

the
PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

VOLUME XXIV, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER, 1959



Wide World Photo

SLAVERY IN RED CHINA! From before dawn till after dusk hundreds of millions of half-starving Chinese are laboring for their Red masters in a massive "leap forward." This view is typical of many scenes to be found on China's anthill collective farms. Women do much of the back-breaking tasks in this slave land of supposed "sex equality." This new mobilized Communist China—having already crushed Tibet—is invading India's border regions. Read the significance of this move by an awakening, militarized China in the lead article of this issue.

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VOL. XXIV

NO. 12

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By the Radio Church of God

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Former Atheist Believes in God

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"My mother has been taking your Bible lessons and The PLAIN TRUTH for over a year now, and it is only through her gentle and kind urgings that I believe in God. I had been an atheist for years, yet from her calm reasoning (never an argument) I have begun to see how much in error were my ideas."

Woman from Ann Arbor, Michigan

No Doubt Now

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"Thank you for the book, 'True History of the True Church.' I have felt that this was the true Church, but couldn't make myself believe completely. There is so much confusion in the world that I was afraid to trust completely for fear I would be wrong again. I had been praying that God would send someone or something to

show me so I could quit doubting. The little book did the trick. I am reading it for the third time."

Reader from Missoula, Montana

"Life Now Has a Meaning"

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"I want to thank you and your assistants for sending me the marked copies of The PLAIN TRUTH in answer to my recent questions. Since I have been listening to The WORLD TOMORROW and reading The PLAIN TRUTH, everything that has happened to me in my 54 years in this life has taken on a meaning.

"You may be interested to know how I came to listen to your radio program. I had just finished the baseball game and was changing stations to get some news—hoping to get some real news instead of whether 'Khrushchev had smiled, or scowled' or said he was going to 'bury us.' I heard you talking about Germany and the coming tribulation; it all made sense. Here was a fellow making *sense* of what was going on in the world. So, when you switched over from the news to God I continued to listen to see if you would make sense regarding God. You did! *No hymn singing—no soothing syrup*—but the straight unvarnished word of God. I have listened to other 'men of God' on radio and TV, including a famous bishop, and it has always left something wanting or even a bad taste, but The WORLD TOMORROW was for me! I have now bought my first Bible.

"I am a hard man, but was particularly moved by 'The U.S. and British Commonwealth in Prophecy.' In fact I sat here on my drafting stool blubbering like a baby! I am glad my wife did not see me—she would have sent for the men in the white coats! What a wonderful thing to know *who you are* and *what is expected of you!*"

Man from San Rafael, California

Wants Firm Foundation

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"Your broadcast tonite over station WLS compels me to recognize it as profound truth. I would appreciate so much every printed word you can possibly send me to help me build a firm foundation based on that Truth. Please include your correspondence course and whatever else

you deem expedient. I am anxious to hear your series on prophecy, too."

Lady from Park City, Illinois

"Scales" Removed

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"I am writing again to tell you how much I have been helped by listening to your program this past week. Last Sunday night as I listened to WLS it seemed as though 'scales' were about to be removed from my eyes. I mean it in a spiritual sense because the message was really given with great power. If I could only hear preaching like that several times a day, I would be a different person in a very short time. I certainly appreciate your labors in presenting the message of God's kingdom. I wish everyone I knew would start listening to it."

Lady from South Bend, Indiana

Finds Hidden Treasure

"I was visiting my mother a few weeks back, when the mailman left The PLAIN TRUTH. Mother handed it to me and I started to leaf through it. Believe me, I didn't lay it down until I had read the last word and wanted more. My mother and I have always read our Bible, and seemed always to be searching the Scriptures for knowledge and answers to our problems. We prayed a lot and asked God for understanding. After reading that issue, I asked Mother how long she had been getting it. She told me about a year. She got them out and I read them all. But long before I had finished, I had my Bible out checking, comparing, searching. The only way I can describe my feelings is to say it was like finding hidden treasure. Only now I feel like a starving person who has been handed a crumb. So, would you please start sending me The PLAIN TRUTH."

Woman from Plain City, Ohio

From Far-Off India

"I feel so thrilled to read The PLAIN TRUTH. It is positively an eye opener. It was my husband who brought this magazine into our home, and I have been regularly reading it for the last many, many years. I have kept all my copies very carefully—they are very precious to me."

Lady from Poona, India

RED CHINA Plans Spring *Invasion* of India!

Startling News has reached the West! Top Secret talks in Peiping between Khrushchev and Red China's Mao Tse-tung call for invasion of neutralist India next Spring!

by Herman L. Hoeh

A HOT WAR in Asia is coming soon! Red China plans to invade India next spring and smash through to the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean! A top secret plot hatched between Khrushchev and Mao Tse-tung calls for seizure of the Indian States of Assam and West Bengal and the protectorates of Bhutan and Sikkim.

Lull Before the Storm

Border warfare between China and India has momentarily quieted. The Indians are rushing a few crack troops to the Sino-Indian border. At the same time Khrushchev is leading the world to think that China is merely a bad boy of the Communist world. He supposedly is trying to keep the rebellious Chinese in line—according to the latest propaganda line from Moscow.

The little known fact is that Khrushchev came to the United States to spread a smoke screen of "peace propaganda" in order to cover up this new plot of the Communists in Asia. Immediately upon departure from the United States he flew to Red China. There, too, public "peace demonstrations" were set up—but privately, behind the scenes, Khrushchev and Mao plotted to create a new hot war in Asia. The new Communist approach is to make it appear that Russia wants peace but that she is unable to control China in her border disputes with neighboring nations.

This is all part of the great Communist plan enunciated by Lenin thirty years ago.

Russia's program is not to take Europe and to attack the United States, first. The Communist program, which our leaders should know, calls first for the seizure of Asia. Lenin wrote that the way to Paris, London and New York is via Peiping and Delhi! Peiping, the capital of China, has been under Communist control for ten years. The next



Map of "disputed territory" which China claims from India and Burma. Recent Communist pressure has been aimed at Ladakh in Kashmir. Spring invasion plans call for seizure of that part of India marked "Assam" which is separated from main area by Pakistan.

great step in the Communist program is the seizure of India!

The renewal of a hot war in Asia calls for a late March or early April invasion of India according to the latest plans. China knows that the United States won't intervene in neutralist India. Nehru is too proud to call on the U.S. for assistance. The Chinese Communist strategy is to gobble up India, state by state—not all at once—but a little at a time!

Plans further call for aggressive action and terror campaigns against the British Commonwealth nations of Pakistan and Ceylon as well as Malaya and Hong Kong—in an ultimate effort to force these nations and other weak nations of Southeastern Asia into a great Red combine.

Top-Secret Red Meeting

Red China's bloody timetable for control of Asia will soon be presented to

all Asia's Communist leaders in two top secret meetings. These meetings were called by Mao.

In the first meeting, top Reds from Cambodia, Ceylon, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaya, North and South Korea, North and South Viet-Nam, the Philippines and Thailand will attend. Indian Communists were invited, too, but they have turned down the invitation!

A second conference, shortly to follow, will include Communist delegates from Australia, Canada, Nepal and Indonesia.

The first meeting will map plans for a stepped-up campaign of Communist activity throughout all Southeast Asia. Included will be a discussion of the final timetable for the invasion of India. Chinese Communist plans may have to be delayed slightly.

The second parley will pinpoint specific targets in the British Commonwealth nations. In these countries, Com-

munists are first to re-establish the prestige of Red China lost because of the much-publicized invasion of Tibet in the Indian border attacks. Plans will then be mapped to determine when and where to incite riots, strikes, political demonstrations and armed uprisings to terrorize and enslave Asia's neutralists.

When this program gets underway, China will send warnings to Nehru to pull Indian troops out from "disputed" border posts. India will be accused of sheltering Tibetans who have fled from Communist-controlled Tibet. Then, if all goes according to schedule, Chinese liberation forces will seize—by force—vital Indian territory and subsequently demand "peaceful negotiation."

This plot, when finally executed, will give Red Chinese Communists ultimate control of almost one-half of the world's population. We in the West hardly grasp the full significance of this Communist program. Not in all the world will so many people have been enslaved so quickly.

Westerners, blind to the program of Communists, often ask "How could China possibly gain from invading India?" Their assumption is that the Chinese wouldn't be any better able to feed India's hungry millions than the Indians, themselves, have been, and that India would thus be only a great headache for the Chinese. But *the Communist program does not call for the feeding of India's hungry millions*. It calls for a planned STARVATION of the people, the slaughter of all anti-Communists, and the inevitable enslavement of the Indian peoples to the Communist ideology.

Firsthand View From India

In the summer of 1957, Dr. C. Paul Meredith and I had the opportunity to go to India, Kashmir, Afghanistan and the Arab Near East. We were within 175 miles of Tibet and only 125 miles from Nepal. Even two years ago it was clear, from firsthand reports we received, that China was planning a take-over of India, piece by piece.

While in Kashmir, an Indian State bordering on Tibet, we noticed the great influence which the Mongol invaders of a few centuries back have everywhere left. The Mohammedans of Kashmir

constantly told us—time and time again—that the Communists would soon be taking over the country. They recognized that China's take-over of Tibet was the first step in this program. Numerous times we saw written on the roads, expressions telling the Indian neutralists to go home. They told us that the Indian government would not be able to defend Kashmir against a Communist seizure.

It has just come to the ears of official Washington—though it has been known in other parts of the world for some time—that the Chinese Army which did take over Tibet was told that its seizure of Tibet was merely training for its coming invasion of India.

In 1957 we also noticed the surprising headway made by the Russian Communists in Afghanistan, northwest of India. Everywhere in the capital city of Kabul we saw Russian-paved streets. The U.S. has also built highways from Kabul to the Pakistan border. Russian Communists will soon be using them to reach the border of Pakistan. Many U.S. officials admitted, "The Afghans are playing with both sides—the Russians are supplying them militarily; we, economically. The Russians will inevitably win if circumstances do not change."

This is all part of the Communist plan to place India and Pakistan in a giant vice between Russia and China.

The ruler of Afghanistan on horseback. This mountainous kingdom, under heavy pressure from Communist Russia, is the gateway to Pakistan and the Indian Ocean.



Nearly 450 million brown men are about to be engulfed by rabid Communism.

Reports have also come out of Iraq since we left the country in 1957, that the Communist party is under the direct control of the Red Chinese Embassy. These reports show that the Chinese are becoming equally interested with the Russians in the seizure of the Near East.

Russian concern is more and more being diverted to a revitalized Europe and a revived Germany. While the Russian Communists continue to strengthen their borders in Eastern Europe against the coming revival of Nazi-Fascism, they are, however, supplying the Chinese with technical know-how and letting China's six hundred million people gobble up the rest of Asia!

Red China's Claim

Red China insists it has a legal right not only to Tibet but to many parts of India and Southeast Asia. It is part of their propaganda that these areas once were under Chinese control. The millions of Chinese scattered outside of China, throughout Southeast Asia, are providing a hard core of local Communists in paving the way for an ultimate Chinese take-over of these "rightfully Chinese" regions!

Here is the story behind Red China's claims. Recent maps published by Red China and later published by Russia show thirty thousand square miles of



—Wide World Photos
Two views of the Chinese Communist Armies taken in 1946 and 1947 just prior to the Communist take-over of China. Since then the Soviet Government has sent millions of dollars in aid, including modern jets, to the Chinese Communists. No other Asian army is so well trained.

Assam in India's Northeast and twenty-two thousand square miles in Ladakh as Chinese territory. Their most recent maps also lay claim to parts of Nepal and Bhutan. When these maps first appeared, India's Nehru *talked* to the Red Chinese. The Chinese in return demanded "peaceful negotiations" to settle these "undetermined border areas" between China and her neighboring countries.

The Indians insist that the boundary between India and China is settled on the basis of the British-determined MacMahon Line. The story goes back to 1914 at a convention held in India between Nationalist Chinese, the British government in India, and Tibet. In drawing the MacMahon Line the British sought to keep Chinese armies at a safe distance from India's frontiers. Britain insisted on incorporating vast areas of mountainous countries along the Sino-Indian frontier *which China originally claimed*.

China's unrealistic claim goes back to the Mongol invasion of India commenced by Barber as early as 1525. The real founder of the Mongol or Mogul Empire in India was Akbar the Great in the days of Queen Elizabeth I of England. It was from his weak descendants that the British took India.

Most people in the West have forgotten that in the last thousand years the

Mongols and Chinese have been on the march not only throughout Southeast Asia, but also westward into the Arab world as far as Jerusalem and Central Europe. Their constant dream for centuries has been ultimate world conquest! The Chinese *Communist's* program is but the latest phase of this grandiose dream. China knows, however, that in this highly industrialized age she can accomplish this dream *only as an ally of Russia*. Yet even in this alliance the Chinese who have always called their land "The Middle Kingdom," would like to regard China as the inevitable, ultimate center of Communism.

This dream of world conquest was gradually lost sight of as China went to sleep for the last century and a half, during the Western "Industrial Revolution." Over 150 years ago Napoleon recommended to the Europeans to "let the sleeping dragon lie undisturbed."

But the sleeping dragon has awakened!

The Communist party centered in Moscow has awakened her. For 25 years the Communists mapped plans in North China for the ultimate control of the six hundred million Chinese alive today. It was not till after World War II that they were ultimately able to take over the whole mainland. Only the island bastion of Formosa escaped them.

In 10 years since the occupation of the China mainland by the Communists,

all China has been brought under the *direct* control of the Communist party. The Chinese will to resist was quickly broken. Well over twenty million Chinese have been "deprived of life" as a warning never again to rebel against their Communist overlords. *In no previous war, revolution, holocaust—even including Hitler's reign of terror—have so many people perished in so short a time.*

In fact, the Communists in 10 years have done what no Chinese ruler in the previous 4000 years of history have ever been able to do—to fully unite the sprawling Chinese domain under one central government. This was achieved only through modern communications and unparalleled propaganda and brain washing.

China is now ready to begin devouring the rest of Asia with Russia's secret military backing. The plans were laid bare in Korea. China, not Russia, intervened in Korea. Korea became divided. China, not Russia, launched attacks in Indochina and seized control of North Viet-Nam. Viet-Nam became divided. Next, the Chinese Communists took over all Tibet. From Tibet the Chinese plan conquest of India by dividing her and devouring her a piece at a time! The Communists—ever adept at creating strife—intend to charge India with aggression across "disputed borders,"

then take over these regions and demand "peace talks."

What Prophecy Reveals

From time to time news commentators—in describing the coming cata-

strophic military struggle for world control—use the Biblical expression *Armageddon* found in Revelation 16:16. But what they do not mention is a striking prophecy about "Armageddon" found in Revelation 16:12. In this verse

we read that "the way of the **KINGS OF THE EAST**" is to be prepared! *China* is the very center of all the great Eastern kingdoms. Almost 2000 years ago Biblical prophecy declared China is destined
(Please continue on page 18)

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

TO THE U.S. & CANADA

WABC—New York—770 on dial—9:30 a.m., Sun., E.S.T.; 11:30 p.m., Mon. thru Sat.

WNTA—Newark, N.J.—970 on dial—9:00 a.m. Sun.—7:00 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.—9:00 p.m. Sat.

WLS—Chicago—890 on dial—1:00 p.m. & 8:30 p.m. Sun.; 10:00 p.m., Mon. thru Fri.

WWVA—Wheeling, W. Va.—1170 on dial—10:30 a.m.; 11:15 p.m., Sun., E.S.T. 10:00 p.m., Mon. thru Fri.

WSM—Nashville, Tenn.—650 on dial—12 midnight Mon. thru Fri.; 8:30 p.m. and 1:00 a.m., Sun., E.S.T.

WLAC—Nashville, Tenn.—1510 on dial—7:00 p.m., daily; 5:00 a.m. Mon. thru Sat., E.S.T.—10:30 a.m. Sun.

WMIE—Miami, Fla.—1140 on dial—8:30 a.m. Sun.; 11:00 a.m. Mon. thru Sat.

WCKY—Cincinnati, Ohio—1530 on dial—5:30 a.m., Mon. thru Sat., E.S.T.

CKLW—Windsor, Ontario—800 on dial—7:00 p.m. Sundays.

WJBK—Detroit, Mich.—1500 on dial—9:30 a.m., Sun.

KLZ—Denver, Colo.—560 on dial—10:45 p.m. Sun. thru Fri.; 9:30 a.m., Sat.

XELO—800 on dial—every night, 8:00 p.m., M.S.T., 9:00 p.m. C.S.T.

XEG—1050 on dial—every night, 8:30 p.m. C.S.T.

WCAE—Pittsburgh, Pa.—1250 on dial—6:30 p.m. Sundays.

WPIT—Pittsburgh, Pa.—730 on dial—3:30 p.m., Mon. thru Sat.

KOME—Tulsa, Okla.—1300 on dial—9:00 p.m., Sunday; 6:30 a.m., Mon. thru Sat.

KBYE—Okla. City, Okla.—890 on dial—10:30 a.m., Sun.; 12:30 p.m., Mon. thru Sat.

WFAA—Dallas, Tex.—570 on dial—6:00 a.m. Mon. thru Sat. At 820 on dial—9:30 a.m. & 8:30 p.m. Sun.

KGBX—Springfield, Mo.—1260 on dial—10:30 a.m. Sunday; 6:15 a.m. Mon. thru Sat.

WEW—St. Louis, Mo.—770 on dial—1:00 p.m., Sun.—12:30 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.

WKYB—Paducah, Ky.—570 on dial—12:00 noon, Sun. thru Sat.

WKYR—Keyser, W. Va.—1270 on dial—5:30 a.m., daily.

KDYL—Salt Lake City, Utah—1320 on dial—7:00 p.m. nightly.

KIDO—Boise, Idaho—630 on dial—9:00 p.m., daily.

KFYR—Bismarck, N. Dak.—550 on dial—7:00 p.m. every night.

WNAX—Yankton, S. Dak.—570 on dial—8:30 p.m. nightly.

HEARD ON PACIFIC COAST

KGO—San Francisco—810 on dial—9:30 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.—10:00 p.m. Sun.

KABC—Los Angeles—790 on dial—9:30 p.m., Sun.; 7:25 p.m., Mon. thru Fri.; 8:00 p.m., Sat.

KRKD—Los Angeles—1150 on dial—6:30 p.m., daily.

KBLA—Burbank—1490 on dial—7:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. daily.

XERB—1090 on dial—7:00 p.m. every night.

XEMO—San Diego, Cal.—860 on dial—7:30 a.m. daily.

KARM—Fresno—1430 on dial—6:30 p.m. daily.

KNBX—Seattle—1050 on dial—3:30 p.m., Sundays; 12:00 noon, Mon. thru Sat.

KWJJ—Portland—1080 on dial—10:00 p.m., Sundays; 9:00 p.m., Mon. thru Sat.

KUGN—Eugene—590 on dial—7:00 p.m. Sun. thru Fri.

TO EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA

RADIO LUXEMBOURG—208 metres. Mondays and Tuesdays: 23:30 Greenwich time.

RADIO MONTE CARLO—1466 kc.; 6035 kc. and 7140 kc.; 6:05 a.m. M.E.T. Sat. (in Russian) and Fri. (in English).

RADIO TANGIER INTERNATIONAL—1232 kc. & S. W. Saturdays 16:30 Greenwich time. Sundays 10:45 Greenwich time (in Spanish).

TO SOUTH AFRICA

RADIO LOURENCO MARQUES, MOZAMBIQUE—10:00 p.m., Saturdays; 10:30 p.m., Mondays and Tuesdays.

RADIO ELIZABETHVILLE (Belgian Congo)—OQ2AD—7150 kc., 9:30 p.m. Fridays.

SIERRE LEONE BROADCASTING SERVICE—Sun. and Tues.

TO ASIA

RADIO GOA—60 metre band, 9:30 p.m. Mon.; 9:00 p.m. Fri.

RADIO BANGKOK—HSIJS—4878 kc. Monday thru Friday: 10:35-11:05 p.m.

RADIO TAIWAN (FORMOSA)—840 kc. 7:00 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays.

RADIO OKINAWA—KSBK—880 kc. Sundays: 12:00 noon. (Time in Japanese to be announced.)

ALTO BROADCASTING SYSTEM—PHILIPPINE ISLANDS—9:00 p.m. Sundays—DZAQ, Manila—630 kc.; DZRI, Dagupan City—1040 kc.; DZRB, Naga City—1060 kc.; DXMC, Davao City—900 kc.

TO AUSTRALIA

2AY—Albury—Sun., 10:00 p.m.; Mon. to Fri., 10:30 p.m.

2CH—Sydney—Mon. to Fri., 9:00 p.m.; Sat., 10:15 p.m.

2GF—Grafton—Sun., 9:30 p.m.; Mon. to Fri., 11:30 a.m.

2GN—Goulburn—Sun., 10:00 p.m.; Mon. to Fri., 3:15 p.m.

3AW—Melbourne—Sun., 10:30 p.m.

3BO—Bendigo—Mon. to Fri., 10:30 p.m.; Thurs., 4:15 p.m.

4CA—Cairns—Sun. to Fri., 10:00 p.m.

4KQ—Brisbane—Sun., 10:30 p.m.

4TO—Townsville—Mon. to Sat., 10:15 p.m.

4WK—Warwick—Mon. to Sat., 9:00 a.m.

6BY—Bridgetown—Sun., 10:30 p.m.

6FX—Perth—Sun., 10:00 p.m.

6MD—Merredin—Sun., 10:30 p.m.

6WB—Katanning—Sun., 10:30 p.m.

7HT—Hobart—Wed., 10:25 p.m.

TO SOUTH AMERICA

RADIO AMERICA—Lima, Peru—6:00 p.m. Saturdays—1010 kc. 7:00 p.m., Sundays—HOC21, Panama City—1115 kc. HP5A, Panama City—11170 kc. HOK, Colon, Panama—640 kc. HP5K, Colon, Panama—6005 kc.

In Spanish

RADIO LA CRONICA—Lima, Peru—7:00-7:15 P.M. Sundays

RADIO COMUNEROS—Asuncion, Paraguay—8:00-8:15 P.M., Sundays

RADIO SPORT—CXA19—Montevideo, Uruguay—4:00-4:15 P.M., Sundays

The Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong

At last, in this 23rd installment, we come to Mr. Armstrong's ordination into the ministry, with the account of his first funeral, and the first extended evangelistic campaign.

THE YEAR 1931 dawned for Mrs. Armstrong and me, like those preceding, with dark and overcast skies. It was one more of the economically *lean* years. It was an exceedingly high-point year in my life. It was the year in which I was ordained as a minister of Christ's Gospel, plunged full time into the ministry. Yet this very ordination was to foment multiplied opposition and persecution.

God did not induct me into His service as an imposing figure impressing others as a man of importance, wisdom and distinction.

Rather, the Eternal put me into His ministry a good deal like the Apostle Paul, who wrote: "And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom . . . and I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling." (I Cor. 2:1-3).

The Green-Horn Tail-End Minister

I was no VIP entering the ministry. There was no red-carpet welcome—no pomp and ceremony—no spectacular acclaim. It would not have been God's doing, had it started out auspiciously. Everything God does through human instruments must start with a humble beginning, the very smallest. God brings down low and to naught the proud and the lofty. The Eternal is able to exalt in His own due time those He first humbles.

Every person has his IDOL. God cannot receive and convert a human life until his idol has been smashed or torn from him. My idol had been an egotistical sense of self-importance—a cocky self-assurance—a passion to become successful in the eyes of the material world. God is creating in those He calls a righteous character which can be developed only through *experience*; and experience requires TIME. God has a lot of time—He is Eternal—He has

always existed—He always will.

It took *time* to eradicate from my heart the love of the praise of men. God gave me, instead, the false accusations, the unwarranted oppositions, the scheming persecutions of people. It required *time* to bring me to a place where I no longer set my heart on material possessions and the finer things of this material world.

This process required not one or two years—not seven—but *four sevens!* For 28 financially lean and humiliating years out of *the very prime of life*, God continued to root out of my life and character this vain idolatry!

From the first and for many years I was the *least* of the ministers. I was the green-horn tail-ender among the ministers of the Church of God (world headquarters then Stanberry, Missouri). And I was never permitted to forget that fact! *God knew I needed this.*

And so the year 1931 dawned.

The Convention at Seattle

The first evangelistic campaign was over. It was just a short 11-night campaign in the little rented church building in Harrisburg, Oregon. Attendance had been good for such a small town—around 100. I had not known better than to follow the Protestant evangelical method of giving "altar calls," for repentant sinners accepting Christ to come up to the altar and kneel. Four had come, and been baptized.

The pastor of one of the churches in the neighboring larger town, Junction City, asked me to hold a campaign in his church. I do not remember which church, but I believe it was the Baptist.

I was still dependent on my job with the Wear-Ever Aluminum Company, giving dinner "dems" with health lectures and selling their "new method" heavy aluminum utensils. It was necessary that I attend the annual convention of their

Pacific Northwest sales force in Seattle, beginning at or after the first week in January.

This prevented any extended campaign at the church in Junction City. However, it was arranged that I should hold three special services there—on Saturday night, and on Sunday afternoon, and Sunday night—with the pastor himself holding his usual Sunday morning service.

I shall never forget the thrill of accomplishment and thankfulness I experienced as I rode with the Runcorns back to Salem after the Harrisburg meetings. It was a deeper and far more intense sensation than I had ever experienced at a football game.

The Wear-Ever district convention was held at the New Richmond Hotel in Seattle. There I met all of the top-ranking salesmen of the district—some of whom were of the high-pressure type and extremely successful, earning large incomes.

However, this convention was somewhat disillusioning. Actual appointments in homes, with a husband and wife who ostensibly were attending a "dem" lecture, were acted out. The entire district sales force saw these top-ranking salesmen in simulated action. I came to realize that these men who were in the big money used high-pressure methods which I, as a Christian, could not employ. It became apparent that I could never get into the big-money bracket on this kind of a job. I was not making enough to meet the actual *needs* of my family—just enough to keep us from starving.

I did, however, learn things I had not known about health, nutrition and diet, causes of disease, etc. One thing I learned which seemed important—the reason *why* "one man's meat is another man's poison."

Different individuals are of varying chemical types. One person would be

classified as the potassium type. The element potassium is somewhat dominating in his physical constitution. These people are the out-door type, usually extroverts loving to be with other people.

The salesmen analyzed and classified one another, as to chemical types. I gave the most "expert" among them considerable difficulty. I seemed to be a mixture of several types, but they finally agreed that calcium was the dominating chemical constituency in my make-up. This must be true, because I require more calcium than most people. Calcium is found in largest quantities in milk and milk products. I seem to crave and need a goodly amount of milk, cheese, and butter.

The First Funeral

We were still living, at this time, with my parents in Salem.

Shortly after returning to Salem from the convention in Seattle, a death occurred in the family of a young couple, Mr. and Mrs. Milas C. Helms, who lived near Jefferson. Parents of both of them were members of the Church of God. Their baby son, Richard Leon, born November 23, 1930, had died on Monday, January 12, 1931.

I was contacted and asked to conduct the funeral. This was a new and frightening experience for me. The dread and fear of it grew.

As the day of the funeral dawned, this dread had almost driven me berserk.

"I can't do it!" I kept saying. "I just can't go through with it! I WON'T! I won't do it!" I finally shouted.

Not many times in my life did my father's powerful bass voice speak sharply and with authority to me. This was one of those few times.

"Herbert!" Dad's voice cracked like a sudden thunderclap, in unmistakable authority, "snap out of that instantly! WAKE UP! Come to your sense! Those people are stricken with grief! They are depending on you! You can't let them down! You are going to sit right down and prepare this funeral sermon. Then you are going down there and fulfill this obligation!"

If I had been almost out of my senses, this brought me back instantly. It was like a sudden awakening from a nightmare.

"Yes, Dad," I said. "Thanks for waking me up. I'll ask God to help me, and I will do it."

I had attended very few funerals. I did not know what customary funeral sermons were like. I did not want to know. I felt it would only be a pagan ceremony. I merely prayed and asked God to direct me through His Word. Soon I had a short sermon worked out from the Scriptures, reading certain basic Scriptures on the subject of death and the resurrection, with a few brief comments expounding them.

It turned out that only a grave-side service had been planned. When the moment came for me to officiate, my prayer for God's help was answered, and I was calm, sympathetic, and in sincere earnest.

That brief sermon from the Scriptures, together with the grief of losing their little son, deeply affected and moved Mike and Pearl Helms, and resulted in bringing them to repentance and conversion through Christ as their Saviour.

It was the beginning of a very close friendship, and Christian fellowship between us for several years to come. I have always had a very special warm spot in my heart for Mike Helms, and I feel sure it is mutual. We were to go through many rough experiences together in God's work—experiences which brought us together like two close brothers.

Mike was a vegetable gardener, and a very successful one. He was a natural leader. Inevitably, you will read quite a lot about him if you continue reading this story of my life, for he became closely connected with it and the many experiences I must relate from this point on.

We Move Again

Through the first half of the year 1931 the study and lectures on the causes of sickness and disease continued. Enough of the heavy aluminum was sold to keep the family alive—but no more.

Two or three cases during that time come back to memory. One man in Salem was troubled with chronic constipation, and with rheumatism. After my first visit to his home he went on a ten-day fast, followed by a diet of natural vegetables and fruits, lean meats and whole grains—a diet free of starches,

fats and white sugar. Both the rheumatism and the constipation disappeared. Another case was a man who had ulcers of the stomach. He could not even drink milk and hold it down. Yet a milk diet, with nothing else for many weeks, was his logical corrective. I squeezed a half lemon into a glass of milk, stirred it, and had him drink it. Of course it curdled slightly. He held it in his stomach, and was started on his milk diet. His stomach healed over naturally after several weeks.

Because I thoroughly believed in what I was doing, I held "dems" for the church brethren in the Jefferson area. Most of them purchased the heavy aluminum, and began eating *natural* foods.

In the spring of 1931 my father bought a small farm about fifteen miles south of Oregon City, trading their home in Salem for the farm. Of course my brother Russell had been married several years and was living in Portland, and my sister also was married and living in Portland. My youngest brother, Dwight, went with the "folks" to the farm.

At that time we moved to a house on East State Street in Salem. A number of events were to happen to us in that house—among others, little Garner Ted being miraculously given his voice now heard by millions around the world. When Ted had been about five months old he had fallen out of his high-chair, landing on his head on the floor. From

Dick and Ted Armstrong playing together in 1931.



that time he had been dumb, and he never learned to speak a word until he was past two years old. But that is getting ahead of our story. He was about 14 months when we first moved to the State Street house.

R. L. Taylor Arrives

In early summer of that year a former S. D. A. minister, a Robert L. Taylor, came to Oregon from California. It was practice among these Church of God people to hold all-day meetings about once a month. It was at one of these meetings that Mr. Taylor preached. We were all quite impressed.

"He's a better preacher than any of the leading ministers from Stanberry," seemed to be the common exclamation. Indeed we were all rather "swept off our feet" by his preaching.

After a few weeks, the brethren of this "Oregon Conference," which had been formed the preceding November, wanted Elder Taylor to hold an evangelistic campaign. They were becoming anxious to see a little "life" in the work of the Church.

They found Elder Taylor very receptive to the idea. By this time a modest balance had accumulated in the new Conference treasury. You will remember that the object in forming this State Conference was to create a local state treasury and keep their tithes and offerings in the state, instead of being sent to Stanberry, Missouri. These were days of rapidly descending economic depression, but several of these brethren were vegetable gardeners. They were doing very well financially.

"Brethren," said Elder Taylor, "I will be glad to undertake this evangelistic campaign, and I suggest holding it in Eugene. But I want to request that Brother Armstrong be put full time into the ministry, and join me in the campaign. We can speak on alternate nights, and the one who is not speaking can lead the song service."

This was hardly persecution from this minister. But then, he was new among us. He was not one of the "Stanberry" ministers. There was plenty of opposition and persecution to come.

The members of the Conference agreed instantly with Mr. Taylor's suggestion. I had been well liked and loved by these

brethren. In fact, I always continued in the affection of the lay brethren except when, later, other ministers got to them behind my back in my absence.

ORDAINED Christ's Minister

Mr. Taylor's suggestion meant a complete change in my life. In former years the idea of becoming a minister was the very *last* thing I should have wanted to do. But by June, 1931, I had been preaching a great deal for three and a half years. By this time my whole heart was in it.

I had come to see, at the Seattle salesmen's convention, that this aluminum sales job was not permanently compatible with the Christian life. I was unable to adopt some of the high pressure methods which the top-ranking salesmen employed. I knew I could never make more than a bare existence for my family. And anyway, by this time I think I recognized that God had called me to His ministry.

I had remained in this aluminum selling only because I realized I was acquiring valuable knowledge about food and diet, and the causes of sickness and disease. But now I had devoted a year to this study. There was no point in continuing.

The decision was not difficult. God had now brought me to the place where I really "heard" the voice of Christ as if He were saying, "Come, and follow me, and I will make you a fisher of men."

It was decided by the officers of the Conference that on the next all-day meeting I was to be ordained, so I could join Elder Taylor in the campaign in Eugene.

I shall never forget that moment of my ordination.

The meeting was being held outdoors. I do not remember where—except it was in the general rural area of Jefferson. I do not remember other circumstances, except that one or two other ministers were there in addition to Elder Taylor.

But I do remember the ordination itself. It was one of those once-in-a-lifetime experiences like being married, and being baptized. Only this seemed to me to be the most momentous event of my entire life.

Not only the ministers present, but all the brethren—as many as could get their hands through to my head—laid their hands on me—on my head, my shoulders, my chest and my back.

I am sure it was the weight of the *experience*, from a spiritual and emotional standpoint, rather than the physical weight of hands and arms—but it seemed I was entirely weighted down with the heaviest load I had ever stood up under, as one of the ministers asked God in prayer to ordain me into the ministry of Jesus Christ and His Gospel.

To me this was symbolic of the tremendous responsibility that now came down on my head and shoulders.

And let it be made plain here: I was ordained by, and under the authority of, the Oregon Conference of The Church of God, separately incorporated, *not* by The Stanberry, Missouri, headquarters.

Coincidence?—or DESIGN!

This brings us to a series of almost incredible facts. Whether strange coincidence or planned acts of God I cannot now say. But these are FACTS, none the less.

I never recognized these facts until just a few months before the writing of this present chapter. Certainly this strange chain of occurrences was not of my planning.

Here, then, are the actual *facts*:

First, Jesus Christ began His earthly ministry at about age 30. God took away my business, moved me from Chicago, started bringing me to repentance and conversion preparatory to inducting me into His ministry, *when I was 30!*

Second, Jesus began the actual *teaching and training* of His original disciples for carrying HIS GOSPEL to the world in the year 27 A.D. *Precisely 100 time cycles later*, in 1927 A.D., He began my intensive study and training for carrying HIS SAME GOSPEL to all nations of today's world.

100 Time-Cycles

It is important that we realize the significance of 100 time-cycles!

God set the earth, sun, and moon in their orbits to mark off divisions of *time*. One revolution of the earth is a *day*. One revolution of the moon around the earth is a lunar *month* (according to God's sacred calendar). One revolution of the earth around the sun is a solar *year*. But the earth, the sun, and the moon come into almost exact conjunction only *once in 19 years*. Thus 19 years

mark off one complete time-cycle!

Now consider further facts—whether strange coincidence, or providential design.

The actual ordination, or completing of the ordination and enduement of power for sending out the original disciples into the ministry occurred after 3½ years of intensive instruction and experience. It was on the Day of Pentecost. And the year was A.D. 31.

Exactly 100 time-cycles later, after 3½ years of intensive study and training, Christ ordained me to preach this same Gospel of the Kingdom in all the world as a witness to all nations (Mat. 24:14). This ordination took place at, or very near, the Day of Pentecost, 1931.

I do not remember the exact day and month of this ordination. No special significance was attached to it then. Most of those who participated are now dead. But the date was early summer, 1931.

But *that is not all!* Consider further!

More Amazing Parallels!

Christ started out His original apostles preaching the *very* Gospel of the Kingdom which God had *sent by Him*, and *which He had taught the apostles*, in the year A.D. 31. For exactly one 19-year time-cycle this preaching was confined to the continent where it started—Asia. After *precisely one 19-year time-cycle*, A.D. 50, Christ *opened a door* for the apostle Paul to carry the same Gospel to EUROPE! This was A.D. 50. *Exactly one time-cycle later*, A.D. 69, the disciples who formed the true Church of God, in accordance with Jesus' instruction (Mat. 24:15-16; Luke 21:20-21), fled from Judaea northward to Pella. The following year, A.D. 70, Roman armies besieged Jerusalem. From that time the Roman government stamped out the organized mass spreading of the Gospel of Christ. Soon a *different* gospel was being tolerated, later endorsed and then enforced by Roman government. It was Roman paganism now being palmed off under the new name "Christianity."

For nearly 19 centuries the world has been rendered spiritually drunk on the wine of *this counterfeit gospel!* As prophecy foretold, ALL nations have been deceived. But looking into *our time*, just before the END of this age (Mat. 24:14), Jesus foretold that *His same original*

Gospel of the Kingdom of God was to be preached and published (Mark 13:10) in all the world as a witness to ALL NATIONS! This was to immediately precede HIS SECOND COMING!

TODAY THIS IS BEING DONE!
Now consider *this* amazing parallel!

God first *opened a door*—that of radio and the printing press—for the mass proclaiming of HIS ORIGINAL TRUE GOSPEL *the first week in 1934!* The exact date was Sunday, January 7, 1934. *Exactly one time-cycle later*, Monday January 5, 1953, God opened wide the massive door of the most powerful commercial radio station on earth, and RADIO LUXEMBOURG began broadcasting Christ's Gospel to EUROPE and Britain!

What startling coincidences!—or are

they mere coincidences?

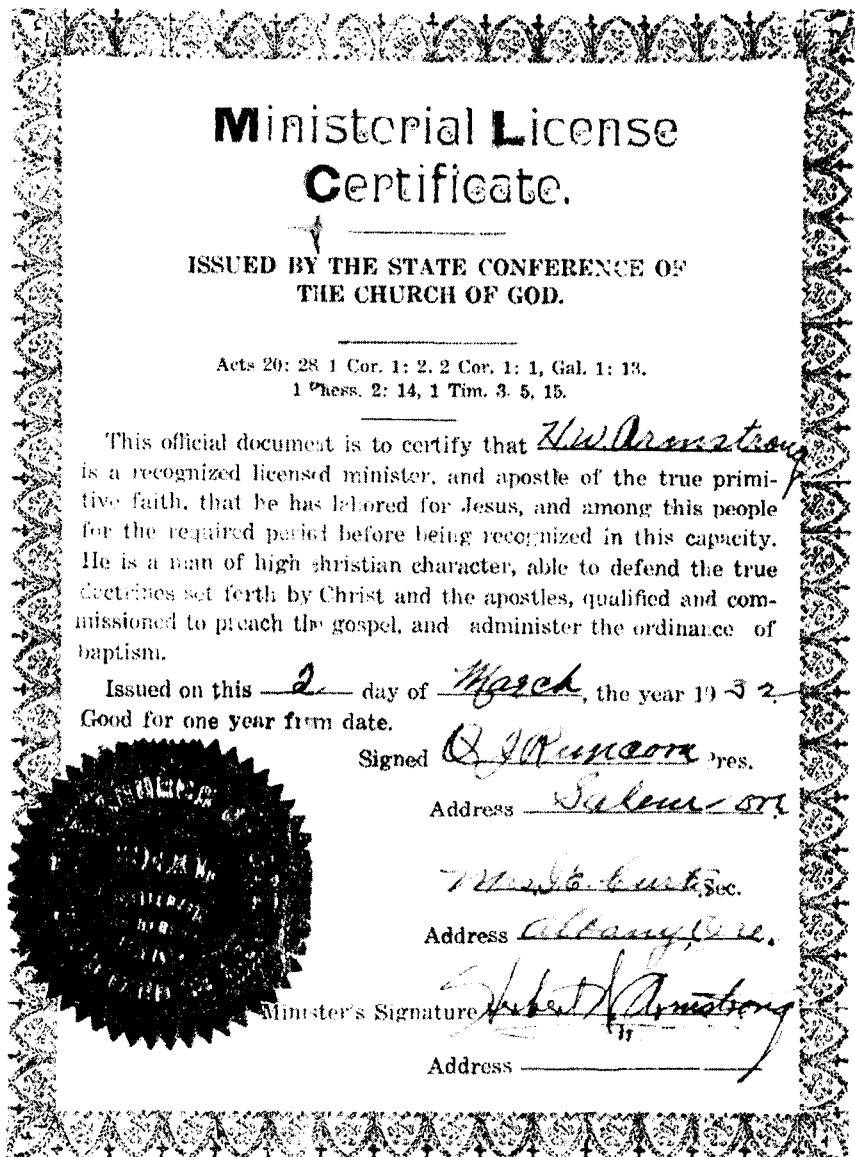
Certainly it logically appears, now, that just as God marked out *two 19-year time-cycles* for the organized proclaiming of HIS GOSPEL at the *beginning* of this present period of Jesus' High Priesthood in heaven, even so now, God has marked off *two 19-year time-cycles* just before Christ returns for the RESTORING of the knowledge of the same Gospel!

Think what terrifying significance! Think what this means!

We are now already nearly seven years deep into the *second* and *last* remaining 19-year cycle! Only 12 years—*possibly less*—remain for finishing this all-important WORK OF GOD on earth—IF this be God's plan!

Truly, *it is later than we think!*

Mr. Armstrong's second ordination certificate issued in 1932.



(I must remind you, however, that the year 1972 by no means is indicated as the year of Christ's return—merely the termination of this great opportunity to proclaim His Gospel *before* the famine, the pestilence, and the World War III prophesied to take the lives of $\frac{2}{3}$ of our people—*before* the Great Tribulation and Day of the Lord climax. It is *these* events that shall terminate in Christ's return. However, *all* those events *could* wind up with their tremendous crescendo within $3\frac{1}{2}$ years! In *any* event, it is later than you think!

My First Extended Campaign

My ordination ended the "dems" and selling of aluminum. The state Conference employed Mr. Taylor and me as evangelists at salaries of \$20 per week. Remember this was 1931. The country was undergoing rapid deflation.

Immediately Mr. Taylor and I went to Eugene. The Conference owned a small tent. With a small platform across the front, we were able to set up 50 folding chairs—that is all—50!

This tent was pitched on a vacant lot in Eugene on West 10th Avenue. I rented a room with a small kitchenette on the second floor of a house across the street, within the same block. Mr. Taylor and his wife had moved to a small chicken ranch on the outskirts of Eugene. They had a car. I must have left mine in Salem. It probably died of old age at that time, or shortly later.

I do not remember about preliminary advertising, but we must have had some. I was entirely too advertising-conscious after my long years in that profession to have started without it.

I opened the first Sunday night's meeting as M.C. and song leader. Elder Taylor preached. The tent was full—50 people.

On Monday night he opened the song-service, and I preached. Thus we continued for the six weeks, alternating each night. Services were held six nights a week—none on Saturday nights.

In Portland I had gained some little experience with "pentecostal people." I had been somewhat over awed by their "speaking in tongues," and their glib "testimony." I had not yet at that time fully understood it. But I had noticed that most of these people refused to obey God's commandments; almost none had

any real sound understanding of the Bible; they customarily had a wide knowledge of certain scattered texts—verses or partial verses—which they usually misapplied, entirely out of context, putting only a meaning of pseudo-spirituality on them. They spoke in what was supposed to be spiritual-sounding language. They loved to show off—to brag, especially about their own spirituality which usually consisted of sentimentality and emotion.

The "brethren" in the Willamette Valley had been decidedly antagonistic toward "tongues" speaking and "pentecostalism" in general. Elder Taylor had also appeared to be opposed to it.

But a couple families of "pentecostal" people began attending our tent meetings in Eugene. Soon I noticed that Mr. Taylor was especially friendly to them. He welcomed, and gradually began to encourage their loud "amens" and "hallelujahs" and "Praise the Lord" expressions during his preaching.

But, for the first few weeks I thought little of it.

Mr. Taylor's "Paper"

As the meetings continued, Mr. Taylor proposed to get out "a paper." I told him then of my vision of someday beginning publication of a magazine to be called "The PLAIN TRUTH." As early as 1928 I had prepared "dummy" copies of this envisioned magazine. I had even had a professional letter-artist design a front cover.

But this was really Mr. Taylor's magazine—or "paper," as he called it. He accepted part of my plans, by incorporating the word "TRUTH" into its name. He named it "*The Messenger of Truth*." Since I had had so many years' experience in newspaper and magazine work, he delegated to me the work of designing the mast-head, and the make-up. It had to be a paper of very few pages. Lack of funds dictated that. I designed it as a small, 8-page magazine. Since we could not afford a special cover, the lead article began on the front cover.

There were no funds to have the mast-head drawn by a commercial artist. I was far from a professional letter-artist, but I designed and produced the mast-head, from which a cut (zinc etching) was made.

We both wrote articles. Because the increasing "hard times" of the great economic depression was the number one public interest, Mr. Taylor consented for my article to appear on the front page. One copy of this "paper" remains in my files, and you will see the front page of it reproduced with this installment.

One thing Mr. Taylor did which I should not have done—he *put a price* on "his paper." On the editorial page, under "SUBSCRIPTION RATES" appeared this copy: "50 cents per year (12 copies). Single copy, 5 cents. 25 copies for \$1.00; 100 copies, \$3.00; 1,000 copies for missionary distribution, \$20.00."

How different that is from The PLAIN TRUTH, which God finally let me begin publishing in 1934—a year and a half later! There has never been a subscription price to The PLAIN TRUTH. We will not send out 25 copies, let alone "1,000 copies for missionary distribution" to any one. We send The PLAIN TRUTH *only* to those who actually *request it for themselves!* We refuse to distribute it, or allow it to be distributed by others, like cheap "tracts" to be trampled underfoot by those who do not want it, like "casting pearls before swine."

I might mention here that, so far as I know, only two issues of this "paper" of Mr. Taylor's ever were published. As a publishing enterprise, it was a "dud." He decided that the reason 50,000 or more subscriptions did not come in spontaneously as a result of the first issue was because it contained nothing about the Sabbath. This first issue came out about September 1, which I believe was after the close of our tent campaign. We prepared it during the last weeks of the campaign. I had left Eugene, and had no part in the second edition. It was devoted heavily to the Sabbath. The response was less than that from the first issue. When this did not bring in the subscription money, a few years later Mr. Taylor got out an issue of a "paper"—he may have still called it "*The Messenger of Truth*"—devoted primarily to arguments *against* God's Sabbath!

But I had not yet discovered this propensity of character in him during these tent meetings—although a few shocking revelations of character did emerge. Yet, we had all gone so "overboard" for Mr. Taylor—had evaluated his spirituality so

high—it took some time for us to recognize the true spirit back of some of these incidents.

Sole "Fruit" Borne

This was my first ministerial experience teaming with another man. Jesus sent His disciples out two and two together. The teaming of two ministers

together certainly has Biblical precedence and approval. But if God refuses to use either member of the team, no spiritual results can be produced by the team. This lesson I was to learn.

I was surprised, somewhat incredulous, somewhat discouraged, as our meetings wore on, to notice that no "fruit" was being borne. I could not understand it.

Then one night the lone exception occurred.

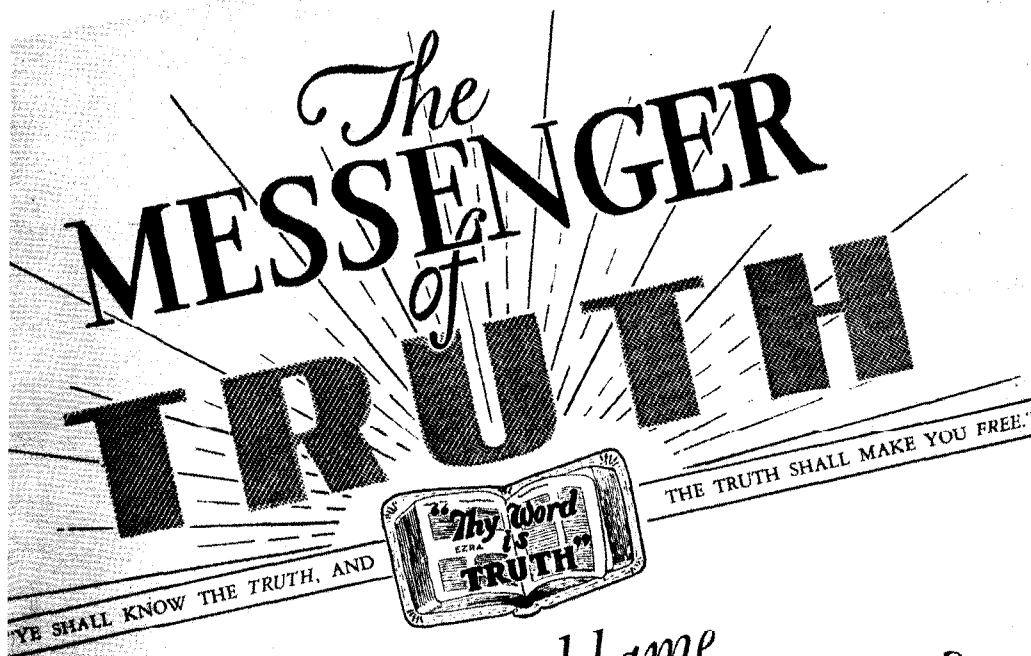
It was an exceedingly stormy night. Mr. Taylor and I went over to our tent to loosen slightly the ropes, so the shrinkage from soaking would not up-stake them, and also to drive down the stakes more securely. It was a "nasty night." We did not expect anyone to come. While we were there, one couple who had attended regularly drove up in the storm. I had noticed this couple. I had felt sorry for them. I supposed they were very poor people—why, I didn't know, except that he was as far from being handsome as Abraham Lincoln had been, and she had no "beauty" of the worldly sort. Later I was to be much surprised to find that they were very successful and prosperous, though thrifty, farmers—leaders in their community.

I had not, up to this stormy evening, become acquainted with them further than shaking hands with them at the tent entrance.

No one else came that night. No service could have been held in the tent.

"It would simply be a dirty shame for you to have come all the way into town on such a terrible night, and then be

(Please continue on page 31)



WHO is to blame for the Hard Times?

WE LIVE today in the most strenuous, anxious, momentous, hours of history.

Today we stand on the threshold of colossal events that will stagger the mind of mortal man.

World statesmen work feverishly to insure Peace, while the nations prepare even more feverishly for War. Unheard of phenomena in nature leave gigantic wreckage in their wake—whole cities wiped out by savage tornadoes—terrible earthquakes such as the world never knew before—millions homeless and thousands drowned in the great Yangtze flood in China. Governments being overthrown and many others tottering! Never has the world known such unrest as now.

Everyone is Affected

But the economic condition—the hard times—is the situation which strikes most closely home to most of us. Millions and millions out of work! More millions working only part time and not altogether certain of that! Still more millions suffering repeated salary and wage cuts! Is there anybody not affected? The average man is just perplexed—bewildered. He wonders what it is all about. He knows he has been hit and hit hard. He knows

Many blame President Hoover. Everywhere men are perplexed, fearful, uneasy. What is the true cause? When will this depression end? God Almighty tells us through Bible prophecy. Will we listen?

things are not right. He sees gross injustices and on what meager knowledge of real facts he possesses, reasons out his particular idea of the causes—and the remedy.

One says President Hoover is to blame. When Hoover leaves the White House and the right man takes the helm at Washington, everything will be all right.

Another says it is the money barons. The rich man has it in for the poor man and is gradually driving him into starvation.

Still another says it is our credit system based upon usury or interest.

Each man appears to know all about it and each has his own pet solution. Get a new president, or give us socialism, or do away with interest or what have you. Yet, when the truth is known, not one of

these pet theories ever will, or ever could solve our great distress.

What is the Truth? God Almighty says His very Word is Truth, and in it He has given us a record, faithful and true, of the foundation of the world, its course of history down through the stream of time, and a true and accurate prophecy of the future. In the Bible are prophecies clearly describing the difficulties of this very hour—revealing to us, direct from the Mind of God, the causes, which few men even suspect and still more important, plainly outlining for us the one and only solution!

Will we pause for a few moments from our reasonings and prejudices and theories and listen to the counsel of the Most High?

God Foretold These Times!

What is the outstanding condition which marks this time of stress and depression from any previous time? By what signs may we clearly identify this present trouble from any time in the past? How, in other words, may we be sure that any certain Bible prophecies refer to this present specific trouble, and not to some times of the past, or yet future? Certain factors distinguish the present dis-

The front page of the first of two issues of Mr. Taylor's paper.

Should Christians Celebrate BIRTHDAYS?

Why does the Bible omit mention of the birthdates of such men as Abraham, Moses—and even Jesus Christ? Is the day of one's birth of any great importance? Here's the surprising answer!

by Kenneth C. Herrmann

SEARCH your Bible! How many birthday celebrations do you find? A Pharaoh in Egypt celebrates his birthday by hanging his chief baker (Gen. 40).

Herod, on his birthday, grants the request of the daughter of Herodias and orders John the Baptist beheaded (Matt. 14:6-10).

Only two definite birthday celebrations in the entire Bible!

The children of Job may have been celebrating the birthday of the eldest son, when, by God's express permission, Satan caused a great blast of wind to collapse the house upon them, killing all ten (Job 1:4-19).

Job had been concerned about these activities of his children. After their feasting "Job sent and sanctified them . . . and offered burnt offerings . . . for Job said, 'It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts.'" Solomon with all his wisdom wrote, "It is better to go to the house of mourning, than . . . the house of feasting" (Ecc. 7:2).

Job actually *cursed* his birthdate saying, "Let the day perish wherein I was born, and the night in which it was said, 'There is a man child conceived'" (Job 3:3).

The Jews in Christ's day knew God's law forbids celebrating birthdays. Josephus, the Jewish historian of the first century, declares: "Nay, indeed, the law does not permit us to make festivals at the births of our children . . ." (*Against Apion*, book II, §26).

No Date for Jesus' Birth!

It will come as a shock to many. Do you know that no mention of the date of Jesus' birth as a human being is found anywhere in the Bible? The traditional celebration of December 25 does not come from the Bible, but from paganism!

The day of Jesus' birth is unknown. But the day of His *death* (Nisan 14, A.D. 31) Jesus asked His disciples to observe annually—"in remembrance of Me." It is to show His **DEATH**—not His birthday or His resurrection—that Christ commanded His disciples to continue the annual observance of the Passover meal with the symbols of unleavened bread and wine (Luke 22:19, 20).

The original passover lamb was slain as a type of Christ's great sacrifice. The apostle Paul explained, "Christ OUR PASSOVER is sacrificed for us"—and then went on to explain further *the proper manner of our annual observance of the day* the Saviour died as our Passover Lamb (I Cor. 5:7, 8). What a contrast to the modern custom of birthday celebration! Not a single mention is ever made in the Bible of the exact date in terms of the month and day upon which any individual was born! Think of it! Isn't this strange when compared with the modern custom in which each takes pride in the attainment of another birthday?

Attached to This World

We live in a world today that is geared to the Roman calendar. We remember the date of our birth, pay our taxes and have our tombstones engraved with the day we die—*all in accord with a pagan Roman system of calculating time.*

"But isn't our Roman calendar of Christian origin?" many ask. "Doesn't it have the approval of almost all Christian sects?"

The Roman calendar in use today is pagan in origin! It begins with January 1 in honor of the *birth* of the *new sun!* The sun is now dropping lower and lower in the southern portion of the sky. The days are becoming shorter, but on December 21 (according to the present Roman calendar) the southward move-

ment stops and a new year begins. January 1 is in honor of the return of the sun! As our ancestors worshipped the sun, so *our people today drink toasts to this pagan new year and make vows—New Year's Resolutions—in celebration of the return of the sun to its northern course.* Where do you find such a custom sanctioned in the Bible?

History answers: "Our (*Roman*) calendar is not Christian in origin. It descends directly from the Egyptians, who originated the 12 month year, 365 day system. A pagan Egyptian scientist, Sosigenes, suggested this plan to the pagan Emperor Julius Caesar, who directed that it go into effect throughout the Roman Empire in 45 B.C. As adopted it indicated its pagan origin by the names of the months—called after Janus, Maia, Juno, etc. The days were not named but numbered on a complicated system involving Ides, Nones, and Calends. It was not until 321 A.D. that the seven-day-week feature was added, when the Emperor Constantine (*supposedly*) adopted Christianity. Oddly enough for his weekdays he chose pagan names which are still used." (From "Journal of Calendar Reform," Sept. 1953, footnote p. 128. Italics ours.)

Further study brings one to the realization that the entire Roman calendar is of pagan origin with the single exception of the seven-day-week feature. Ironically, the "Journal of Calendar Reform" would have men give up this feature also by adopting their World Calendar. This proposed calendar contains one day each year (two in leap years) that is not counted as a day of the week. The seven day cycle of the week which has persisted since creation *would then be broken.* The World Calendar has features which look right to men, but in adopting it the one remaining feature of keeping time God's way—the weekly cycle — would be lost. It

would be a totally heathen calendar.

In following this Roman calendar in our daily lives we make use of the *pagan names* attached to the days of the week and months of the year. *Sunday, Moonday, Tiwday, Wodensday, Thurs-day, Friggasday, Saturnsday* are all titles given by the pagans to the seven days of the week. The single designation given in the Scriptures was the term Sabbath to the *seventh* day of the week; all others were termed *first* day of the week, *second* day of the week, etc.

WE ARE OBLIGATED TO MAKE USE OF THIS ROMAN CALENDAR in this present world but LET'S RECOGNIZE IT FOR WHAT IT IS.

Consider the tactics of our arch-enemy, Satan. His work of deceptions pervades every field of endeavor, every practice, every custom, everything we deal with in life. Think back. Doesn't January 1 completely overshadow in our minds the date God ordained for ancient Israel that a new year should begin. Probably only a handful of us took note at sunset on the evening of March 12 this year of 1959 that a new year was beginning. The calendar given by God to Moses has been perpetuated by the Jewish people though they observe the beginning of their civil year six months later in fall rather than follow the command of God to consider this spring date as the beginning of the new year. "This month shall be the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you" (Exodus 12:2).

What Is the Correct Attitude?

What is the correct evaluation of the day upon which we were born? The Bible merely states that "*the day of death . . . is better . . . than the day of one's birth*" (Ecc. 7:1). Yet our birth into this world *seems* to be an important day to us. Yes, the day we first drew a breath of air and began this physical life does have some importance. But we need to understand *why the day of death is BETTER*. How can this be? What wisdom had God given to Solomon to see a principle here that escapes us?

Notice the answer from the apostle Paul. Paul writes, upon nearing death, "I have fought a good fight [in overcoming his human nature in this life], *I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.*

Henceforth THERE IS LAID UP FOR ME A CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, which the Lord, the righteous judge, *shall give me at that day* (the day of Christ's return; the *day of the resurrection of the dead*): and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (II Tim. 4:7, 8).

The day Paul began his carnal life as a baby could hardly be compared in importance with the day he, at death, *made certain* his reward by *enduring* the problems and trials of a Christian life *to the end!*

A New Life Begins Upon Baptism

Consider another aspect in which death is given great importance. "If we have been *planted* (referring to our immersion in water at baptism) together in the *likeness of His* (Christ's) *death*, WE SHALL BE ALSO IN THE LIKENESS OF HIS RESURRECTION . . . *buried with Him by baptism into death* . . . we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:5, 4).

The day of our baptism is a day symbolizing *the death of our carnal self* and the beginning of a *new* life. When one repents, turns to God's true Way, receives God's Spirit and begins a new life— isn't this day more important than the day of his birth as a human baby?

If a man persists through his Christian life to "crucify the self," to put to death the carnal nature he was born with, and to grow with the new nature imparted to him at baptism—isn't *the day of his death, when his time of trial and testing is over*, more important than the day of his baptism, when that newly imparted nature from God was just beginning to grow?

The Christian life is, in a sense, a death of the carnal self at baptism and throughout the remainder of one's life. The Christian life is also a new life, a life that is *begotten* AT BAPTISM to grow for the remainder of our time of trial and testing—a *life that will be born* AT THE RESURRECTION!

Birthday Observance With a God-Given Calendar?

The calendar given by God to Israel in the time of Moses was not at all adapted to birthday celebrations. Have you pitied the "unfortunate" individual who was

born on February 29 and could receive gifts and congratulations only once every four years? This single irregularity of February 29 in the Roman calendar affects but about *one individual in 1461*. But the irregularities of the calendar God gave *would affect the birthday observance of one person in every eight!*

The calendar *still in use* by the Jewish people today is fundamentally the *same* one God gave to Moses for the children of Israel. But why isn't this calendar suitable for birthday observance? The Roman calendar has a single month, February, that varies in length according to a simple one year in four pattern. God's sacred Calendar committed to the Jews for preservation to our time has *three months that vary* in length from 29 to 30 days after a rather complicated pattern. Three times as many people are affected.

A still greater deterrent to annual birthday observance is *the insertion of a 13th month* in the 3rd, 6th, 8th, 11th, 14th, 17th, and 19th years of a 19-year cycle. Imagine the confusion of attempting to schedule birthday parties!

It is true that some Jewish people, following pagan customs, attempt to use this ancient calendar to observe their birthdays. A rather intricate set of *human* rules governs whether to move the celebration ahead or back one day, or back one month in the absence of the 13th month. Differing regulations are applied and the practice is not uniformly followed by all.

What wisdom prompted God to give mankind such a calendar?

It certainly discouraged the practice of observing birthdays and other anniversaries! The net result was to deprive mankind of the privilege of setting aside birthdays!

God's people certainly knew the date of their birth, but they kept track of their age by calendar years, not birth dates. But for those who understood, the whole purpose of life was to prepare for and look forward to *a new birth*, to a resurrection from the dead.

Job looked forward to the time of his re-birth; "I know that my redeemer [Christ] liveth, and that *He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth* [referring to Christ at His second coming soon to occur]: and though after my
(Please continue on page 22)

WHY Financial Troubles?

Our government is BILLIONS of dollars in debt! Individual families are going deeper and DEEPER into debt each year. Yet all this in a time of seeming prosperity! WHY?

by Roderick C. Meredith

DO YOU know the way "out" of financial troubles? Do you know the way to real *success* and *happiness* and *peace of mind*?

Very FEW people do.

Even among the well-to-do, the STRAIN of competitive business and social life—the WORRY over financial problems—take a tremendous toll in helping bring on heart attacks, mental breakdowns and other ailments. Life is ROBBED of the spontaneous *enthusiasm* and of the *peace of mind* most of us had as children.

There is a REASON for this national concern Americans have over making ends meet. This reason is *left out* of the purely secular and material education we receive in school and college. Yet it explains the real BASIS for all *success and happiness*! And it gives new MEANING and PURPOSE to the lives of those who understand.

Man Was Put on Earth for a Great Purpose

In a historic address to the assembled Congress of the United States, one of the greatest men alive today, Sir Winston Churchill, uttered these meaningful words: "I will say that he must indeed have a blind soul who cannot see that some GREAT PURPOSE and DESIGN is being worked out here below, of which we have the honor to be the faithful servants."

Sir Winston certainly implied the *working out* of this purpose by a *Higher Power*—Almighty GOD!

Apart from God, life is drab, colorless, meaningless. Man NEEDS God! And he needs an *understanding* of WHY God put him on this earth—and of the Divine laws and principles governing this life.

From Jesus Christ down to this day, the *true ministers* of God have been commissioned by Him to teach all men who will heed the real PURPOSE of life and the "secret" of true success—here and in the hereafter. These *ministers*—

these *direct* REPRESENTATIVES of God—are chosen and inspired by Him to impart this basic knowledge that the whole world *needs* DESPERATELY!

Men are LOST and CONFUSED! They don't know *why* they are here on earth—or *where* they are going. Nations are about to bring on WORLD SUICIDE!

To bring this divided, confused world the real MESSAGE of Jesus Christ, to give men an *understanding* of the PURPOSE of life, and of the definite PROPHECIES affecting our future, God had raised up HIS work to shout His message to the entire world.

Where Is the Real TRUTH Available?

You are *now* READING one of the messages from the true work of God—the *body* of Christ—the *instrument* God is using to preach His message!

This message is now being proclaimed *around the world* on "The World Tomorrow" broadcast and in *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine. It is the work of the Church which Jesus Christ built—and of which He is the living, executive Head!

For over twenty-five years, this work has grown in power. We have been daring, as NO OTHER CHURCH on earth, to proclaim *definite, specific* prophetic events to occur—and *they have been* HAPPENING!

So that some may *repent* and be spared, God is using this work to *warn* the peoples of this world of their mounting SINS before He intervenes to PUNISH and to send the *seven last plagues* just prior to Christ's second coming! In addition, we are the ONLY work making plain the real PURPOSE of life and the unchangeable LAWS of life which Almighty God set in motion.

Haven't all of you older readers of this magazine noticed that *this source* is the *only* one really "feeding" you the spiritual "meat" and making plain the real purpose of life *right out of the Bible*?

Thousands of you have written us that this is so. That is because GOD raised up, and directly *guides* and *empowers* this work! This is HIS work. We are His *direct* REPRESENTATIVES in preaching this most VITAL knowledge of all to the world.

You NEED this knowledge. This entire chaotic, upset world desperately NEEDS this knowledge.

Therefore—when you honestly stop to think about it—this spiritual knowledge of the true *purpose* and *outcome* of life itself is by far the most VALUABLE thing you could possibly receive. Your very LIFE now—and your ETERNITY—depend upon it.

It is in the very PURPOSE of God, therefore, that *you* have a DIRECT PART in making possible the proclamation of this *tremendously vital knowledge*. By sharing in this responsibility with God's *representatives*—the ministers whom He shows you are doing *His* work, the ministers who are really "feeding" you this spiritual TRUTH of the Bible—you are inevitably drawn closer to *God*, and to *His* BLESSINGS!

Speaking of the common *concern* and *worry* most people have over obtaining material things and money, Jesus said: "Therefore take no thought, saying, what shall we eat? or, what shall we drink? or wherewithal shall we be clothed? For after all these things do the Gentiles seek" (Matt. 6:31-32). Jesus here said that Christians need not take any *anxious* thought—or *worry*—about material things of this life. If you really *believe* and *obey* God, you need NEVER worry about financial problems!

Why? "For your heavenly Father knoweth that you have need of all these things," Jesus said. God KNOWS His children need these things—and *He will take care of it!* "But seek ye FIRST the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things *SHALL be added unto you*" (verse 33).

In other words, if your *heart* is in God's kingdom—and in His WORK pre-

paring the way for that kingdom—you need not experience financial worry! You will know that the very CREATOR is watching out for your own best interests!

And, as we have said, this very *interest* and *part* you are privileged to have in the very work of God is real PROOF that your heart is truly in His kingdom. "For where your treasure is," said Jesus, "*there will your HEART be also*" (verse 21).

If you have your *heart* in the true work of God on earth today—*avoiding Satanic counterfeits*—you will have the direct BLESSING of God as your "Senior Partner" in all your undertakings! You then become a partner *with Christ* in carrying His work—*His last warning message to this confused world*—as a "witness" to all nations before the END of this age! (Matt. 24:14). You need to *prove* which ministers are really DOING this work and then stand behind them with your *interest*, your *prayers* and your wholehearted *financial support*!

Obedience Brings BLESSINGS

In the 3rd chapter of Malachi, God addresses the modern-day peoples of America and Britain, He speaks of us as "Ye sons of Jacob"—for we are the physical descendants of the ancient ten tribe house of Israel which is supposed by many to have become "lost" (see Mr. Armstrong's booklet, *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy*).

God sternly warns our peoples: "Even from the days of your fathers you are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them" (verse 7). We have DISOBEYED our God—that is why we are having all these *worries* and *troubles*! God continues: "*Return* unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of Hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?"

Then God answers YOU—and our English speaking peoples! He says: "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee?" (verse 8). Yes, most people today don't KNOW how they have been robbing their very CREATOR who gives them the very breath of air they breathe!

Were you just left to your own de-

vices apart from God? Is there NOTHING by which you acknowledge the fact that everything you have in this physical earth comes from God and from His *creation*?

Yes, wherein have we robbed God? He answers: "In *tithes* and *offerings*."

The first tenth of everything you produce or earn BELONGS to God! The law of tithing—which as we shall later see Jesus Christ your Savior acknowledged—is binding on our people who are Christians TODAY.

Why—in the midst of God's material blessings—are our people so plagued with financial *worry* and *concern*? God answers: "Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation" (verse 9). We have brought a material CURSE upon our entire nations! That is why our governments are going *deeper* and DEEPER into debt, and why we're heading for national collapse WITHIN THE NEXT FIFTEEN YEARS!

God commands us: "Bring ye all the tithes into my storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a BLESSING, *that there shall not be room enough to receive it!*" (verse 10).

A "tithe" is a *tenth* of our income. By virtue of being our *Creator*—and providing us with everything whereby we can produce goods and wealth—God requires us to pay HIM the *first tenth* of our income. When we do that, He promises us *tremendous* material BLESSINGS!

In principle, this same promise of *blessing* is repeated in the book of Proverbs. "Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the *firstfruits* of all thy increase: so shall thy barns be filled with PLENTY, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine" (Pro. 3:9-10).

If you accept God as your Senior Partner in business, you will truly have PLENTY—and more than that, your very *heart* and *interest* will just automatically be drawn into the work of Christ and in His coming kingdom. Thus, you will have *spiritual blessings* in addition!

Jesus Christ Taught Tithing

The very *essence* of real Christianity is following the teaching and example

of Jesus Christ! He was the "light" that God sent into the world, to show us how to live and what to do.

Jesus quite often *condemned* the "traditions" of men. He NEVER went along with those innovations of Judaism which were not based directly upon the spiritual principles and laws of God (Mark 7:1-9).

However, instead of correcting the self-righteous Pharisees for tithing, Jesus simply showed that their ATTITUDE was wrong in the way they made an outward display of tithing on every little thing and yet neglected God's love and mercy.

Jesus said: "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay *tithe* of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: *these ought ye to have done* (these weightier matters), and NOT TO LEAVE THE OTHER (carefully tithing!) UNDONE" (Matt. 23:23).

Isn't that clear? Jesus said that carefully and strictly paying tithe on every little plant that might grow in your garden ought not to be put ahead of spiritual qualities such as *mercy* and *faith*. But your Savior said: "NOT to leave the other undone"—NOT to fail to pay your full tithe as God has commanded.

In Luke 11:42, this *same command* is repeated in a similar manner—inspired to be placed here also by God's Holy Spirit!

Men would like to regard God's tithing law as of *least* importance. But speaking of even the smaller points of God's law, Jesus said: "Whosoever therefore shall break one of *these least* commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven. But whosoever shall DO and TEACH them, the same shall be called *great* in the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:19).

If you *obey* God's plain command to *tithe*, and do your part in living not only it but ALL of God's laws, you will receive *immeasurable* BLESSINGS from the great God who rules and directs this universe!

God's Work Is Financed HIS Way

Way back in patriarchal times—before God's covenant with Israel—we find

Does CHRISTMAS Celebrate Christ's Birthday?

that God's servants understood the principle of *tithing!* Abraham—the "father of the faithful"—paid tithes to Melchisedec who was then God's High Priest (Gen. 14:17-20). Later, when God called out Israel as His *physical* nation, He instituted the Levitical priesthood to act as His representatives until Christ could come. Therefore, He directed that the *tithe* of the people should be paid to them—since they were then His representatives (Num. 18:20-24).

When Christ Himself came to bring the full spiritual revelation of God, He *approved* of the tithing law and showed that this obligation OUGHT NOT BE LEFT UNDONE! (Matt. 23:23).

Jesus *called* and *trained* His own apostles and used them to found His Church. After His death and resurrection, He gave a command to them and ALL His called ministers down to His second coming: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: Teaching them to observe ALL things *whatsoever* I have commanded you: And, lo, I am with you *always*, even unto the end of the world" (Matt. 28:19-20).

Jesus promised He would be "with" His ministers to the very end of this age! He told them to teach ALL nations—Jew and Gentile alike—the very SAME things He had taught them during His earthly ministry! (verse 20).

And He had taught them to OBEY *all of God's commandments* (Matt. 5:17-19). He had taught them to *obey* the TITHING law (Matt. 23:23). He had taught them the *tremendous* PROPHECIES of the end of this present age, and of His second coming (see Matt. 24, Mark 13, Luke 21).

His *true* ministers, therefore, are those doing THIS WORK today!

In the 7th chapter of Hebrews, Christ—the living "Word" of God—inspired the apostle Paul to explain that the tithing law has been "changed" so that it goes to the *spiritual* priesthood of Jesus Christ! (Heb. 7:12).

This priesthood is fulfilling the great COMMISSION of Christ! It is doing HIS work. It is preaching HIS message—*not some Satanic counterfeit!*

This very work with which you are now in contact is preaching God's last

WAS Christ really born on December 25th? Did Paul and the other apostles—and the early New Testament Church—celebrate Christmas? WHY is Christmas not so much as MENTIONED anywhere in the New Testament?

What is the origin of the Christmas tree—of "Santa Claus"—of the mistletoe and the holly-wreath?

We grew up practicing these customs, taking them for granted, but *never questioning* WHY? It is time we learned the FACTS!

4000 Years of Christmas

Christmas was celebrated by pagans 2000 years *before* Christ was born. Yet it was *not* celebrated in Jerusalem—where Christ founded the inspired New Testament Church—*until* 385 A.D., over three centuries after the true Church fled from Jerusalem!

Why?

Did you know that the pagan Romans long *before* the birth of Christ called December 25 the *Brumalia*, or birthday of the *new-sun* after the winter solstice? Christmas was originally celebrated in honor of pagan gods. It was IDOLATRY!

warning message to a mixed-up, God-rejecting world! Since this is GOD'S own work, it is financed HIS way!

You have all noticed that we NEVER ask or "beg" for money over the air or in any literature given the general public. But as His faithful servants, we DO teach all of His commandments—including that of *tithing!* We would be less than faithful to Him if we failed in this.

God says we—as a nation—have ROBBED Him in both *tithes* and *offerings!* And in robbing Him, *we have robbed ourselves of countless spiritual and material blessings!*

If even only those who sincerely *loved* God would faithfully pay their tithes and offerings to HIS work, the marvelous *understanding* of the real PURPOSE for human existence, of the LAWS of life, of the tremendous PROPHECIES

Every one of these FACTS you can find in the leading Encyclopaedias, in your own public libraries!

Though the Bible is silent about telling us to observe Christmas, or recording any such observance by the apostles or the early true Church, it *does* have something to say about the CHRISTMAS TREE! Yes, it's time you learned the TRUTH about Christmas!

You can have the astonishing FACTS about the origin and history of Christmas—how it crept into the churches—how the custom of trading gifts with one another commenced, instead of giving gifts to Christ—all these FACTS and many others are now available for you in our FREE 16-page booklet, "*The PLAIN TRUTH about CHRISTMAS!*" No other booklet makes the truth about Christmas so simple, so plain, so intriguingly interesting.

WRITE *immediately* for your *free* copy of "*The PLAIN TRUTH about CHRISTMAS!*"

Address your urgent request to Box 111, Pasadena, California, or to our London address. Don't delay. Write your letter for this amazing booklet *before you read another article!*

which are *now* beginning to be fulfilled—this knowledge would be THUNDERED around this earth on "*The World Tomorrow*" broadcast with *vastly increased power!* Real spiritual *understanding* and *peace of mind* and BLESSINGS would come to untold MILLIONS of people!

God places this in *your* hands as YOUR *responsibility!*

Be sure to *prove* where GOD is working. Send your tithes and offerings to His *representatives* who are really doing HIS work!

Then the great CREATOR Himself will be your Senior Partner—will BLESS you—and will give your life new *meaning* and PURPOSE to guide you through the fateful years that lie ahead. If the Almighty GOD be *your* God, then *serve* Him—*obey* Him—*honor* Him with the firstfruits of your substance!

RED CHINA

(Continued from page 6)

to play a vital part in world affairs at the end of this age!

Notice another prophecy about the ultimate westward advance of the Communist Chinese, in conjunction with the Russians, through the Arab world. It is found in Ezekiel 25:2-4. God says, "Behold, therefore, I will deliver thee [the kingdom of Jordan, just east of Palestine] TO THE MEN OF THE EAST for a possession, and they shall set their palaces in thee, and make their dwellings in thee."

Who are these "men of the east"? The Communist hordes of Eurasia!

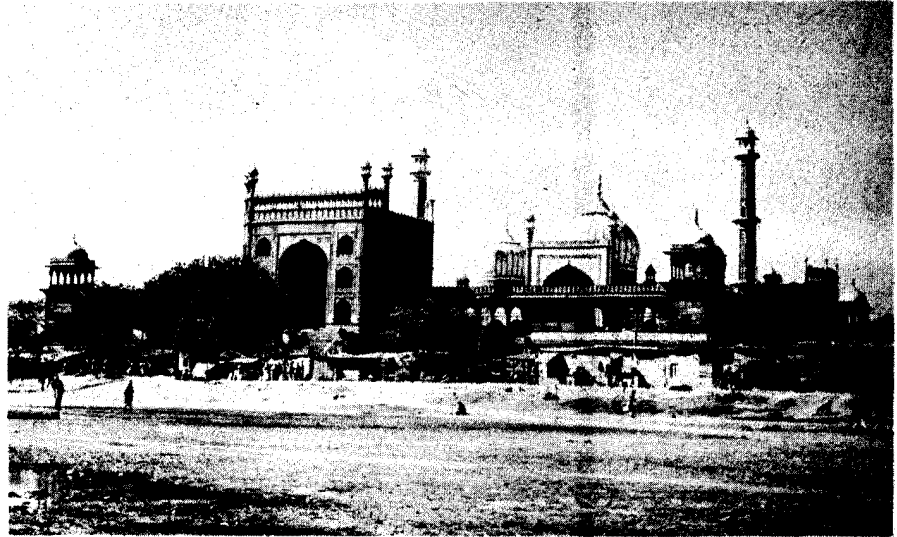
Now notice another prophecy in Daniel 11:44: "But tidings out of the east and out of the north [where China and Russia are today] shall trouble him [the coming Dictator of a European Fascist system which will control Palestine at the return of Jesus Christ]."

So prophecy shows that both Russia and China are ultimately to be involved in a struggle for the control of the Eastern Mediterranean, the Arab world and Palestine.

Russia and China Will NOT Split

Many are saying today that the Chinese Communist leaders may pull "a Tito." *Prophecy says this will not happen!*

Turn to the prophecies in Ezekiel, chapters 38 and 39. In these two chapters we find the Communists of China



A common street view of modern India—China's next major goal of conquest. Indians are unprepared for resistance against crack Communist armies.

and Russia in alliance. Notice, first, chapter 38, beginning with verse 2: "Son of man, set they face against Gog, the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal" (marginal reading).

Here we find united in a great alliance the peoples of Rosh (the White Russians) and of Meshech and Tubal (the two divisions of the Great Russians) under the ultimate control of Gog and the land of Magog. Who are "Gog" and the "land of Magog"?

Here is what the *Jewish Encyclopedia* says about Gog and Magog: "Geographically they represent the extreme northeast, and are placed on the bor-

ders of the sea that encircles the earth."

Notice what the unrivaled *McClintock and Strong Encyclopedia* says about Gog and Magog: "The Arabians are of the opinion that the descendants of Gog and Magog inhabit the northern parts of Asia, beyond the Tartars and Slavonians [the Russians], and they put *Yajuj* and *Majuj* always in conjunction, thereby indicating the extreme points in north and north-east of Asia." (From article "Gog.") Some writers spell these Arabic words *Yagog* and *Magog*. Now, to what people are these names referring? To the Mongoloid peoples of Asiatic Russia, Mongolia, China, Manchuria and adjoining countries! So Russia and China are to remain allies!

India In Prophecy

But where is *India* mentioned in this prophecy? Turn to Ezekiel 38:5: "Persia, Cush, and Phut with them; all of them with shield and helmet" (marginal reading in KJV). Notice that joined with the Chinese and Russian Communists will be Persia and the Asiatic descendants of Cush and Phut—*mistranslated* "Ethiopia" and "Libya" in the King James Version. Any student of history knows that the descendants of Cush and Phut who journeyed eastward *settled primarily in India!* So here is a prophecy that the Communist party will ultimately control not only the Russian States, but China, Persia and India

(Please continue on page 22)

A lovely scene in Indian-controlled Kashmir, in the city of Srinagar. The Himalayas may be seen in the background.



How Did This World's RELIGIONS Begin?

The Gospel was diabolically counterfeited centuries before Jesus was born. A civilization began which was founded on a false way of life. This is the second installment of Dr. Meredith's forthcoming book, "Satan's Great Deception."

by Dr. C. Paul Meredith

PART II

DID YOU know that at Christ's time pagan practices bore an amazing similarity to Jesus' teachings?

Did you know that those pagan customs crept into the professing Christian world? The churches of today ignore this *fact!*

Here is how it happened.

In the previous article we discovered that Nimrod, the world's first despot, founded civilization at ancient Babylon. That civilization has engulfed *the whole world*. Nimrod also established apostate Sun-Serpent worship—the worship of the devil and evil spirits. Then God scattered the people (Genesis 11:8).

We now learn in this installment that righteous Shem later slew Nimrod to prevent him from reorganizing society in another universal apostasy. But Nimrod's system lives on!

Shem Slays Nimrod

But what of Noah, the preacher of righteousness? Did *everyone* join Cush and Nimrod in their apostacy against God, or did Noah stand firm and gather some followers on his side?

Yes, Noah, the preacher of righteousness (II Pet. 2:5) did stand fast and gained a staunch supporter in his son Shem. While Nimrod was expanding his kingdom so rapidly there was opposition from Shem, the representative of Noah, *the great enlightener* of the world (Hislop, p. 316-317). Nimrod became the representative for the forces of evil in opposing Shem who took over the position of Noah, the preacher of righteousness.

With the aggressive Nimrod expanding his government and religion to include all people in the small world of that time, the two groups were bound to

come into conflict. How did the conflict resolve itself?

"Ancient traditions relate that the apostates who joined in the rebellion of Nimrod made war upon the faithful among the sons of Noah [Shem and his followers]. Power and numbers were on the side of the fire-worshippers. But on the side of the faithful was the power of God's spirit. Therefore many were convicted in their sin, and arrested in their evil career; and victory declared for the saints. The power of Nimrod came to an end, and with it, *for a time*, the worship of the sun, and the fiery serpent associated with it" (Hislop, p. 232).

Shem, a very eloquent person, is said to have obtained the aid of a group of Egyptians to overcome Nimrod. Nimrod fled to Rome where he was slain. Then Nimrod's dead body was cut into pieces, burnt, and the pieces sent as a warning to various areas against such evil apostacizing (Hislop, p. 63).

Was this terrible apostacy against God stopped for all time with Nimrod's death? Who was there as capable as he to carry it on? The carnal nature of mankind was willing to continue the apostacy but they needed a leader! Certainly if a world-wide flood that drowned all but eight people would not stop them, Shem and a few other men could not!

Would Satan allow this world-wide system, which he had built up so that he could secretly receive the worship of the earth, to crumble? We shall now find the answer!

Semiramis Expands Apostasy

The death of Nimrod seemingly halted the counterfeit pagan worship which he started. The Egyptians hold

that Nimrod's dead body was cut in pieces. It was sent to many cities throughout the country as a stern warning as to what would happen to others who might desire to apostatize (Wilkinson's *Egyptians*, Vol. V, p. 17).

A similar example of this practice is even recorded in the Bible. The dead body of the Levite's concubine was cut in pieces and a part was sent to each of the twelve tribes of Israel (Judges 19:29). Another example is recorded in I Samuel 11:7. It was not an unusual practice.

This warning against paganism had a marked effect on *would-be apostates*. If one as powerful as Nimrod could be slain and disposed of in such a terrible manner, the people rightly reasoned that the same fate would happen to them *if it were known* that they were adoring and serving forbidden objects—idols. **THE PEOPLE WERE AFRAID TO WORSHIP THESE OBJECTS ALTHOUGH THEY DESIRED TO DO SO!** If they were to continue to worship these *same* forbidden pagan idols, there was only one way in which it could be done. And that was for someone to initiate a system whereby the forbidden things of worship were represented by something else.

This system became known as the ancient "Mysteries."

Thus the ones initiated into "Mysteries" *would know* that they in reality were worshipping the *forbidden* SUN or SERPENT when they worshipped these new symbols, but the outsider would not know. **IT WOULD BE A "MYSTERY" TO HIM!**

Hislop's *The Two Babylons*, page 66, declares: "In these circumstances, then, began . . . that system of "Mystery" which, having Babylon for its centre, has

spread over the world."

Let us now see how this MYSTERY system actually did come into being and who created it and for what purpose! THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS TODAY—INCLUDING CHRISTIANITY—ARE DECEIVED BY THIS VERY SAME SYSTEM! How did this come about?

HERE IS THE ANSWER. At first it was explained to the worshipper what he was actually worshipping when he worshipped various symbols, many of which are widely adored in the professing "Christian" world today! But as time went by *this practice* was dropped. The people continued to worship the same symbols because of custom. But they didn't know *then*, nor do people know *now*, just WHAT is actually being worshipped!

Semiramis Initiates the System

Nimrod had been a man of unbounded ambition, but the ambition of his wife Semiramis—the future "Queen of Heaven" (Jer. 7:18)—exceeded even his. Nimrod, her husband, had become the greatest and most powerful figure in the world. He was dead. She clearly saw that if she were to continue to have the great position and power which she had exercised by being the ambitious wife of the most powerful man on earth, something must be done to assure continuance of her power.

Nimrod's kingdom, which consisted of most of the populated world of that time, had fallen to her. *Much of Nimrod's power had come from his having set himself up as the human representative of the Sun-God.* She must retain this world rule by any and all means. The religious control which had given so much power to her husband must be used by her also if she were to retain the maximum hold on her subjects. She, by way of Noah, the preacher of righteousness, had heard of the woman's prophesied seed who was to come and through whom mankind might obtain eternal life. This gave to her a daring idea.

"Though the death of her husband has given a rude shock to her power, yet her resolution and unbounded ambition were in nowise checked. On the contrary, her ambition took a higher flight. In life her husband had been honored as a hero; in death she will have him worshipped as a

god, yea, as the woman's promised Seed . . . who was destined to bruise the serpent's head and who, in doing so, was to have His own heel bruised. The patriarchs, and ancient world in general, were perfectly acquainted with the grand primeval promise of Eden. They knew right well that the bruising of the heel of the promised seed implied His death and that the curse could be removed from the world only by the death of the grand Deliverer" (Hislop's *The Two Babylons*, pp. 58-60).

Nimrod and Semiramis Become Gods

Here, then, was a perfect circumstance which Semiramis could use to perpetuate and even greatly augment her power!

The world had been told of the coming of a Deliverer whose death would redeem them from eternal death. The world was awaiting such an event. They also believed that this deliverer would go about doing good deeds before His death. Nimrod, her husband, the most powerful man on earth in his day, had been considered a benefactor, as we have seen.

She would combine or fuse the Sun-Serpent worship which her dead husband had furthered, with the teachings of the Eternal God concerning a coming Savior of mankind. She planned to make her dead husband, Nimrod, this Savior, and thus procure for herself power over her subjects by posing as the mother of a supernaturally conceived and reborn Nimrod (recall Christ's supernatural conception). A factor of great aid to Semiramis was the popularity of Nimrod and the desire of the people to keep him in their memory.

When the news first spread abroad concerning the violent death of this mighty man, cut off in the midst of his career, it was a great shock and loud were the wails everywhere. Nimrod at the time of his death was well and favorably known by the little groups which had been formed after God confused their various languages at the Tower of Babel. They later formed the large nations of the earth as we know them today by gradually migrating outward to far distant areas after Semiramis' time. Nimrod's popularity is shown by the fact that hundreds of years later these nations still lamented the violent death

of their hero—Nimrod or Tammuz.

Japan, China, India, Scandinavia, and Iceland each have their own gods in whose life this event occurred, and each weeps for these at the proper time. In ancient Iceland and throughout Scandinavia, the idea of the weeping was that if everyone on earth would weep for their dead god Balder [Nimrod] he would be restored to life. This practice is still found today in the Lent season.

The central theme of the whole idolatry in Egypt was the violent death of Nimrod or Osiris (the Egyptian god representing Nimrod). As the women of Egypt wept for Osiris and the Phoenicians and Assyrians for Tammuz—their name for Nimrod—so in Greece and Rome the women wept for Bacchus, whose name means "The Bewailed," or "Lamented one." Japan, China, India, Scandinavia, and Ireland each had their "Lamented One" for which they bewailed annually (Hislop, pp. 55-57).

In these Bacchanal lamentations, a spotted fawn was used to represent Bacchus (the Grecian name for Nimrod). At certain stages in the mystical celebrations, the fawn was torn in pieces, thus expressing what happened to Bacchus (Nimrod or Tammuz). Remember Nimrod was cut in pieces. THE WAY of disobedience to God is very popular with mankind! Even the Israelites in their time wept for the death of Tammuz: "There sat women weeping for Tammuz" (Ezekiel 8:14). So we see that in life the people of the early earth had looked upon Nimrod almost as though he were a god. In death Semiramis would make him the Savior of mankind!

The False Messiah

Her plan was aided by her own great beauty. Her beauty is said to have once quelled a rising rebellion among her subjects on her sudden appearance among them (*Valerius Maximus*, lib. ix, chap. 3, p. 2). "The scheme, thus skillfully formed, took effect. Semiramis gained glory from her dead and deified husband; and in the course of time, both of them under the names of Rhea and Nin, or 'Goddess-mother and Son,' were worshipped with an enthusiasm that was incredible and their images were everywhere set and adored. Whenever the negro aspect of Nimrod was . . . an ob-

stacle . . . all that was needful was to teach that Ninus [Nimrod] had reappeared in the person of a posthumous son, of a fair complexion, *supernaturally borne by a widowed wife*"—*herself* (Hislop, p. 69). For this purpose she used one of her many illegitimate children. She was fair complexioned and had several of these.

Nimrod was said to have been the first that invented magic arts. He used tricks of magic to impress his converts

(*Justinus Historia*, lib. i, Vol. ii, p. 615). After Nimrod's death, tricks of magic and *deceptions* were used by Semiramis to impress the converts to her system of Mystery with the power of these imaginary gods which she had concocted.

She first *deified* Nimrod, then herself, and their son and, due to opposition, gave them *secret forms* known only to the initiated, and these were worshipped. *These, then, were the Mysteries.* Those on the outside of these new religious practices could not see that these new practices of worshipping these symbols such as a calf or tree, *were actually the same* as the worship of Nimrod or Semiramis who represented the Sun and Serpent (Satan) and were *actually the worship of the same things which Shem had suppressed—Sun-Serpent worship!*

Those who wished to be initiated into these Mysteries in Semiramis' time had to have their meaning explained to them before they could understand them. The *title* of the priest who explained these Mysteries to the initiated was called "Peter" in the primitive Chaldee, the real language of the Mysteries. This means "Interpreter" (Parkhurst's *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 602). It was one of these *interpreters* or "Peters," who was in Pagan Rome long before Christ. He was *confused* with Peter the apostle of Christ in his time.

Kings of the Earth Spread Mystery System

Using every means within her power, ambitious Semiramis left no stone unturned to advance this Pagan religious system of mystery which she had formulated. By doing so, she, as head of this system, strengthened her hold over her subjects. Petty kings had arisen over small groups of people having different languages—the beginnings of the nations of the earth. These groups had resulted by God's giving to them different languages in order to confuse them and thereby stop their building of the city and tower of Babylon (Gen. 11:7-9).

When as *one* group with *one* language, they had established at Babel, or Babylon, a central place of *authority of their own*, so they could rule in God's stead. Then God divided them "*after their tongues*, in their countries, and in their nations" (Gen. 10:20). Never could

they establish *their* own authority over the peoples of the earth so easily if they spoke *different* languages.

For many of these kings, Nimrod, when he had been alive, built cities or towns as we have seen (both he and Semiramis were given titles as builders, after they were deified). These kings he controlled. The other kings of the earth were subservient to him because of his great conquests. How did Semiramis use these kings to further her own ambition when this great empire fell to her because of her husband's death?

The Bible tells us! Semiramis or Isis was the *original* fallen woman that the Bible describes in Rev. 17:1-2: "I will show thee . . . the great whore that sitteth upon many waters (nations): with whom the *kings* of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication" (her character in regard to fornication was well known). In return, the kings in Nimrod's days furthered her self-conceived system of religion—the religious *Mystery* system spoken of in Rev. 17:5—the system formed by the *fusion* of the true teachings of the Eternal God with the teachings of Semiramis concerning her self-conceived religion. *She, the head of this counterfeit of the true Church of God, gave herself sexually to these kings or civil rulers of the earth of her time in order to saddle her own counterfeit system of Satan inspired religion onto the nations of the earth.*

No wonder Revelation 17 uses the symbol of that fallen woman to represent today's *great unholy church!* Revelation 17 is prophetic—it is *dual*—these *same* words tell of the arising in *strength* of this same system of Semiramis in our day, furthered by another woman (symbol of a church) which will unite with the *civil kings* or rulers of the earth to force her religion (including the "mark of the beast") upon the earth of our time!

No wonder this *counterfeit* religion of Semiramis, impressed upon the nations of the earth in *their beginnings*, was carried by them to the farthest places of this globe as they migrated outward from this central point!

So here we have a religion set up over 2000 years before Christ which was *cal-*



Lehnert & Landrock

Ancient Egyptian statue of Isis, wife of Osiris, or Nimrod. She wears headdress of cow's horn and solar disk. Sacred cows of India are still revered in her honor. Isis—whose Assyrian name was Semiramis—was the original pagan "Madonna."

culatedly patterned on the future coming of Christ! No wonder there were so many similarities to the real Christ and his teachings when he came 2000 years later!

We read in Acts 4:11-12 that the *only* way to salvation is by the Messiah—Christ, yet here we will find one who recommended *similar*—though counterfeited—ways—one who originally claimed falsely to be the Messiah—whose teachings have deceived the whole world.

Here was a man who was killed for the supposed good he had accomplished, just as Christ would be later; this man was also declared to be “resurrected”; he was born “supernaturally”; and he became a god. Did he also offer claim to eternal life to his followers?

We will see in the coming installment that he did!

RED CHINA

(Continued from page 18)

as well! Now notice verse 6:

“Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee.” Gomer’s descendants migrated to southeast Asia. So here, joined with the Communists, are other Asiatic hordes from southeast Asia—and the children of Togarmah (called the Tungus) who live today in Russian Siberia.

Some think this union of China and Russia and their allies will ultimately attack the United States. Is this idea right? You will find the surprising answer in Mr. Armstrong’s article “Will Russia Attack the United States?” which explains Ezekiel 38 and 39. If you have not already read this surprising article, *write immediately for it*. The answer will surprise you!

In the meantime, God is sending His Gospel—His final warning Message—just before the end of this age to the peoples of China and Russia and India through this great work—“The WORLD TOMORROW” program. Are you earnestly *praying for it*—praying that God will open new doors into the Communist world for His Message—and supporting it with your tithes and offerings that the “true Gospel of the Kingdom” may go to these nations as a witness before the end of this age comes?

We need to be as busy about God’s work as the Communists are about their evil work.

BIRTHDAYS

(Continued from page 14)

skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God” (Job 19:25, 26). A better rendering of the Hebrew would be “yet *apart from this flesh* shall I see God.”

Also in chapter 14, verses 14 and 15, “If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, *till my change come*. Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee [referring to the time when Christ will call, and all that are in their graves will hear His voice and come forth in a resurrection]: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.”

Instead of looking *backward* to a *physical* birth into this temporary life where we are composed of dust, this man understood the true values of life and looked *forward* to a *re-birth into life eternal* as spirit beings and members of the Kingdom of God. The patriarchs are still in their graves looking forward to *the only* birthday that *really* counts.

A New Birth Date

A child’s life does not begin with birth. Rather, at birth the flesh is about nine months old and about ready to begin its training in the mastery of emotions, lusts and desires under the guiding hands of the parents.

Japanese count a man’s age from the time of conception rather than birth.

A *single* Greek word is translated both BORN and BEGOTTEN in our English translations of the Bible according to the context. No distinction is made of the moment of birth. The single word *fathered* could have been used to carry the intended meaning in English. Preserving one’s genealogy was important, but the date on which one was born was considered of little account.

Our present mortal existence is but one of dust kept alive by the breath of life, the oxygen we breathe in and which our bloodstream carries to all parts of the body. The moment of conception and of the birth of *this mortal life* are

of little importance *compared* to our *new birth* into God’s kingdom.

In sharp contrast to the complete absence of any mortal man’s birth date in the Bible, *we do find the command to commemorate the day* which pictures the first “harvest of souls”—the time when *immortal Sons of God will be born!* This day pictures not only our spiritual birthday but the day of conception as well!

We Must Yet Be Born Again!

“Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.” “You must be *born* again.” For Christians the moment of *conception* of this new life is the time *they receive God’s Spirit as a begetting* to eternal Spirit life. Now turn to Acts 2. For many in 31 A.D., the time of spiritual conception was the Day of Pentecost recorded in Acts 2.

For some it was then three years *after their repentance and baptism*; for others only months or days. It is not our baptism day then that is to be remembered year by year, but *the Day of Pentecost* which is set aside as *the memorial of conception of all God’s children*, the moment of the beginning of their Spiritual life.

But conception only begins our life. *We must yet be born!* Paul writes, “My little children, of whom I travail in birth *until* Christ be formed in you” (Gal. 4:19). We must grow from conception, from the moment God implants His Spirit in us. We must be born immortal. That moment, then, will be the day of our new birth. This is the *day of birth* Satan would like to cover up by emphasis on the day of your birth into this *physical* life.

It is *the Feast of Pentecost*—which pictures the first harvest, the spring harvest—that pictures *the time Christians will be reaped into the Kingdom of God and freed from this mortal earthly body* in which they have been developing and growing to be like God. For those Christians in their graves it will be a moment of awakening. *They will come up out of their graves*, once children of the earth, but now children of God!

This is the birth you should be looking forward to—not looking backward each year to the time of your entry into this existence from the dust!

The Bible Story

by Basil Wolverton

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

MOSES FLEES EGYPT

AFTER Jacob's eleven sons had returned to their homes in Goshen, some of them began to worry about how Joseph might treat them. They still felt guilty about some of their past actions. Anxious to do everything they could to make up for the wrong ways in which they had treated Joseph when he was young, they sent him a message in which they asked for his forgiveness.

Joseph felt even more kindly toward his brothers after he received the message. Later, when they came to bow humbly before him, he broke into tears.

"You did evil to me," he reminded them. "But don't worry about it any more. It was part of God's plan to get me into Egypt and use me to help many people. Don't have any fear of me because I am next to Pharaoh in power. I want to help you and your families." (Genesis 50:15-21.)

Joseph Dies

After governing Egypt for many more years, Joseph died in Egypt at the age of one hundred and ten. Before he died he told his brothers that God would surely take their people back to Canaan some day, because that was the land that was promised to the Israelites. He asked them to take his body back to Canaan.

His body was embalmed, as was that of his father. But it was not taken back to Canaan then. Instead, it was put in an Egyptian coffin, where it remained for many, many years. (Verses 22-26.)

The Bible doesn't tell what happened in Egypt in the next two centuries after Joseph died. But during that time, the Israelites steadily grew in numbers until there

were two million of them in Egypt. Most of them lived in the rich farming lands and grazing areas close to where the Nile River flowed into the Mediterranean Sea. (Exodus 1:6-7.)

Meanwhile, there were many changes in the kind of people who ruled Egypt. Several kings ruled and died in the century after Joseph's death. The next Pharaoh the Bible mentions after Joseph's time lived so many years later that he had little or no knowledge of the good things Joseph had done for Egypt. (Verse 8.)

This Pharaoh didn't care for the Israelites. He noticed that there were many of them, and he feared that they would one day become so powerful that they would start a war and take over the whole Egyptian nation.

"We must act before there are more Israelites than there are Egyptians," Pharaoh said at a meeting of Egyptian high officials.

"But if we try to drive them out or kill them, it could result in a long, costly war," said one of Pharaoh's officers.

"It would indeed," agreed the king. "I have a better plan to get rid of these shepherd people and, at the same time increase the size and beauty of our cities. Let us hire them to help build great buildings, courtyards, walls and houses. Once they are working for us, they will lose the freedom they have long enjoyed."

"But these people are not builders," said another of Pharaoh's men of high rank.

"They wouldn't be very willing to leave their flocks to go make bricks."

"Many of them will," said Pharaoh, "when we offer them good wages and plenty of good food. Thousands upon thousands of them will be willing to work for these things. Then, when we have them divided, we can force the other healthy males into slave labor gangs. From then on these Israelites will be under our control."

The Israelites Are Enslaved

The Egyptian king and his men planned matters well. Gradually the Israelites went into the jobs of building and preparing the materials for building.

At first the Israelites thought they were merely changing from farm work to building work. But before long they found that they had actually become slaves to Pharaoh, and that they would not be paid the good wages that had been offered.

Pharaoh thought that if the Israelites became slaves, they would not increase in numbers. But it didn't turn out that way. The Israelites increased more than ever in number.

"Work them harder!" Pharaoh ordered his taskmasters and guards. "Work them till they drop! Use whips and sticks on those who won't obey!"

After these harsher rules were used on them, the Israelites became harder to

handle. To keep them under control, they were divided into slave gangs with cruel Egyptian foremen over them, but they were well fed to keep them from rebelling. Little by little they fell into complete slavery to the Egyptians. It was too late to escape. Divided, they were powerless to overcome their masters.

Year after year of miserable hard labor followed for them. By the thousands and tens of thousands they were herded over the land to dig massive water canals. Other thousands built stone banks to cover the mud banks of the Nile. Other gangs built great walls and forts and many pyramids. Perhaps the greatest number of them worked at digging clay and making it into large, heavy bricks. (Exodus 1:9-14.)

Yet through all their misery, they continued to grow and grow in number!

Pharaoh at last knew that working the Israelites in a cruel manner would not cause them to grow less in number. He thought up a new scheme, therefore. Before long a decree was sent out to all Hebrew midwives, the women who were skilled to



"Make those Israelites work harder!" Pharaoh ordered. "Use whips and sticks on them, if they disobey!"

The Israelites became so hard to handle that they were divided into slave gangs controlled by cruel Egyptian officers.



help at the birth of Hebrew children. "From now on," the decree read, "you Hebrew midwives must kill every boy baby that is born to the Israelites. If you fail to obey, your punishment will be swift and terrible." (Verses 15-16.)

Many of the Israelites knew at least something of God's laws. Those laws had been known and obeyed by good men from Adam's time to the Great Flood, and from Noah on down through time. One of those laws said that no person should kill another person. The midwives knew it would be a terrible sin to take the lives of little babies, and they refused to obey the command from the Egyptian king.

When Pharaoh heard that he had been disobeyed, he was very angry. He called the head midwives of the Israelites to come to him, and demanded to know why they hadn't done as he had told them.

"The Hebrew women," replied the midwives, "are not like the Egyptian women. Hebrew women are stronger and more active. They give birth to babies even without our help. We aren't called to give aid, and therefore we don't know about most of the births."

Probably this answer didn't satisfy Pharaoh. But because the midwives obeyed God's law not to kill, God gave protection to them. Pharaoh decided not to punish them. In fact, they were treated with more respect than ever because the Egyptians wanted to know why the Israelites were so healthy. So the midwives were given good houses to live in. (Verses 17-21.)

But Pharaoh was not to be so easily turned from what he wanted to do. He sent out a new decree. This one went to his police and soldiers:

"Watch the Israelites closely. Whenever you learn that a male baby has been born to any of them, seize that baby and throw it into the Nile river. Spare only the female babies." (Verse 22.)

There is no way of knowing how many little boy babies were drowned in the Nile river, but there must have been many. The Israelites were filled with dismay. Their longing to become free of the Egyptians was greater than ever. But they were too well guarded to escape. All they could see was a dismal future of continuing to slave for Pharaoh.

No doubt they would have felt much more hopeful—at least for their children—if they could have known that God was preparing to send a man through whom they would be greatly helped.

The Birth of Moses

In those days a certain Israelite boy was born to parents who lived near the palace of the king of Egypt. This baby's mother and father kept his birth a secret for three

months. During those three months they were always fearful that Egyptian police would find out about him, and would take him away from them and drown him in the Nile river. (Ex. 2:1.) They were so anxious to keep him alive that they thought up a fantastic plan to try to save him. It was actually God who put the plan into their minds, because this boy baby was to do some very great things.

"I have learned that Pharaoh's daughter and her servants will come down to the river to bathe tomorrow," said the father of the child. "They will surely be there, because it is an Egyptian religious ceremony."

"That is well!" exclaimed the mother. "This is the day we have waited for. I have a water-proof basket prepared. We shall put our son in it, push it out into the Nile, and pray that it will float downstream to the right place to be seen and rescued."

Next day the mother and father sadly parted with their infant son, who was an unusually pretty child. The current of the river carried the little pitch-smearred basket downstream toward the spot where Pharaoh's daughter and her girl attendants were to dip into the Nile according to rules of their pagan religion. (Verse 3.)

Meanwhile, the parents of the boy baby sent their daughter, who was about eleven years old, to run along the bank of the river and see what became of the baby.

Matters worked out even better than the worried parents hoped. Pharaoh's daughter saw the basket floating among the tall reeds lining the banks of the Nile. She called for one of her girl servants who could swim, and sent that girl out after the basket. (Verse 5.)

All were surprised when they saw that a baby was in the basket. Pharaoh's daughter could see at once that it was an Israelite baby. But when she heard it cry, she felt very sorry for it.

The baby's sister saw all that happened. She hurried along the river bank to where her baby brother had been rescued, and bowed down before Pharaoh's daughter.

"I saw what happened," she said. "If this baby needs an Israelite nurse, I know where I can get one for you right away!" (Verse 7.)

Pharaoh's daughter liked the little girl's suggestion. She was so struck with the handsomeness of this little baby that she decided right there to save it from her father's cruel command to drown all Israelite boy babies.

"Go and bring this nurse you speak of," said Pharaoh's daughter to the little girl.

The girl hurried to get her mother, who was indeed happy to know that her baby boy had been found just the way she and her husband had prayed that the baby would be rescued.

"I will pay you well if you will take this baby and care for it for a while," Phar-



Pharaoh's daughter sent one of her servants out into the river to get the floating basket.

Pharaoh's daughter said to the mother. Of course Pharaoh's daughter had no idea that she was speaking to the real mother. But even if she had known that she was speaking to the real mother, probably she would have said what she did. "Later, I will want you to bring this baby to me. Meanwhile, don't worry about my father's police finding it. I will make sure that they will pay no attention to your home."

After making certain where this woman lived, Pharaoh's daughter left the baby with her. When the woman's husband saw her bringing his little son back, he was very happy, too. They had done all they could to save the baby, and they trusted God to help them do it. God rewarded their faith by bringing the baby right back into their keeping.

Several years passed, and Moses grew into a lad. His parents brought him up according to what they knew of God's laws. Most Israelites, having lived with pagan nations for so many years, were getting further and further away from the right ways of living. Moses' parents hoped that in the years after he had been taken away, he would remember the good things he had been taught. Perhaps they felt that there was a great purpose in his being taken by Pharaoh's daughter, though they were unhappy at the thought of it. But at last when servants were sent to bring the boy to her, they thanked

God that He had allowed them to have a son for the years he had been with them.

Moses Adopted by Pharaoh's Daughter

Pharaoh's daughter adopted the boy and named him Moses. (Ex. 2:10.) From then on he was trained and educated by the best instructors in the land. Pharaoh's daughter was hopeful that some day he would become a man of high standing in the nation.

Certain writers of ancient history have stated that Egypt was later invaded by Africans from the south, and that Moses, then a grown man and general of the Egyptian army, drove the invaders out. This is not mentioned in the Bible, but perhaps it is true. It is very likely that Moses became a very important man in Egypt.

When Moses was about forty years old, he became more and more thoughtful and concerned about the Israelites, his own people. The more he looked around, the

more he could understand how they were being mistreated. Even though he had been raised and educated as an Egyptian, it was plain to him that the Egyptians were being very cruel.

One day he decided to go out and see for himself how matters were in a slave labor gang.

Moses was very upset when he saw how the Israelites were treated. At one place where they were working, he saw an Egyptian guard brutally clubbing a man who was too weak to stand up and do any more work. This took place out on the edge of the desert, where the workers were scattered and there were few people around.

But Moses saw what was happening. He was so angry that he rushed forward and snatched the club from the cruel Egyptian guard. He struck the guard in the same way the guard had struck the Israelite, who probably died.

Unhappily, the guard also fell dead from the blows from his own club. When



Moses became very angry when he saw the Egyptian guard brutally clubbing the Israelite worker.

Moses saw that the man was dead, his feeling of guilt almost overcame him. He buried the guard in the sand at a spot where he felt no one was looking. (Ex. 2:11-12.)

Next day Moses again went out to see more of what was going on with the same slave labor gang he had watched the day before. This time he saw many more things that weren't as they should be. Among other things, he noticed two Israelite laborers quarreling over something. The quarrel led to blows, and when Moses saw one Israelite strike another, he thought it was time to do something about it.

"Why did you hit your fellow man?" asked Moses, as he stepped up to the one who had started the fight.

"Is this any of your business?" growled the Israelite. "Maybe now you plan to club me to death just as you clubbed that Egyptian guard yesterday." (Verses 13-14.)

These words were shocking to Moses, who supposed that no one had seen what he had done to the cruel Egyptian guard. Moses knew that news of this thing would get to Pharaoh's police before long. The only thing to do was to get out of Egypt.

Moses Flees Egypt

When Pharaoh heard what Moses had done, he sent soldiers to find him and kill him. (Verse 15.) But Moses escaped from Egypt just in time. He traveled eastward and took refuge in a mountainous land called Midian (verse 15), where one of Abraham's sons had started a tribe of shepherds many years before.

While he was traveling through the country, he happened to arrive about noon at a well. As he rested there and sipped the cool water, seven young women herding flocks came to the well to water their animals. While the thirsty creatures gathered around the well, they drew up water and poured it into troughs. Just at that moment some rude shepherds rushed over a nearby hill. They shouted and screamed so loudly that the girls' flocks were frightened away.

Moses became so angry when he saw what happened that he boldly walked up to the rude men and reminded them that the young women were there first with their flocks, and that only unmannerly or dull-witted persons would be so unfair and mean as to edge in ahead of those who were there first.

Before the rude shepherds could say anything, Moses rushed in among their flocks and frightened them away from the watering troughs. But by this time, the flocks of the selfish shepherds had drunk most of the water the young women had drawn up from the well. Moses then worked hard to bring up more water for the flocks of the seven young women. (Ex. 2:16-20.)

After their animals had been watered, the seven shepherdesses took their flocks to the house of their father, Reuel, a priest, a man of very high rank in that country.

(To be continued)

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

(Continued from page 12)

deprived of a service," I said sympathetically. "Why not come on over to my room, and we can at least have a Bible study together?"

"That would be splendid," smiled Mrs. Fisher. I had never known their names before.

"Well count me out," answered Mr. Taylor. "It's too stormy to stay around here. I'm going home."

This was my first shock of disappointment in Mr. Taylor. He had been my "ideal" as a minister. But one incident like this could not cause me to lose confidence in him.

Over in my room, Mrs. Fisher said:

"I wonder if you would mind giving us a Bible study on the question of which day is the Sabbath of the New Testament. My husband believes the only Bible Sabbath is Saturday. But it never seemed possible to me that all these churches could be wrong. I'd like to have you explain just what the Word of GOD says."

"Why," I replied in some surprise, "that is exactly the way I felt when my wife began keeping the Sabbath. That is the very thing that started me studying the Bible—to prove that 'all these

Part of editorial page of Mr. Taylor's paper.

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churches can't be wrong.' I'll be very happy to open the Bible and show you what I was forced to see for myself. This is the very question that resulted in my conversion."

After my opening up the Scriptures, and having Mrs. Fisher read them for herself—and after answering her rather sharp questions later, and explaining some vague passages she brought up, she smiled and said:

"I thank you, Brudder Armstrong"—she was Swedish, and talked just a trifle brokenly, "it is all clear now. My husband and I will keep the Sabbath together from now on."

And that was the sum-total of the tangible results produced by this entire six weeks' campaign!

But God was to use Mr. Elmer Fisher, and Mrs. Margaret Fisher, in a most important way in raising up this very work which now thunders the true Gospel of Christ world-wide, into every continent on earth! You will read much of them, later!

Suspicious Incidents

As our tent campaign progressed, a few little incidents began more and more to disturb me in regard to "Brother Taylor."

I began to notice that he was becoming much more "chummy" with the two "pentecostal" families than others who were attending. Finally he asked me to attend an all-night "tarry meeting" they were going to have out at his place following our evening meeting.

"You need a deeper spiritual experience," he said to me. "You need to pray, and agonize, and 'tarry' until you receive your 'baptism of the Holy Ghost,'" he said.

"Brother Taylor," I answered, "I know I need a deeper spiritual experience. I do want a closer fellowship and contact with God. But I prefer to seek it the way Jesus attained it—by going out to a solitary place—perhaps up on a mountain—or, at least as Jesus commanded, to enter into 'a closet' or small room, *alone with God*, and pray."

I shall never forget his astonishing answer.

"You'll never get your 'baptism' that way, brother!" he said sharply, with emphasis.

I was shocked—and disappointed.

"I'm sorry," I replied firmly. "But if this 'baptism' is something I can't get the way Jesus taught and commanded—if it is something I have to get from *men* and cannot receive from God while *alone* with Him, *then it is something I do not want!*"

Prior to this, Mr. Taylor had come to me and said:

"Brother Armstrong, our people"—referring to the "brethren" of the Oregon Conference—"are not spiritual enough. We need to seek a closer walk with God." To this I had agreed.

Now it began to dawn on me that Mr. Taylor was, little by little, attempting to lead the church into the very thing he had told them, in his sermons, he was "against"—this "wild-fire pentecostalism." When he had first heard that the brethren were "against" it, he assured them he was also against it. But now, by careful and adroit methods, he was gradually beginning to try to introduce this very thing.

Was he, himself, just beginning to believe he had been wrong? Had he been honest and sincere? Was he now honest in claiming God was opening his eyes to see that we were not "spiritual" enough?

"Why, didn't you know?" later exclaimed a man who had known Mr. Taylor much longer than we had, "Taylor has always been 'pentecostal.' He just pretended he wasn't, in order to get in with the church."

But from the moment I turned down his "tarry meeting" invitation, his attitude toward me became coldly courteous, and I sensed repressed hostility.

On one occasion, in my room, I was dumbfounded to witness such a "spiritual" man break out into an uncontrolled angry tantrum, roaring like an angry lion. He had just finished counting the *words* in the first issue of "*The Messenger of Truth*." He discovered that the copy I had written contained 7 or 8 more words than his writing. He had left the make-up to me. I had not realized that I had more words in it than he, nor intended it that way. Part of what I wrote was in very small type. I was sure my articles had not taken up as much *space* as his. But *why* a man who professed such spirituality should display this fit

of vanity, egotism, and rage was a shocking experience to me.

I tried to pacify him and restore peace.

Correcting a Member

During this tent campaign in Eugene, we attended Sabbath services with brethren at the church building in Harrisburg. One elderly "brother" whose name was "Rough" as nearly as I remember (pronounced "Row") had been, in his deep sincerity and zeal for a certain contention, stirring up a "row" at nearly every service.

He lived out east of Eugene on the Mackenzie highway.

He contended the church was in error on one Scripture. He could shout his antagonism like a lion's roar. The brethren wanted Mr. Taylor and me to visit him and see if we could not change his mind or at least quiet him.

I had just read, some time previous, an article in the old *American Magazine* on "How to win an argument." The idea was to make your opponent first state his case fully. Ask him questions. Make him state every detail. Exhaust him, till he has nothing more to say. Just listen—do not reply to any of his arguments—until you have made him state them all. Then summarize his entire position briefly, showing you fully *understand* his argument. State it even more clearly than he did, if possible.

Then AGREE with him on as many points where you find you actually are in agreement. Then, finally, tear apart his remaining arguments, disproving them—leaving him without anything to come back with.

We decided to use this method. In our morning session, before noon dinner, we just listened to his reasons. We asked questions, but gave no answers. We drew him out exhaustively.

Mrs. Rough had prepared a delicious chicken dinner. I think this was my first experience with the custom of serving chicken when the minister is the guest. I never understood the reason for it. But I was to eat a great deal of chicken from that time on.

After dinner, we questioned old Brother Rough some more, until he simply had to drift into silence for want of anything more to say.

Then we summarized his arguments,

and got him to agree we thoroughly understood his reasons—which he had always claimed the church was not willing to understand. Next we *agreed* on certain points.

But, finally, we riddled his whole conclusion by Scriptures he had not considered, which totally reversed his whole argument. It left him without any answer or come-back. The "lion's roar" had been reduced to "a kitten's meow." There were no more explosive eruptions from that time on to disturb "Sabbath-School" or church services—and he remained friendly.

Building a Church

As our campaign neared its close, Mr. Taylor was promoting with the church brethren the idea of building a church building in Eugene. Actually, there were no members in Eugene. Some lived a few miles north, but most of them lived north of Junction City or Harrisburg—altho two families lived out east of Eugene on the Mackenzie highway.

The Eugene campaign added only the Fishers, and, I believe, one other man who continued only for a while.

It was planned that I was to leave Eugene and put on a campaign up in St. Helens, Oregon, 25 miles north of Portland, with a minister by the name of Roy Dailey, who had just returned from Stanberry or points in the Middle West. The Conference had just employed him. There were now three of us on the payroll at \$20 per week. At this rate the Conference treasury was soon going to be empty.

But Elder Taylor was to remain at Eugene, superintending the new building. Many events were to take place in that little church building.

The events connected with the next two campaigns at St. Helens, and at Umapine, Oregon, and of my getting side-tracked back into the newspaper business where I was "marooned" for a year and a quarter, as a result of not understanding a certain Scripture, will be covered in the next installment.

(To be continued.)

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