well informed about Canada and the Canadian Work.

How much do *you* know about God's Work in Canada?

#### People and Climate

Canada is the second largest nation in the world in land mass. However, its scattered population from Newfoundland to Vancouver Island is just over 21 million. The majority reside in a band about 200 to 300 miles wide, just north of the Canadian-U. S. border.

Canada is a melting pot — people from almost every nation, race, ethnic group and background are to be found within its borders. Legally, Canada is bilingual — speaking English and French, with the majority of those speaking French in the province of Quebec. However, numerous other languages are spoken in parts of Canada — German, Ukrainian and various American Indian dialects, to name just a few.

Some ask us, "How do you stand that terrible cold weather all of the time?" Amusingly, tourists occasionally drive across the U. S. border into

Manitoba or Saskatchewan in the summer with skis on their cars expecting to find snow. Many who live in the Western United States think Canada is all mountains and snow.

It may surprise some of our readers to realize it is possible to golf *and* ski 12 months out of the year in Southwestern British Columbia. In every area, the spring, summer and fall seasons are beautiful, and even the winters have their beauty in spite of the fact that they are long and cold in most areas, except the Southwest.

#### Growth of the Canadian Work

Surprisingly, the Work began to reach Canada back in the thirties when a few Canadians began to pick up the broadcast from our one radio station in Eugene, Oregon. Later, it was heard north of the border from stations in the Portland, Seattle-Tacoma and other areas.

By the end of 1960 we also had three Canadian radio stations carrying *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast — in Ontario, Saskatchewan and Quebec, the latter in the French language — and a mailing list of about 5,000 reading *The PLAIN TRUTH* regularly, all handled of course from Pasadena.

It was decided in February 1961 to open an office in Canada to serve the Canadian people. Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong journeyed north to Vancouver, British Columbia, and located suitable office space in the beautiful new United Kingdom Building in the heart of Vancouver. Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Prather were sent to Vancouver to manage the small, conservative two-room office that had been leased. In the summer of that same year, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Pinelli were added to the office staff to assist in the growing work.

In March 1962, Mr. Ted Armstrong wrote to Mr. Prather: "Have you thought at all about obtaining additional office space — about the future need of it — or analyzed the rate of growth so as to have any idea whatsoever about the time when we MIGHT need additional floor space in that building? I know that the present volume would certainly look as if such expansion would perhaps *never* be needed — but bear in mind that we still have virtually *no* radio outlets in that area!"

Since that letter was written, office and warehouse space requirements have increased from two small rooms to three fourths of a newer building in a Vancouver suburb, with a total floor space of around 28,000 square feet! The staff is now composed of 40 people.

The mailing list of *The PLAIN TRUTH* has jumped from just 5,000 to well over 200,000, including both English and French editions. The broadcast is now heard on over forty radio stations which cover most of Canada. The telecast is a tremendous boon to the Work in Canada, and is aired on over twenty television stations.

Actually, there has been only one area in which we have had difficulty getting sufficient coverage — French language radio broadcasting. And one third of all Canadians speak French.

At present we are advertising in the *Reader's Digest* every month in both the English and French languages. Clearly, the Canadian Work has expanded rapidly due to tremendous coverage in all media.

#### Church Growth

As the Work in Canada grew, God began calling out of this world a small number of Canadian people. At first, the summer baptizing tours sent out from Ambassador College provided the only face-to-face contact these people had with others in God's Church. Then in February 1961, Mr. James Friddle started a small Bible study in Vancouver, British Columbia; by June 1962 around 40 were in attendance at the Bible study.

Yours truly was sent to Vancouver in June of 1962 to manage the growing office and to pastor the first Church of God in Canada. Mr. Roderick C. Meredith, visiting the Pacific Northwest at the time, officially opened the first meeting of the Church in Vancouver on June 18, 1962 with 39 in attendance.

Since then God has continued to call more and more Canadians into His Church. At present we have 27 churches and 10 outlying Bible studies stretching the full breadth of Canada.

(Text continued on page 32  
Map on following page)



**CHURCHES AND BIBLE STUDIES IN CANADA**



Just what do you mean—

# SELF RIGHTEOUS?

**There is a spiritual disease as common as the common cold — but seldom recognized for what it really is. What are its symptoms? How can you tell if you are afflicted with it?**

by Stephen Martin

**A**LL diseases have symptoms. Red eyes, runny nose and a hacking cough are all symptoms of the common cold.

Self-righteousness is a *spiritual* disease, and has its own peculiar symptoms which can be recognized, isolated and worked upon.

Of and by themselves the symptoms do not explain what self-righteousness is. They only point out the presence of the malady. But isolating the symptoms will nevertheless be of help in defeating and wiping out the disease.

Here then are seven symptoms of self-righteousness, and what can be done to curb and stamp it out.

## Unteachability

First and foremost, a self-righteous person is not teachable. The patriarch Job, before his total conversion, was a classic example of self-righteousness. He was not teachable. We read his statement in Job 27:6, "My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go . . ." Job was sure in his own mind that he was righteous and was not about to be taught to the contrary!

Another example of this symptom of unteachableness can be found in Jeremiah 2:35. Jeremiah wrote what God said to the ancient nation of Judah: "Yet thou sayest, Because I am innocent, surely his anger shall turn from me. Behold, I will plead with you, because thou sayest, I have not sinned."

Ancient Judah was self-righteous. The people felt they were innocent; they felt they had not sinned. This made God's job of teaching them very difficult. It is virtually impossible to

teach a person who thinks and is convinced he is right. However, whenever that person is willing to admit he *may* be wrong, he has begun to open his mind to instruction.

And so a clear sign of self-righteousness is resistance to being teachable. Are you teachable? Are you easy to be intreated? Or are you stubborn — difficult to instruct?

## Pride in Obedience

In Luke 18:11-12, we read about the Pharisee who *fasted twice in the week*. He was proud of his obedience.

Today most of us are more sophisticated in the expression of our pride. Rather than telling people outright when we are fasting, or that we give tithes of all our increase and *generous* offerings besides, we go around dropping *hints*. But being more sophisticated about it does not make us any less self-righteous.

Do you glory in telling your friends you won't be able to accept a dinner invitation because you are fasting? Are you happy to share with your brethren the fact that you don't have finer things because you have "given most of your money to God"? Such hints are symptoms of self-righteousness. They show that in one form or another we are *proud* of our obedience to God.

The opposite of this attitude is humility. True humility leaves no place for self-righteousness. When we strive to do our best in fasting, giving or whatever, but without bragging, recognizing our own shortcomings at the same time, we won't be expressing self-righteousness.

## The Self-Oriented Mind

To a *self-righteous* person, the main theme of conversation revolves around the self. "I," "me" and "my" become the center of conversation, since it is the focal point of one's thoughts.

In Job 29, we have an excellent example of the self-oriented mind. In just 25 short verses Job uses the personal pronouns, "I," "me" and "my" 52 times! Job was clearly self-oriented. This is epitomized in verse 14: "I put on righteousness, and it clothed me . . ."

A truly converted spirit-led mind is interested in other people. In Philippians 2:4 we read: "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." This Godly focus of attention is clearly *away* from self.

Have you ever listened to a candid tape recording of your own conversation? It is a very interesting exercise. You might be highly embarrassed if you did. It could show how oriented toward self you may really be.

Think about the topics of your daily conversations. Do you detect too much self-orientation? The Bible teaches us to love our neighbor *as ourselves*. We need to do this more every day, for only then will we truly have other people in our hearts and minds, instead of only the self.

## "Doing God a Favor"

The fourth symptom of the disease of self-righteousness is that of feeling we are doing God a service. In Job 35:7 we read that Elihu pointed out to Job:

"If you be righteous, what give you him [God]? Or what receives he of your hand?" Job somehow felt that God was highly honored and helped by his service. But in reality God does not need us. *We* desperately need HIM!

The self-righteous person remembers what he has "given up" to serve God. Rather than thinking about what *he has gained* by serving God, he feels he is a tremendous asset to God, and that God is tremendously benefitted by his servitude.

If your child were to come to you and tell you he really adds to the family and that you, the parent, just could not do without him (or her), you would tend to think that child was rather vain in his thinking. Wouldn't you much rather see your child come to you with the attitude, "Thanks, mom and dad, for *allowing* me to be a part of this family. Thanks for sharing all that you have with *me*."

In this analogy, we should be able to see the difference between the person who thinks he's doing God a service and the person who is grateful that God has allowed him to be *part* of His Church and His Family.

### Lack of Compassion

The self-righteous person lacks compassion — an empathy and feeling for other people. (The word "compassion" comes from the Latin meaning "with feeling.") He is almost invariably *critical* of others when they sin and judges them harshly. "Why, I wouldn't do that," he tells himself. Thus he can't understand one who does. He is so "righteous" in his own sight it is difficult for him to make allowances for another's weaknesses!

He is quick to condemn and point out where he could have done better — but slow to empathize and admit he might have done the same thing under the same circumstances.

In Isaiah 65:1-5, we read of ancient Judah's attitude toward people who were sinners. God condemns the people who, while they themselves were sinners, said to other sinners, "Stand by your self, come not near to me; for *I am holier than thou*." This

"holier than thou" attitude is typical of a self-righteous person. Not being able to see his own faults and sins, he is critical of others' mistakes and shortcomings.

The parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32) gives us a good example of a self-righteous person. Three characters are mentioned in this parable, though we often overlook the *elder brother* of the prodigal son.

The elder brother was angry when the prodigal son received forgiveness. He lacked compassion for his licentious, wastrel brother, and was not happy to see him rescued from destitution and at home once again. He was proud of his own obedience while his brother sinned. Thus he was very self-oriented.

And lacking compassion, the elder brother was unable to understand that his brother had changed and *repented*. He thought his brother's return merely meant he — the "faithful" one — was about to lose even more of his patrimony. He was angry at his father for giving more of it to the spendthrift son. In his self-righteousness, he felt that he had been overlooked by his father.

Have *you* ever been prevented from having and expressing true Christian love and doing good deeds for others by similar feelings? Examine yourself to see if you have compassion for your fellow man — especially for your brothers and sisters in Christ.

### Self-Pity

The sixth sign or symptom of self-righteousness is self-pity. We read in Genesis 4:13 that Cain said to God "My punishment is greater than I can bear." In this sense, Cain was self-righteous. He did not want to change his attitude; he didn't ask forgiveness for his sin; he just wanted to wallow in self-pity.

Was God so harsh that Cain could not have found forgiveness? The point is that Cain didn't feel truly sorry for his *sin*. He didn't want to repent. When he was punished, he only felt sorry for *himself*!

Self-pity is a cancer of the spiritual life. It eats away at a person's morale and well-being and destroys the desire

to fight back at one's sins and hurdle one's difficulties.

Self-pity is a self-defeating attitude. You may recognize wrong in your life, you may see your mistakes, but self-pity will cause you to act as if the situation is hopeless. Self-pity is expressed in the attitude, "*Que será, será* — whatever will be, will be." Rather than change, fighting to pull yourself out of the rut, you just accept the way things are. But self-pity will never make you happy because it is a symptom of self-righteousness!

### Justification of Sins

The seventh and last symptom of self-righteousness to be discussed in this article is justification of sin.

The truly self-righteous, self-oriented person will justify his own sins. Being righteous in his own eyes, it is easy for him to think he does not have any real sins. So when a fault or a problem is pointed out to him, he justifies and excuses it. This justification makes wrong seem right in his eyes.

Long before he comes to the point of calling out and out sin right and good, however, the self-righteous person hides his eyes from his own sins.

In Revelation 3:17 we see how this self-righteous attitude works. A great deal of self-righteousness is imputed to the Laodiceans. They have an "answer for everything," including their spiritual slothfulness. In the eyes of God, they are "lukewarm and neither cold nor hot . . ." But not so in their own eyes. They say, "I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing . . ." They *justify* their lukewarm attitude. In their own minds they make it right.

In Job 32:1-2, we find that Job "justified *himself* rather than God." Job was experiencing a physical trial. He was seemingly being punished by God. So he searched his own heart but could not find a reason for his plight. Therefore, Job concluded that since *he* was not wrong, *God* had to be at fault. He felt all of his trials were totally undeserved — that God was unfair and unjust for treating him in such a manner. He wanted to argue the point with God.

In one translation we read that Job wanted an umpire or an unbiased judge to sit in judgment between him and God (Job 23). This is the height of self-righteousness!

God finally answered Job's self-justifying argument in Job 40:8, "Will you also disannul *my* judgment? Will you condemn *me*, that you may be righteous?" This, in fact, is what had happened.

Then God was able to convince Job that his attitude was wrong and Job finally saw his own folly. We read his repentant words in Job 42:3, "Therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not." He had come to REAL REPENTANCE, *loathed himself*, surrendered to God and now repented in dust and ashes (Job 42:6).

**SELF-Righteousness — or GOD'S Righteousness?**

Job had earlier said, as we read in Job 29:14, "I put on righteousness and it clothed *me* . . ." And he continued to boast of himself. But that righteousness clearly was not *God's* righteousness.

In Philippians 3:4-9 the Apostle Paul plainly defined the difference between human self-righteousness and God's righteousness. Paul began by listing the various things he could be "proud" of. He then went on to show in verse 8 that he counted all of these past glories as *nothing* — as so much DUNG!

In verse 9 we read why he had given it up, "[To] be found in him [Christ], not having *mine own* righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is [comes] through the faith OF Christ, the righteousness which is *OF GOD* by faith."

Paul recognized the difference between *self-righteousness* and *God's* righteousness. Before his conversion, Paul had been self-righteous. But after his conversion he became filled with God's righteousness as a result of the faith of Christ in him.

In Romans 10:1-3, Paul showed the difference between the Israelites' righteousness and God's righteousness. Lacking the Holy Spirit, the Israelites

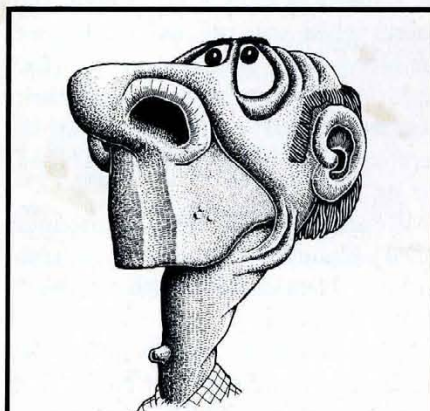
tried to establish their own righteousness, which became *self-righteousness*. In verse 3 we read, "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves to the righteousness of God."

Brethren, are any of us still trying to do the same thing?

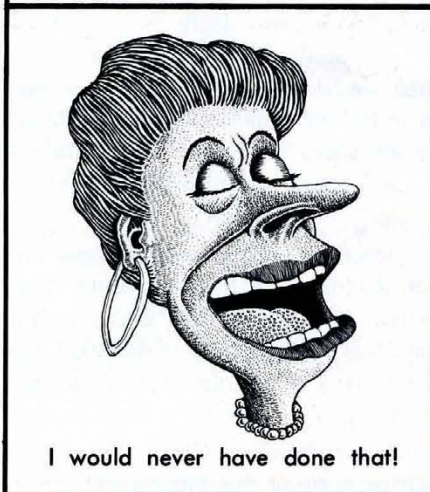
**Seek God's Righteousness**

Jesus said that of Himself He could do nothing (John 5:19). He knew it. He admitted it. As a result His righteousness was not self-righteousness; it was God's righteousness. He did not trust in His own power to be righteous. He prayed without ceasing and asked God to impart *His* righteousness to Him.

And just as Jesus looked to His Father for that strength, so we are admonished to "seek first the Kingdom of God, and *His* righteousness . . ." (Matt. 6:33).



I work hard to maintain this righteous expression.

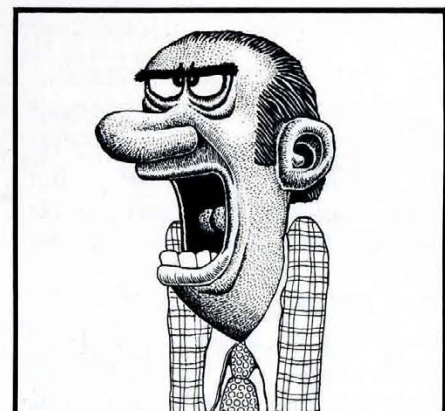


I would never have done that!

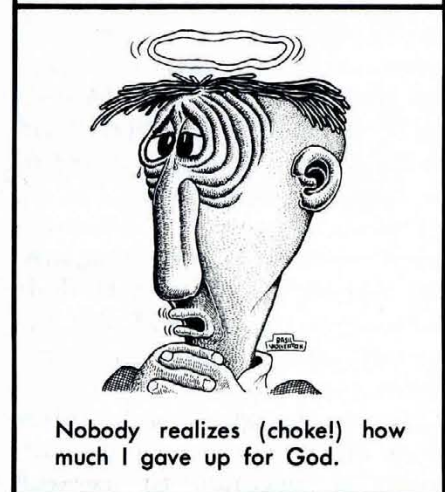
The fight against self-righteousness is a constant battle. It involves *daily* contact with God through prayer and Bible study — having God and Christ through the Holy Spirit living in you. As God continues to live in you, *His* righteousness will replace self-righteousness.

Galatians 2:20 shows Paul lived with the power of Christ in him. It was his *contact with God* that gave him the righteousness that he manifested daily. Zechariah 4:6 also explains it: "Not by might, nor by power, but by *my Spirit*, says the Lord of hosts." It is total trust in God for the righteousness that can make you truly righteous. We must do our part, certainly, but the real strength and the help to do it comes from God. And we must seek His help in prayer *every day*.

So during this Passover season, let's each examine himself or herself, searching our hearts and examining our motives, and begin to root out every trace and vestige of self-righteousness! □



God just doesn't understand me!



Nobody realizes (choke!) how much I gave up for God.

# What Really Killed Jesus Christ?

**Exactly what caused the death of Jesus Christ? Did His heart rupture as professing Christianity assumes? Did He suffocate? Or did He just pretend to be dead, and did His disciples later resuscitate Him? Can anyone know? And how important is it anyway?**

by Jonathan N. Buck and Lawson C. Briggs

**T**O BECOME the Savior of mankind, Jesus Christ had to pay the penalty — *death* (Rom. 6:23) — for all the sins that mankind had ever committed, was committing and would commit.

So Jesus had to die. But was that all? Would just His death be enough?

And would *any* manner of death have sufficed?

## Our Passover Sacrifice

God's written Word prophesied Christ had to die. To be our Savior He had to fulfill those prophecies. But God's Word also prophesied *how* He would die, because it was necessary for Him to die a certain way!

We read in I Corinthians 5:7 that "Christ OUR PASSOVER is [has been] sacrificed for us." He was our Passover Lamb (see John 1:29, 36; Revelation 5:6, 8, 12, 13; 13:8; 14:1). The actual lambs sacrificed in Egypt (Ex. 12) and by the Israelites thereafter for centuries were but *types* of Jesus' sacrifice.

But *how* then did Jesus — our Passover lamb — die? "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought *as a lamb to the slaughter* . . ." (Isa. 53:7).

Continuing (verse 12), ". . . he hath poured out his *soul* [Hebrew *nephesb*, life] unto death." This is *how* He died. But what was this soul or life that was "poured" out? Leviticus 17:11 explains:

"For the life [*nephesb*] of the flesh is *in the blood* . . . it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul

[*nephesb*]." And Deuteronomy 12:23: ". . . The blood is the life [*nephesb*]."

## Christ Had to Shed His Blood

The Israelites were told in Egypt to take of the blood of the Passover lamb and sprinkle it around and over their doors, "And the blood shall be to you for a token [a type or sign] upon the houses where you are: and when I see the blood, I will *pass over* you . . ." (Ex. 12:7, 13). Because of the blood, their lives were spared — just as ours may be because of the blood Jesus Christ shed for us.

We are redeemed "with the precious [shed] blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (I Pet. 1:19).

"And almost all things are by the law purged [purified] with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission [of sins]" (Heb. 9:22).

And so the BLOOD of Christ was poured out unto death — just as all the sacrificial offerings were drained of their blood. Any flesh sacrifice, which included the Passover lamb and Christ, its antitype, had to be drained of its blood, which was poured out on the ground (Deut. 12:24).

Now even if Christ were to pay the penalty for the sins of only *one* truly repentant murderer, His body would have had to be drained of its blood, for the penalty of murder is death by the shedding of blood (Gen. 9:6).

Clearly, therefore, Christ died as a result of pouring out His blood!

## How His Blood Was Shed

The Bible also shows *how* this terrible loss of blood was accomplished. But you won't find it in the King James version, for most of the key verse is actually left out. Along with parallel passages in the other gospels, Matthew 27 tells the story of Christ's death on the cross.

Matthew 27:49 should read, "The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him. AND ANOTHER TOOK A SPEAR AND PIERCED HIS SIDE, AND OUT CAME WATER AND BLOOD."

Up until about 510-511 A.D., the whole of this verse was included in all Greek manuscripts of the New Testament. It was not until then that a spurious copy of Matthew's gospel was "found" (after being deliberately planted in Cyprus as a part of a scheme to justify Cyprian political independence) in which this verse was not included.

After that, some of the Greeks decided to delete the verse, although many Greek manuscripts have retained the original to this day. The whole story can be found in Westcott and Hort's *New Testament in Greek*, pages 21 and 22. At least the Greeks left us a witness of what the true original reading was and should be.

Thus Matthew 27:49 *should* show Christ had just died on the cross, or stake, when the soldiers came to break His legs (John 19:31 — this verse will be explained shortly). To hasten His death, one of the soldiers had stabbed

Him in the side with a spear.

As the crucial moment approached, the Father in heaven withdrew His presence in order that Christ might die alone, utterly forsaken, forlorn, desolate, as befitting the awful sinner He was now imputed to be because all mankind's sins — past and future — were now placed upon Him. That's why "about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice [the first time], saying, *Eli, Eli lama sabachthani?* that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matt. 27:46.)

As the soldier pierced Him through with the spear, "Jesus, when he had

cried again with a loud voice [this time as a result of physical pain], yielded up the ghost [Greek *pneuma*, His breath]" (verse 50). He died as the blood flowed from His body mingled with water — the water probably from a ruptured bladder.

Admittedly, He had already lost a large amount of blood from the vicious scourging that normally preceded a Roman crucifixion. These scourgings were performed with a "flagellum," a whip that resembled a cat o' nine tails with bones and nails added to the ends of the leather straps to increase their tearing effect. There are records that some

men died from the scourging alone. But Christ had been strong and healthy and survived the flogging.

Had it not been for the spear, Christ might have remained alive for much longer, perhaps for days as historical records show often happened.

### What Crucifixion Was Like

Crucifixion was carried out in such a way that loss of blood would be minimal. The victim was nailed to the cross in such a manner as to avoid the puncture of any large arteries, thus ac-

*(Continued on inside back cover)*

## Why We Don't Sacrifice and Eat Passover Lambs Today

**S**INCE Jesus Christ was the God of the Old Testament who spoke to ancient Israel, and the Personage who originally instituted the Old Testament Passover, He had the authority to change it. And He actually did *change the manner* of its observance!

Notice the Gospel account:

As they were eating the Passover supper "Jesus took [unleavened] bread and blessed it . . . and gave it to the disciples and said, Take eat; this is [represents] my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is [represents] my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matt. 26:26-28).

To understand the true significance of this scripture, we need to review several Old Testament scriptures and some of Jesus' own statements made during His ministry prior to this Passover night.

Notice first that the Prophet Isaiah understood that the Passover lamb was a *type* of Christ. He wrote, regarding the death of the Messiah: ". . . He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter" (Isa. 53:7).

John the Baptist, carrying out his own commission of preparing the way for Christ (Luke 3:2-4) as prophesied in Isaiah 40:3, understood that Lamb had come.

"The next day John seeth Jesus com-

ing unto him, and saith, Behold the *Lamb* of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

A little later John again spoke of Jesus specifically to two of his disciples: "Behold the *Lamb* of God!" (Verse 36.) These two disciples immediately began following Jesus. One of them was Andrew the brother of Peter (verses 35, 37, 40). The other was undoubtedly John, who was the only one to record this account. He omitted his own name according to his usual practice.

Later, but before He died as our Passover Lamb, Jesus publicly alluded to the New Testament Passover and the new symbols of bread and wine He would institute. He said, "I am the *living bread* which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is *my flesh*, which I will give for the life of the world . . . Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you" (John 6:51, 53).

Eating this "flesh," unlike eating merely the *physical* lamb, would identify the eater with the eternal life of the Lamb of God. And along with it was the blood (not *in* the "flesh," but separate from it, for it had been all poured out from His body — see accompanying article) which cleared the way for all mankind to receive eternal life by making possible the remission of sins.

As a result of this "hard [to be understood] saying" (verse 60), many of Jesus' disciples ceased to follow Him (verse 66). But Peter and John and the rest of the twelve, except for Judas Iscariot, were willing to accept it (even though they didn't fully understand it until the Holy Spirit revealed it to them — John 14:26) and were thus better prepared to accept His statement at the close of His last Passover supper, "*This is [henceforth] my body.*"

The new emblems were a *substitution for* — not an addition to — the physical lamb. In I Corinthians 11:20 the Apostle Paul further elaborates: "When ye come together therefore in one place, this is *not to eat the Lord's supper.*" The supper — a full Passover meal — was no longer the manner of observing the Passover. Instead Paul went on to clearly state that the simple *emblems* of bread and wine were to be taken on the Passover every year (verses 23-25).

We keep the Passover today because it is commanded by God forever (Ex. 12:17, 24). But no longer do we kill a lamb and eat it, since the "Lamb of God" — Jesus Christ — has been sacrificed *once* for all: "Christ [who was foreshadowed by the literal Passover lamb] was *once* offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Heb. 9:28). Instead, we take the unleavened bread, symbolizing Christ's broken body, and the wine, symbolizing His shed blood, as a *MEMORIAL*, *looking back* to our Savior's suffering and death for our sins.

Clearly, the *Old Testament* observance of Passover is totally unnecessary today.

— Lawson C. Briggs

# BURMA REVISITED

## -In God's Service



Royer — Ambassador College  
Citizens of Rangoon, Burma prepare to ride ferries across the Rangoon River.

**In 1942 the author of this article was stationed in the China-Burma-India theatre of World War II. Death and ruin by fighter fire power was then the order of the day. In the fall of 1972, thirty years later, he was privileged to make a return visit to the area — this time in the service of God!**

by Paul S. Royer

New Delhi, India — October 1972

**I**T ALL started with a telephone call from Mr. Dart. "Are you sitting down?" he inquired. "You're going to the Philippines for the Feast of Tabernacles!"

My reaction was a positive, excited, immediate, "Wow! Are you sure you mean me?" He did, and I had to admit that in all my dreaming about Feast as-

signments, I had never once thought of such a wonderful opportunity as visiting the Philippines.

I had heard about the "handshaking Filipinos," and about their love and compassion. Thinking back on all the Feasts I'd ever attended, I had to concede that one of the most rewarding was the 1967 Passover in Hawaii. There had been only about 100 brethren there, counting men, women and children. One of the things that made it such a great Festival was the humble, childlike attitude and sincere love that was expressed by the brethren. This Feast, in the Philippines, would have to be similar to that Spring Festival.

### Prospective Members?

Other thoughts began to crowd into my mind. It wasn't too far from the Philippines to Thailand, Burma and India where I had served as a pilot with the Flying Tigers during World War II. Were there perhaps people in those distant lands awaiting baptism?

To find out, I called our Foreign Educational Service Office in Pasadena and was referred to our English office regarding India, and to our Australian office for Thailand and Burma. I sent a letter to England, then I dialed Mr. Wayne Cole, who had just returned to Headquarters from Australia.

Mr. Cole informed me there were indeed several interested groups in Burma, though none in Thailand. As for India, a quick response from England informed me that Mr. Frankel was scheduled to take a tour immediately after the Feast.

Mr. Dart's office had sent a telex to Australia inquiring of the need for a tour in Burma, requesting an answer be sent to Manila. When I arrived in Manila, a few days before the Feast, Mr. Colin Adair handed me a page-long telex from Australia signed by

Mr. Luker. It gave complete details on three interested groups of people.

I asked Mr. Adair for a map of Burma, then we searched diligently until we located the area where each person or group lived. One group (10 to 15 people) lives in the northern section of the Chin Hills, a very remote part of Burma near where some of us had wreaked havoc and destruction with our fighters during World War II — now over thirty years ago. (See "Who Killed Jesus Christ?" in *The PLAIN TRUTH*, April 1968, p. 9 or *The GOOD NEWS*, March 1967, p. 7.) As we pored over the maps I couldn't help but wonder if any of these men had been involved in the war or had been affected by our fighters during the war.

Though Mr. Adair had little hope they would reach their destination in time, I mailed three letters from Manila to Burma announcing that my wife and I would arrive in Rangoon in approximately two weeks.

### The Feast in Baguio

A few days later, we all journeyed from Manila to Baguio for the 1972 Feast of Tabernacles.

The roads on Luzon (the northern and main island of the Philippines) were difficult and crowded. We traveled the approximately 100 miles by bus, leaving at 6:30 a.m. and arriving by 1:30 p.m. It was one continuous traffic jam composed of people, bicycles, dogs, children, smoking and fuming buses, broken-down cars, horses and an occasional water buffalo. Each village seemed to rival the next in poverty and disease, with open sewers, no sanitation, and seemingly no water for bathing.

Most of the houses in the area were thatched-roof huts, constructed on stilts to escape high water. The sewage simply drops through the floor to the ground below, where the children also play, along with the chickens and the pigs. How do they survive? The tragic answer is — all too many don't!

By comparison, aside from a few scattered intrusions of modern "civilization," Baguio proved to be a millennial setting, situated in the tropical mountains several thousand feet above sea level. Baguio is majestically beautiful!

We stayed in the Baguio Country Club, a short five-minute ride from the Teacher's Camp where we would keep the Feast of Tabernacles. During World War II the Japanese officers and their concubines occupied the club. The old-timers had some stories to tell about the way it was during the occupation. We also heard from several who are now members of the Manila Church who had survived the Bataan "death march." One of our members was among a group assigned to dig their own graves. He set about the task vigorously and fervently, the only way he knew how to work. On completion each man stood beside his grave to be shot. When they came to the one who later became a member of the Church they hesitated, then decided that he was too valuable and too industrious a worker to lose.

On the opening night, I talked to our brethren about our calling, about the privilege we shared in the knowledge of this great Festival and its meaning. Prior to this Feast it had not registered in my mind that God had accomplished such a marvelous work in the Philippines, calling nearly 2,000 Filipinos into His truth. The Philippines is the only Gentile nation where God has called such a large number of people into the Worldwide Church of God in this generation. I told our people in Baguio why God had called them and their responsibilities to God.

It was truly a wonderful Feast. For my wife and me, it was a "different" kind of Feast, but in every way it was *God's* Feast of Tabernacles. After the concluding sermon and the last hymn on the Last Great Day, my wife and I stood and shook hands with (I believe) every last man, woman and child — all 896 of them! We hated to say good-bye, for God had welded us together in harmony and unity by the power of His Holy Spirit during the eight-day Festival.

### On to Burma!

Though we hated to leave, I was anxious to see what work God was accomplishing in Burma. After one day's stay in Bangkok, we landed in Rangoon late in the evening. The flight had been a rough one and we were glad to

set foot on solid ground again. We found a jeep taxi and were taken to the Inya Lake Hotel.

The hotel was very large and looked ancient. It seemed hundreds of years old. Old plumbing fixtures resembled something from the time of Henry VIII, yet it was relatively pleasant. Most of the buildings in Rangoon date back to pre-World War II, built primarily by the British, and now stand in a state of decay — dark, drab, dreary, ghost-like edifices, primarily used by the Burmese Government.

Later to our surprise, we found that the hotel had been built in 1962 by the Russians as a gift to the Burmese Government. Of course it was run by the government, as are all businesses, for private enterprise does not exist in Burma. As a result the economy is stagnant.

There are virtually no tourists and, of course, no tourist shops in Burma, with one exception — a government-operated gift shop in Rangoon.

Mrs. Wayne Cole had told my wife of the difficulty of obtaining visas and traveling in Burma. She also informed us that tourists were watched carefully in Burma. Regardless of the problem, I was able to talk privately to a number of Burmese in and around Rangoon. Each expressed a hopelessness with life and a lack of purpose for living.

The people are wretchedly poor. Their greatest apparent assets are their gold shrines, their Buddhas, their temples. The average income in Rangoon is only about fifty U.S. dollars per month. Few know anything of the outside world. They are virtually prisoners of the state. Their only *hope* — in total ignorance of God's plan — is that life will be a little better in the "next life."

### Contacting Prospectives

When we first checked into the hotel, I was informed that a man had tried to call us the evening before we arrived. Later, on our initial attempt to contact those we had come so far to see, we found him to be one of the men I'd written to from Manila — a Mr. Frederick Dunn.

Early in the morning, my wife and I took a taxi to the downtown area of Rangoon. I gave the driver the address and after a short search, while we

waited in the cab, he returned with Mr. Dunn, who was excited to talk about God's Work.

He had received my letter and had written to the two interested groups not living in Rangoon, telling them of our impending arrival. I asked him about the possibility of reaching the Myaungmya group, the nearest to Rangoon. In answer, I was taken to the river and shown an old broken-down wooden Mississippi-style riverboat. It was the only means of reaching the village. Passengers boarded at noon and traveled upstream all night, reaching the village when the sun was well up in the sky. I looked at my wife and I knew if God had people in Myaungmya, they would have to come to Rangoon — at least for this trip.

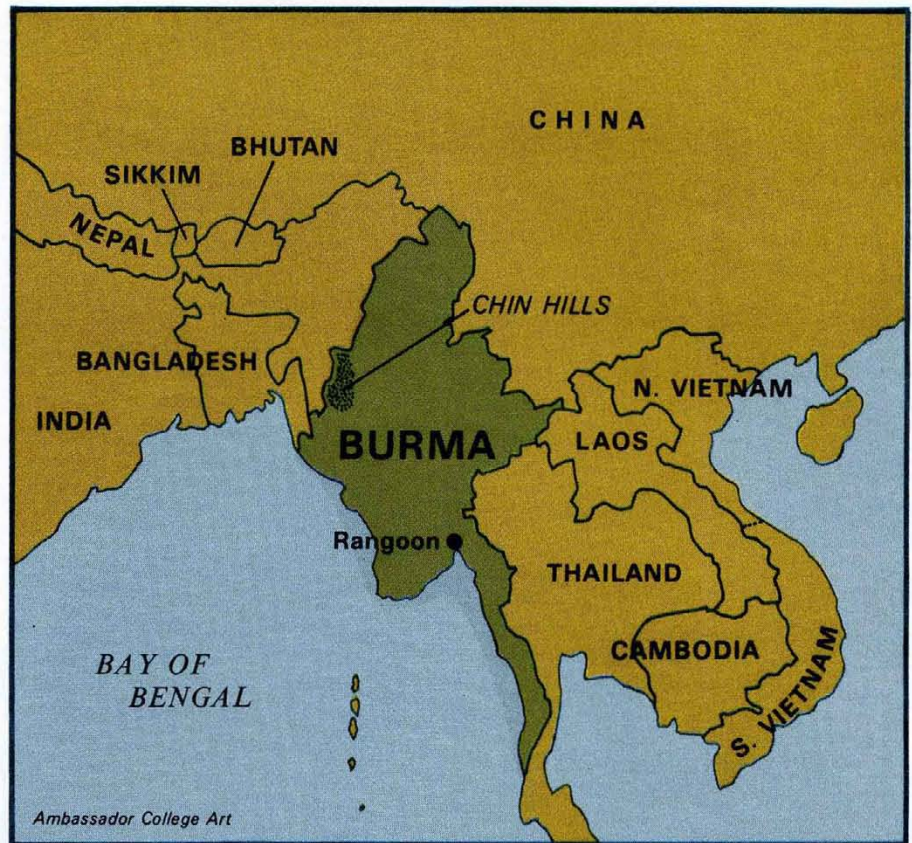
But what about the other group? The Chin Hill people, my taxi driver informed me, could only be reached on foot with some travel by jeep. It would take days and then one was not assured of contact. Language could also be a barrier.

Next on the agenda was the other person in Rangoon, apparently a transient. Mr. Luker had sent the address of H. T. Zam Hei. After some searching, we found it to be the address of an old British warehouse with windows covered by heavy iron bars. The building appeared uninhabited and uninviting.

We stepped around two men on the sidewalk who were washing the transmission of an old dilapidated car in gasoline. Various groups of dirty, unshaven, poorly clothed natives in the partially deserted street stood staring menacingly at us. They all looked unfriendly and appeared irritated that we were intruding into their world.

Mr. Dunn tried to gain entrance — it seemed useless. The men standing around told him the address was incorrect. As far as I was concerned, it appeared we had ended in a blind alley. I called several times to Mr. Dunn to forget the whole thing, but he persisted. Finally, we gained entrance.

Inside we found a huge room with cots, tables and a few chairs. Cobwebs covered the lights and furniture. We talked to several men sitting around on cots or chairs reading, sleeping or playing cards. Finally, we were told that



Mr. H. T. Zam Hei did reside in the building, but was then away attending class in another part of the city.

I told Mr. Dunn that I would like to counsel with the two of them together in the hotel. He seemed very happy and said he would stop and pick up Mr. Zam Hei and they would be there by 4:30 that afternoon.

#### Would They Come?

As we waited in our Russian-style antiquated room, five o'clock came and went, then 6:00, and then it was nearly 7:00. I wondered what had happened. Had we come all the way to Rangoon for nothing? My wife encouraged me. We had done all we could at this point. I began to think maybe God was not calling anyone from Burma.

I got on my knees and asked God to send the men if I could serve in counseling them — if He had indeed called them. Mr. Dunn had appeared very sincere, dedicated and humble. He looked to me to be a prime prospect, perhaps the beginning of called-out ones in Burma.

Five or ten minutes after I prayed, the house phone rang. They were waiting in the lobby. I went down and

talked to both men briefly. I knew Mr. Dunn, but not Mr. Zam Hei. I didn't want to invite them to our room until I was sure. In a few minutes of conversation, I knew what I had gone down to find out and invited both men to our room. Herbert Zam Hei was definitely interested! He was zeroed in on one subject, the Living God, and Christ who had died for his sins!

#### From the Chin Hills!

We went upstairs, Herbert carrying a knapsack in which was most or all of the precious literature that he had received — all his copies of *The PLAIN TRUTH* and perhaps a dozen or so booklets. He had been on *The PLAIN TRUTH* mailing list for ten years, yet apparently only a few dozen copies had finally made it to the remote area where he lived.

I asked Herbert about the group in the Chin Hills. His eyes lit up even more — he was from the Chin Hills. This was the very man Mr. Wayne Cole had told me was perhaps the brightest prospect of all in Burma! He had come down from the hills to study in a government school, leaving his wife and child at home, to try to break



free from the poverty of Burmese farming and provide them a better living.

The three of us sat on the floor. Mr. Dunn was well educated and spoke excellent English. I began asking both men basic questions. It soon became apparent that Herbert Zam Hei was the man God was calling. He spoke English seemingly as well as Mr. Dunn. However, I soon found out by watching him, talking to him and studying his answers that he was self-educated, and as a result it was sometimes difficult for him to comprehend the meaning of the English language.

He laid out his literature, his Bible and a thick notebook in which was the outline of nearly every article he had ever received from us. Painstakingly he had studied each article in English, using a dictionary to look up each word until he had the meaning of the article. Then he outlined it in Burmese, then in block-letter English. Mr. Dunn hadn't even brought a Bible.

### Five Long Years of Waiting

Amazingly Herbert knew why he was here. Mr. Dunn didn't. Herbert wanted to be baptized. I asked him

why, and how long he had waited to be baptized. He said with all the feeling and fervor that only a converted, dedicated man can muster, that he had waited *five long years* for a baptizing team from God's Church. He told me life was filled with sorrow, that there was no happiness on this earth, that he wanted to serve the living God, and the Savior Jesus Christ.

In his entire life, Herbert had never talked to a minister of God or another person about God's truth, except a half dozen or so Burmese from his native village. His friends had read the derogatory *Time* article of some months ago and chided Herbert that "God's Work" is perhaps not God's Work at all. But Herbert knew it is.

He poured out his heart to me, explaining what he knew about God and why he wanted to serve God and be baptized. As I listened, as I talked, I

was utterly amazed that a man could understand so completely God's truth under such adverse circumstances.

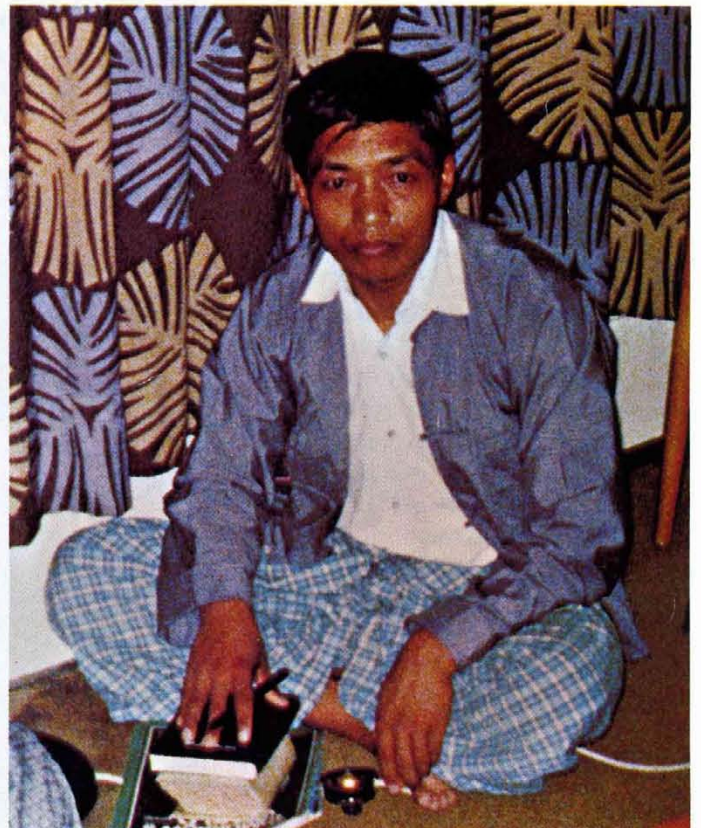
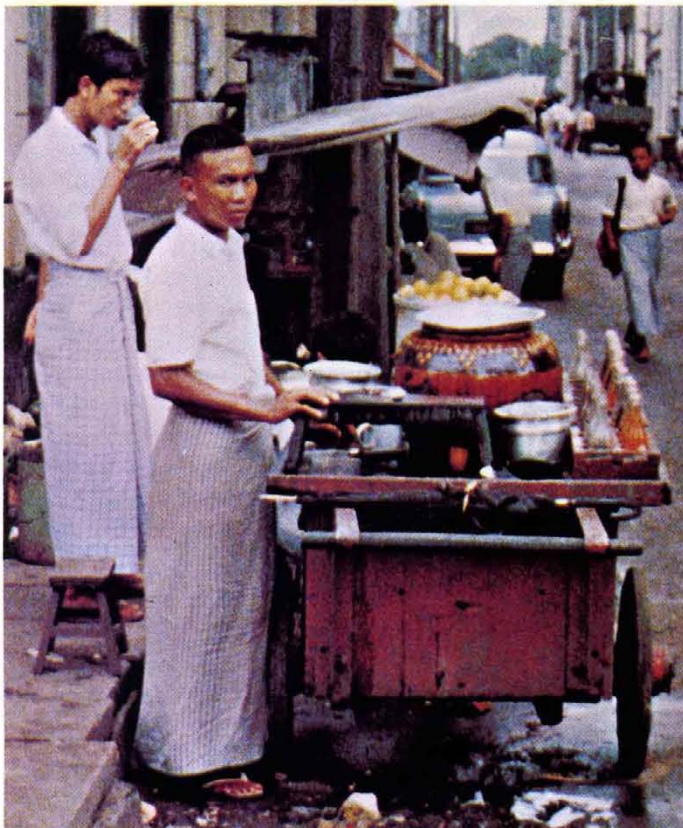
For years Herbert had kept all seven Feasts alone, not knowing completely their meaning. He knew about the Kingdom of God, but he didn't know what he would be in that kingdom. Before the night was through, I would tell him — and the chills ran up my spine as I anticipated his reaction — that *he also could be God* in that kingdom!

He knew above all that God is alive, that Christ is his Savior and that he had to die himself in order to live! It didn't take me long to realize that God's Holy Spirit was the means, the power that performed such a miracle in this man's life!

We sat on the floor for three hours as I explained God's Holy Days and His plan, by word and diagram. Mr. Dunn was of tremendous help. Often Herbert and I communicated with each other through Mr. Dunn when detail was needed to make a point clear. He was obviously there to translate, to help make clear what Herbert didn't understand in the English language.

At left, below, is an open air "restaurant" on one of the streets of Rangoon. At right is Herbert Zam Hei, first person to be baptized in the Philadelphia Era of God's Church in Burma.

Royer — Ambassador College



### There Were Problems to Be Solved

One of the first things Herbert brought up was marriage and divorce. He had served two years in the Burmese Army. During his absence, his father had bought him a wife. But Herbert had married a different woman and now had a small child. It had weighed heavily on his mind for years. What was God's decision? Whatever it was, that is what he would accept and live by.

On discussing the matter I soon found that there had never been a marriage ceremony and that Herbert had never lived with the first woman at all. He had returned home, refusing the woman his father bought, and had married the girl he left behind — the one he loved. After his years of wondering, of studying and questioning his marriage, I was happily able to tell him that in God's eyes he was indeed married to the woman that *he* had chosen as his wife. Tears were in his eyes when he said, "Thank you, Mr. Royer." But he wasn't saying it to me, he was saying it to God!

Tithing was another question. Over the years, with virtually no income, Herbert had tithed in part. The money was buried in the Chin Hills. I clarified the absolute need to tithe, explaining that the Work of God would probably never be able to use the tithe (since Burma does not permit money to be sent out of the country); that the money in all probability would perish where it was buried in the climactic events that would bring an end to this age, but making it clear that the requirement to tithe fully was for the good of the individual. When he answered, I had no question but that from that day forward he would faithfully tithe a tenth of his meager income and that God would bless him. How God would accomplish the blessing would indeed be a miracle considering the circumstances.

We discussed subject after subject, including the Sabbath. Yet in all our counseling I had not thought to specify that I was one of God's ministers — that I was there to baptize as God commanded. In Herbert's mind, I was only visiting Burma. I was a man from the

Worldwide Church of God — a man who knew God's Word. Herbert thought that he had to wait until a baptizing tour passed through Burma.

The time flew by as we talked of God. I was deeply impressed with the attitude of this man. There was a sense of urgency in Herbert that I'd never before seen in any other person.

About three-quarters through the evening, he asked me how many nations were now in the ten-nation group. I looked at the strained expression on his face and smiled — I knew why he had asked. If there were already ten nations gathered, then the chances of a baptizing tour reaching Burma and Herbert before the end were indeed slim. He was afraid the end would come and he would never be baptized!

Herbert *was* baptized in the cool evening waters of Lake Inya, about midnight on October 4, 1972. That night, as an officer commissioned in God's service, I plunged a young Burmese man under the water into death and raised him to a new life for the living Christ, our God. In all the years in the ministry, I have never heard or seen a man who understood more about why he needed Christ, why he needed to die in order to live in the wonderful, happy, world tomorrow, than this young Burmese man!

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Since the writing of his article, Mr. Royer received a letter from a man who was to counsel with him in Rangoon, but who arrived there too late. Mr. Royer requested that we include that letter with his article, which we now quote in full:

October 20, 1972

Dear Mr. Paul,

On receipt of Mr. Frederick F. Dunn's letter of 28 September 1972 on 5 October, we are very much thrilled and overjoyed to hear of your arrival news. Instantly my wife urged me to rush to Rangoon to overtake you. As I had long been looking for this wonderful opportunity, I did not hesitate. On 6 October 1972 I journeyed to Rangoon arriving there the next day — that was

Sabbath day morning. On my arrival at Mr. Frederick's residence, to my bitter disappointment, I came to know that you and Mrs. Paul had already left Rangoon on 4 October. It is a fatal blow to me to have missed you!

Since receiving Mr. Armstrong's article on "Should You Assemble Without a Minister?", I and my family are fervently praying night and day that God will send His ministers to our country. All we fellow believers here, I myself, my wife Naw Paw Say Dun, my eldest daughter Miss Lavender, my eldest son Saw Shee Kai Moo, my widow mother (age 75), my cousin Saw Kin Maung and his wife Naw Ka Paw Say, Saw Paw Loo Coo and U Saw Hla are always praying the same things. Finally God does hear us and answered our prayers by sending His minister, Mr. Paul S. Royer, with his beloved wife to our capital city, Rangoon.

Mr. Paul, if you had been able to stay a few days longer in Rangoon, I would have surely met with you. And as I have been longing for baptism, thereby, I would have been baptized by God's own minister! But all of we believers here positively trust God to send His ministers to us again in the very near future.

On the whole, we are very glad, that, one of we zealous believers here in Burma, Mr. Herbert T. Zam Hei, had been privileged to be baptized by God's true minister while on his way home. We believe that God is soon going to establish His Church in our Burma.

Mr. Paul, I have a problem I wish to let you know. My eldest son Saw Shee Kai Moo (age 20) failed the basic education high school exam, twice. He had already been requesting for baptism and I trust, by now, his name had been put on the baptizing list in Sydney office. From this year I make him stay at home. I did not allow him to apply for a job as I fear he might not have enough favor for keeping God's Sabbath days holy.

He is very much willing to study abroad — especially he has a strong desire to study at one of the Ambassador Colleges in U.S.A. But I cannot afford to send him over to U.S.A. for higher study. So I badly need your advice (counsel on how to cope with this problem). I shall be very much grateful if you will sympathetically take pain to reply me. My prime aim and object is that one day he becomes one of God's true ministers.

Please help, to your utmost ability, that God will soon put us into His Church.

Sincerely with best wishes and love,

Saw Lay Beh

P.S. We have prayed that this letter will miraculously reach you! □

# GOD'S PEOPLE IN BLACK AFRICA

**Once again Mr. Harold Jackson and Mr. Robert Morton have returned from a baptizing tour of Black Africa. Here is the complete report of one of the most successful baptizing tours in the history of this era of God's Church!**

by Robert G. Morton

**H**OW WOULD you like to wait twelve years for your first visit by a representative of God's Church? Would you be willing to wait patiently for a decade or more before you could be baptized? This is what many of your brethren in Black Africa had to do until we were able to reach them last fall.

## Meager Growth

Until the fall of 1972, God's Church had grown very slowly in Black Africa. When Mr. Roderick Meredith and Mr. Raymond McNair visited South Africa and Rhodesia (which then included what is now Zambia) in 1960, only one African was baptized.

During the ten years from 1960 to 1970, as a result of internal strife, civil wars and political independence movements, much of Black Africa remained inaccessible to God's ministers. In that decade only three additional Africans became members of the Church. They visited the United Kingdom and later returned to their homes in West Africa.

Then, as a result of two tours — in 1970 and 1971 — an additional fifteen individuals were added to God's Church for a total of nineteen members in all of Black Africa.

Last year's tour, however, exceeded our wildest expectations! We left London on August 8th, and in two months we were able to visit West, Central and East Africa (see map showing itinerary of tour on page 19).

## Nigeria At Last!

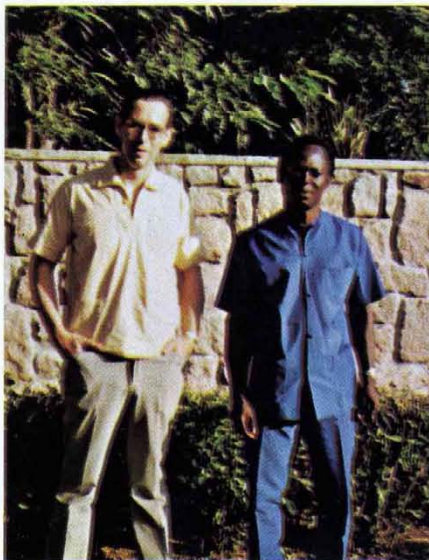
Until last year it had been impossible for a baptizing team to enter Ni-

geria because of the bloody civil war which devastated the country for seven years. For the first time, Nigeria opened its doors and we were able to visit many who had been waiting *twelve long years* for a minister to come and baptize them.

One of the first to be baptized was an elderly gentleman, now 74, who had faithfully monitored *The World Tomorrow* broadcasts during the seven years we were on WNBS in Nigeria. Each week he filled in and mailed to Bricket Wood a report giving such details as whether the station was starting the broadcast on time or was playing the tapes too fast or too slow. He also listed the literature advertised so our mail readers at the college could properly serve the people of Nigeria.

Mr. Morton stands beside the first person baptized in the Philadelphia Era of God's Church in Nigeria.

Jackson — Ambassador College



When he first heard the truth, this man had six wives. But when he learned that polygamy was wrong, he put away all but his one true wife. He had never met a representative of the Work before, having waited patiently on God for more than a decade to send a minister to baptize him.

Traveling many miles throughout Nigeria, we were able to meet and counsel with 102 individuals, many from remote villages in the interior. Some traveled hundreds of miles, spending almost their entire life's savings in a single journey to meet God's ministers. A total of *thirty-two* were baptized in Nigeria!

From Nigeria we traveled to the United Republic of the Cameroons where two more were baptized, and then westward to Ghana and Liberia. From Monrovia in Liberia we journeyed through Zaire (the old Belgian Congo) to keep the Feast of Tabernacles with God's people in South Africa and Rhodesia.

After the Feast we visited Zambia, Tanzania and Kenya. Unfortunately, even though we made a brief stopover in Uganda, the political tensions and extreme danger to travelers there made it necessary for us to cancel appointments with the six people (two of them baptized members) who were hoping to meet us in Kampala.

The threat of war between Uganda and Tanzania also prevented all of those in Tanzania from seeing us. Those who live in the border regions that were bombed a few days before by the Ugandan Air Force would have had to travel some 800 miles through

# AFRICAN TRAGEDY!

by Harold L. Jackson

OUR EAST African Airlines return flight 762 from Nairobi to London had been re-routed and was now to stop at Entebbe, Uganda, for forty-five minutes, then proceed to London non-stop. After takeoff we were informed by a stewardess that East African Airlines was one of the lines chosen to assist in the airlift of Asians expelled from Uganda.

The landing strip at Entebbe is on the far side of a three-hundred-foot hill which hides the airport proper. So we were totally unprepared for the sight which came into view as we taxied around the hillside.

General Idi Amin, President of Uganda, was hosting the President of Liberia, Mr. Tolbert, and a large ceremony was in progress. A full-dress parade with inspection proceedings, cabinet ministers, local and state dignitaries, plus high-ranking military officials was in full swing as we turned to park behind a cargo plane in the process of being loaded (one of four which were waiting). We could also see at the end of the inner runways two fighter bombers, and on the far side were several MIG-17s and what appeared to be MIG-21s not too far away. Artillery and mechanized units were visible as we came to a stop and the engines were cut.

An announcement by intercom stated that we would be here for one hour and that passengers in transit would remain on board. We were happy to hear that because it afforded us an opportunity to assess our sur-

roundings without arousing suspicion.

When the cargo plane in front of us pulled away for takeoff, we saw what we had not noticed before — two orange-colored tractors pulling trailers loaded with Indian families waiting to board our aircraft.

It was a pitiful sight. The children, some playing with toys, milled about their parents asking questions and impatiently demanding answers. The puzzled expressions on their faces bespoke their troubled thoughts as they watched their belongings being loaded on board our jet.

After a two-hour wait for the pre-empting official ceremonies to be concluded, the 142 passengers were transferred from the trailers to our plane. Finally, after another hour passed, during which baggage was loaded and fuel needs supplied, we took off for London.

During the seven-and-one-half-hour non-stop flight I carefully watched the expressions and attitudes of these

people who had been *thrust out* of their country. Meanwhile my tour companion, Mr. Bob Morton, had a very interesting conversation with a young student, one of the 50,000 persons of Asian ancestry being evicted from Uganda by its military ruler and despot.

One of a family of five, the young man's parents were merchants in the city of Kampala. The father, a dealer in fabrics, had saved a sum of £2400, but was permitted to take only £50 of it out of the country. The young man told of others who were forced to leave their stock in the hands of agents who, it was told them, would forward the money received from future buyers.

However, the full extent of their injury was not apparent until we arrived at Heathrow Airport in London, and went to claim our baggage. There coming off the plane was the baggage of these unfortunate deported Asian business people, ripped and torn apart beyond repair. It was not loaded that way, of this I am certain, for we

watched it being loaded on the plane. Hinges had been ripped or pried off, locks broken open, ropes and straps cut or hacked apart. It was a sickening mess!

An old adage says: "Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn." I thought of a time coming when another group of people may be rejected by the nations they live in, perhaps be thrown out of their lands without any belongings.

How willing are *you* to be a part of that group if such occurs?



Keystone Press Photo

potentially dangerous guerrilla-infested territory to meet us in Dar-es-Salaam.

### Severe Trials

The problems facing some of the people we met are unbelievable. To obey God in some areas runs against the grain of deep-seated tribal customs and laws — many of which stem directly from the religions of ancient Canaan.

Forsaking the tribal religion with its superstitions, libations, sacrifices and in some areas even ritual fornication, can mean excommunication from the tribe or the family, and economic deprivation. Also, in many areas a girl's parents have the right under tribal law to take her away from her husband and give her to another man — even after years of marriage! This means a man obeying God could lose not only *his job*, but also *his home, his wife and his family*.

Another serious trial facing many of our members in Africa stems from the economic situation. The average African family can afford to send only the oldest son to school. Consequently the education of girls is usually neglected. Therefore the majority of the readers of *The PLAIN TRUTH* in Black Africa are men, and most of the baptized members are young bachelors. This means they face a *real* trial. They understand they cannot marry an unbaptized girl, yet God has not called many women into His Church who are eligible for marriage. These young men know they must wait in faith for God to provide them wives.

We baptized a number who are married whose wives are illiterate — they neither speak English, nor read or write their own language. Some of these illiterate wives want to be baptized — what a challenge for their husbands!

### One Man's Faith

We came across many examples of faith in those whom God is calling.

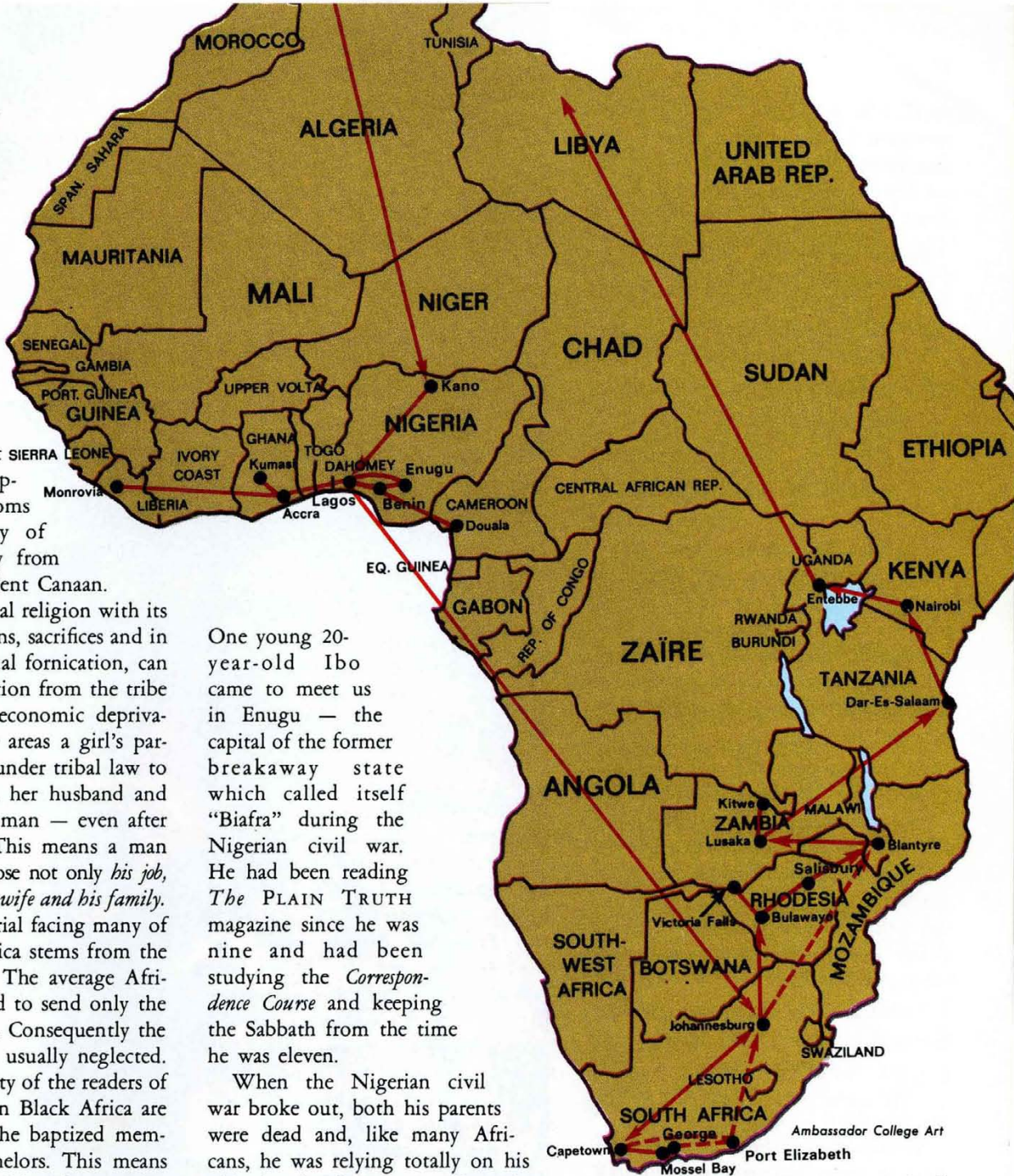
One young 20-year-old Ibo came to meet us in Enugu — the capital of the former breakaway state which called itself "Biafra" during the Nigerian civil war. He had been reading *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine since he was nine and had been studying the *Correspondence Course* and keeping the Sabbath from the time he was eleven.

When the Nigerian civil war broke out, both his parents were dead and, like many Africans, he was relying totally on his older brother for support. But when his brother was taken captive by federal troops early in the war, he was left without any means of support.

In the meantime a serious drought combined with the war to produce one of the most disastrous famines of recent history. Official statistics top the million mark for the number of Ibos who died, but unofficial estimates of local people we talked to run as high as *two and one-half* million! Only those with jobs and money were able to buy what little food there was left. Many thousands were dying every single day and our young man knew he would soon starve to death unless he could

get food. In this plight, work was arranged for him in Enugu by an uncle. But after arriving in the city he was dismayed to find he could not have the job unless he was willing to work on the Sabbath. It was either break God's Sabbath which he had now been keeping for five years, or walk out of that office to almost certain slow and *agonizing* death.

Most people at this stage would begin to lose faith or reason that God must intend them to work Sabbaths after all, or that "He would understand." Instead, our young man decided that



Ambassador College Art

the God he served could save him from starvation if He wanted to. He was determined to obey his God, *even if it did cost him his life!* So he turned the job down.

To make matters worse, hearing what happened, his uncle took the action as a personal insult and determined to make him pay for it. He contacted each of his surviving relatives and forbade them to help him in any way. Since remaining in the city was impossible, the 16-year-old wandered out into the countryside again, waiting for starvation to take its ultimate toll.

His very obedience to God, however, is what *saved his life!* Within a few days Enugu was overrun by federal troops and tens of thousands of Ibos were killed, *including all those working in the department where he would have been employed!* He had left the city just in time.

In the privation that followed the close of the war, God somehow preserved his life. As we heard the story, Mr. Jackson and I recalled the promise in Psalm 33:18-19, "Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy; *to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.*"

Needless to say, the young man was baptized. He now has a job and is beginning to prosper, saving a little money to go back to school and obtain the education he missed.

We heard *many* similar stories in Nigeria of how God preserved through that time of extreme horror the lives of those who feared and obeyed Him.

### Overcoming the Language Barrier

A young school teacher from Ouagadougou, capital of Upper Volta, traveled for *four days* to meet us in Accra, Ghana. Unfortunately, we spoke only English, and he spoke only French. His questions were all written in French, but he had also written down the scriptures, and by recognizing a word here and there we were able to answer most of his queries.

The real difficulty came, however,

when he asked if we would baptize him. How do you counsel an individual for baptism when you can't speak his language and he can't speak yours? There was no interpreter available, but he had his Bible in French and we had the same Bible in English. By turning to a question or phrase in our English Bible and finding the same phrase in his French translation, we were able to converse. Back and forth we went for nearly three and one-half hours until we were *sure* he was ready — it is, after all, the heart and attitude which God looks on. He left for home, which was nearly six hundred miles away, rejoicing in the fact he was now a begotten son of God!

### God Intervenes for Us

On many different occasions we had to rely totally on God ourselves to give us favor in the eyes of individuals and officials in order to carry on with the tour.

One Sunday we were due to fly from Lagos, capital of Nigeria, to Douala in the Cameroons. After a mad half-hour taxi ride at insane speeds through the crowded streets of Lagos, we arrived at the airport only to find that our 10:30 p.m. Ethiopian Airways flight *just didn't exist* — even after it had been booked and confirmed with that airline from London! We discovered that *only* Nigeria Airways is allowed to carry passengers on that route. The next flight was not until the following Wednesday. It would mean missing all our visits in the Cameroons.

Questioning an airport official, we learned of an Alitalia flight coming from Rome which was due to land at 3:00 p.m. the following day (Monday) to drop off mail and then continue on to Douala. Like Ethiopian Airways, Alitalia has no terminal rights in Lagos and can't take on passengers for that route. Nevertheless, we *determined* to find some official who could get us on that plane the next day.

A few phone calls early the following morning elicited the information that only the Ministry of Transport and Aviation had the authority to fulfill our request. So we arrived there about 8:30 a.m. and began working our way

up through the echelons of bureaucratic authority.

Finally we reached the office of the Permanent Secretary (the individual directly responsible to the elected cabinet minister). His assistant listened patiently while we explained our problem, then said they couldn't help us. We smiled and persisted. He smiled and persisted also. For more than half an hour we haggled and hassled back and forth. Still the official remained adamant.

Then, *suddenly*, he changed his mind! "Okay," he said, "give me the tickets. I'll see what I can do."

*Then we hesitated!* Even though our flights had been booked from London, they had all been paid from South Africa. Across the top of our tickets, in big bold capitals, was a note saying they were *refundable only in South Africa*.

Nigeria is very *hostile* toward that country, so we knew that now we were *really* going to find out whether God wanted us on that flight. To get us permission to board that plane, God would have to cause this official not to notice or be influenced by what was written across each of the tickets he held in his hand. He looked at both tickets, read every word on them, then walked out of the room with the tickets in his hand. We were left there staring at one another.

Half an hour later another official returned with our tickets and took us into another office. He, too, carefully examined each ticket, then ordered his secretary to write letters to the Airport Commandant, the Airport Duty Officer and to Alitalia, asking them to get us on the flight to Douala that afternoon. Neither he nor the official before him had paid any attention to what was written in bold letters across each ticket! It was God who brought us to Douala that day to take care of the people He was calling into His Family.

We arrived in Douala just in time to meet two brothers who had traveled many hours to see us. They met us last year and this time they both believed

(Continued on page 31)

*An Open Letter*

# FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

by David Bedford

GREETINGS from Ireland to God's Church worldwide!

We here want to deeply thank all who have been praying for our safety during the present troubles. We know many of you are praying because God has afforded us continual protection, and not one has experienced any serious personal harm.

As the situation deteriorates, Belfast and just about all the towns and villages look more like battlegrounds every day. In many towns only service vehicles and residents are allowed in the centers — other traffic must detour. All allowed to enter are searched by the police or army.

Many side streets in bigger cities such as Belfast and Londonderry are completely closed off by seven-foot-high iron fences. Access by gate is allowed at only one end and all entering traffic and pedestrians are individually searched. Packages are particularly examined. They are examined again if one enters shops or stores with them. Nevertheless, the I.R.A. was able to smuggle two bombs into one of these areas last week.

To make it easier to spot car bombs, no unattended cars are allowed in city or town centers. Any car left unat-

tended is swooped on by the authorities. Fines of £40 (\$100) or so are slapped on the offenders. Since this makes it hard for carrying parcels, etc. one prospective member has purchased a porter's trolley to take his case of samples around.

Members are constantly telling me how they have just missed exploding bombs by minutes, or seconds. Usually warnings are given and the area cleared of people by the army and police, but some explosions occur *without warning!* One such incident occurred in a bus station. One member had just left the station. Another was passing in a bus at the *exact time* of the explosion. Both were unharmed!

Another bomb exploded without warning in a restaurant. Two people were killed and many injured. Two of the young people from the Church were planning to eat there, but had not yet arrived. Also, the unconverted wife of a member and their son had just been there and gone elsewhere because of the large number of people waiting to be served.

The same member's car was completely wrecked a few days later when a bomb exploded in a nearby vehicle in a parking lot. Of course he was elsewhere and unharmed.

One day a firm where some of our members were employed here in Lisburn received a telephone warning that a bomb was in the building. Everybody was evacuated to the road and cars were pushed from the yard. Suddenly a bomb exploded in one of the cars. Many workers standing nearby were injured, and one lost an arm and a leg. But none of our members were hurt because *it was a Holy Day and they were not working!*

One of our members happened to come around the corner of the garage where he works just as three men were planting a bomb there. One of the men held him at gunpoint until the others had done the priming, then he was able to flee to safety before the explosion.

Another member was being interviewed for a job in a hotel. A large bomb had been placed behind the building and the area had been evacuated, but for some reason the hotel was not cleared. The interview had

only just begun when a tremendous explosion rocked the building. The two interviewers were knocked off their chairs. The member's chair stayed as firm as a rock and he *didn't even move!*

This same member later was driving through a particular section of town when he was confronted by a group of 100 or so teen-agers who had been smashing shop windows, traffic lights, cars and anything they could find. When he tried to drive past them they smashed many of the windows in his car, but he was not badly hurt.

A young man who attends services had a similar experience in his firm's van. When he reported it to the police, they replied, "What do you want us to do about it?"

Another member stopped at a road junction in Armagh when a group of children started to stone his vehicle — again a van. One side was badly dented by the stones. One stone went right through the windscreen on the passenger's side and shattered the rest of the screen. He had to put his fist through it to see to drive on.

Some Protestants who were hijacking cars for barricades stopped a young lady member in her car. While a young man was trying to persuade her to get out she started to pray silently. Just then an older man strolled over and said, "That's O.K., son, let her go."

Some months ago I personally was driving into Belfast through a Catholic area when I noticed groups of youths standing around and large stones lying in the road. I was thinking to myself "You had better be careful here," when suddenly one group stepped into the road and started to wave me down. One had a large stone in his hand as if to throw it. Instead of slowing down I put my foot down on the accelerator and swerved past them. Needless to say I have not been that way since! Youth gangs actually hijacked and burned about 100 cars in the same area that week.

Just a few days ago, when my wife and I were in town visiting with a member, we heard two explosions. Later, I left my wife in the car while I went into a shop. Ten minutes later there was gunfire about two streets behind where we were parked. My wife

didn't know whether to lie on the floor of the car with the children or drive away — she could have driven into more trouble if she had left the scene.

Others have also had very near escapes. One member was cutting her hedge one day when two bullets just missed her — one in front and one behind! A few weeks earlier her daughter was walking with another member's daughter when a bullet passed between them! In neither case was there a gun battle going on at the time.

These appeared to be just stray shots. There is quite a bit of indiscriminate shooting at times, especially at night. Some weeks we hear gunfire or explosions while at Bible study or Sabbath services.

Next to the hall we use for services there is a small parking lot about 10 or 15 yards wide. A few months ago the shop directly on the other side of the parking lot was blown up, but our building had only one broken window. The hall has had windows broken on two or three occasions when bombs exploded in the area, but never while we were inside. Actually, our hall has a six-foot-high iron fence around it, which helps with security. It is the only hall in the city with such protection.

Despite all the troubles, more members are being added to the Church, both in the north and the south. To serve the members in the Irish Republic better, we are planning to start a monthly Bible study in Limerick this year to add to the present monthly Bible study in Dublin.

As you have seen, God is certainly protecting His Church through perilous times here in Ireland. Truly, the God we serve is a great and powerful God!

I hope all of you reading this will be encouraged to know that our Father is concerned with us as individuals and *does answer our prayers*. He will help all of us with any of the problems, trials and tests we have from time to time — if we remain close to Him and have faith! (I Cor. 10:13.)

Please continue to pray for the brethren in Ireland, and around the world. □



# God's Eyes and Ears Are on You!

**How can God in heaven see and hear you — even know your very thoughts? Read this article about the "miracles" man can perform using the physical laws and materials God created, and gain a new realization of GOD'S incredible power, His knowledge of and interest in YOU!**

by Hal W. Baird, Jr.

**M**ILLIONS of eyes worldwide were glued to television sets July 20, 1969. Millions were awestruck to actually see space traveler Neil A. Armstrong plant the first human foot on the moon, 240,000 miles away in the heavens.

As Astronaut Armstrong's feet stirred the dust of the moon's ancient pitted surface, his voice dimly penetrated the earth's atmosphere by means of an electronic "miracle." Hundreds of millions of excited earthlings then heard him say: "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind."

It was a profound demonstration indeed of man's ingenuity — of man's ability to travel and communicate! In less than a century mankind had progressed from the smoke-signal and horse-and-buggy age into the TV, rocket and space age.

But what of the God who made these "miracles" possible? And what do man's communications and space travel have to do with whether God sees, hears, or is interested in us?

The Apostle Paul declared, "The invisible things of him [God] from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being *understood by the things that are made*, even his eternal power and Godhead..." (Rom. 1:20). By this principle we should be able to understand that what God has made possible for man to do, God can obviously do *much better* Himself!

Let's notice just how this is true.

## Knowledge Foreordained to Increase

Before our TV sets that memorable day in July, we humans saw prophecy being fulfilled. Long ago God had told Daniel, "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even *to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased*" (Dan. 12:4).

But until very recent times man has depended on slow and comparatively limited means of communications — word-of-mouth, hand, flag or smoke signals, or homing pigeons. None of these means was usable over great distances. None could reach into space.

It was not until 1835 that Samuel B. Morse's telegraph, an electrical device using wires, provided the first rapid method of moving a message long distances. He did it by the use of "code" — long and short pulses called dots and dashes.

Alexander Graham Bell's "telephone," a method of transmitting the *voice* via wires, soon followed. Then near the turn of the century the first means of communicating *without* wires, the "wireless" or "radio," was invented. Television closely followed. Most people will be surprised to learn that the first TV pictures were transmitted across the Atlantic Ocean from London to New York City on November 30, 1924.

By the start of World War II, radio had become a common means of communication worldwide, but television

was still in its infancy. It "grew up" following the war. Now almost every American home has at least one TV set.

Then in the late 1950s, Russia's Sputnik I ushered in the "space age" which spurred the U.S. Government into an all-out effort to overtake and beat the Russians in placing the first man on the moon. Obviously, super-reliable, ultra long distance radio and TV and other sophisticated equipment would be required.

But early radios and televisions had large, cumbersome and fragile glass vacuum tubes, besides bulky resistors, condensers and a raft of wiring and other components far too heavy ever to be lifted to the moon in the early days of the space race — and most likely would not have survived the journey in working condition if they had been.

How could the innards of a TV camera be condensed into a small enough package to be transported into the heavens? And how would man be able to include the computerized guidance systems and other sophisticated equipment to enable that camera to get to its destination and return?

## The Means to Do It!

In 1948, Bell Telephone Laboratories displayed the first "transistor" which was soon to revolutionize the electronics field and pave the way for the space age. The transistor's incredibly small size, in comparison to a vacuum tube, belied its functional capacity and reliability. It was found to be ex-

tremely trustworthy. Simultaneously, researchers developed the "printed circuit" board to connect major components and eliminate most of the bulky wiring formerly required in electronics equipment.

Still later the final step forward was the introduction of "microminiaturization" — the integrated "chip circuit." Texas Instruments, Inc., of Dallas, Texas is so amazed at these "micro-miniature giants" which it builds, that it has this sign on the wall saying: "We don't believe in miracles; we rely on them."

Some of these "chips" replace dozens of transistors, *yet are so tiny they could pass through the eye of an ordinary sewing needle!* And all these scientific marvels are made from materials mined from the earth, and operate by principles of physics that God created for the physical realm of man.

How much easier it becomes to comprehend, "by the things that are made," that God has *far better* means of long-distance communication in the *spiritual* realm!

### Seeing Tiny Details at Great Distances

Surveyor I, carrying a TV camera, was rocketed May 30, 1966, from a point on the rotating earth moving about 870 miles per hour, toward a spot on the moon almost a quarter of a million miles away and itself moving in space approximately 2,300 miles per hour! Surveyor I landed *within nine miles* of its planned landing spot. Stephen E. Dwornik, program scientist for Surveyor, estimates that a rifle bullet would have to hit within a fast *moving* bull's-eye about  $\frac{5}{16}$  inch in diameter 250 yards away to be as accurate!

Surveyor I sent over 11,000 television pictures back to earth. Particles only  $\frac{1}{50}$  of an inch across could be seen and measured in these pictures. Can your mind grasp that? From the earth, almost a *quarter million miles* from the heavenly body called moon, *man* can actually see, measure and identify particles that tiny!

And this is *not all* man can do.

### Using POWER at Will Over Vast Distances

Many laws exist in the universe

which man has not yet been able to *explain*, though he has been able to *use* many of them to produce good and harmful results. Man does not fully understand what electricity, or gravity, or light really is, yet he uses all three. No wonder scientists who work with these laws and forces often describe what they accomplish as "miracles."

Said Robert Parks, Surveyor Project Manager at Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California: "The spacecraft [Surveyor] gave us an engineering miracle. Its flight and landing worked exactly as expected. On its journey and on the moon, it answered almost flawlessly more than 100,000 radio commands sent principally through our huge antenna at Goldstone, in California's Mojave Desert" (*National Geographic*, August 1968, p. 281).

Like God, man is able to *command* and be obeyed at a distance.

Someone greater than man put the laws and forces in motion and sustains them to make this possible. If even man can see, count, and identify particles no larger than  $\frac{1}{50}$  inch in diameter a quarter million miles away, how much clearer and better can God see over great distances. And how much easier can *He* accomplish things *on command* through the power of His Spirit!

### Hairs and Sparrows

What does the scripture in Matthew 10:29-31 mean to you? Jesus asked His disciples, "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father [knowing]. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows."

When I now realize that man has been able to use God's laws governing electronics and communications to place a TV camera on the moon which allowed him to see, count and identify tiny particles a quarter million miles away in the heavens, I know God has even better perception to see, count and identify each hair on your head or mine!

But what about keeping up with ever-traveling sparrows? Let's see how man keeps up with man-made objects he has rocketed into space.

At the U.S. Government's Space

Center at Ent Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, with the aid of computers, recorders and a multitude of other sophisticated electronic equipment, men are able to keep track of a satellite, or a hunk of abandoned space junk — as small as *six inches in diameter* (the size of a grapefruit) and up to 2,700 miles from earth. They can spot and keep up with every man-made object which has been rocketed into space!

Correlating this ability with the ever-watchful eyes of the North American Air Defense Command using the latest in photographic cameras, men can photograph clearly the light reflected from a basketball-size satellite 50,000 miles away!

With all this in mind, can you more fully understand God's ability to keep up with sparrows when they fall to the ground? Can you grasp God's ability to keep track of *you*? "Ye are of more value than many sparrows," Jesus declared (verse 31), "For the *eyes* of the Lord run *to and fro throughout the whole earth*, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him" (II Chron. 16:9).

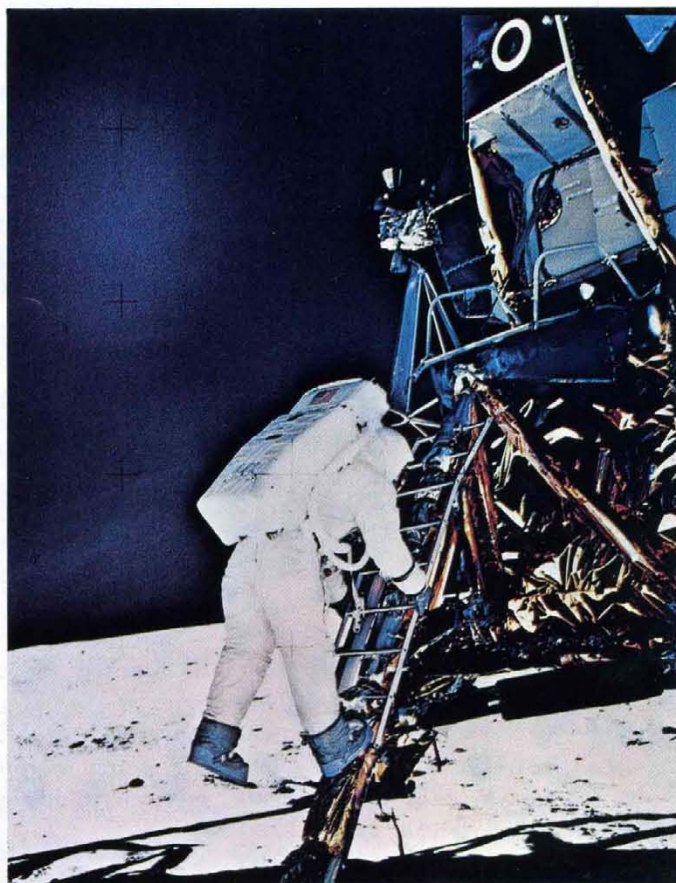
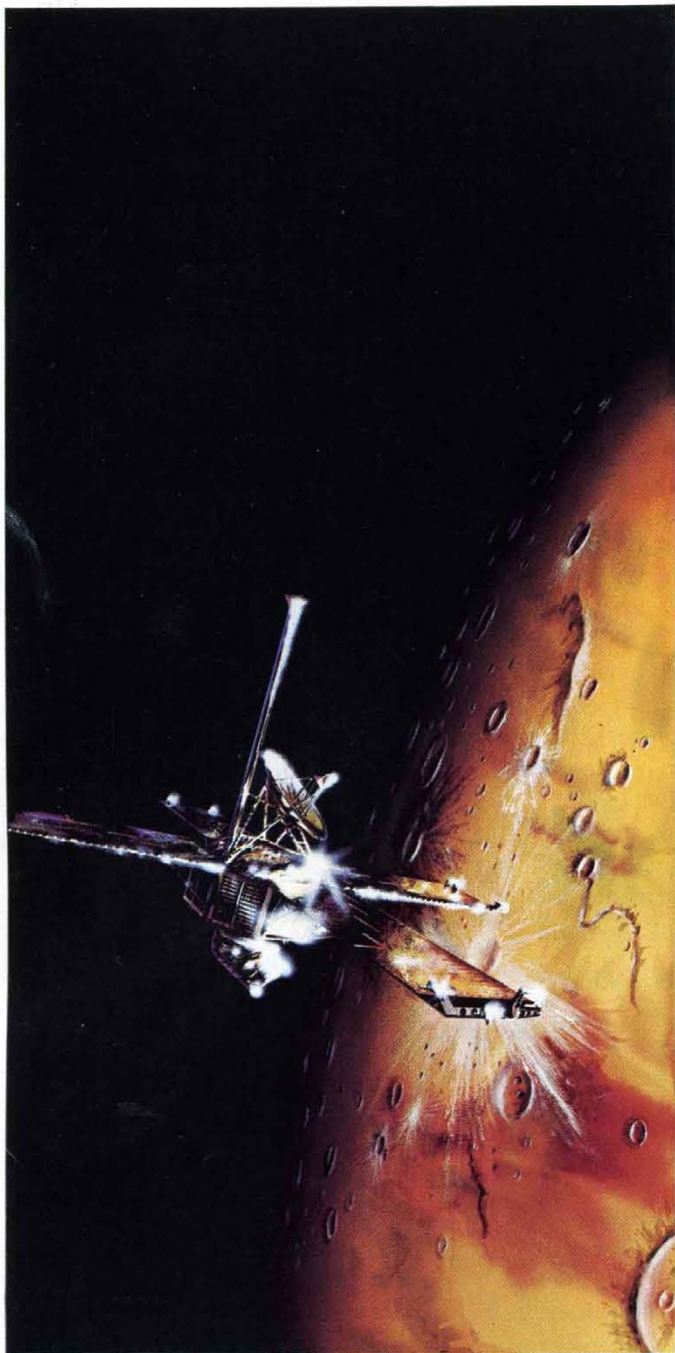
### God's Communications Center

Perhaps God's communications system is similar to the one man has developed. Let's take a glimpse at God's communications center at His heavenly throne and compare it to the North American Air Defense Command in Cheyenne Mountain.

The Apostle John wrote: "And immediately I was in the spirit; and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. . . . And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God" (Rev. 4:2, 4, 5). This is God's heavenly throne!

John continues: "And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts [living beings], and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb

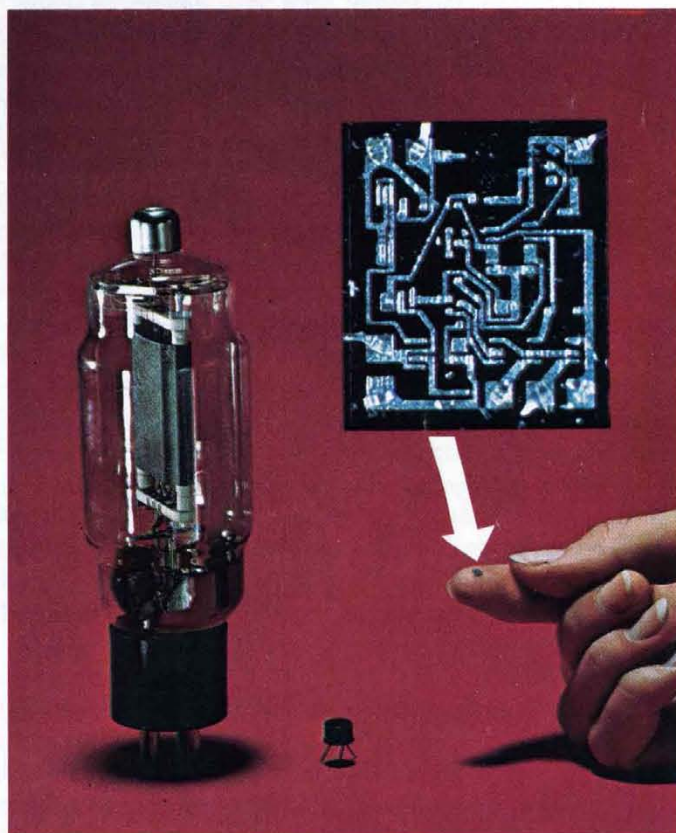
(Continued on page 30)



## Modern "Miracles"

By utilizing the physical laws God set in motion, man's ingenuity and technology has enabled him to "see" Mars close-up and actually land men on the moon! Photo at right shows evolution of the vacuum tube to transistors and "chip" integrated microcircuitry.

Top left & lower right, Ambassador College; Top right, NASA



# Teach Your Children to Pray

**Christ taught His disciples to pray. But have you instructed your children in this important part of life? This article will show you how.**

by Arch Bradley

**“AND** THE child Samuel grew on, and was in favor both with the Lord, and also with men” (I Sam. 2:26).

Put *your* son’s or daughter’s name in this verse. Would it still be a true statement? Is your child growing in favor with God and man?

He *can* if you teach him (or her).

Many great men of God — such as Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Samuel, David, John the Baptist, Timothy, and of course Jesus Christ — were enabled to become the men they were because they were taught God’s way from their youth. You should be teaching your children also — including teaching them to pray.

Like those men of old, your children can be in real contact with God — and actually growing in spiritual character — *years* before they are old enough to be baptized and receive God’s Holy Spirit as His begettal to sonship. You can give them a “headstart” to receiving greater *rewards* when they will be given eternal life in God’s Kingdom.

## What God Is Like

First of all, your children want and deserve to know what God is like. They need this knowledge even before learning how to pray. Be sure you give your child a true picture of God — his potential spiritual Father. God gave us — *His* children — the first two of His commandments to help safeguard us from forming unrealistic and impractical concepts of Him — to keep our eyes focused on the *real* and *literal* Being who *watches over us*.

Teach your children that God would look basically like a man if we could see Him — but is much more powerful.

Teach them about God’s personality. Let them know God has emotions and is happy when we pray to Him — even smiles! Above all, tell your children that God is our Father, not a mechanized robot-like “eye-in-the-sky,” a harsh drill sergeant or a slick executive who has no time for little boys and girls.

Your children should realize above all that God is a *Father* who is able to listen to every one of His little children

and who loves them very much (read them Luke 18:15-17). Stress God’s basic attribute of love. Teach them also how trustworthy, fair and merciful He is. Of course, we human parents must display these qualities in our own actions with our children and show them **BY EXAMPLE** our Eternal Father’s character (Phil. 2:5).

## What Is Prayer?

Next, teach your children what prayer really is. Remember that poetic “little child” prayer? “Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my soul to keep.” When you were a child, this or similar prayers imprinted on a plaque may have hung above your bed. I remember, as a youngster, customarily repeating it on my knees by rote, just before jumping into bed.

Frankly, your children need to realize that real prayer is not composed of poems or cute jingles, but just *talking* to God. Christ cautioned His disciples against vain memorized repetitions of prayers in Matthew 6:7. Teach your children to *think* when praying — and to say what’s on his or her mind.

Once your child knows what prayer is, then show him or her why prayer is so important — teach him that God both hears and answers sincere prayer requests.

Show your child that we pray to God to ask for various needs — whether they be others’ needs or ours. In explaining this to your child be sure to use the comparison of him or her asking you as a parent for various things.

Remember to teach your children to ask God to heal when either they or you are ill. This will teach them to trust God and look to Him as their Healer.

Also, teach your children that we talk to God to thank Him and to give Him credit for the many asked and unasked blessings and needs He supplies. David demonstrated his gratitude to God abundantly in the Psalms.

## Exactly How to Teach

You can teach most effectively by example. Let your children hear you

pray simple prayers either upon arising in the morning, before meals or before retiring at night. You may find mealtime brings the most practical opportunity.

You will find it best at first merely to teach your little Johnny or Janie to bow his or her head when *you* pray. Later, assuming he or she is old enough to be able to speak reasonably fluent sentences, you may have little Johnny say a simple one, two or three sentence prayer in which you help him. Here is a very elementary prayer which could be varied: "Father in heaven, thank you for the food. Please bless it. We pray in Jesus's name. Amen."

Of course, this is just a start. But as the months fly by and Johnny's mind continues to develop, he will gradually be able to pray in more detail, with you still helping him as necessary.

A little more advanced prayer might be something like this: "Father in heaven, thank you for mommy and daddy. Thank you for my meat, my peas and my milk. Please bless them. In Jesus's name, Amen." As your child progresses, you will find he can add other thoughts to his prayers.

Always be sure to encourage his efforts. As he prays simple prayers you will find he gets "stuck" or runs out of thoughts. When this happens be sure to help him — we've *all* been at a loss for words at one time or another!

### Keep At It

*Continue* your children's training. Don't stop with merely getting them started. Give them *several* opportunities a week to give God thanks and ask His blessing at mealtime after *you* pray. You'll probably find that your children become increasingly eager to pray and usually enthusiastically volunteer to do so at even three or four years of age.

Use the same principles and approach in teaching them to pray before they go to bed. As your children reach school age, take advantage of *family* prayer times. They will benefit from nearing father and mother pray as well as the opportunity to participate themselves.

If prayer is a vital part of your life, it will come much more naturally to your children as they mature. They will then know *how* to talk to God as a result of your patient, thoughtful training and your consistent example.

Of course, as your children mature they will understand to a greater degree to *whom* they are praying and *what* they are saying. But the foundation must be laid — preferably at an early age.

### Pitfalls to Avoid

There are a few concrete "do's and don'ts" which you must heed. Not to do so can actually cause your child to dread and deplore prayer — thus *negating* all of your teaching efforts!

1. Never *embarrass* Johnny while he is praying. As he learns to pray, he will undoubtedly express himself in funny phrases or words, or make humorous requests. Don't laugh at him or allow *anyone else* to "make fun" or snicker at his efforts. Give your boy or girl the same loving support and loyalty God gives you. Be encouraging and *respect* his or her efforts — God certainly does.

2. Keep children's prayer times *short* and enjoyable. Avoid *forcing* your child to pray for long periods of time. A young child's prayers may consist of a half dozen short sentences; a five or six year old's a few more. But NEVER shut a child in a room and force him to pray a certain number of minutes — don't make prayer a burden or task. Make it a delight!

3. Remember also that children vary in their growth rates and abilities to express themselves. Don't expect your three-year-old to pray exactly on the same level as other three-year-olds. Avoid comparing children. Some can begin praying at two years of age, while others might begin at three or four. Teach them based on their ability to learn, *not* according to their ages.

4. Be sure your children approach prayer *respectfully*. Don't allow them to make a game of it. If you find them praying in a "sing-song" voice or intentionally saying silly things, simply stop them and remind them that God does not want us to talk that way to

Him. Then allow them to continue praying — respectfully.

5. Always be fair, understanding, and above all *patient*. God allows man approximately seventy years to learn His ways and the lessons of life. Let's work with our children patiently as God does with us. And remember, when you have questions, doubts or problems about teaching this vital subject, seek the counsel of your local minister.

### It's Up to You

To a considerable degree you hold your child's future in your hands. You as a parent are the potter — the young boy or girl is a piece of very malleable clay. God will judge each one of us according to how well we mold and teach those little minds.

In Proverbs 10:1, God inspired Solomon to write, "A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother." We all want children we can be *well pleased* with as the years go by and we see them become young men and women before our eyes. Let's teach our children to pray *early* in life to get them headed in the right direction from the start. You will also reap benefits for *yourself* as Proverbs 23:24-25 shows:

"The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him. Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice."

And even more important, you'll help your son or daughter to walk with God so he or she will receive the *good things* of life that God promises in Proverbs 3:13-17 (*The Living Bible*):

"The man who knows right from wrong and has good judgment and common sense is happier than the man who is immensely rich! For such wisdom is far more valuable than precious jewels. Nothing else compares with it. Wisdom gives: a long good life, riches, honor, pleasure, peace."

What greater gift could you bestow upon your children than to diligently teach them how to pray and to be close to their Creator so they can receive these truly "good things" of life? □

# Managing Your Family Corporation

**How would you like to have your own business? A corporation bearing your name? In reality you already do! Your home, your family is a small business — an enterprise worth investing in. Read how you can manage your family corporation better.**

by Carl D. Franklin

**M**ANY MEN dream of starting a business of their own. They long to be the head of their own corporation, guiding and directing its destiny.

Yet these same men may be over-looking one of the fundamental opportunities of life. Because if they are husbands and have families, each is already the head of a dynamic institution bearing his name!

As a husband you are president of an institution that should be one of the greatest challenges of your entire life. Every year you will invest multiple thousands of dollars in this "business" of yours. And you will spend thousands of hours directing and controlling it.

Isn't it worth taking the time *now* to learn how to MANAGE your family corporation *better*?

## You Are Corporation President

As man of the house, you are *chief executive* of the family. As such, you are responsible for the eventual success or failure of your "business venture."

In I Timothy 3:5 God says a man should *rule well* his own household. This means to exercise *good management* in the administration of the home. How does your administration measure up?

## Is This YOU?

One common type of administrator is the authoritarian family executive.

When he speaks, his word is like the law of the Medes and Persians (Esther 1:19; Dan. 6:8) — absolutely FINAL! The *only* role his wife and children can fill is prompt execution of his commands.

In such an atmosphere original thought and ideas are not really welcome. They are regarded as a challenge to "authority." If you saw the movie, *The Ten Commandments*, you'll recognize this type in Yul Brynner's personification of Pharaoh: "So let it be written, so let it be done." And woe to the family member who doesn't do it! Authority certainly is not wrong in itself. But it can be misused and badly applied.

Then there is the democratic type of administrator. His family is run like the local country club. Everyone in the family is "happy," everyone is his buddy. He'd never cross anyone in the family — especially his wife. There is no direction, guidance and counsel in this type of family. The home becomes a mere "refueling stop" and the family is run on the "one-person, one-vote" principle.

Another type is the family fence-sitter, the true abdicator of responsibility, the man who is quick to criticize others in the family and quick to claim all the credit for the family's accomplishments. This is the man who never makes decisions, only excuses.

Similar to this type is the nonentity husband — a marital vegetable. He is the one who slips into the house after a

hard day's work, eats, watches TV awhile, kisses his kids goodnight (maybe) and then slips off into dream-land himself. Upon arising the next morning he eats and slips off to work once again. To his children he is the family mystery, an *unknown quantity* in their lives.

Are you any of these just described?

The truly responsible family administrator is none of these types. He manages his family with deep concern and involvement. He actively plans and directs his family enterprise. He *guides* his family's energy into productive activity, rather than suppressing it through careless misuse of his God-given authority. He enjoys accomplishing his hopes, plans and dreams *through* his family — not in spite of them!

In short, he utilizes to the full the basic principles of *good* management that will make his family an unqualified success.

But how can *you* develop the skills required to manage your family corporation wisely and effectively?

## Plan Ahead

First, you need to develop the skill of planning far in advance. Plan long-range into the future. Organize your family's hopes and dreams.

Don't be afraid to plan for five, ten, fifteen or more years ahead. None of us really knows how much time is left before Christ will return — or when our Work will be over. There *could* be very little. Or there *could* be more time than

any of us might think. In either case, you will accomplish little without planning. On the other hand, with planning, what might seem like an impossible dream now could become reality in a few years or less!

How can God speak of things that do not yet exist as though they really do? Because He plans in detail, then sets about to accomplish His plans in a logical and systematic manner, leaving no stone unturned. Of course, He has all power to make things happen His way, too.

God is planning ahead for the Millennium *now*, and has been planning perhaps for eons. God is a *practical* utopian! He turns dreams and plans into reality — not by accident and happenstance — but by careful planning and execution of those plans.

So get busy and project your family's needs into the future. Project their needs for housing, clothing, furniture, education, recreation and exercise for *years* to come. Then begin to *organize* those needs in a logical and systematic plan. Don't let these needs surprise you — it's easy to anticipate them.

Plan ahead to avoid great gaps in your budget, to avoid having children entering high school without proper educational background; plan ahead for recreational, educational, and travel experiences which are very broadening for a family, and thrilling to children. Plan for the future and your money and energy will go much further.

### Be BALANCED in Your Planning

You should begin by classifying your future needs and goals according to *major* and *minor* objectives. It will help to jot them down on a sheet of paper or in a notebook. You might even categorize them under such headings as spiritual needs, physical needs, educational needs, recreational needs, etc. Of course some of these may overlap at times.

But don't make the mistake of doing this alone. Include your "executive vice-president for home management" — your WIFE! After all, she is responsible (under your overall direction) for the day-to-day operation of

the household. And she, also, must learn to plan ahead to meet future needs of the family.

Your wife can and should help you set priorities on basic objectives. She will think of things you would tend to overlook. By including her at the earliest stage of your planning you will be adding balance, practicality and realism to your planning. And she will be a more eager member of the team to carry out the planned future accomplishments and activities of your family!

Your wife should not have to "read your mind" to find out what you are planning for the future, nor be limited to the daily routine of running the house — and possible frustration. Her life should be *enriched* by knowing what is planned for the future and having a part in carrying it out.

As you and your wife examine your list of objectives, it may become obvious that many supposed "major" objectives are actually *minor*. And vice versa. But as you think about, discuss, and plan for the future, your goals will become more balanced, practical and worthwhile.

Your wife may even have priorities that take precedence over some of yours. For example, you may have set your heart on a new stereo or some fishing equipment. But when you and your wife examine the order of importance of those objectives, you may come to see that what you *really* need is a new washing machine. You just *might* be going to become the proud father of twins in a few months. And you can't wash diapers in a stereo!

### Organization of the Details

Once you settle on your long-term goals and balance them according to their real priorities, you can take the next practical step — the *organization* of details.

Your wife can be a great help in organizing the details. Don't be afraid of *delegating* much of this responsibility to her. You will not be *losing* "authority" over your family corporation by doing so, but you will be *using* that authority properly.

Such books as *Managing Your Time*,

by Engstrom and Mackenzie are excellent, easy-to-read aids to the practical organization of details, which you and your wife should make it a point to read.

### Motivation

But unfortunately, the best laid plans of mice and family executives often go awry. Why? Motivation may be lacking!

Your wife and children probably don't dislike work of itself. Many a father is surprised to find his little children right there with him, seeking to *participate* in a backyard project, or to build something with dad's tools. Children, and grown-ups, too, *want* to participate. All you need do, then, as father and head of the family, is continue to build up the enthusiasm of every member.

Set an enthusiastic example yourself. "Talk it up" — teaching and reminding them of the goals, the purposes the family is working toward, setting the example of *planning ahead*. Delegate responsibilities to each individual.

Begin by giving your children general assignments — assignments that will fit their ability and knowledge level. Then, if they need further knowledge or skills to accomplish the job, patiently and positively *teach* them — show them how!

Furthermore, if your children are old enough, let them decide for themselves how best to handle their particular project. Make the job truly theirs. Let them be responsible for its organization and completion — then *hold* them responsible for following through. This will encourage and develop your children's imagination and initiative. You will *actively* develop in them the confidence and practical experience needed for their adult lives.

Then don't be surprised if your little children exceed your expectations. When they are properly motivated by being able to participate with you in the family goals, they will likely go above and beyond the call of duty.

### Learn to Communicate

Quite often, however, family members work diligently, but in *opposite* di-

rections! Each member may feel he is "on the beam" and working in unison toward the same goal, but really isn't.

It isn't that your family disagrees with you. They feel the job should be done. After all, they all want to accomplish the project, too. But confusion can arise as to how, when and by whom an assignment should be carried out. And the plan falters.

You, as the family executive, must *systematically* lay out, whether in your mind or on paper, *every step of the plan*. Then you must COMMUNICATE this to your family!

A good family manager can effectively communicate the "who" and "how" and "when" to his family so that it's *very clear* what is expected of each member.

For example, you need to start planning now for this year's Feast of Tabernacles. Between now and then begin putting into practice the art of good management. It's your job to plan ahead, and then to organize the details on a month-by-month, weekly, and finally a day-to-day basis so your family will be ready to leave next fall. You and your family will need to check on reservations along the way, food, new clothing, dry cleaning, washing, house-cleaning, sewing, last-minute shopping, car repairs, etc. And most important of all, you need to prepare your family *spiritually* for the Feast.

If you wait until the last week or last few days (as many of you did before last year's feast), you'll be up all night, worn out and *sick* before you reach the festival site. *Many* a wife has "enjoyed" the Feast in her motel room or tent exactly because of this! So why not begin months in advance and begin to organize and prepare while there is time? Plan ahead, assign who should do what, decide when it should be completed, then *chart* the details so you can monitor your progress.

All along the way, update, revise and COMMUNICATE with your family to be sure that all is being done properly and on schedule.

### Keep the Channels Open

It is easy to allow the channels of good communications to become

clogged or to fall into disuse. This lack of two-way communication can cause multitudes of troubles. Many a man has brought guests home for dinner, but had failed to inform his wife. He simply assumed she knew.

And many a wife has felt crushed and betrayed after the honeymoon when she learned that her hero wasn't a *mind reader*. She had to tell him what she was thinking, wishing, desiring — or he just didn't know it!

Much marital discord and family friction results simply from severed lines of communication.

How open are your channels of communication? Sit down with your wife some evening, just the two of you, and discuss what is on her mind. You may be surprised at the long list of things she has not yet communicated to you.

The same communications gap can occur with your children. You can either tune them *in* or tune them *out*. How often have you tuned them *out*? How often have you refused to listen to them? When people don't communicate, they begin to grow apart, and a chasm may develop between the separate individual's aims, goals, ideals and plans.

When you stop to think about it — the so-called "generation gap" is really between the cars, isn't it?

### Take Inventory

Every corporation must take overall inventory periodically. Otherwise, different departments will begin to drift apart and lose sight of the goal. Inefficiency, wasted effort and bankruptcy could result.

You, as the family head and chief executive, should immediately take inventory of your family corporation. Analyze its purposes, goals, objectives, and see if you are making good progress toward them. Check with every family member, as feasible, and make sure you are all pulling together as much as possible.

Remember — it's *your* "corporation." YOU are "president," and your wife "executive vice-president." Success or failure is *your* responsibility. □

## GOD'S EYES & EARS

(Continued from page 24)

[Christ] as it had been slain, having seven horns and *seven eyes*, which are the *seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth*" (Rev. 5:6).

Since the Lamb — Christ — stood in the midst and had the seven "eyes" of God sent forth into the earth, do we not have an indication that God the Father may use Christ as chief director, coordinator and controller of His heavenly communications system? Could God's central communications system be basically comparable — as an analogy — to a super-sophisticated spiritual computer supervised by 24 operators and spiritually tied in with seven spiritual Surveyors ("eyes") — "Surveyor I, Surveyor II," etc. — each one of which can instantaneously be shifted wherever the action is?

Of course, none of these spirit beings needs rocket motors, fuel, vacuum tubes, transistors, integrated circuits or other sophisticated electronic gear with their attendant malfunctions, however few they may be. Each of these beings has been perfectly designed and manufactured from pure *spirit*. Since these highly mobile units are not bound by physical laws and use spirit power, they move at speeds *infinitely faster* than light, which, we are told, travels at the "slow" speed of 186,000 miles per second.

Messages which travel via interference-free spirit rather than radio or television waves are never garbled — always crystal clear and INSTANTANEOUS! Crystal clear "eyes" delivering perfect pictures to the heavenly throne not only make it possible to "measure particles  $\frac{1}{50}$  inch across," but  $\frac{3}{1000}$  *inch hairs on human heads!*

We need have no doubt God can see, count and record any and all information about us that He may require!

But what about your thoughts?

### Are Your Thoughts Really Private?

In July 1965, 135 million miles from the earth, the Mariner IV spacecraft swung close to Mars so its television camera could snap close-up still photos of the red planet and relay them to



earth. "These pictures were scanned and broken into 64 different shades of gray. Each shade became a number, and the numbers in sequence were transmitted to the tracking stations of NASA and the Jet Propulsion Lab.

"The signals were faint when they reached earth — only one quintillionth of one watt strength. They were amplified, taped, and fed into computers. Each sequence of 6 'zeros' and 'ones' became a piece of visual information, which was then reconverted into one of 64 shades of gray to make a picture, much like the tiny dots make up the picture on your TV screen at home" (*Reader's Digest*, October 1965).

Can your mind comprehend how little power "one quintillionth of one watt" is? Most ordinary light bulbs in your home are probably rated at 100 watts. If written in decimal form, "one quintillionth" would be .000000000000001. Yet man was able to receive, amplify and decipher the message carried by one quintillionth of a watt of power.

Is it conceivable God could receive your thoughts in His heavenly communications center, amplify them, record them, read out and understand them by and through His Spirit?

Notice in Malachi 3:16-17 that God definitely does record certain of man's words and thoughts: "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them as a man spareth his own son that serveth him."

God read Job's thoughts. Job was self-righteous. God was so interested in Job He let him go through much grief to learn to recognize and overcome that self-righteousness. Finally, Job said, "I know that thou canst do everything, and that no thought can be withholden from thee" (Job 42:2).

### God Also Broadcasts Commands

When King Ahab and the whole nation of Israel sinned grievously, God allowed a three and one-half year drought to overtake the nation as pun-

ishment — to wake up the nation and its king. During this period, to keep His prophet Elijah alive, God "commanded" ravens to bring food to Elijah. God told His prophet:

"And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have *commanded* the ravens to feed thee there. So he went and did according unto the word of the Lord: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook" (I Kings 17:4-6).

How did God "command" the ravens to feed Elijah? He may have done it by altering their *instinct* which regulated their behavior patterns. Regardless of how He did it, the Scriptures show us that God has the ability to give long-distance commands and cause them to be obeyed by His creation!

From the "miracles" of modern science and God's Word, YOU CAN KNOW that a Living Being in the heavens can clearly see and hear the activities of any and all human beings on this earth!

### God Uses His Power to HELP US!

As a member of God's Church, you are one of Christ's disciples. You have been chosen by God. And *you* as an individual are being scrutinized by God. Much more than the sparrows, God, through His spiritual assistants and master spiritual communications center, watches, hears and keeps track of you, for your good.

Said Jesus Christ, "You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you" — why? — "that ye should go and bring forth fruit" (John 15:16).

And what goal does He have in mind through that? Christ told His disciples: "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will *raise him up at the last day*" (John 6:44).

That is your destiny. That is the reason God watches and hears you — to *help* you and *guide* you so you can qualify to one day be instantaneously changed, or resurrected, to join Jesus Christ and the Father in their all-powerful Family for eternity! □

## FATAL FAMILIARITY

(Continued from page 3)

Modern Israel is not going to turn to God. "For the people turneth not unto Him that smiteth them, neither do they seek the Lord of Hosts. Therefore the Lord will cut off from Israel head and tail, branch and rush, IN ONE DAY"! (Isa. 9:13-14.) If you are overly familiar with God's truth and His Church, then *you* could suffer with Israel and the rest of the world. Or you could die disapproved of God before that time!

This is why every Co-Worker letter urges us NEVER TO LOSE OUR SENSE OF URGENCY!

Analyze yourself. Have you grown lethargic? Lukewarm? Dulled? Apathetic? All these are symptoms of the FATAL spiritual sickness of FAMILIARITY. Change NOW, before *your* time runs out! □

## AFRICA

(Continued from page 20)

they were ready to be baptized. Discouraged over not finding us at our hotel earlier in the day, they were about to leave for home when they decided to try to contact us just once more. They checked the hotel barely half an hour after we arrived. They were both baptized that night.

### What You Can Do

The entire trip took us 30,000 miles. We met and counseled 218 people — a tremendous increase over the 82 we were able to meet the year before. Forty-eight individuals were baptized and added to the growing number of Christ's called-out ones on earth's most spiritually darkened continent.

Only Jesus Christ knows what type of work He intends to do in Black Africa, and whether He will one day give these people local ministers they can go to for help and encouragement.

But one thing *is* certain. Your brethren in Black Africa are scattered throughout a darkened land, with a pagan society hostile to everything they believe in and stand for. They desperately need your prayers.

So please remember them — lovingly! □

# BOOK REVIEW

## The Living Bible — Paraphrased

**M**OST members of God's Church have rightly understood that *The Living Bible* captures the story flow of the Bible, but is not a literal word-by-word translation.

It is certainly permissible to read *The Living Bible*, but always keep in mind that it is a very free paraphrase and errs greatly at times.

One of the "Twelve Rules for Bible Study" is: "Don't establish doctrine with Bible helps." In the final analysis, *The Living Bible* is essentially a "Bible help," not a translation. It is a paraphrase of the Bible, often leaning to what one sincere, but nevertheless deceived, man thinks the Bible is trying to say. Sometimes he does an excellent job — but at other times he goes way out on a limb.

Another of the twelve rules for Bible study is "Don't put vague scriptures first." By making vague scriptures "come clear," but clearly wrong, *The Living Bible* could possibly deceive and mislead those who are not extremely careful.

Many people do not realize the Bible is, in the original languages, *literally* cryptic in some passages. Such unclear passages are not always "King James euphemisms;" they are often Hebrew literary or poetic expressions. And in the New Testa-

ment as well as the Old, many parables and prophecies were written to cloud the meaning to the masses (as we already know). When a deceived man tries to "uncloud" such passages, he is very liable to make errors.

After all, Peter DID say Paul was "hard to be understood." So don't trust all of *The Living Bible's* "easy-to-be-understood" versions of Paul's complex sentences.

For example, *The Living Bible* repeatedly refers to Christians "going to heaven." This is a continual source of confusion to those who write to us, our Personal Correspondence Department tells us. This particular error shows the paraphraser's faulty understanding. But other mistaken concepts are more subtly written and could possibly lead some in God's Church astray if they rely solely on this paraphrase.

The paraphraser's lack of understanding is graphically demonstrated by the following quotations taken from the preface to the final two volumes — *Living Laws of Moses* and *Living History of Israel*. (*The Living Bible* originally appeared in seven consecutive books beginning with *The Living Letters* in 1962.) His anti-law approach colors his whole "translation" process. He wrote:

... Many of the laws recorded here are obsolete, now that Christ has come. So why read them? One reason is that we can rejoice in being free from them! For Christ has set us free. Well does the old hymn remind us: "Free from the law, oh, happy condition! . . ." Do not only think "Oh boy, I'm glad I'm free from having to follow all those weird rules!" But also think, "What was the purpose of those rules?" (Preface, *Living Laws of Moses*.)

I too am horrified at the God-ordained slaughter you will read about in the early pages of this book. As a pacifist, I am devastated that God is a God of war and judgment and vengeance . . . . From reading these books I came very close, I fear, to a spiritual collapse (Preface, *Living History of Israel*).

However, the worst result from reading *only* this version may not be false doctrines or twiggly arguments, but rather a *lazy* approach to Bible study, and a lack of awe for the *pure* Word.

Of course, you have seen *The Living Bible* quoted on occasion in our articles, but that has been only to add color and life to already clearly understood verses.

*The Living Bible* is meant to be read and scanned for story flow, but not to be "studied." David was inspired to write, "The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times" (Ps. 12:6). We can't afford to let one man's paraphrased version lead us astray in the slightest!

## THE WORK IN CANADA

(Continued from page 5)

Nine new Canadian Churches were inaugurated in 1972, and with more ministerial assistants we anticipate starting additional new churches this year. Now over 6,400 attend church services and Bible studies regularly. At present there are 35 ministers and 23 ministerial assistants working in the Canadian Churches.

Canada is divided into three church

districts. Mr. Gary Antion, pastoring the two Toronto Churches, is the district superintendent over the Eastern region of Canada. Mr. Glen White, pastoring the two Winnipeg Churches, is the district superintendent over the Central district covering Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Mr. Richard Pinelli, pastoring the two Edmonton Churches, is the district superintendent of the Western district covering Alberta and British Columbia, excluding the Vancouver and Victoria Churches which are pastored and supervised by the Vancouver office.

As a result of superlative past and present growth, Matthew 9:36-38 takes on a most significant meaning to us in the Canadian Work. For God's people in Canada truly are scattered abroad, many of them as sheep without a shepherd. The harvest is truly plenteous — and running over. The need for shepherds is greater than it has ever been!

God is blessing the Canadian Work with unprecedented growth. And the responsibility is on all of us, as His people, to "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into His harvest." □

# Readers Say . . .

(Continued from inside front cover)

Spanish Work was especially interesting since I take *La PURA VERDAD*. And Mr. Dankenbring's article on "Spiritual Heroin" and how to keep from getting a bitter attitude was a big help.

R. P., Lincoln,  
New Mexico

I just had to comment on the article, "An Open Letter to Young People." Tom Carrozzo did a wonderful job. I wish you would have more articles like that. This one was in the September-October issue of *The GOOD NEWS*. To tell the truth, that article described *me* perfectly. I am exactly the same way he was, only maybe I am a little more interested in the Work. I hope to overcome my problem, though. Thank you again, and please print more articles like that.

Teen-ager, Elgin,  
Nebraska

## QUESTION BOX

My boy tends to feel self-conscious because he is the only child in his class that eats sandwiches made of whole wheat bread. He feels even more conspicuous during the Days of Unleavened Bread when he eats Rye-Krisp. What can we do to help alleviate his self-consciousness?

We all like a little variety — and variety is the *key* to solving your boy's lunch "problem." Instead of the traditional sandwich, fruit and milk, vary the lunch menu with different combinations of fruit, fruit juices, cheese, crackers, milk, desserts and sandwiches. For example, you can use whole wheat crackers (both homemade and purchased) and even Rye-Krisp at *any time* of the year. There are many other varieties of home-baked bread as well as purchased bread.

The use of unbleached white bread or other varieties such as Roman Meal

once in a while in a sandwich would not necessarily be harmful to his body — we all have a hamburger once in a while, don't we? When your child has continual *variety*, no one thing will conspicuously stand out. It is only when Rye-Krisp or other unleavened bread appears suddenly at one time in the year for seven consecutive days that questions may arise.

While remembering that perhaps the problem is more in your child's mind than in actual notice by others — that is, he may feel everyone is noticing when they are not — don't limit him to only a Rye-Krisp diet during the Days of Unleavened Bread. Then, more than ever, use variety and imagination. There are many varieties of unleavened bread, both homemade and purchased. Pack especially nice lunches during this time — sneaking in extra surprises and treats — *unleavened*, of course!

Follow these principles and your child may be envied because of the variety and goodness in his lunches! □

## CORRECTIONS

The following typographical errors should be corrected in your November-December 1972 *GOOD NEWS*. We regret the number of corrections, but being mere humans we still make mistakes, and it doesn't help matters any when dealing with foreign languages — especially Hebrew script!

Page 5, column 3, last line, *Theos dzontos* should read, *Theōn zōntos*.

Page 6, the beginning of the line in the box containing the *third* of the three Hebrew words which are incorporated in *YHVH* should read *YHYH*, instead of *HYH*.

Page 10, column 2, paragraph 3, last line, and column 3, paragraph 5, the Hebrew word should be spelled *שָׁמַע*. Then in column 2, paragraph 4, and column 3, paragraphs 3, 4, and 5, the Hebrew transliteration *sem* should have accent marks as the following example: *שֶׁמֶ*. Also, in column 2, paragraphs 5 and 9, the correct respective Hebrew spellings are *אֱלֹהֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל*, *נִרְיָה*, *קָרְיָה*.

Page 17, column 2, fourth line from bottom and several other places throughout the text, the correct modern transliteration should be *naqav*.

really enjoyed it, and he was sure all of God's children in the Church would surely appreciate it. Our son understands his new life now is set apart from the children at school, but feels much stronger now after reading Tom's letter to young people.

J. B., Cuba,  
Missouri

The open letters by Mr. Carrozzo and his son in *The GOOD NEWS* moved me greatly. I am especially glad that both letters were written. It helps us as parents to realize what our children think, and it gives us courage to hear what another parent has done. I am so glad that God helped them to see each other's point of view and to resolve that problem. If we all would take that to heart personally and apply that knowledge, it would be most uplifting to the Work's progress.

P. M., Eagle,  
Idaho

## WHAT KILLED CHRIST?

(Continued from page 11)

tually preventing the loss of much blood.

In fact, the Roman goal was normally to prolong the agony as long as possible, sometimes for days, until eventually death came through exhaustion or through attacks of birds of prey or wild animals set loose by the Roman soldiers. There are many records quoted in most Bible dictionaries to show that a *slow* death was the rule. (See for example the *Hastings Bible Dictionary*, one volume edition, 1963.)

Usually the Roman cross or stake included a strong peg projecting from the central stem at about thigh height. It appears it was high enough to afford the sufferer some rest, but too low for

him, while slumping on it with his hands nailed over his head, to be able to breathe sufficiently to keep himself alive.

In order to breathe, it was repeatedly necessary for him to thrust himself upward on the nails and wounds in his feet. Thus he was constantly writhing on the cross, up and down. When he became too tired to rise up on his feet anymore, he would suffocate.

These facts, of course, completely rule out the main thesis of a book called *The Passover Plot* which appeared a few years ago. The author claimed that Jesus only pretended to be dead on the cross, or had merely passed out, and His disciples later resuscitated Him.

If Jesus had only pretended to be dead, He would have had to go into a slump and hang by His hands and thus He would have been utterly unable to breathe. He would have been dead in minutes, beyond the possibility of human resuscitation. And if by some means His heartbeat could have been later started again, He would have been a victim of irreversible brain damage from lack of oxygen during His "death."

### Importance of the Spear Wound

Since Christ was strong both physically and mentally — for He was sinless (II Cor. 5:21) physically as well as mentally — He could easily have survived more than the few hours He actually spent on the cross. If He had died of any ailment of His own, His death could not have paid for the sins of anyone else. Clearly He did not die of a "broken" heart. His spear wound actually caused His death!

Christ, our Passover Lamb, is symbolically eaten in the emblem of the unleavened bread of the New Testament Passover (I Cor. 11:24), just as the Old Testament lamb was eaten (Ex. 12:8-9). But no animal that died of itself could be eaten (Lev. 7:24; 22:8; Deut. 14:21), nor if killed without draining the blood from it (Lev. 17:13-14). Similarly, Jesus' symbolic body could not have become our Passover if He had died of Himself or been killed in any way except by bleeding to death.

These facts illustrate the importance of the spear wound. It had to *kill!* Its effect had to be drastic enough to cause the loss of Christ's blood.

The jagged spear wound was no tiny prick, nor was it just a test to see if Christ was dead. It was designed to *kill* — to shorten what otherwise might have been a long, drawn-out ordeal. It caused the necessary loss of His blood, so that the prophecy in Isaiah 53:12 was fulfilled.

### Why the Thieves' Legs Were Broken

A second commonly used method, apart from stabbing with a spear, to bring about a crucified person's rapid death, was breaking his legs. With broken legs, he could no longer thrust himself upward to breathe and would quickly suffocate.

"The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation [the day preceding a Sabbath, in order] that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away" (John 19:31).

"Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs." One of the soldiers had already put Jesus to death, as the next verse actually tells us — "But one of the soldiers with a spear [had] pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water" (verses 32-34).

Note that the word "pierced" in this verse is in the Greek *aorist* tense and may be correctly translated "HAD pierced," meaning action completed at a time before the soldiers came to break His legs. There was no pretense. Christ, the Creator GOD who was made flesh, was truly *dead!* By bleeding to death from a fatal spear thrust, He had fulfilled the prophecy and sacrificed Himself fully for the sins of all mankind.

Thus the soldiers did not bother to break Jesus' legs. But what is the significance of this fact?

The Passover lamb was never to have any of its bones broken — it remained whole until it was eaten (Ex.

12:46). This foreshadowed the fact that no bone of Christ's body would be broken on the cross. The spear wound helped to fulfill this prophecy by eliminating any need for breaking Jesus' legs. This fact is stated in John 19:36-37:

"For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced."

### The Meaning for Us

The important point to understand then, is that Christ had to die by the "pouring out of His soul unto death" (Isa. 53:12), to be our Savior. If He died without the shedding of His blood, no remission for the sins of mankind was made possible. But post-mortem examination of the entire record in the Bible, including the part of Matthew 27:49 missing in the Authorized Version, shows He did die by loss of blood.

Truly we do have a Savior! By being God made flesh and living a perfect human life, Jesus Christ qualified to die in our stead — as our sacrifice. By His death He paid the penalty for the combined sins of mankind — for your sins and mine.

But one more vital thing was yet necessary before Jesus could indeed fully qualify to be our Savior. *He had to be resurrected!* Notice it: For "We shall be saved by his LIFE" (Rom. 5:10).

Jesus *was* resurrected. He *is* today our LIVING, active High Priest at the Father's right hand, ministering to us the Holy Spirit, interceding continually for us with the Father (Heb. 7:25-26), supervising our spiritual growth to the same character image that He attained (Eph. 4:13).

Brethren, as we observe yet another Passover, let's not take the sacrifice of our Savior lightly, but realize the awesome price he paid that we might *live forever*. Let's contemplate soberly and understandingly the fact that OUR SINS KILLED THE SON OF GOD.

And let's never forget that we can live in God's Family only because Jesus Christ is ALIVE today and forevermore, as our great elder Brother and High Priest, who constantly intercedes for us with our heavenly Father. □