

The

October-November 1979

Good News

**'Teach Them
to Your
Children'**

DEUT. 11:19



Europe and Our Prophetic Message • When
Money Fails • Does God Ever Forsake Us?

The Good News

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COVER: A young father and mother, realizing the importance of training a child in the way he should go (Prov. 22:6), are taking the time to explain to their children God's way of life. Photo by Warren Watson.

Letters

Visit to Japan

Mr. Armstrong, I was just reading [the] June-July issue of *The Good News* magazine. It was really fantastic! Enjoyed pictures of your visit to Japan and your Japanese sons. The picture of Dr. Fujita, Sen. Yamaguchi, Mr. Rader and Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong was just beautiful. Mrs. Armstrong is a very pretty lady . . .

Ethel Mallott
Cincinnati, Ohio

"Kinda old" category

I just read your [Dibar Apartian's] article, "The Good 'Old' Days." I'm not 55 yet, but . . . you really gave me a lift. Your article was bursting with hope, most encouraging. So much so that I must read it again . . . even if I am not really old . . . But as my grandson tells me, I'm in the category of "kinda old."

Lu Filippello
Pasadena, Calif.

Forgive us our "canceled"

Last Sabbath when I was in Meru, an upcountry town in Kenya where we have a monthly Bible study, I was asked about the article ["Forgive Us Our Debts" in the April *GN*] and informed that no one had read it because it had been "canceled"!

Very few of the members in Eastern Africa have the benefit of weekly services, and so the arrival of each *Good News* is awaited with a special eagerness.

Owen Willis
Nairobi, Kenya

The April *Good News* was the best yet, but I do wonder why the article on page 12 ["Forgive Us Our Debts"], which I thought good, had "canceled" across it. What was wrong with it???

Mabel Griffin
Brandon, S.D.

Widow's mite

Since reading "The Widow's Mite" in the June-July issue of *The Good News*, I feel a burden has been lifted. That dollar or two *can* do some good!

Audrey Napier
Prairie Grove, Ark.

On the right track

Sure enjoy the "Ministudy" in *The Good News*. It helps to keep my mind on the right track.

Mr. and Mrs. H.B. Brown
Asheville, N.C.

How Did You Come to Know the Truth?

Do you really THANK GOD that He has opened your mind to HIS TRUTH? Is it precious — of SUPER value to you? Or do you feel like trampling it underfoot, as a sow would trample pearls or diamonds into the mud?

This thought came while reading a letter from a member in England. It is a VERY RARE THING for my eyes to see a letter like this, though there are many THOUSANDS who have received the SAME TRUTHS as this member.

It is a rather long letter, so I shall reprint here certain pertinent portions.

He writes: "Dear Mr. Armstrong: I very much appreciate the opportunity to write directly to Christ's apostle, and in just a little way to *thank you* for the tremendous example you are setting us and, above all, to thank you for *God's truth*."

"Mr. Armstrong, it becomes clearer with every passing month what an enormous debt we owe you!" (He owes it to GOD.)

"When I reflect on the *precious truths* of God's Word — the knowledge of what man's future is, the coming Kingdom of God, the spirit in man, the history of the angels, the origin of human nature, what *God* is, and on and on, then I am truly grateful that God has called me into *HIS Church* — the *only church* on this earth that has *the truth*."

"But, Mr. Armstrong, this Church has the truth only because" Christ gave it to us through "you. *You* are Christ's chosen and ordained apostle, and

it is through *you* that I have learned and understood all these things.

"How *well* Christ chose, trained and prepared you for your present responsibilities — and how glad I am that you are now directly involved in running the Church day to day under Jesus Christ.

"When I look back over the past three or four years I am *appalled* at what happened in your absence from Pasadena, of how the doctrines of God the Father — taught by Jesus Christ to His apostle — were so watered down and changed that this was scarcely God's Church anymore.

"When I consider *healing*, which the Head of this Church Jesus Christ considered *so important* that it was one of the *earliest* doctrines that He taught you (within a year of your picking up a Bible), then I am amazed at how effectively Christ's doctrine was rejected (and even to *this very day* it seems that many in the church here locally are unable to really accept healing as an *unbreakable PROMISE* of God; the POISON of STP has done its work too well, sir, and seems to have destroyed the living *FAITH* which was present in the Church when I first started attending).

"So, Mr. Armstrong, I daily thank God for your restoration to good health and DYNAMIC POWER. *Please*, keep writing powerful articles setting us straight doctrinally; we *need* to hear from you. I totally believe that Christ puts His truth into this Church through you, and so I

am *looking* to you more and more now than I ever have before.

"How often the apostle Paul wrote to his converts that they should IMITATE *him*, learn from *him*, follow *his* example, observe *his* faith and so on. Well, the apostle Paul is now dead — but there is a *living apostle* of Jesus Christ!

"And I hope — and pray — that God will give me the understanding and strength to *follow*, and to imitate, His apostle in this day and age. How useful is your autobiography in this regard! Thank you for writing it; it is a goldmine of advice and examples in practical living and Christianity!

"Mr. Armstrong, I find that the articles you write have a *ring* of truth to them. When I read them, I just know that they are right; and I am not exaggerating when I say that I literally *EXULT* when I read them — I really do rejoice at God's truth (although sometimes it hurts)!

"And so I tend to *study* your articles *VERY CAREFULLY*; I am often surprised at how much I miss the *first time* I read them — you pack *so much* into your articles! As I study, much is committed to memory (at least in general terms); my purpose is to see things as you see them — to have *your* mind (and hence Christ's mind) on various issues.

"And that brings me to the main purpose of writing this letter.

"Three or four months ago I was intensively studying your article on "How Christ Gives the Church Its Beliefs," which ap-

(Continued on page 28)

SPELLING OUT THE OFFICIAL DOCTRINE ON DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

It seems we never did "spell out" the details of how the 1974 decision on D&R should be applied in various cases. Result: There has been a grievous watering down.

By Herbert W. Armstrong

THERE IS ONE great difference between the law of God and the laws made by human government. God has given us His law in form of general principles to be applied in various cases, whereas in national laws, state laws and city ordinances, MAN tries to make multiple thousands of laws, "spelling out" every little detail in a separate law.

It is made clear for us in the third chapter of II Corinthians. "[God] also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit" (verse 6).

God's law is given in one single word — LOVE. God *is* love, His law is love — that word sums up God's CHARACTER. The law then is amplified into the two Great Laws, love toward God, and love toward neighbor. God amplifies it a little further in the Ten Commandments — the first four giving the broad principles of how to love God and the last six how to love neighbor. But God intended us to understand the PRINCIPLE involved and apply it honestly.

Now it comes to my attention that many are finding gray areas in the D&R law. I will try to spell out a little further in a general way, and those who seek the WAY OF

God instead of their own way will have, I hope, no difficulty in applying God's law properly according to its intended spirit. Otherwise, those who try to reason around God's law to have their own way will stand condemned in the sight of God.

GOD DOES NOT COMPROMISE WITH OR WATER DOWN HIS LAW. Rather than that He GAVE His only begotten Son Jesus to pay the penalty of repented sin in our stead.

Two major categories

Actually what happened in 1974 was not a CHANGE in the Church's definition of God's law, but the ADDITION of a second reason for divorce and remarriage we should have, but did not see before — so now we have the TWO categories.

First, just as we understood it in the Church before, Jesus gave fornication (prior to marriage) as the grounds for nullifying a marriage. This clearly was a form of fraud. When discovered (in nearly all cases) immediately after marriage, it simply meant God, knowing of this fraud, had actually not bound the marriage — and what followed therefore was actually an annulment, not a divorce.

However this did not apply in cases of marriage by unconverted people. God never bound them anyway — they were bound by man's law, and any divorce and/or remarriage would be according to man's civil law. But the Church would not

apply this annulment if the couple had continued living together for a period of time. There could be other types of fraud — such as a marriage enforced at the point of a gun.

The second cause for divorce, affirmed by the Church through Christ's apostle in 1974, was based on I Corinthians 7.

This matter of D&R was the biggest, most troublesome problem in the Church. One day my son, Garner Ted, came to me saying it did not appear to be a problem in the early Church at all — according to the book of Acts and Paul's epistles. He asked why. Dr. Herman Hoeh then added something to the problem, and we discovered this teaching in I Corinthians 7. We had been very familiar with I Corinthians 7 before, but had not recognized this D&R teaching in it.

Paul there speaks, verses 8-9, to the unmarried and widows. In verses 10-11 he speaks to the married. Beginning verse 12 he speaks to "the rest." If a converted man has a wife who is an unbeliever, causing trouble and disrupting the marriage because of the man's religion (NOTICE IT CAREFULLY), if she is pleased to live with him, *he must not divorce her* — he has NO GROUNDS for divorce and remarriage.

Likewise the woman in God's Church, if she has an unbelieving husband, and he is willing to live with her despite her religion, *she shall not leave him* (verse 13).

But if the unbelieving one leaves — cuts off the marriage because of the Church member's religion — let him or her depart. Now **NOTICE THIS!** The believing Church member is not given grounds for breaking off the marriage. It is only *IF* the unbelieving one leaves — severs the marriage relationship — then and *only then* is the believer (Church member) no longer bound and free to obtain a divorce (verse 15).

I conceive of this occurring in at least two ways. 1) The believing Church member has been newly converted, and the mate refuses to live with him or her because of the religion. 2) Both had been in the Church, but one falls away, turns bitter against the Church, refuses to live as husband or wife with the still loyal member. In this case the embittered one, leaving the Church, has become an unbeliever.

Sanctified by the converted mate

Now Paul gives an important **REASON** for the converted mate **CONTINUING** in the marriage, **IF** the unbelieving one is willing. Notice verse 14: "For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now they are holy."

"Sanctified" does **NOT** mean made sanctimonious or holy. "Sanctified" means "set apart" or put in a separate category.

To thoroughly understand this we need to go clear back to Adam and Eve. When God drove them out of the Garden of Eden, and with sword-flaming angels barred anyone from going back in — or having access to the tree of life (the **HOLY SPIRIT**) — God said, in effect:

"You have made your decision. You have rebelled against me, denied me as your **GOD**, your Revealer of knowledge, your Ruler. Therefore I sentence you and the **WORLD** that shall be born from you to 6,000 years of being **CUT OFF** from me — except for the **VERY FEW** I shall specially call into my service to prepare for the **KINGDOM OF GOD.**"

Jesus confirmed this when He said, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him" (John 6:44).

Now the nation of ancient Israel was specially called by God the Father for a special purpose — even though they were still cut off from receiving the Holy Spirit.

But the unconverted mate is put in a special category — **NOT CALLED NECESSARILY TO RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT OR SPIRITUAL CONVERSION** — but simply **NOT CUT OFF** from God. They are free to seek God, **IF THEY WILL**, and to become converted. They are placed in a special category, neither converted, or **CALLED** for God's special duty in conversion — but, on the other hand, **NOT** actually **CUT OFF** — not in the category Jesus spoke of, saying no such unbeliever **CAN** come to Jesus, except by special call to salvation by God the Father. They are free to **SEEK GOD** and to **SEEK CONVERSION IF THEY WILL** — *not CUT OFF!*

Applies to children also

This same status applies to the children of the converted mate. They are neither **CALLED** to salvation **NOR cut off** from God. They may be taught by the believing parent, and, reaching maturity, **IF** they will, to **SEEK CONVERSION**. They are free to seek it — no longer **CUT OFF** from Christ.

Notice I Corinthians 7, verse 16: "For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?"

If the husband or wife who is **IN** the Church divorces the unbelieving non-member who is willing to continue the marriage, that Church member puts the unconverted mate in the **CUTOFF** category — whereas such nonmember mate might have been saved for eternal life in God's Kingdom.

Don't twist God's truth

Now **WHY** — **OH WHY?** — do professing members of God's Church seek to reason their way around God's plain teaching, and those in the Church who are **NOT** eligible for divorce, seek to use human reason to **TWIST** these scriptures into allowing a divorce and remarriage that **GOD'S WORD DOES NOT ALLOW?**

Yet many, professing to be converted members of God's Church, have done just that! Brethren, have I labored **IN VAIN** to open your minds

to **GOD'S GLORIOUS TRUTH**, and yet you despise the Word of God and twist a gray area situation by your own faulty reasons to **HAVE YOUR OWN WAY**, contrary to God's Word? Have I labored so long among you **IN VAIN?**

Some have falsely claimed theirs is a borderline case, and used their own selfish and erroneous **REASON** to enter into a **D&R** situation **CONTRARY TO GOD'S WORD!**

Even after the 1974 **D&R** ruling, my son Garner Ted Armstrong frowned upon **D&R** decisions made by the Church or its ministers. I am informed that Wayne Cole and Ron Dart, in offices of Pastoral Administration, tried to avoid committing themselves in any such case.

In cases where a man and wife have been married for almost a quarter of a century, human reason has been used by Church members to allow divorce and both parties to remarry! In one case, the wife of nearly 25 years, who had actually "pursued" her husband prior to marriage, claimed she just didn't love him anymore. Both she and her husband are now remarried!

Such cases are a **STENCH** in the nostrils of a just **GOD!** They are a disgrace to a church calling itself **GOD'S CHURCH!** Such liberal decisions and actions **SHALL NO LONGER BE TOLERATED** in the Church of **GOD**, preparing now for Christ's second coming!

The matter of fornication or other fraud prior to marriage **CANNOT BE USED AS GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE**, after the couple have gone on living together. Unless such fraud is acted on at once — as soon as discovered, **IT IS NO GROUNDS** for divorce and remarriage!

Jesus said plainly, "whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery" (Matt. 5:32).

We are living in the **LAST DAYS!** Jesus Christ is **COMING AGAIN** — **SOON!** When He comes His Church shall have made herself **READY** for the one **SUPREME MARRIAGE TO CHRIST!** We are **NOT** yet ready! We are full of spiritual blemishes, spots and wrinkles. We have been allowing lust, coveting and serious **SINS** to invade this Church!

I am now calling on this Church to **CLEAN UP!** □

Now God Speaks to You Ministers

By Herbert W. Armstrong

Years ago I proclaimed on the air a great deal from the book of Ezekiel. Ezekiel was among the Jewish captives of the 604 to 585 B.C. captivity by Babylon of the kingdom of Judah. This was more than 125 years after the kingdom of ISRAEL had been invaded, conquered and moved from Palestine to Assyria on the southern shores of the Caspian Sea.

But both the Assyrians and their slave Israelites had long since migrated northwest into western Europe and Britain when JUDAH was made captive by Babylon.

When Ezekiel wrote as God inspired, he was among the Jewish slaves beside the river Chebar. Yet the message Ezekiel was inspired by God to write was written primarily to ISRAEL, not Judah.

Ezekiel's message is NOT to the Jewish slaves among whom Ezekiel was living. It was to the HOUSE OF ISRAEL (Ezek. 2:3 and 3:1). The prophet Ezekiel was never able to break loose from Babylonish slavery and proclaim his message to the kingdom of Israel, by then dwelling in western Europe and Britain.

THE MESSAGE OF THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL IS GOD'S MESSAGE TO US TODAY — FOR WE ARE THE PEOPLE of the ancient house of ISRAEL, of the tribe of Manasseh. (See — and you'd better BELIEVE — our booklet on the U.S. in prophecy.)

A modern Ezekiel raised up

Since the original writer, Ezekiel, was not able to go to the people of the house of ISRAEL, God showed me

years ago that it remained for God to raise up "modern Ezekiel" to carry this prophetic message to the modern Israel of today — and that means, primarily, the English-speaking people.

I have proclaimed the Ezekiel messages to our peoples by radio, television and by personal appearance and in print for more than 40 years. *NO ONE ELSE HAS!*

The Church of God is founded on the apostles and the prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone. The PROPHETS upon whom the Church is founded are NOT New Testament prophets. Only four are mentioned — and NOT ONE OF THEM contributed any doctrines or beliefs to the Church — but the apostles did, and they quoted at great length from so-called "Old Testament" prophets.

THEREFORE EZEKIEL'S MESSAGE IS FOR US TODAY! That is, for GOD'S CHURCH to proclaim to the English-speaking nations.

First, God prepared me in a special way, then called me in a manner to wipe my mind clean of every other or previous belief, and to come to HIS TRUTH in a manner experienced by none other in recent times, CONQUERING ME, completely submissive to HIM and His Word.

He started His Work and His Church in a very small way — BUT IT GREW AND GREW and became a large WORLDWIDE Church.

God in due time added you ministers to 1) feed the local flocks, and 2) to stand staunchly and loyally WITH ME in carrying Christ's Gospel to the world.

Now the largest nation in the world has made plans for my OFFICIAL visit with their top-ranking men of the People's Republic of China, shortly after the Feast of Tabernacles.

I constantly THANK GOD for you loyal ministers and your faithful wives, and for the way Christ is using you in furthering HIS WORK! God has called us, that we must all "SPEAK THE SAME THING" (I Cor. 1:10) in perfect harmony and love, that we be of ONE MIND — the MIND OF CHRIST!

But now I do feel we must seriously consider God's warning message to our nations and to the ministry of HIS CHURCH through Ezekiel. This is of CRISIS importance right now.

A message to the lost 10 tribes

Ezekiel starts his book saying, "I was among the captives [slaves] by the river Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God" (Ezek. 1:1) . . . "in the land of the Chaldeans [Babylon]" (verse 3).

The first chapter merely records what Ezekiel first saw IN THE VISION. It contains no message he is to deliver. He seemed to be taken to heaven IN VISION, preparing him to receive the message — which is to the "lost" house (or kingdom) of ISRAEL. It is NOT a message to Judah — the Jews — but to the by then "lost" house of Israel — the 10 TRIBES.

I proclaimed much of Ezekiel's message to Manasseh and Ephraim during the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. But I was ahead of my time — or else God has deliberately slowed down prophesied world events. We are now coming into the TIME for proclaiming Ezekiel's message.

When Ezekiel saw, in vision, this first chapter whirlwind, and the glory of the Lord, he fell forward upon his face — and then heard a voice speaking to him, saying (chapter 2, verses 1-3): "Stand upon thy feet unto me and I will speak unto thee . . . and he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee

to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me . . . *even unto THIS VERY DAY*" (our day now, last half of the 20th century).

And (3:4-5): "GO, get thee unto the house of ISRAEL, and speak with my words unto them. For thou art not sent to a people of strange speech." The "lost" house of Israel in the three or four generations since their removal from northern Palestine had "LOST" their Hebrew language. They had "LOST" God's Sabbath and thereby their knowledge of God and their identity.

But TODAY, God has raised up this Work of His Church to carry this message to the "lost" Israelites,

whose true identity God has revealed to us — and to us they are not a people of strange speech.

"But the HOUSE OF ISRAEL will not hearken unto thee; for they will not hearken unto me" (verse 7). Our peoples today will not listen to nor heed GOD'S WARNING MESSAGE!

Verse 17, "Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel" (today the English-speaking peoples).

In chapter 4, verse 13, "And the Lord said, Even thus shall the children of Israel eat their defiled bread among the Gentiles, whither I will drive them" — a forewarning for the U.S. and British peoples NOW!

Continue, speaking of the Ameri-

can and British peoples: "Wherefore, as I live, saith the Lord Eternal . . . A third part of thee shall die with the pestilence, and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee; and a third part shall fall by the sword [the sword of nuclear destruction in our day] round about thee; and I will scatter a third part into all the winds . . . Thus shall mine anger be accomplished, and I will cause MY FURY to rest upon them" (5:11-13).

God's FURY is an expression used many times in prophecies to indicate the troubles soon to strike us — great tribulation and first phase of the "day of the Lord" — which shall climax in CHRIST'S SECOND COMING!



Illustration by G. Dore

The prophet Ezekiel was not able to go to Israel in his day because he was among the captive Jews in Babylon. Today God has raised up His Work to carry Ezekiel's message to the "lost" house of Israel, whose identity He has revealed.

It is clearly evident that this prophecy is for our peoples and for OUR TIME — latter half of the 20th century.

This prophecy NEVER TOOK PLACE IN OLD TESTAMENT TIMES! Continuing into chapter 6, "In all your dwellingplaces THE CITIES SHALL BE LAID WASTE" (verse 6). This could be accomplished only by NUCLEAR DESTRUCTION. The TIME of this prophecy is NOW JUST AHEAD OF US!

Verse 7, "And the slain shall fall in the midst of you, and ye shall know that I am the LORD." This latter is an expression many times used by Ezekiel referring to the second coming of Christ. Our peoples as a whole do not really know that Christ is LORD. The State of California does not — their invasion of God's property shows they think "CAESAR" is lord. So there is no mistaking the TIMING of this prophecy. It is to happen in the approximate NEAR FUTURE — but we cannot set dates.

Speaking to the clergy

To continue through Ezekiel, expounding it, would take a hundred pages. But, speaking especially to the ministry of God's Church, I want to include some of chapter 34, where it speaks of the clergy of the American and British peoples.

LET US BE CAREFUL LEST ANY OF THIS APPLY TO THE MINISTRY OF GOD'S CHURCH!

"Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord ETERNAL unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks? [with the Word of God] . . . The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick" (verses 2-4). Some of our ministry wanted to do away with healing. God put HEALING in His Church. He put it in 1,900 years ago through the original apostles. He put it in today's era of the Church through me, His apostle. DO NOT BE GUILTY OF NEGLECT IN THIS IMPORTANT DOCTRINE. But the Catholic and Protestant ministers RELY ON HUMAN DOCTORS AND MEDICINES! And God here upbraids them for this!

Continue, verse 4, "neither have ye sought that which was lost" — here

speaking of the "LOST" 10 TRIBES. Certainly the clergy of "traditional Christianity" have not sought to locate the "LOST" house of Israel. God revealed their identity and location to me before the present era of God's Church was started, and it has always been a PRIMARY DOCTRINE of this Church. Yet some few of our ministers have rejected this TRUTH, and even tried to destroy it from the Church.

While I was overseas and did not know they were doing it, some, under my son Garner Ted, REDUCED the booklet *U.S. in Prophecy*, eliminating vitally important parts of it. A new full edition of this important book is now in process of being published, full size. This book was one of the two or three that did more to BUILD THIS CHURCH than any others.

Continue in Ezekiel 34:4-11:

"But [even though you did not seek to locate the lost house of Israel, you were ministers AMONG THEM, unknown to yourselves, and] with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. And they were scattered [spiritually into many sects and denominations] because there is no shepherd . . . my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them.

"Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD . . . Thus saith the Lord ETERNAL; Behold I am against the shepherds [be careful this does not apply to any of you]; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more . . .

"For thus saith the Lord ETERNAL; Behold I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out [at Christ's second coming]."

Dire punishment is ahead

I will break off there, for lack of space. But chapters 5 and 6 of Ezekiel, combined with Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28, and other scriptures such as Matthew 24:21-22, Jeremiah 30, show the United States and Britain are going down, *down DOWN*, into utter defeat, slavery and dire punishment for our national SINS.

Beginning 1800 to 1803, we inherited the vast national promises of ma-

terial wealth, power and prestige that God promised our father Abraham. We have enjoyed a living standard higher than any nation in history.

Yet what have we done with these blessings? We have turned from our GOD, and in all our educational process have taught instead the godless theory of EVOLUTION. We have allowed our FAMILY LIFE to be destroyed. Our morals have sunk into the cesspool. We have endorsed and given our national blessing to SODOMISM. We have been unethical and dishonest in our business and commercial dealings. We have rejected God's Sabbath (not this Church), and God's ways, and turned to Satan's ways.

The sun already has set on the British Empire, which as an empire exists no longer. The United States is now caught in the vise of INFLATION, and an economic situation where our high living standard is being swept from us. Down, DOWN, we go!

And soon God will send such drought that it will bring disease epidemics that will take the lives of a third of our people! After that, our CITIES shall be destroyed — which never could have happened before WE first invented and produced NUCLEAR MASS DESTRUCTION. The remaining third of our proud people will be REMOVED from this country into SLAVERY!

Those left of us finally will repent. God says He will not make a FULL END of us!

Finally (Ezek. 20:33, 42-44): "As I live, saith the Lord ETERNAL, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury [the last plagues] poured out, will I RULE over you . . . And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall bring you [not Judah, the Jews, but our people ISRAEL] into the land of Israel . . . And there shall ye remember your ways, and all your doings, wherein ye have been defiled; and ye shall loathe yourselves . . . And ye shall know that I am the LORD . . . O ye HOUSE OF ISRAEL" (not Judah, the Jews). Then shall come the KINGDOM OF GOD! Satan shall be abolished. Christ with the Church converted to spirit immortality shall rule! Those still living shall have learned their lesson.

And PEACE, and HAPPINESS and JOY shall flood the earth! □

Are You a Servant or Hireling?

By Dibar Apartian

A few months ago, a good friend of mine told me that he stayed awake one night wondering whether he was truly a servant of Jesus Christ — or simply a hireling.

What an interesting thought! Has it ever crossed your mind? Have you ever wondered about your own status? Do you even know the difference between a servant and a hireling?

Strange as it may seem, quite a few people in God's Church today — despite their good intentions — often think and act as though they were only hirelings. Why? What makes them — without realizing it — be what they don't want to be?

The answer is obvious: They have not fully grasped the purpose of their calling. Have you? Do you believe that your *own* salvation is the reason God called you into His Church? If so, you are bound to think and act like a hireling.

Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11, Revised Standard Version throughout).

Think of it. A good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep. Jesus did that! Take the time to meditate on these words — seriously. Ask yourself, in all honesty, if this is the way you feel toward your brethren or toward the people in the world. Would you die for someone else — even a stranger?

"But this verse only applies to the ministers, not to the lay members," you may argue. "It's the shepherd who is supposed to lay down his life for the sheep."

That is the reasoning of a hireling! We have all been called to serve.

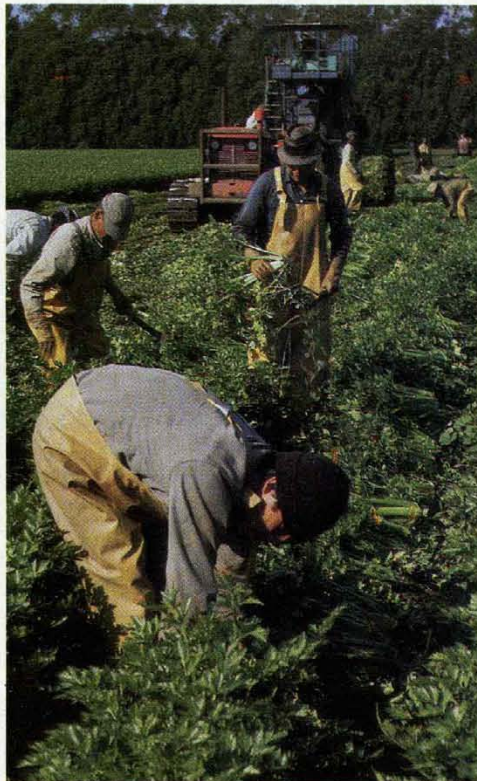


Photo by J. Kilburn

Ministers, like lay members, are servants — each according to his ability and the job he has been given.

A good shepherd is a good servant. He loves his sheep and will die for them if need be. This principle applies to every last one of us in God's Church. One way or the other we all are shepherds when it comes to serving in love and fulfilling our responsibilities.

"He who is a hireling," added Christ, "and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters them" (verse 12).

What's the reason? Why does a hireling flee when he sees danger? Why does he forsake the sheep? "He

flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep," explained Christ (verse 13).

The parable of the vineyard

Whether we act like hirelings or servants in God's Church, we still are laborers. Collectively, we have been commissioned to do a job — a very important one. But hirelings don't have the same incentive, nor do they work the way good servants do.

The parable of the vineyard helps us to better understand this truth. Christ began the parable, saying to His disciples: "For the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard" (Matt. 20:1-2).

A few hours later, he saw other men who were standing idle, and he also ordered them to go to his vineyard. He didn't disclose their wages. He simply promised he would give them whatever was right.

About noontime, he found more laborers who were idle and gave them the same instructions. Finally, about an hour before quitting time, he saw another group of laborers standing idle, and he asked them, "Why do you stand here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You go into the vineyard too" (verses 6-7).

All these laborers were hirelings. They were hired for a certain job and were promised a fair remuneration for their efforts. That was their reward. None was interested in anything but his pay — what he would

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Europe and Our Prophetic Message

By Carn Catherwood



Photo by Warren Watson

Do we in the Church of God really grasp how swiftly and dramatically the many prophecies Mr. Armstrong has taught for several decades are now being fulfilled? Many highly significant trends and developments have begun to radically alter the lives and attitudes of millions of Europeans, drawing them inevitably closer to becoming the beast power described in Revelation 17 and 18. We must not be lax in "discerning the signs of the times" (Matt. 16:3).

In the past few years, many of God's people have begun to drift away from a clear understanding of prophecy and its implications for our time. Very clear Bible truths concerning major upheavals in the Middle East, centering around Jerusalem, coupled with the emergence of a formidable superpower in Europe, have been taught faithfully by Herbert W. Armstrong and this Church for well over 40 years, and they are coming to pass.

The Europe I first saw in 1961 is totally different from the Europe I lived in with my family last year. The speed with which certain prophesied realities have come together in a few short years is positively breathtaking! Never have the nations of Europe been closer to fulfilling the prophecies that speak of an economic, spiritual and political union than they are today!

One of the chief signs of the times is the coming fusion of the European Community into the revived Roman Empire predicted by Daniel and the book of Revelation. We'll leave the exact time element up to God, but Scripture does tell us much about the ultimate outcome and the events and trends leading up to it.

New European prosperity

In the past several years, I have noticed several basic factors contributing to the evolvement of this prophesied federation. The first trend we'll analyze is the unbelievable new prosperity in Europe. However, it has also resulted in negative side effects, such as debt, inflation, the development of the "get" mentality and alienation of the young.

Until only recently, many Europeans would wag their fingers rather disdainfully at Americans and say: "You Americans just think about things — big cars, fancy houses in the suburbs, clothes, raw materialism. Here in Europe, we may be

poorer than you, but we place our emphasis on higher values, on culture, not on materialism as you do." Brethren, that mentality is fast disappearing.

Millions of Europeans have tasted the sweet fruit of prosperity in the last few years, and they have decided they like what they've found. *Things* are fast becoming just as important to them as they are to us.

And though we can expect temporary setbacks in their economy and growth potential because of inflation, the energy crisis and other factors, the overall trend is ever onward. They are destined to become more and more productive until some day, not only will they have become far more prosperous than the United States, they will be the economic giant of the whole world! In 1979 they are visibly on their way.

In their mind's eye, many North Americans still picture the average European housewife doing her weekly shopping in a quaint open market, carefully placing her prized possessions in a wicker basket, which she dangles from her arm while she rides slowly home on her bicycle. While it is true that in some of the smaller communities in Europe that scene can still be found, it is becoming less and less commonplace.

In the suburbs of Brussels, Belgium, where we lived last year, most housewives drove to the supermarket once or twice a week in their family car. After pushing their basket (the kind with four wheels) up and down the aisles, piling up the groceries and listening to the ever-present recorded music, they checked out at the cash register and stacked their purchases in the trunks of their cars, just as Americans do.

The finest, most impressive indoor shopping malls that I have ever seen are in France, Belgium and Holland. Suburban "bedroom" communities,

replete with neighborhood swimming pools, tennis courts and other frills are springing up around many large European cities, and the housing industry is booming. Many younger Europeans are no longer happy to spend their lives in antiquated, cramped apartments in the core of the city.

Many want a home in the suburbs with a couple of bathrooms, a private garage, modern plumbing and a yard for the children to play in. And they will often pay twice or even three times as much as Americans would to purchase such a home. Everyone seems to be up to his neck in debt, a sharp contrast with the Europe of 20 years ago, when it was socially unacceptable to have debts of any kind.

In 1967, when I first began to preach to our congregations in France, telling them that their nation (in union with the rest of Europe) would someday bypass the United States in economic clout, some brethren scoffed. One European member said to me, "If I hadn't seen it in the Bible and read it in our literature, I could not believe it."

Of course, in 1967 Europe was still struggling with a much weaker economy. In 1979, however, our European brethren no longer have to strain their minds to envision what prophecy says their part of the world is to someday become. In just a few years, they have made dramatic economic gains, and the upward trend continues.

A prophetic description

In Revelation 18, we are given a graphic description of Europe at its future economic peak. Remember this prophecy occurs after the United States, Canada and other Israelitish nations have been conquered and brought into subservience. Europe is still growing, burgeoning. Suddenly,

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The Most Significant FEAST OF TABERNACLES in History

By Herman L. Hoeh

Why has the Christian world overlooked the real meaning of the most significant Feast of Tabernacles in history?

No more important Feast of Tabernacles is recorded anywhere in the Bible. The apostle John spent almost one fifth of his gospel account on it. So irate were the chief priests and Pharisees when they heard Jesus' teaching at that particular Feast that they attempted to stone Him to death.

The episode we are about to read begins in John, chapter 7, and continues through chapter 10, verse 21. Turn to it in your Bible.

What John records

The background of this historic Festival is found in John 7:1: "After this Jesus went about in Galilee; he would not go about in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill him. Now the Jews' feast of Tabernacles was at hand" (Revised Standard Version).

It was seven months before the Passover and crucifixion, and already the leaders in Judea were looking for a chance to kill Jesus. Even Jesus' brothers were upset with Him. They said sarcastically to Jesus:

"Surely no one can hope to be in the public eye if he works in seclusion. If you really are doing such things as these, show yourself to the world" (verse 4, New English Bible). Jesus was not attempting to be in the public eye — but His brothers did not know that.

The Work of God today is not

attempting to be in the public eye or to seek notoriety. It is doing exactly what Jesus did. John explains it in verse 7: "The world cannot hate you," said Jesus to His brothers, "but it hates me for exposing the wickedness of its ways" (NEB).

We are exposing the wickedness and injustice of the ways of this world. We are announcing the good news — Gospel — that a better world is coming. How? Through Jesus Christ's intervention in world affairs to reestablish the government of God over the whole earth!

Herbert W. Armstrong and his staff go to world leaders with this message in a private manner. We do not seek newspaper headlines about discussions with world leaders. That time will come soon enough.

Now to continue with John's account of the Feast. Jesus said to his brothers, "Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast; for my time is not yet full come" (verse 8, King James Version). Modern translations erroneously omit the first *yet* in Jesus' words, "I go not up *yet* unto this feast." With this answer Jesus remained behind in Galilee.

To continue: "But after his brothers had gone up to the feast, then he also went up, not publicly but in private" (verse 10, RSV). The apostle John refers to this impending Festival in 7:2 as the "Jews' feast of taber-

nacles." The Festival is *God's Feast of Tabernacles*. He ordained it.

But since the Jews were a nation as well as a congregation, it had become a national festival, celebrated with special temple ceremonies and national customs. "About the middle of the Feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught. The Jews marveled at it, saying, 'How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?'" (verses 14-15, RSV).

Of course Jesus studied! But He had not studied as a student of the Pharisees or Sadducees. His apostle today studied — but not in this world's colleges and universities. When Jesus was 12, He was found by His parents "sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers" (Luke 2:46-47, RSV).

Jesus answered His critics that fourth day of the Feast by saying: "My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself . . . Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me?" (verses 16, 17, 19, KJV).

Jesus' teaching came from God. He appealed to the law as the basis of true character. He challenged those who harbored murderous thoughts contrary to the law. They, in turn, to justify themselves, accused Jesus of being demon possessed (verse 20).

For the next two days the people discussed among themselves whether Jesus was indeed the Christ, the Messiah. "'When the Christ appears,'" they said, "'will he do more signs than this man has done?'" (verse 31, RSV).

The controversy heightens

John continues, "The Pharisees heard the crowd thus muttering about him, and the chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to arrest him" (verse 32). When the officers came into the presence of Jesus and heard Him speak, they were immensely impressed. It was now the seventh day of the Feast of Tabernacles.

(The Feast of Tabernacles is a seven-day festival. It is followed by an eighth day, which is an annual Holy Day. This eighth day — see Lev.

23:36, last half — has no specific name in the Old Testament.)

On this seventh day of the Feast of Tabernacles a great closing celebration occurred in the temple ceremonies. Quantities of water were drawn in public view, and poured out, in preparation for the final or eighth day of the Festival season.

The ceremony commemorated an event recorded in I Samuel 7:5-6. There we read that Samuel the prophet, apparently at the time of the Feast of Tabernacles, gathered the people to Mizpah. (This was before the temple of Solomon was built at Jerusalem.) Samuel then “drew water, and poured it out before the Lord.”

The Jews had just repeated this traditional ceremony, amid great celebration at the end of the seventh day of the Feast, when Jesus stood up at the beginning of the last great day (the eighth day) at sunset (John 7:37) and proclaimed:

“If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.’”

The apostle John explains to his readers what Jesus meant — and what, in fact, this joyous ceremony signified, “Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified” (verse 37, last half, to 39, RSV).

Jesus’ Gospel reveals the way of salvation, the way to eternal life. Man is born mortal, fleshly. He has no eternal life naturally abiding in him. He needs the Spirit of the immortal, ever-living God.

That Spirit is made available to man through Jesus Christ, who offered Himself for the sins of the world, was buried and resurrected, ascended to God the Father, is glorified and now, as high priest and our personal advocate, ministers for us at the throne of God.

This was Jesus’ message on the beginning hours of the Last Great Day of the Feast of Tabernacles. This annual Holy Day pictures a time when the government of God is established over all the earth.

Salvation is opened to the whole world. Those who are now called and

chosen will rule with Christ not only for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:4), symbolized by the seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles, but also during the judgment, at the time of the second resurrection (Rev. 20:11-12). This Last Great Day pictures this great event, when all who have lived and died in spiritual ignorance will come to a knowledge of the truth and to salvation. Out of the saints’ innermost being will flow rivers of spiritual water, converting the world.

When the officers heard these words of Jesus, they returned that evening to the chief priests and Pharisees without having apprehended Jesus (John 7:45). “Why did you not bring him?” demanded the chief priests and Pharisees. “The officers answered, ‘No man ever spoke like this man.’” (verse 46).

And the Work of God today speaks with the same conviction and authority and truth. World leaders pay attention to what Herbert W. Armstrong announces to them in private discussions. They have never heard anything like it before. The true Gospel — the good news of the Kingdom (government) of God — is as astounding to the rulers of the world today as it was to the leaders of that day when Jesus first announced it.

Attempting to trap Jesus

Now we turn to the King James Version, beginning verse 53 of chapter 7. “And every man went unto his own house.” The account continues with verse 1 of chapter 8: “Jesus went unto the mount of Olives. And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.”

After a night’s rest the people were again at Jesus’ feet eager to hear Him. It was the morning of the last Festival of the year, the eighth day (the day we now call the Last Great Day), which immediately followed the seven-day Festival of Tabernacles.

Hardly had Jesus begun to teach when the scribes and Pharisees entered. They hatched a plan during the night to trap Jesus so they might have cause to arrest Him.

With them as they entered was a woman who had been found committing adultery. Instead of privately

helping her to overcome her sin, they made a public spectacle of her. “Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned,” they intoned, “but what sayest thou?” (verse 5).

Jesus’ discerning answer was His message of the Holy Day. “He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her” (verse 7, KJV).

Humiliated, the scribes and Pharisees left one by one, beginning with the eldest. “Woman,” said Jesus, “where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?” When she responded, “No man, Lord,” Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.”

This account of the woman taken in adultery is wrongly deleted, or mistakenly placed in footnote, in modern versions. It is a vital part of the story.

Then Jesus began to explain to the people who had witnessed this ugly scene, “I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” (verse 12, KJV). Those millions of human beings who throughout history have lived and died in spiritual darkness will indeed see the light of truth — after the millennium in a second resurrection.

As Jesus was explaining this, the Pharisees in Jesus’ audience took offense (verse 13). They accused Jesus of bearing false testimony — that His Gospel was a lie and of the devil.

“Jesus replied, ‘If I glorify myself, that glory of mine is worthless. It is the Father who glorifies me, he of whom you say, ‘He is our God,’ though you do not know him. But I know him; if I said that I did not know him I should be a liar like you. But in truth I know him and obey his word . . . They picked up stones to throw at him’” (John 8:54-59, NEB).

We pick up the account in the King James Version: “But Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by. And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth” (John 8:59; 9:1). Jesus put clay on his eyes and healed the man. The blind man, now healed, was whisked before the Pharisees.

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Does God EVER Forsake Us?

By Colin Adair

The atheist, to support his belief that there is no God, will point to the terrible conditions in the world and say: "See, there can't be a god. And even if you could convince me there is one, I would say he has certainly forgotten and forsaken mankind."

We of God's Church know this is not true. We know that God is and that He has a plan and is working it out step by step. He has not forsaken His people.

And yet at times do we, His people, feel that God has forsaken us, especially when things don't go right, when our prayers seem to go unanswered and our trials appear endless?

Human nature doubts

Similar doubts must have entered the minds of some of the great men of God, even when God was working with them, because it's a human tendency.

Noah may have looked out over the expanse of water and wondered if God would remember him. Noah and his family emerged from their place of safety after a year and 10 days. That's a long time to be shut up in a ship. But whenever doubts entered Noah's mind he must have reminded himself of God's promise, and sure enough, God remembered Noah (Gen. 8:1).

Abraham, the father of the faithful, was not so perfect that he never thought on occasion that God had forgotten him. After being told that he would have a son and heir by his wife, Sarah, his patience wore thin. He may have reasoned that God had forgotten or forsaken him in his old age. But he discovered that God was very much aware of His promise (Gen. 21:1-2).

Did Joseph ever have any doubts enter his mind? After having a dream in which his brothers and parents bowed down to him, he was soon after unceremoniously sold as a slave into a foreign

land. His fortune picked up somewhat in Potiphar's household only to vanish in the harsh reality of an Egyptian jail. Where was God? Had He forgotten and forsaken him?

When the chance came to get out of prison, and it looked like God was at last doing something about his plight, his new-found butler friend, who had promised to speak to the Pharaoh on his behalf, promptly forgot him!

This setback would have discouraged any man. Joseph, being human, must have had doubts cross his mind about God's concern for him. But deep inside he remained convinced that God was with him, and subsequent events proved that God had never forsaken him for a minute.

Perhaps the greatest example of a man whom God seemed to forsake was Job. After losing all his livestock, servants and his children in a series of catastrophes that resembled a modern-day blitzkrieg, he said, "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21).

He knew it was God's doing and that God was still with him. At this point in his trial Job's attitude was still exemplary. Verse 22 tells us in all this Job sinned not. Perhaps other men, with less strength than Job, would have accused God of forsaking them and not protecting their property and families.

King David's example

Probably the best example we have of this tendency of human nature is that of King David. Many times he was in sore distress and felt that God had forsaken him. But notice how he tackled this doubt.

In Psalm 13:1-2, we read: "How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord? for

ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me? How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? how long shall mine enemy be exalted over me?"

Here was his human nature crying out to God and in a sense saying God had forsaken him. But even as these doubts fired up his mind he quickly doused them with positive thoughts of God's deep concern for him.

Verse 5, "But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation." David knew deep within him that God would in His own good time rescue him and that he was not forsaken.

Notice another time that David doubted for a while. Psalm 42:9-10: "I will say unto God my rock, Why hast thou forgotten me? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? As with a sword in my bones, mine enemies reproach me; while they say daily unto me, Where is thy God?"

Not only was David wondering where God was, but his enemies taunted him and added to his temptation to doubt by their jeers. But David didn't allow these negative thoughts to take root in his mind.

His knowledge of God and His love for Him dominated his mind during discouragement. He corrected his own thoughts. Verse 11, "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God."

When David's human nature was at its lowest he reached down into the depths of his mind and remembered God's faithfulness and *knew* that he was not forsaken.

Who has forsaken whom?

Whenever we begin to think God has turned His back on us, we need to

examine ourselves and see who has forsaken whom. Perhaps God doesn't answer our prayers and save us from our trials because we have forsaken Him.

What are the ways we forsake or forget God? The most common way is disobedience to His laws. Proverbs 3:1 warns, "My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments." Verse 6, "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." God will always direct all our paths if we walk continually with Him and obey Him.

Are we keeping the Sabbath properly? Are we faithfully tithing? Do we observe the Holy Days and plan to attend the Feast of Tabernacles by saving our second tithe? Do we obey God's government, realizing His government is here right now in the Church, and God is watching our attitudes and degree of service?

Another way we sometimes forsake God is by neglect of prayer and Bible study. Proverbs 8:33-34: "Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors." Don't accuse God of forsaking you when you turn your back on Him.

Are you constant in prayer? Luke 18:1, "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint." Perhaps you ask once, and when you don't get an answer immediately, you think God didn't listen or forgot your petition.

But God *will* answer in His own way and in His own time. We need to keep reminding Him and patiently waiting. Never assume God has forsaken you and is not interested any more in answering your prayers.

Don't despise reproof

An important and often overlooked way we can forsake God is by not heeding His counsel or advice. Proverbs 1:24-25, "Because I have called, and you refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But you have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof."

Verses 30-33: "They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of

the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. For the *turning away* [we, not God] of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil."

How does this counsel reach us? Most of it is through the ministry of God's Church. It works in two ways. First, through sermons and secondly, through personal counseling.

We open church services by asking God's inspiration on the speakers. But as a member of the congregation do you think the minister is merely giving you his own opinion? Do you criticize the sermon afterwards?

God's *true* ministers will speak God's will, not their own opinions. No, they're not infallible and can and do make mistakes, but the overall messages you hear, the admonitions you receive, are from God through His servants.

His servants give you the understanding of His will, built on the basic and proved doctrines of God, which all members already have as a foundation (Heb. 6:1-2). Here is where God counsels His people. Be sure you don't reject it because to do so is to forsake God's counseling.

So we should not blame God when we are at fault, feeling He isn't interested in us anymore.

Look what He says in Isaiah 49:14-16 about this attitude. "But Zion [spiritually the Church] said, The Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, *they* may forget, *yet will I not forget thee*. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands."

After His kind

We are God's special Work, His present spiritual creation. God has set His hand to create others of His kind. He does not forsake what He has begun. He sees it through.

And Christ, our High Priest, is concerned that we make it. He will not drop our cause. John 10:27-30:

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and

they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one."

Together they are concerned about bringing every one they choose into the Family of God. John 6:39, "And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day."

After making this commitment to Himself and to Christ, will He turn His back on us and busy Himself with some other work more important than His own reproduction? There *is* no more important work right now in God's mind! Jesus Christ *wills* us to make it to the Kingdom of God. John 17:24, "Father, I *will* that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am."

How sad it is to see former brethren feel that Christ has forsaken His people, the Church. He tells us He will be with us until the end of this age (Matt. 28:20).

What a pity the enemies of God's Church don't realize this before they lift their hand against the Church. They always find that indeed Christ is still with us and has not forsaken us. They discover it is hard to fight against God.

Put God first

As long as we seek Him and stay with Him, we have a guarantee that God will never leave us. Luke 12:31-32: "But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

There is nothing to fear. Whenever things aren't going well, God *knows* it. He is well aware of it and has a purpose in it.

We just need to make sure we don't forget God. When we are tempted to think this way humanly, we should remember David and remind ourselves of God's great promise, found in Hebrews 13:5, "Let your conversation [conduct] be without covetousness; and be content with such things as you have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." □



Photo by Warren Watson

WHEN MONEY FAILS\$

Chronic inflation is a fact of our age. Like the first of the plagues of Egypt, God has not spared His people from its ravages. But what does inflation mean for the future? What should Church members know — and do — about this economic ill?

By Jeff Calkins

Few of us realize the kind of disruption, the social breakdown, the Sodom and Gomorrah-like conditions that can happen during periods of hyperinflation.

Many of you have heard or read about what happened to Germany in 1923. In order to meet reparations

payments for World War I, the government literally cranked up its printing presses and flooded the country with worthless paper money.

It was perhaps the greatest inflation of all time and a harbinger of what may be in store just before the beginning of the Great Tribulation.

In Germany delirium reigned. Workers got paid every day at noon, and would then run to the nearest store with literally sackfuls of money in order to buy anything, *at any price*. Otto Friedrich, in his book *Before the Deluge*, described the chaos of the time:

“In their frenzy, people paid mil-



lions and even billions of marks for cuckoo clocks, shoes that didn't fit, anything that could be traded for something else.

"The celebrated conductor, Bruno Walter, had to break up his rehearsals in mid-symphony for the regular midday rush, and after a typical scramble, he recalled, one of his musicians triumphantly displayed his reward for a day's work — a bag of salt."

And there were worse incidents. "The old were equally helpless. One elderly writer named Maximilian Bern withdrew all his savings, more than 100,000 marks, and spent them on one subway ticket. He took a ride around Berlin and then locked himself in his apartment and starved to death."

Propheesied for our day

The Bible foretells that inflation — at least in the sense of oppressively rising prices — will be a plague of the end times. Notice Haggai 1:6, "and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put into a bag with holes." Every person who has seen the buying power of his money be continually eroded because of rising prices can well understand that that prophecy has already come to pass.

The book of Revelation also foretells inflation: "A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine" (Rev. 6:6).

A measure of wheat for a penny sounds like a bargain these days. But consider, a measure of wheat at the time John penned the book of Revelation was two or three pints. A penny was the day's wages of a laborer. In North America today, a factory worker's pay is conservatively around \$40 a day. So consider: three pints of wheat for \$40!

That is inflation. Moreover, as we would expect from the time sequence, the prophecy bears a striking resemblance to our own pretribulation times: While food is scarce, it still has a market price.

The mention of oil and wine has several layers of meaning, one of which is an allusion to the practice in ancient Roman provinces of exporting oil and wine to Rome regardless of the scarcity of food at home. The

main meaning, of course, is that oil and wine, having become scarce and expensive, must be spared for the *highest priority* uses.

When money fails

Biblical descriptions of money and prices bring out several important lessons about high prices:

Scarcity can make your money worthless. In Joseph's time, when "famine [crop shortage] was over all the face of the earth" (Gen. 41:56), the fact was reflected in the price of food. Thus, when Jacob sent his sons to buy food in Egypt, he told them to take "double money" (Gen. 43:12).

Another example of scarcity-induced price increases was the siege in Samaria in the time of Elisha: "And there was a great famine in Samaria: and, behold, they [the Syrians] besieged it, until an ass's head was sold for fourscore pieces of silver, and the fourth part of a cab of dove's dung for five pieces of silver" (II Kings 6:25).

Today, silver sells for around \$8.50 an ounce. Imagine! Over \$42.50 for a small quantity of bird waste!

And, of course, the law of supply and demand works the opposite way as well. When the Syrians prematurely abandoned their invasion and left their provisions behind (II Kings 7:6 and 8), the inhabitants of the city went out and gathered up those provisions. Supply increased. And prices came down.

Inflation increases the power of those who hold tangible goods. In the time of Joseph's famine, people had money, but no food. The price of food went up, and they soon ran out of money.

(Since money in the Bible was synonymous with a given weight of silver or gold (See Ezra 7:15-17, II Kings 12:10-11), the government could not just go and print up some more.) Thus their "money failed" (Gen. 47:15), and they had to *barter* their livestock for food (Gen. 47:17).

After they had bartered away their livestock, they were forced to barter their land and their labor. If they hadn't possessed some *tangible* goods to barter after their money ran out, they would have starved (Gen. 47:19).

And in the end, because the Egyp-

tian government had correctly "anticipated market conditions," it ended up owning everything. A closely related lesson from this account is that inflation favors those who hold or produce tangible necessities (as opposed to luxuries).

Inflation: a result of sin

Inflation is the bad result of human government's failure to restrain its own covetousness and ambition. There are two ways in which this happens.

Sometimes, in order to stimulate the economy, the government will (through a complicated series of banking transactions) cause more money to come into circulation. Credit becomes easier. Businesses expand and hire more people. Wages go up and people buy more.

But while there's more money floating around, there aren't as many things to buy with that money. Sellers find they have to (and they want to anyway, of course) raise their prices just to make sure they don't run out of products.

And, almost always at the same time, the government itself spends more money than it takes in. Its workers get pay raises, more people are put on the government payroll, more programs are started. Tax revenues don't cover it all.

The government has to either a) raise taxes, b) cut back or c) in effect, print the money to cover its deficit.

Human nature being what it is, c is the most painless alternative in the short run, and so the government chooses it. The extra money circulates through the country, but again, there aren't as many extra things to buy with that money. So prices go up.

Viewed this way, inflation is a kind of hidden tax that the government imposes on its citizens. The famous British economist of the 1930s, John Maynard Keynes, a man who, ironically, promoted the kind of government policies that led to our present inflationary troubles, admitted:

"By a continuing process of inflation governments can confiscate, secretly and unobserved, an important part of the wealth of their citizens . . . The process engages all the hidden forces of economic law on the side of destruction."

Thus, in a sense, inflation is the result of the breaking of divine law. First, "Thou shalt not steal" and "Thou shalt not covet," which applies to governments as well as to private citizens.

More explicitly, since inflation is the result of government's manipulation of the value of its money for its own ends, the plain command of Deuteronomy 25:14-15 is violated:

"Thou shalt not have in thine house divers measures, a great and a small. But thou shalt have a perfect and just weight [in Bible times prior to the Babylonian captivity, the value of money was determined by weight], a perfect and a just measure shalt thou have."

Another command prohibits the government of Israel from unjustly enriching itself at the expense of its own citizens: "neither shall he [the king or sovereign] greatly multiply to himself silver and gold" (Deut. 17:17).

We should also remember that it was the evil kings of Israel and Judah, Meahem (II Kings 15:18) and Jehoiakim (II Kings 23:37) who imposed special taxations on the people. (While they did not do so by inflation, the principle still applies.)

Finally, perhaps the boldest condemnation of inflationary sin is found in Amos:

"Hear this, O ye that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fail, saying, when will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, *making* the ephah [quantity] small, and the shekel [money required to buy something] great, and *falsifying* the balances by deceit" (Amos 8:4-5).

When we consider that poor people — especially those on fixed incomes — are particularly unable to cope with inflation, this scripture takes on added power.

What can we do?

Knowing that inflation favors those who possess the tangible necessities of life, and also knowing that famine is prophesied, your first thought may be to begin to store large quantities of food. However, Herbert W. Armstrong has warned of the dangers of such a practice. In *The Good News*, June-July, 1966,

Mr. Armstrong points out that Church members would make themselves vulnerable to attack in times of famine if word got out that they were storing food.

On the other hand, without getting fanatical or anxious about material things (see Matt. 6:31) there are some things we can do to stave off the ravages of inflation. The principle is, "A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished" (Prov. 22:3).

1. Despite what you may have heard, gold and silver may not be all that good as inflation hedges. In times of economic turmoil, governments often *confiscate* their citizens' gold.

Also, while it is not the province of the *GN* to give specific investment advice, gold and silver are two investments that are mentioned in Bible prophecy. The forecast, however, is *not* bullish:

"They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the Lord: they shall not satisfy their souls, neither fill their bowels: because it is a stumblingblock of their iniquity" (Ezek. 7:19).

You cannot eat gold. You must buy it retail and sell it back wholesale. You may have to pay assay charges. You can't buy in quantities of less than an ounce, and so, in times of social breakdown, how would you pay for a loaf of bread? By clipping off a piece of your Krugerrand?

Of course, since gold is regarded as a disaster hedge by many investors, prudence might dictate that perhaps a *small* fraction of your liquid assets be in gold: and for almost all of us, that wouldn't be enough to buy much more than one gold coin at today's prices.

2. Other investments: Use your spare cash as a down payment to buy your own home, acquire marketable skills and keep your house and car insurance up to date. These ideas follow from the great principle laid down by Solomon in the Bible:

"Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds" (Prov. 27:23).

3. Cut expenses: Substitute your

own labor for expensive purchased labor whenever possible by doing your own repair work. This depends on how you value your own time and whether you *like* to do your own repair work. (A lawyer who types faster than his secretary should still allow his secretary to do his typing because any given hour of his time is far more profitably spent using his legal abilities than typing.)

Substitute vegetables for some of your meat. (Many Americans eat too much meat.)

Prepare your food and eat at home if you have the time. If you don't (time is money) some ethnic restaurants are cheaper than steakhouses. Remember, "He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich" (Prov. 21:17).

4. Avoid get-rich-quick schemes that cost you money. The Bible principle is plain here: "he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be unpunished" (Prov. 28:20, marginal rendering). Margin stock speculation, highly leveraged commodity futures, could cause you to lose *great amounts* of your money. (Farmers, grain dealers and professional investors have, of course, legitimate uses for the commodities futures markets.)

The most important inflation hedge

5. Be righteous. God has the supernatural power to insure that His people do not suffer privation. God always has the power to hedge you from the ravages of inflation (see Job 1:10).

King David made this principle plain: "The Lord knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be forever. They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied . . . I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread" (Ps. 37:18-19, 25).

So, even though we do have a responsibility to provide for our children and our grandchildren through all the know-how and skills we can muster, in the end it is God in whom we must place all our trust, never wavering. That is the most sound investment anyone can make. □

MINI STUDY

What It Means to Be Born Again

Nicodemus was a high-ranking Pharisee who was deeply interested in the teachings of Jesus Christ. One day Jesus revealed a profound truth to Nicodemus — something that completely mystified the man.

"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be *born again*, he cannot see the kingdom of God," said Jesus (John 3:3).

Nicodemus was totally perplexed. He asked Jesus: "How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" (verse 4).

Jesus told him: "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again" (verse 7). But Nicodemus simply did not comprehend what Jesus was talking about (verses 9-12).

Nicodemus was familiar only with the process of physical birth. Therefore he understood when Jesus said to him, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh" (verse 6). But then Jesus explained we must be *born again* — not again of the flesh — not again entering our mother's womb, as Nicodemus thought He meant. He explained that we must be born of the *Spirit* — born of God! God must be our Father this time.

Jesus talked about two different kinds of birth — one physical, the other spiritual. When you were born of your fleshly parents you were composed of flesh. But "that which is born of the Spirit is *spirit*" (verse 6) — no longer composed of flesh, but of spirit!

That is the plain teaching of your Bible. The new birth clearly is not an emotional experience as so many have erroneously assumed, but a *literal birth*. Let's begin to understand the awesome truth Jesus revealed to Nicodemus.

1. To what did Jesus compare one who is born of the Spirit? John 3:8.

When you are "born again," born of the Spirit of God, you will be invisible to mortal eyes like the wind (unless you choose to manifest yourself). The effects of the wind are easily discernible, but the wind itself cannot be seen.

Jesus compared spiritual birth to physical birth. The latter is a *type* of the former. Other

scriptures to be studied will make Jesus' enigmatic statements to Nicodemus crystal clear.

2. From what did God form the first man? Gen. 2:7; 3:19.

God said to Adam, "Dust thou art." Not immortal spirit — just plain earth. Man is mortal, physical, not yet immortal or spiritual. Adam, in other words, was not created complete. He was created to need a second birth — a *spiritual* birth.

But why? How? When?

3. After whose image and likeness was man created? Gen. 1:26-27.

In God's pattern for all life, like reproduces like. And just as each plant and animal reproduces after its own kind, so humans reproduce humans. But unlike any of the animals created by God, man was created in God's likeness. God made man like Himself — same form and shape. And the astounding truth is that it is His purpose to create men after the God kind!

4. Even though man is made in the likeness of God, are both now composed of the same type of material? John 4:24; Gen. 3:19.

There is a vast difference between spirit and dust. Although man was created to look like God in outward appearance, he was not created out of the same material. He was made of physical matter, subject to decay. But God's purpose is to make him a spiritual creation.

5. How does I Corinthians 15:46-49 corroborate this great truth?

Clearly, man is much more than any animal. Man has the potential to become divine spirit — just as God is spirit.

God is now in the process of creating His greatest creation of all — His supreme masterpiece. God's plan is to create individuals with perfect spiritual character out of mortal mankind. Notice the overwhelming evidence:

6. Is God still in the process of forming and molding man as a potter works with clay? Isa. 64:8. Did Job realize God was forming a special creation in his life? Job 14:14-15.

Notice the latter part of Job 14:15, "thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands." The work was Job. Job knew he was a piece of

MINI STUDY

divine workmanship in the hands of the Master Potter.

7. Are Christians being fashioned by God for a specific purpose? Isa. 43:7; Eph. 2:10.

"We," then — if we are indeed Christians — are God's workmanship. We, today, are being created — why? — "unto good works." God, with the Holy Spirit He has put within us, is forming in us perfect spiritual character. He is creating us in His own character image.

The Gospel message Jesus brought to mankind reveals that God is *reproducing Himself*. Jesus' Gospel is the good news of the Kingdom of God. But the Bible shows that Kingdom is *dual*. It is not only the ruling government that Christ will establish on the earth when He returns, but it is also the *Family* of God.

And, incredible as it may sound, Jesus taught that humans can be born into the *Family* or Kingdom of God!

At present there are only two members in the God Family — God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son. But God is in the process of increasing His Family. And *you* can be born into it!

8. Does God plainly show that it is His purpose to increase His divine Family by bringing many sons into it? Heb. 2:10; Rev. 21:7. Isn't Jesus Christ actually the firstborn of many sons of God? Rom. 8:29; Col. 1:18.

To be "conformed to the image" of Christ means to become *like Him* — to be glorified as He is glorified — to be a part of the divine Family of God as Christ now is.

Only a relatively few have really grasped the tremendous significance of this marvelous truth. But this is what salvation is all about. Our destiny is to become literal born-again children of God — *members* of His own divine Family!

9. If we are true Christians in God's sight, are we already — during this mortal life — the children of God? I John 3:1-2. Are we therefore already inheritors of the Kingdom of God, or only heirs to it? Rom. 8:14-17.

Notice that although we are now the children of God, we are only heirs — ones who shall, in the future, inherit the glory of God with Jesus Christ. Why? Because we are now only *begotten* children. It is only when we are spiritually born of God that we become inheritors of God's Kingdom — divine members of the Family of God.

Before the second phase of our creation — our spiritual creation — can begin, God the Father must first beget each of us by placing His Holy Spirit within our minds, which can be com-

pared to an egg or ovum. We are then impregnated, so to speak, by the seed or germ of eternal life. It is the *begetting* of the spiritual life of God within our minds. And much as a newly begotten physical embryo begins to grow in its mother's womb, we begin to grow in spiritual character after we are begotten by God's Spirit. This growth comes about through Bible study, prayer and walking with God in obedience to Him as we are empowered by His Holy Spirit within us.

And so all Spirit-begotten Christians are now the *unborn* children of God the Father, in the same sense that an *unborn* human fetus is the child of its human parents.

10. Can one enter God's Kingdom while still flesh and blood? I Cor. 15:50. What must happen before we can be born as divine members of God's Family? Verses 51-53.

"That which is born of the Spirit is spirit," said Jesus (John 3:6). But we have not yet been born of spirit. If you don't think so — if you think you have already been born again — then recall when you last cut your finger. Did you feel pain? Did your finger bleed? Then you are still flesh and blood — you haven't been born again.

After Christ was born again by His resurrection, He was able to pass through solid walls (John 20:19, 26). Do you think those who claim to have been born again can match this feat? Of course not.

Jesus Christ is the only one who has ever been born again. Jesus said you must be "born of spirit" — you must become *composed* of spirit — to ever see or enter the Kingdom of God (John 3:3, 5). And so the new birth is something yet to occur at the coming resurrection of the dead.

When the glorified Christ returns to earth, we shall become like He is (I Thess. 4:16-17; I John 3:1-2) — full-grown spiritual adults. At that instant, our present physical bodies will be transformed, made like His glorified body — born again as *members of God's own Family* — as God's own glorious offspring with eternal life inherent within ourselves — as His immortal sons to reign with Jesus Christ our elder brother! — *Prepared by Richard H. Sedliacik*

Editor's Note: This brief exposition of the new birth could only touch on some of the main points of this fascinating study. Those who are interested in more comprehensive coverage of this extremely important subject should enroll in our free Bible Correspondence Course. There are 12 16-page lessons, and the format is the same as with these ministudies. Write today to our office closest to you and request your first lesson.

When Larry and Myrle Staigh walked into the Saskatoon, Sask., church in the spring of 1975, they brought with them a total of about 160 years of vitality and resourcefulness. Mrs. Staigh, 80, and Mr. Staigh, 81, had been listening to the *World Tomorrow* broadcast every Sunday night since 1964, and they always wrote for the suggested literature.

"It was so easy to understand," Mrs. Staigh said. "I thought I was an atheist until I read *The Plain Truth* and those wonderful booklets."

As the Work of God in Canada continued to give literature freely, their appreciation grew for the give way, and they began to tithe regularly.

"We wanted to meet people who shared these teachings. Naturally, we thought everybody had the same struggle to be ready to come in."

Both Larry and Myrle Staigh had been retired for 10 years before entering God's Church. They were leading officers in community service groups, professional associations, sports clubs and game leagues, often playing host to local and national dignitaries. Today they focus their outgoing enthusiasm and wholehearted service toward opportunities arising in their area church.

As a child, Mrs. Staigh's social life was centered on family gatherings. Her widowed mother, a competent elocutionist, delighted her children many evenings by telling stories, reciting poetry or singing songs.

Inheriting this same ability, Mrs. Staigh has highlighted many variety nights at the Saskatoon church. A little splashy piano playing, picked up in the days of silent movies, makes



Close-Up

Personality profiles of members and co-workers of God's Church around the world.

all the children cling around her, wrapped in all the fanciful tales and youthful tunes. Mrs. Staigh always concocts the stories for the children's enjoyment.

Mr. Staigh's personal experiences and accomplishments through many years of western Canadian development gave backbone to the Spokesman Club. His vividly realistic speeches made listening easy.

"The Church opened a whole new world that was once closed to us. Our



Myrle Staigh, left, takes a nostalgic look at photographs and other memorabilia from her days as a pilot during the Roaring Twenties. ABOVE: Larry and Myrle Staigh, 160 years of vitality and resourcefulness.

former club activities were directed toward more immediate material benefits, with a vague future," he said. "In the Spokesman Club the future is very exciting. We must look ahead and keep on growing." Mr. Staigh just graduated as club president, at 81 years of age.

The Staighs have no children, but that doesn't keep them away from children's activities. Mr. Staigh enjoys the outdoors. Three summers ago he provided several young people with their first waterskiing opportunity by donating his power boat and his time to a church summer camp.

"I felt as young as anyone there. It was a thrill to see them waving for more speed."

Though Mrs. Staigh was never an avid skier, her soloing goes back 50 years to the Roaring Twenties. On Sept. 1, 1929, Mrs. Staigh soloed a roaring Gypsy Moth airplane through loops and spins for her private pilot's license.

Living at the time in the United States, Mrs. Staigh began participating in air exhibitions and races, sometimes as the only woman pilot. She shared air space with Eddie Rickenbacker, Frank Hawks, Ruth Elder; and she spent many hours with Amelia Earhart. Yet Mrs. Staigh says that being in the Work of God is the best part of her life. "I study harder than I did to be a pilot . . . it is all so gratifying."

Larry and Myrle Staigh's resourcefulness has continued to benefit the Saskatoon church. When hearing of the Church's crisis involving the state of California, Mr. and Mrs. Staigh recall their spontaneous reaction.

"What can we do? He needs our encouragement. If we could just tell Mr. Herbert Armstrong that we are with him and behind him."

And they did, rallying their whole church to write and sign a letter in a strong show of support for Mr. Armstrong. They sent it directly to Tucson, Ariz.

Though Mrs. Staigh no longer flies, and Mr. Staigh recently sold his boat, they are never without the spirit conveyed by Isaiah in chapter 40, "They who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength: they shall mount up with wings as eagles." —

By Dan Hope □

Good News on YES Program

New Youth Program Endorsed

Herbert W. Armstrong, pastor general of the Worldwide Church of God, enthusiastically endorsed a new program of youth education for the Church that will be

known as Youth Educational Service (YES).

In a letter to the ministry, Mr. Armstrong said that he was "exuberant, enthusiastic and vitally interested in the new YES program." To provide our readers with an overview of the program and its various functions we have compiled the following report. □

How It Began

The original conception of YOU, begun in 1975, included several phases of development. One of those phases was an educational program. In preparation for a fully approved, headquarters-administered educational service, interested area churches began experimental pilot programs. From these efforts was gleaned valuable input for future curriculum, teaching methods and effective administration procedure.

Finally in 1979, enough progress had been made to propose a balanced, workable educational program to Herbert W. Armstrong. June 13 the concept received approval, and production of all its elements was begun in preparation for its presentation to the membership at the 1979 Feast of Tabernacles worldwide.

This official educational arm of YOU is called Youth Educational Service (YES),



and it embodies the efforts of the Church to effectively assist parents in teaching their children to live God's way of life now in preparation for full membership in His Family for all eternity. □



YES director Ron Dick

The Staff

YES director Ron Dick has worked as an associate director of YOU since its inception five years ago. He continues to serve in that capacity, although his primary responsibility will be with YES. Mr. Dick is a 1969 graduate of Ambassador College and is married to the former Linda Faire of Seattle, Wash. They have two children, Julee Renee and Jenni Rae.

Mike Greider, a 1977 Ambassador graduate will assist Mr. Dick in the administration and development of the YES program. He coordinated one of the YES pilot programs in Milwaukee, Wis., before moving to Pasadena in July to join the YES staff.

The other members of the YES team are Alex and Eva Peck. Mr. Peck is the production and resource manager for all YES materials, with Mrs. Peck handling much of the research and editing work. The two prepared a large amount of the material that was presented to Herbert W. Armstrong for approval. □

Program Flexibility

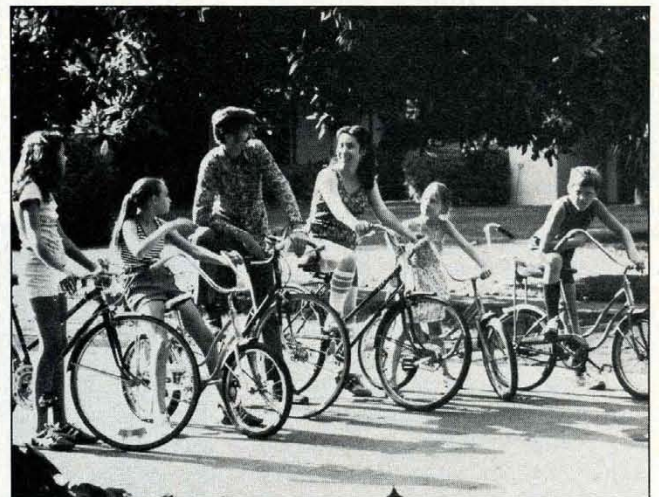
Local churches can adapt the program to meet their needs based on the individual church's concentration of members and other variables. "The strength of the YES package is its flexibility," Ron Dick, YES director, said.

"It meets the needs of all churches and families, no matter how large or small, scattered or centralized. Any of the six elements can be used independently or as a whole, depending on the needs of the individual groups." □

What It Does

YES is based on the concept of parental responsibility in teaching children about God and His way of life as commanded in Deuteronomy 6. The Church, through YES, can serve a supportive function, instructing parents in the vital task of bringing up their children in a Christian home.

Herbert W. Armstrong put it this way: "Training and instructing children is definitely a parental responsibility, but if the Church can motivate and educate parents to be more successful in this area, it should do so." □



Realizing that lifelong habits and attitudes are formed early in a child's life, promoting family togetherness is one of the elements of the youth program

YES's Goals and Objectives

There are four main reasons for the YES program. First, it will emphasize the importance of the family in youth instruction. The Church has always taught that the family is the building block of society and that lifelong habits, opinions and attitudes are formed in the early years of a child's life.

YES hopes to offer education to parents on how to successfully fulfill their responsibility to teach and train their

children as God commands. Second, YES seeks to teach and motivate youths to live God's way through several structured programs. The third goal is to develop in children positive attitudes toward Sabbath services and the Church in general. Fourth, the program will provide opportunities for building lifelong friendships in God's Church, both among the youths and the parents who will become involved in teaching. □

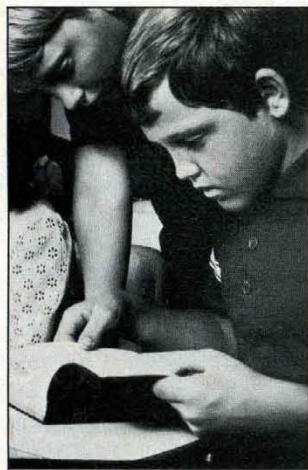


YES staff member, Mike Greider, center, discusses principles of the youth program at a teacher training session

What It Is

Youth Educational Service (YES) is the educational arm of Youth Opportunities United (YOU), the Church's international youth program. YOU, which was begun five years ago, provides opportunities and activities youths often

Learning about God's way of life



miss in public schools because of their observance of the Sabbath.

Basketball, track, volleyball and other activities are organized on both the local and national levels, culminating in the annual international championships usually at the Ambassador College facilities in Pasadena. Performing arts competition is also available at both levels, and the Summer Educational Program (SEP) gives hundreds of youths the opportunity to experience uplifting and challenging activities in the beautiful, natural setting of the Church's youth camp at Orr, Minn.

YES will add a new dimension to the YOU program, which has been activities oriented since its inception. According to Herbert W. Armstrong, the program will become as visible and as important, if not more so, than the other YOU functions. □

Basic Elements of Program

The YES program consists of six basic instructional and participatory elements:

1) *Parent Education Program*, which will offer guidelines to parents on how to fulfill their roles as leaders and teachers in their own family.

2) *Family Togetherness Program*, which will suggest ways to strengthen the family unit by improving the quality of family interaction, promoting more thoughtful family communication and encouraging family Bible study.

3) *Sabbath Instruction Program*, which is designed to teach youths about God and His way of life on a level that they can understand and to help each participant develop a positive attitude toward God's Church.

4) *Teacher Training Program*, which will promote the development of qualified teachers for the instructional

programs through teacher training sessions. This program will provide teacher recognition and encouragement, give assistance in program evaluation and problem solving and insure consistency in the program worldwide.

5) *Sabbath Service Aids Program*, which will seek to build positive attitudes of service and give a sense of identity among children by allowing them to lend a helping hand in the operation of a Church service. It will also teach the behaviors and the value system that will be in harmony with God's way of life.

6) *The Youth Awards Program*, which will recognize outstanding achievement in character development and Christian living through the presentation of awards to youths who successfully complete various requirements.

— By Dennis R. Robertson □

Servant or Hireling?

(Continued from page 7)

actually get, not the way he worked or what he could give.

Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the householder" (verses 10-11). "You have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat."

It wasn't a question of deserving more, because the ones hired at the beginning of the day did receive what was agreed upon between them and the householder. It was primarily a matter of justice — from their own point of view.

Christ told one of them: "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me?"

What an important lesson for all of us to learn — and to remember!

According to ability

You had no way of choosing your family, your country or your environment at birth. In some ways, you may think you were under a certain handicap in life, as far as your starting line is concerned. That's quite possible.

Nevertheless, what really counts is the final destination — the arriving point, the ultimate goal. As a child grows up, he is able to choose his friends, his career, the directions he wants to give his life.

He can even choose the God he is going to worship. Consequently, even though you may have been under a certain handicap at the start you now have the same chances as anyone else to reach the ultimate goal: the Kingdom of God.

God is always just — always right. He has given each of us the means to succeed. He never expects more than we are able to give. This is the principle Christ underlined when He compared Himself to a "man going on a journey." He called His servants "and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another

two, to another one, to each according to his ability."

In the same manner, today, some of us in God's Church have received five talents, some two, some only one — each according to his ability. And God reveals that to whom much is given, much is required.

Suppose you were blessed with five talents, while someone else, a friend of yours, only received two. When the time of judgment comes, would you ask God: "Why do you give this man as much as you give me? I have multiplied five times my talents, whereas he has multiplied his but twice. Don't I deserve more than he does?"

Remember: That's the way a hireling would reason. In truth both of you did equally as well with the talents you received. Both of you doubled what you had. You must constantly endeavor to do your utmost, whatever your task, and even do more than is expected of you. However, this doesn't mean that God expects us to go beyond our ability.

Christ said: "So you also, when you have done all that is commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty'" (Luke 17:10).

A hireling will not work if there is no reward or pay. His philosophy is: no pay, no work. A good servant is interested in doing the work — not in getting paid. That's the basic difference. He expects to do more than is required of him, regardless of what his pay or his reward may be.

Can you now see that it takes real conversion to be a good servant? You must bear the "fruit of the Spirit" — love, joy, peace, patience, kindness. You will have to give the best of yourself, to always be willing and ready to sacrifice for someone else's good.

Disciples didn't understand

Do you realize that even the apostles didn't understand the difference between a servant and a hireling until they received the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost? Prior to that time, they sometimes acted like hirelings. Notice it:

"James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him, and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' And

he said to them, 'What do you want me to do for you?' And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory'" (Mark 10:35-37).

Can you imagine that? A few hours before the arrest of Jesus Christ — at the time of sorrow and deep concern — the primary thought in the minds of some of the apostles was how great a place they would occupy in the Kingdom of God.

Isn't this the way some of us reason today?

But Christ said to them: "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant."

And Christ added, "whoever would be first among you must be slave of all."

Does God owe you anything?

Do you remember the circumstances that led you into God's Church? How did you first hear the truth? What was your reaction? Did you decide to get involved in the Church because you simply wanted to be saved? Was that the price you set for answering the call? Did you think — or perhaps still do — that God owes you something?

Consider for a moment Simon Peter's reaction and attitude when Christ called him to be His disciple. Peter fell down on his knees and said to Him, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man" (Luke 5:8).

Is this the way you felt? Is it really? Simon Peter realized how unworthy he was and how little he deserved to be called to serve God. "Look, I am a simple man," he must have said. "Don't come to me. I can't handle the task you have in mind for me. I am nothing."

Unfortunately, we did not all come into God's Church with this type of an attitude. Some have never reached this point. Others, perhaps, upon hearing the call, acted like the man who told Christ, "I will follow you wherever you go," but changed his mind when Christ told him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head" (Luke 9:57-58).

That was the parting point as far as the man was concerned. He was no longer interested in the calling. It didn't appeal to him. He had primarily wanted to be a hireling — to get paid for whatever services he would render. His reasoning was: "I will follow you but, first of all, what's in it for me? How much do I get?"

To another, Christ said, "Follow me." But he [the man] said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." Christ told him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God" (verses 59-60).

The man didn't get the point because he himself was spiritually dead. On his list of priorities, the physical things came before the spiritual ones.

"Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home'" (verse 61). In other words, the man wanted to first live it up, perhaps cry a little over what he was leaving behind — regret the good times he could have had. He thought the sacrifice required was too great a price to pay.

Do you reason like him? Do you put off your *true* conversion until you have tried everything else in life and have had all the fun you want? What assurance do you have that you will be kept alive in the meantime?

Procrastination is tantamount to failure. On your list of priorities, *God* must always come *first*, whatever the circumstances. This is another important key that helps you determine whether you are a servant or just a hireling.

Counting the cost

Persecution and sufferings are part of our calling. They help us to trust God even more. As Paul said, "through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22).

When God called you to repentance did you actually take time to count the cost before burying your sins and your carnal nature in the baptismal waters? Did you really count the cost — rather than the return?

Christ said, "If any one comes to me and does not hate [that is, love less] his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes,

and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:26).

This is the engagement we made — or should have made — at the time of our baptism. Did you? Take time and think. Did you count the cost to see whether you had enough to *finish* the job — not just to start it?

Did you say to yourself: "Someday I may have to lose my family, my friends, my job — and even my life. Whatever the cost, I will continue serving Christ in order to be His servant and His friend. I will always follow Him and rely on Him."

As the apostle Paul wrote, we are the temple of the Holy Spirit that dwells in us. "You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body" (I Cor. 6:19-20).

A hireling would never glorify God in his body. He doesn't know how, nor does he understand the meaning of the word. But the servant does. He knows that to glorify God is to obey, love and serve Him — and to love and serve his own fellowmen. If you are a servant of Jesus Christ, your life is no longer yours. You are His slave. You were bought with the price of His blood.

Could there be anything more rewarding for you than to have the opportunity to serve in God's Kingdom? Christ compared the Kingdom to a "treasure hidden in a field, which a man found . . . In his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field" (Matt. 13:44).

And again, it is like "a merchant . . . who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it" (verse 45).

Hirelings don't understand the depth of this teaching; servants do.

At one time or another, have you had doubts about your own conversion? You may even have some questions about it at the present. Perhaps you would like to find someone — preferably a minister — to assure you that your conversion *is* real and that your baptism is truly valid.

You yourself can find the assurance you are seeking if you carefully examine your heart. Ask yourself: "Am I in the Church to *serve* or to be served? Have I been called to be saved or to help others *gain eternal life*?"

By your own answer you will be

able to determine the degree of your conversion.

A progressive relationship

"This is my commandment," Christ said, "that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:12-13).

Then He added: "You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you."

Notice the progressive steps in your relationship with God! First you are a servant, then a friend — and then, as you grow in grace and knowledge — a son at the time of the resurrection of the dead. "For you did not receive the spirit of slavery [slavery to the world] to fall back in fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship" (Rom. 8:15).

When you first heard the truth your mind was totally carnal. You reasoned and acted in a selfish way. You answered the call as a hireling does, whose main purpose and interest is to get something in return — to be rewarded for serving. That's understandable.

However, you buried that carnal nature at the time of your baptism. You turned away from your sinful and selfish ways in order to become more like Jesus Christ, who didn't seek any personal reward for serving. His whole purpose for becoming a mortal human being was to help us become sons of the living God.

This change in your attitude and reasoning is the proof of your true conversion. It also enables you to understand that "when we cry 'Abba! Father!' it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs" (Rom. 8:15-17).

God says that if we keep practicing sin, we become slaves to sin. And slaves to sin don't "continue in the house forever; the son continues forever" (John 8:35). If we are slaves of Jesus Christ we are sons of God.

What's your choice — a slave to Christ or a slave to sin? A good servant or a hireling? It's time to make up your mind! You were born to be a son of God. □

‘And this Gospel shall be preached...’ Matthew 24:14

Sermon Summaries from Ministers of the Worldwide Church of God

Once, in the beginning of things, God who became the Father said to God who became Jesus Christ, “Let us make man in our image” (Gen. 1:26). And it was so, and man began in the process of becoming a being like God.

Your goal as a Christian is to become like God, in His image. But what do you perceive that image to be? Are you sure that you’re working toward becoming like the real God or is your eye focused on some false image of your own devising?

Man has all kinds of gods

The Bible many times relates what man’s perception of God must be. For example, God said, “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image [to represent God]” (Ex. 20:4).

But man has all kinds of gods. Historically, human beings have made gods to look like, among other things, fish, beetles, the stars and the sun. Anything but the true God, it seems.

The irony is that all those idols of wood, stone, metal or whatever else used to depict God, indicate something rigid and lifeless. The God they may intend to depict is the complete opposite — full of life and the possessor of all power.

Nebuchadnezzar’s image

Do you remember the Old Testament account of Daniel and his friends? They had the right image of God. Nebuchadnezzar built a gigantic image, probably of himself, and he expected everyone to bow down to it. When it was reported to Nebuchadnezzar that Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego were not doing so, they were brought before the king.

Daniel 3:16: “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful [we don’t have to spend a lot of time thinking about how] to answer thee in this matter.” They had already determined that God is God, and Him only would they worship. And neither Nebuchadnezzar, nor a huge idol, nor any man, nor any being was going to alter their thinking on that matter.

“If it so be, our God whom we serve is able” — now they didn’t say, Well, we don’t know, but we think He can do it. No, they said, He *is able* — “to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine

hand, O king” (verse 17), either way. If we’re burned up, then we’re delivered out of your hand, or if God saves us we’re delivered out of your hand. But we know God is able to save us.

“But if [He does] not [choose to save our lives], be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up” (verse 18).

Perhaps none of us today would bow down before such an obviously false image, but are we bowing down to idols that are not so apparent: riches, pride, prestige, power, position, status?

True image unchangeable

God is the most known quantity and the most fixed quantity in the whole of the universe. That’s something that we have to know. He says, “I change not” (Mal. 3:6). We don’t change God by what we think God is. We may change our impressions, but that doesn’t change God.

Recently, I was talking to a lay member of another church, and he finally got bold enough to ask why we keep Saturday instead of Sunday. And I told him.

It’s the day God created in the beginning to be kept. It’s also the day that Christ kept, and we don’t feel that we have the right to change that. And he says, “Yeah, but what’s wrong with Sunday?” And I said, “Nothing’s wrong with Sunday, except it’s not the Sabbath, that’s all.”

We got into the trinity, heaven and hell and so forth. But we always came to a dead end because of his faulty image of God.

Man tries to make the true image of God conform to his own desires, continually altering and reshaping it until it becomes so distorted that even God Himself can’t recognize it.

Ancient Israel’s problem

And when we do not have the proper image of God fixed in our minds, we don’t know exactly what we can rely upon Him for. How can we call in faith upon a god

CREATING
GOD IN
OUR IMAGE

whom we do not know? We would have no assurance of what his response might be. That was ancient Israel’s problem. The Israelites were tremendously excited and encouraged as they came out of Egypt. For the first time, as far as that generation was concerned, they were able to experience free-

By developing an image in your mind that's not God, you make it impossible to become like Him and be in His family.

dom. But they also faced severe problems because their image of God was little more than an image of a man, Moses.

Even after receiving manna from heaven, wearing clothes and shoes that never wore out and drinking miraculously purified water, they couldn't see God's hand in it. Their image of God was extremely poor. And the new generation, after crossing the Jordan River with Joshua into the promised land, and after God gave them Jericho, didn't enjoy long-lasting success because they quickly lost sight of God.

Strengthen your overall image of God

Today, does your image of God carry you over even until the next problem appears over the horizon? We know that Christians are to become like Christ. But do we know what Christ is really like?

In Colossians 1:9, Paul expressed his desire that we increase in our perspective of God that (verses 10-17) "Ye might walk worthy of the Eternal unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and *increasing in the knowledge of God* [that is, in our overall image of God]; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness.

"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet [or suitable] to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son [begotten us into the Family of God]: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the *image of the invisible God* [His Father], the firstborn of every creature:

"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."

Now that gives us quite an image of the One we are to become like. What He was and what He is now, at the right hand of His Father.

Christ is head of His Church

"And he is the head of the body, the church" — is that our image of Christ? — "who is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell [just like the Father]; And having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things to himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

"And you, that were sometimes alienated and enemies in your mind [because you had a wrong image of Christ, as we had, as the whole world has] by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled [not only to have our sins forgiven, but now to have a right image of Christ] In the body of his

flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unprovable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel" (verses 18-23).

Important to get to know God

It's a very human tendency to try to create God in our own image, thus eliminating the need for much change in our lives. But that's not what God wants.

By developing an image in your mind that's not God, you make it impossible to become like Him and be in His Family.

That's why prayer is so important. Because through prayer you get to know God and develop a relationship with Him. And Bible study — studying His Word — gives you factual information about your Creator. Then the Holy Spirit can increase your understanding, wisdom and ability to do what God expects.

I think a lot of times we get the idea that prayer, Bible study, fasting, all those things, are theoretically great, but we don't really see the practical need for them. I tell you, there is an absolutely vital need if we are ever going to have the right image of God and accomplish our goal of becoming like Him. There's no other way.

Worshiping a false image

If your prayers seem to fall on deaf ears at times, remember God says, "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save [that it cannot provide a way of escape from every temptation, that it cannot save us from death, that it cannot give us eternal life]; neither is his ear heavy, that it cannot hear" (Isa. 59:1).

God can and does hear and is able to respond to our needs. If He isn't hearing, perhaps you are worshiping a false image rather than the true God.

Let's not let our image of God be warped by our own weaknesses, our own infirmities, our own inability to serve and conform to that image of God that Christ established.

God created us — in His likeness — for the express purpose of becoming like Him. We can't alter God. He doesn't change. We have to conform to His *image*.

We must develop the character attributes of God, not follow some imperfect concept of our own imagination. And that takes a great deal of time and effort, and an abundant supply of the Holy Spirit. Once we develop these characteristics — and God pours out His abundant grace on us — we will be born into the Family of God. □

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Have you ever contemplated whether it is fair to God for humans to become God? You probably haven't — it's a bold question. Being converted, your immediate response might be, "That's not the right kind of question to ask!"

Herbert W. Armstrong has often commented about how the truth of becoming God seemed at first so unacceptably bold to him that he could not bring himself to preach it. He thought it sounded blasphemous.

Sometimes people who are not converted run in where "angels fear to tread," so to speak. This question was actually asked some years ago by a *Plain Truth* reader when I was working in the Personal Correspondence Department. Believe it or not, it is a good question, and one we can learn from, once we get the wording squared away.

It is not a matter of what sounds fair, of course. That is applying human reason to arrive at doctrine and truth — an unsound approach. God says we will become God in many places in the Scriptures, and so we *will*, no doubt about it.

From the beginning, the two Beings in the God Family said, "Let us make man in our image" (Gen. 1:26). We are called the children of God, "heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ" (Rom. 8:17). All of God's sons and daughters have the promise, the hope of being brought "unto glory." The theme of the purpose for human life is unmistakable.

But do not dismiss this important

question for the sake of its improper approach. The person was thinking this way: "There exists God and His Son. The two of them have great power, awesome authority and responsibility beyond any other spirit or life that we know of. The name *God* means *supreme in all authority*, the pinnacle of majesty in all existence."

So far, this reasoning is quite scriptural. "Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any" (Isa. 44:8). "I am the Lord and there is none else, there is no God beside me . . . Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else" (Isa. 45:5, 22).

But the questioner also picked up on the theme of the human potential from our literature. "The Church of God teaches that *humans* can become God," the reasoning continued. "So instead of two *supreme* Beings, there could conceivably be billions. Now, is that fair to God? He is now supreme, unchallenged. But you say there could be billions of other *supreme* Gods. That seems to lessen God's position."

How would you answer his question? Does it lessen God's position to add thousands and eventually billions to His Family?

God is called our Father. He is the Head of the Family called *God*. There is no other Father of the Family besides Him! Humans who become converted are begotten as the children of the Father. They will, for the most part, go on to become born into the Family of the Father.

Now, ask yourself, was your father's position as head of the family lessened or threatened when you were born? Indeed not. His family increased. Like as not the proud father was on the phone with the good news of a new son or daughter. Rather than a threat to your father's "supremacy," the birth of a child was a cause for celebration and joy!

When children are born to a father, his office is strengthened. The more sons and daughters there are, the larger the family is, and father is still father — more so than ever!

Is the father of a family of 15 children in a lesser position than the father of one child? Is he less of a father? Not at all. There are 14 more individuals, of equal kind, who all love and respect their father.

So when our Father in heaven has first thousands and then billions born into His Family, added to His Son Christ, He will have that many more of equal kind who will for all eternity still look up to Him, and love and respect Him as Father of the God Family.

Once understood, the truth of the positive destiny of mankind complements the Father and Christ. No matter how many sons and daughters are added to the Family, the Father will always be the Father and Christ the eldest Son. That *increases* their authority, responsibility and position.

What a Family! There is no unfairness in that, but rather, as in the human family, cause for great joy. —

By Cecil E. Maranville □

FEAST

(Continued from page 11)

The apostle John takes special note of the time this healing occurred: "And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes" (John 9:14, KJV). (See also verse 16.) So the day that followed the seventh or last day of the Feast of Tabernacles was not only an annual Holy Day, but also the weekly Sabbath.

This pinpoints it to the autumn of

A.D. 30. In that year the last Holy Day, the eighth day — which Christians later came to call the Last Great Day — occurred on the Sabbath, Oct. 7, according to the basic rules of the fixed Jewish calendar we use today.

And the next spring (A.D. 31) the Passover and crucifixion fell on a Wednesday. (See our booklet, *The Resurrection Was Not on Sunday*.) Such a combination of the Last Great Day on a Sabbath and the Passover on a Wednesday occurred at no other time in Jesus' ministry!

Nor would such a combination be possible at any time in Jesus' ministry if the *later*, temporary Pharisaic custom of observation of the new moon were in force.

John's account of this final Feast of Tabernacles' season in Jesus' ministry is vital not only in revealing Jesus' messages on these days — and therefore the meaning of these autumn Festivals in God's plan — but also in dating precisely His ministry and the crucifixion to the very year and to the very day of the week. □

Europe

(Continued from page 9)

the time comes for God's intervention:

"After these things I saw another angel come down from heaven having great power . . . and He cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the Great [describing Europe religiously and politically as it evolves over the years] is fallen."

In verse 3, some of the reasons are given for her demise: "For all nations [no exceptions] have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication and the kings of the earth have committed fornication [spiritually], and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies [goods, exports, manufactured commodities]."

Then, verse 9, notice again the heavy emphasis on economic power, "And the kings of the earth who have committed fornication with her and lived deliciously [lavishly] with her shall bewail her, when they see the smoke of her burning."

In verse 11, Europe's coming economic wealth and scope is described as John sees it, shortly before the final crisis (to occur at Christ's coming) takes place.

"And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her, for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: The merchandise of gold and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyne wood and all manner vessels of ivory and all manner vessels of most precious wood . . .

"And cinnamon and odours and ointments and frankincense and wine and oil and fine flour and wheat and beasts and sheep and horses and chariots and slaves and souls [remember, this pictures a time after the fall of the United States and other Israelitish nations], and the fruits that thy soul lusted after, are departed from thee . . . for in one hour is so great riches [the future wealth of Europe] come to nought.

"And every shipmaster and all the company in ships [the import-export people, the leaders of world trade and commerce] and as many

as trade by sea, stood afar off, and cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city . . . Alas that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea, by reason of her costliness" (Rev. 18:1-19).

It is clear that an economic giant is being described. The future United States of Europe is destined to become the major trading block on earth, and, in context, it is clear that those who refuse to become tributary

Momentous events in the final years of this age will create a revival of traditional, conservative religion, accompanied by strong leadership whose goal will be to recreate past European subservience to one great "mother church." It will be successful. The present economic union — though it does and will have some political overtones — will not be galvanized into full, complete and aggressive political union until religious revival of an apostate variety has reached a point of frenzy across Europe.

to her economic and religious system will be reduced to poverty, unable to buy and sell. Thus, her present economic strength can be expected to continue.

New cooperative spirit

A second factor leading to the creation of a European superpower is the fast-developing new feeling of oneness, solidarity and pan-European unity, based on these new economic gains Europeans now wish to maintain. This new willingness by Europeans to cooperate (to some degree) and to work together for the

common good flies in the face of their basic tendencies (usually nationalistic and hostile to most concepts of union) over the past several hundred years.

This new spirit of cooperation has materialism as a bottom line. With time, prophecy tells us that economic union will give rise to spiritual union (directed by a mother church) and then will come final complete political and military union.

However, now the drive for unity has an essentially economic base. Europeans realize that fiscal unity and economic stability (perpetuating the new materialism they all basically want) depends upon a certain concerting of efforts. They are therefore willing to set aside their age-old antagonisms and pull together for the sake of the pocketbook.

Beginning with the Reformation, Europe had gone through a period of nationalistic emphasis, with antagonisms heightened by colonial expansion, creating jealousies among themselves, the rivalries often escalating into war. Bitter national envy and open hatred among Europeans carried over into the 20th century and had a real share in precipitating World War I and II. This was especially true of Germany and France (War of 1870, World War I and II).

When I first went to Europe in the middle 1960s, I preached on European unity in my sermons, because it was in the Bible, and I knew it had to occur. At that specific time, though, it still sounded totally unrealistic from a carnal point of view. Europeans were still terribly divided and suspicious of one another.

Of course, we did understand that there would be a religious factor involved, and the final emotional frenzy, leading up to the complete political union, would be induced by the working of Satan and the "lying miracles" of a great false prophet (Rev. 13, II Thess. 2:1-10).

It took a few more years for the economic element to become another obvious contributing factor, specifically in this initial stage of unity. Now for the first time in many hundreds of years, most Europeans *do* have a common denominator that transcends their linguistic, cultural and character differences. Consequently, they are willing to set aside

their antagonisms and hang together to maintain (through economic union and cooperation) a new, consumer-oriented life-style.

After centuries of enmity, galling pain and distrust of Europeans by other Europeans, this is nothing short of a miracle! As late as 1960, such a possibility would have been scoffed at. Now the groundwork has been laid, and Europe is moving swiftly toward the other stages of unity (religious and political) described by Daniel and John in Revelation.

A fragile union

Of necessity this European union will never be a natural federation. Their inherent differences will weaken the fiber of unity. Even those leaders who are now furiously trying to push a United States of Europe realize that their arguments, based on economic realities, create at best a superficial tie. Daniel described this fragile union clearly:

"And the fourth kingdom [the revived Roman Empire] shall be strong as iron; forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things . . . shall it break in pieces and bruise [dominate other nations, to begin with economically, then spiritually and politically].

"And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay and part of iron [does this refer to character and

cultural differences?], the *kingdom shall [become] be divided* [not really united, indicating a fragile union] . . . and whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay [different areas of Europe coming together], they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men, but they shall *not cleave* to one another" (Dan. 2:40-44).

The union described is both strong and fragile. Economic survival and growth has forged the Europeans into an impressive new entity, but their national rivalries and the memories of their many wars will never permit "cleaving together" in the totally cohesive way that could lead to long-term political union.

Religious factor necessary

This is why the Bible explains there must also be a religious factor that will provide a *spiritual impetus* toward full political union. In Revelation 17, John describes a "great whore" (i.e., a large, powerful false church, headquartered in Europe) who sits upon (dominates) the beast (the revived Europe).

We are told that 10 kings (European leaders) are to be given "power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind [not now the case], and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb [Christ at His return], and the Lamb shall overcome them: for He is Lord of

Lord and King of Kings" (Rev. 17:12-14).

Verse 17 is also significant: "For God hath put in their hearts to fulfill his will, *and to agree*, and give their kingdom [political authority] unto the Beast [a pan-European leader], until the words of God shall be fulfilled." This indicates the complete political unification of Europe will be fairly short-lived.

Momentous events in the final years of this age will create a *revival* of traditional, conservative religion, accompanied by strong leadership whose goal will be to recreate past European subservience to one great "mother church." It will be successful. The present economic union — though it does and will have some political overtones — will not be galvanized into full, complete and aggressive political union until religious revival of an apostate variety has reached a point of frenzy across Europe.

The seeds of such a revival have been sown. The spiritual hunger of millions of Europeans is evident, and their vulnerability to strong, charismatic, traditional leadership is clear. Thus, stage two — apostate religious revival — could begin soon.

Dramatic events are transforming the face of Europe and the entire world. Rejoice that God's Church has given us insight into the future and hope to sustain us in these end times. □

PERSONAL

(Continued from page 1)

peared in the November 20th, 1978, *Good News*. I memorized its main points, and thoroughly marked up my Bible — especially at Matthew 16:18, on the subject of binding and loosing.

"I was then *staggered* — left literally *speechless* — when I read an article in the March, 1979, *Good News*, which, in my eyes at least, just plainly *CONTRADICTS* what Christ is saying through you! Whereas *Christ* teaches, through you, that binding and loosing is given *only to His apostles*, the author of this

particular article states that *the ministry* have the authority to make binding and loosing decisions."

Let me add here that the particular article in question was a "REPEAT" article, which had appeared several years ago in *The Good News*. At that time no official doctrine had been made in the Church about "binding and loosing." I did not reread the article prior to republication in the March, 1979, *Good News*, and I am sure the author of the article did not recheck it, either.

I made the doctrine of "binding and loosing" official only a few months ago. I do not remember catching anything in this article

that should have been edited when it first appeared several years ago. So I will personally assume any blame for this discrepancy.

I should have reread this article prior to its being reprinted in the March, 1979, *Good News* — but since I knew it was a repeated article from several years ago, I neglected doing so. With all the day-to-day administration responsibilities over the entire globe-girding Work, it is difficult for me to read every article in *The Good News* and *The Plain Truth* before publication. I trust our brother in Christ in England, who wrote the above letter, will forgive me. □



NEWTRENDS

Compiled in conjunction with the News Bureau of the Worldwide Church of God

- "NUCLEAR CLUB" THREATENS TO EXPAND: A virtually helpless Carter Administration looks on as two antagonistic Third World nations move to arm themselves with nuclear weapons technology, which, in turn, threatens to spark a new wave of nuclear proliferation throughout the world. Pakistan, by means of stolen technological know-how and secret piecemeal purchases of needed equipment, is building a uranium enrichment plant that could lead to a nuclear weapon in four years. India has already exploded a nuclear device and recently attempted to launch a rocket that could fire a nuclear warhead 2,400 miles. A dozen other Third World nations have the technological expertise to produce nuclear weapons by 1985.
- GROWING EUROPEAN-ARAB COOPERATION: A special relationship is in the making between the major Arab oil producers in the Middle East and the industrial oil-consuming nations of Western Europe. The European powers are seeking long-term guarantees of oil supplies, hoping to arrange government-to-government supply contracts. Moreover, there is talk that the new European Monetary System (EMS), dominated by the West German mark, may present an attractive selling point to the Arabs, who are considering cutting loose from the slumping U.S. dollar and tying oil prices to a basket of currencies. But the European-Arab dialogue has not been solely economic. The Arabs have also expressed interest in closer military ties with Europe. There has even been talk of a possible collective security pact in the Middle East under European guarantees -- setting the stage for the fulfillment of numerous Bible prophecies.
- A EUROPEAN ARMY IS A STEP CLOSER now that Henry Kissinger has bluntly told a group of European NATO leaders that they can no longer count on the United States to defend Western Europe. Specifically, the former American secretary of state said the West's inferiority in small battlefield atom bombs was setting the stage for "selective blackmail" by the Soviets, who would be able to translate their overall military superiority into political leverage. In such a case, the United States would have the choice of either surrendering Western Europe or of "pushing the button" and destroying all of civilization, the latter "choice" a highly untenable one. America's "strategic dilemma," as Dr. Kissinger calls it, is bound to increase European desires for more control of their own defense.
- SOVIET TROOP BUILDUP IN CUBA: The U.S. State Department has confirmed that during the past three years the Soviet Union has placed an armored combat unit, estimated at 3,000 men, in Cuba. This move by Moscow is widely seen as a breach of the 1962 U.S.-Soviet understanding barring offensive weapons and Soviet bases in Cuba. Washington, however, has carefully stopped short of delivering an official protest, simply expressing its "concern" over what amounts to the establishment of a permanent Soviet military presence in the Western Hemisphere. Once again the Soviets have been shown that the United States no longer has pride in its power (Lev. 26:19). The Kremlin will undoubtedly continue to test U.S. resolve around the globe.
- JUST IN TIME FOR HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG'S CHINA VISIT, the government of the People's Republic of China is loosening up significantly in the area of religious freedom. A Chinese-language edition of the Bible will be published in China for the first time since the Communists took over in 1949. An initial 100,000 copies will be printed by a government-controlled firm. The text will be in simplified Chinese characters in order to encourage China's youths to read the new Bible.

Edited by Gene H. Hogberg

