

The Good News

International Magazine of The Church of God





More About Our Cover...

First of the huge prestressed "T" beams, to form the roof structure over the new college gymnasium and natatorium, being hoisted into position.

These mammoth beams are formed by pouring concrete into a mold which has been filled with steel CABLE, stretched taut. When the concrete hardens, the steel cables are released, giving the huge beams unusual flexibility, and great strength.

Notice the slight camber in the beam. In this picture, the cranes are lifting the "T" over the wall, and will "walk" it to the other end of the building, where it will be positioned atop smaller wall panels, also cast in the shape of a "T." The wall panels weigh nineteen tons each—and the gigantic roof beams, 12 feet wide and 116 feet long, tip the scales at an awesome FIFTY-FOUR TONS! This is another FIRST for Ambassador College—for these are the LARGEST SINGLE "T" BEAMS EVER CAST!

© 1964 Ambassador College Photo

Personal from the Editor

ARE YOU SURE that we are, definitely, the *true* Church of God? Have you read, in the Autobiography being published in *The PLAIN TRUTH*, that I, myself, more than thirty years ago, was puzzled about the question "WHERE is the one *true* Church which CHRIST founded, and of which HE is the living Head today?"

After some years I discovered, not only where, and which, was the one true Church—but also that I was actually *in it!* How did I know? How did I recognize it?

BY ITS FRUITS!

And foremost among those identifying fruits is the statement of the resurrected Jesus, applying to *this* Church, in Revelation 3:8: "I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it; for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my Word, and hast not denied my name."

Being faithful to GOD'S WORD is

the chief qualifying requirement. That includes *believing* God's Word, and *proclaiming* God's Word—but also obeying it, being faithful never to compromise with it, actually *living* it!

In my personal life, during the early years when this Church was insignificantly small, the temptations to compromise with it, depart partially from it, reject portions of it, or just "stretch it" a wee bit, were almost as many as the persecutions for being faithful to it, and refusing all compromise.

If mistakes are made and it is human to err—we must be ready and willing, and sufficiently yielded to God to correct the error or repent of the wrong. And that, this Church has done and still does.

In the April, 1964, issue of *The GOOD NEWS*, there was an error in expounding the Word of God. This error was not realized by the man who wrote it. In his eager zeal he wrote

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The Good News

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ministering to its members
scattered abroad

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

The Visiting Program . . .

or



. . . which?

Are Christ's servants on the Visiting Program BRETHREN, or SPIES? Are they sent to "check up" on you, to "watch" you—or to serve and help you? It's time many of the "brethren" search their own hearts!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

YOU ARE living in a HOSTILE, SUSPICIOUS, JEALOUS, CARNAL-MINDED, HATEFUL world! It's a world filled with intrigue, evil deeds done in the *dark*, and all that is epitomized by SIN!

The Apostle Paul *predicted* it would be this way!

"This know also, that in the last days *perilous* times shall come. For men shall be *lovers of their own selves*, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, *without natural affection*, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but *denying the power thereof*: from such turn away!" (II Tim. 3:1-5).

BUT, brethren, there is one rather shocking distinction!

This stern scripture is supposed to be a description of *the world*—NOT the attitude of some of those in God's own Church!

"OH NO! They're Here Again!"

Is this YOUR statement when your

pastor, his assistants, or men on the local Visiting Program arrive?

For some—it is!

I was absolutely dumbfounded by a recent monthly Church report, in which some of our men on the *very large* Visiting Program in the Southern California area had given some very sad-denying reports.

They told of families who *would not answer the door* when they came; of a woman who was seen peeking at them from behind the curtains as they approached the door, and then who *hid* until the men finally had to go away; of families who are made *nervous*, who "fidget" all the way through the meeting, and are *secretive* with the men on the Visiting Program; of families who must *rush* to hide the ashtrays; of families who are just downright EMBARRASSED to visit sincerely and seriously about THE BIBLE!

Shocking? I should say it is!

In reading through these reports, I asked myself, "Whaaaaaaaaaat? And these people are *church-going* people—God's people—people who believe they are truly *members* of the Body of Christ?" I believe, brethren—and I

address this to those who are *truly* brethren—the answer is most obvious they are NOT really converted and growing members of God's Church at all!

This has become a *serious problem*. All too many of those who like to "kid themselves" into believing they ARE members of God's true Church have carried some of the very same *attitudes of the world* right over into their Church attendance and professed Christian lives!

True to the prophecies of your Bible, there are MANY who really ARE cleaving to the true Church of God with "flatteries"!

Notice! "And they that *understand* among the people shall instruct MANY: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days."

This is describing the true CHURCH of God, through more than 2,000 years of history! The prophecy continued, "Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen [helped] with a little help: but MANY SHALL CLEAVE TO THEM WITH FLATTERIES!" (Dan. 11:33-34).

What about it, brethren? Are any

of YOU "flattering yourself" that you really ARE a Christian—when you KNOW you are not?

Such a thing would truly be a most *disastrous* mistake—and a futile, utterly wasteful and useless one! To merely "kid oneself" into an attitude of, "Oh, well, everything will work out all right *somehow*," when you really KNOW your spiritual condition is in serious danger would be a frightful mistake, indeed.

Are YOU one who has a *hostile* feeling toward God's servants? Do you feel a twinge of *conscience*, a little *annoyance*, when you hear a car door slam—thinking it may be members of the Visiting Program? Do you have something to HIDE, when the Visiting Program comes calling? Do YOU, like so many mentioned in this monthly report, wish the Visiting Program WOULD'N'T visit?

I sincerely hope and pray this is *not* the case with the great *majority* of God's people! And yet, it very definitely *is* the case with far too many!

What Is the Visiting Program?

Brethren, the rapid *growth* of God's true Church is simply staggering. It seems to me it was only a *very* few years ago (and it actually WAS only a *very* few years ago!) that only a small handful of us were meeting in ONE LOCATION on the face of this WHOLE EARTH—and that was all there WAS to God's Church!

It seems almost incredible, now. But it is absolutely TRUE that, in the beginning years of Ambassador College, there was only ONE *small handful* of people meeting in the college library in the one college building—and there *were no others!* The only "Church of God" that met ANYWHERE on any weekly Sabbath on the FACE OF THIS EARTH was right here on the Ambassador College campus, in those years.

By the time God called me into His service and into His true Church, that little handful had grown upwards of 100. The college was still VERY small. The Church was *very* small—but growing steadily. By this time, God had begun to provide a few ministers to *help* Mr. Armstrong in this great and growing Work of God which was, then, only a tiny percentage as big as it is

now! First Mr. Raymond Cole, later Mr. Roderick Meredith, Mr. Raymond McNair, Mr. Dean Blackwell and other ministers were sent, at different times, up into the Pacific Northwest to hold together a few remaining faithful ones at the original "Mother Church" of the Philadelphia era, at Eugene, Oregon.

These TWO small, seemingly insignificant bodies of believers were the ONLY places on the FACE OF THIS EARTH in which God's true people were meeting for a period of several more years!

Finally, the Church and the college grew to the point that they could no longer meet in the college library.

It became necessary to find other quarters. To this day, God's Work has been as yet *unable* to build its own Church auditorium. College students still must go *off campus* for their college forums and assemblies, having outgrown even the little temporary, rebuilt "shed" which served as an assembly hall for a few years. At first, they had to meet *out of doors*, in the lower gardens. Now, they must meet in a dingy, poorly lit "Elk's Club" auditorium a block off campus.

But Ambassador College began to BEAR FRUIT!

All of that is so much HISTORY, now. But I wonder, brethren, if any of us can truly and deeply APPRECIATE the tremendous fruit that is being born by Ambassador College as much as Mr. Armstrong, himself?

Mr. Armstrong, burdened with the daily broadcast, teaching ALL the Bible classes in the early years of college, plus writing the Co-Worker letters, PLAIN TRUTH articles, GOOD NEWS articles, booklets, personal letters, taking care of all his executive duties, plus numerous student and faculty conferences, conducting the affairs of the entire growing BUSINESS of the whole Work of God—also was the only pastor to a large and growing local Church!

He simply had NO TIME for going to private members' homes, visiting them in their own living rooms about their own private and personal problems! At best, he could only answer a few hasty questions before he got away from a sermon after a weekly Sabbath service, with, like all ministers,

perspiration-soaked shirt and coat, and the possibility of catching a cold if he could not get into dry clothes quickly.

Mr. Armstrong *felt* deeply about this problem—realized the serious NEED for more and more PERSONAL contact with God's people.

At the same time, he realized that the pressing needs of God's growing Work demanded more and more of HIS TIME in a "public" ministry, more than a private or personal one. At first, there was no organized "Visiting Program" within the local Church. Gradually, however, as other ministers were ordained, many of the local members were being visited by the newly ordained ministers and elders.

Finally, it was decided to set up a regular *schedule* for visiting the brethren! With a few ordained ministers, plus other graduate and senior students in the college coming along who were truly *dedicated*—who were studying to be future ministers, it was becoming increasingly obvious that a Visiting Program would be to the very great blessing and *mutual benefit* of all!

The brethren would be HELPED! They would be *served*—have their questions answered, their personal problems discussed and, hopefully, solved. They would be *encouraged*. Many who were shut-ins, elderly, crippled, or who could not get out very often would be blessed with having fellowship with others of God's people—right in their own homes!

Everyone thought this new decision of Jesus Christ was truly WONDERFUL!
And it was!

From that time to this, the Visiting Program has grown from the Headquarters Church to ALL *the local* churches, the district churches, the offices *around the world!* Today, extensive Visiting Programs are carried on by nearly all the churches, from Bricket Wood in England, from our offices in North Sydney, Australia, from Johannesburg, South Africa, and, of course, the largest program of all right from Headquarters in Pasadena, California.

Even with this large and growing Visiting Program, members are not blessed with anywhere NEAR enough visits! MANY must go "hungry" for
(Please continue on page 21)

Greatest PASSOVER Ever!

Around the earth, nearly TWELVE THOUSAND observed the Passover, and over EIGHTEEN THOUSAND feasted on the "night to be much observed." And FOUR new Elders have been ordained!

by Roderick C. Meredith

A DEEP spirit of OVERCOMING pervaded the Church of God during this Passover season. Once again, it seemed that some of the most POWERFUL sermons ever given were delivered during the Days of Unleavened Bread!

God's people were certainly *inspired*.

For the first time in this era, we now have *over ONE HUNDRED* ministers and elders in God's Church. *Yet many more are needed!*

Before giving the news about this tremendous Passover season, let me introduce you to the new elders in God's Church.

Four New Elders Ordained

Way down in Johannesburg, South Africa, Mr. Gerald Waterhouse recently ordained as *Local Elder* a man who had come all the way to Ambassador College for four years and returned to his native land to serve in the Work of Christ. Mr. Ernest Williams—graduated last spring from Ambassador College in Pasadena—was ordained a Local Elder on March 7 of this year.

While a student at Ambassador, Mr. Williams especially inspired his fellow Ambassadors by his athletic prowess and unusual *perseverance* in consistently winning the mile, the half-mile and then successfully "anchoring" the mile-relay team to victory in our own intramural track meets. Mr. Waterhouse reports that Mr. Williams shows that same *drive* and *determination* in serving God's people there in South Africa. And just after graduation, Mr. Williams was joined in marriage to the former Miss Betty Oden—one of our sweetest Ambassador coeds—and so she now shares with him in this ministry to the people of God in South Africa.

During the Passover season, Mr. Raymond Cole and Dr. Charles Dorothy—visiting minister from Pasadena—ordained Mr. Charles Nickel of the New York Church to the office of *Local Elder*. A successful businessman and outstanding example of ability, zeal and humility in service, Mr. Nickel was already acting as Head Deacon before his ordination.

His ordination—and this additional *help* to the church area—will certainly be appreciated by God's people in the Greater New York area.

At the Tabernacle in Big Sandy, Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong—joined by Mr. Albert J. Portune and other ministers—ordained Mr. Harold Treybig of the Houston Church to the office of *Local Elder*. Mr. Treybig was also a leading Deacon and servant in the Houston Church before his ordination, is a successful Certified Public Accountant, and has been for many years an example and inspiration to his brethren in the churches in South Texas.

In Chicago, Mr. Dean Blackwell and I—joined by the other ministers present—ordained Mr. Elisha Crim to the

office of *Local Elder*. Mr. Crim is one of our outstanding Negro leaders in the Chicago area, and is actually a "pioneer" member of the Chicago Church. He has long been an example of dedication, service and love. Now this ordination enables him to be of even *greater service* to his fellow Negro brethren and all of God's people.

Brethren, we can certainly give God great THANKS for causing these men to give their lives into His hands to serve His people! Let us also remember to *pray earnestly* and *sincerely* that God will pour out upon them an extra portion of His Spirit, of love, wisdom and power that each new Elder may glorify Him in the new office to which he has just been ordained.

The Passover at God's Headquarters

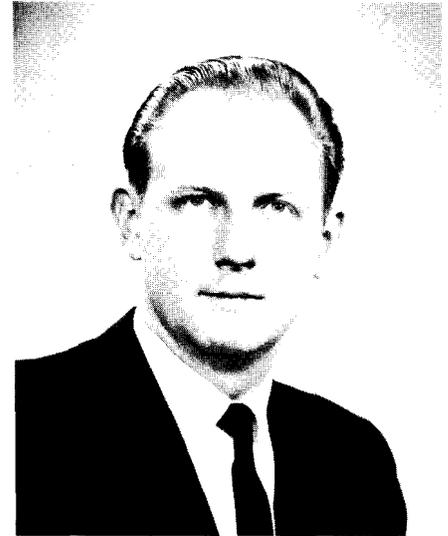
Here in Pasadena, over *three thousand* brethren assembled in Pasadena's beautiful Civic Auditorium for all-day services during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Unusually inspiring and thought-provoking sermons were given by Mr. Herbert Armstrong, Dr. Herman L. Hoeh, Dr. Clint Zimmerman, Mr. Dibar Apartian and the other ministers and elders who remained here at Headquarters.

The Passover service itself was divided in the area churches, but there were 838 who took the Passover in Pasadena itself, with 571 at Los Angeles, 129 at San Bernardino, and 145 at San Diego. So this makes a grand total of 1683 baptized adult members who took the Passover in the Southern California area.

Especially memorable this year was God's obvious intervention in the weather. There was a great deal of

Mr. Ernest Williams—Local Elder
Ambassador College Photo





Newly ordained Local Elders, from left to right: Elisha Crim, Harold Treybig, Charles Nickel Ambassador College Photos

rain in the area just before the Passover and an additional day or two of rain during the middle portion of the Days of Unleavened Bread. But on the Holy Days—when it was arranged for everyone to eat *outdoors* on the lower tennis courts of the Ambassador College campus and on the Night To Be Much Remembered as well, the weather was *clear and beautiful!*

On the night of rejoicing, as usual, a full moon broke through and helped provide an atmosphere of resplendent beauty in which God's people could REJOICE over their deliverance from the bondage of sin and confusion in this modern Babylon.

The Festival at Big Sandy

At our own Tabernacle Grounds near Big Sandy, Texas, the assembled brethren were once again blessed with the presence of Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong to conduct the services during the Passover season. Let me quote part of the report on the Festival sent in from that area:

"Happy hellos! Cheerful handshakes. The pounding of mallets! These were familiar scenes as God's people from near and far-reaching places assembled together and erected a temporary city on the church grounds near Big Sandy, Texas, to observe the Spring Festival.

"Various churches were allocated to specific locations so that each congregation had its own area.

"Tents were erected in straight lines. Trailers were symmetrically parked and all clutter, trash and unsightly debris

were virtually eliminated. This year, each pastor inspected his own church area to see that neatness, decency and order were enforced.

"Fourteen ministers were present at the Festival this year.

"Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong from Headquarters was here to conduct services. He was ably assisted by Mr. Albert Portune, Business Manager of God's Work. Their powerful, forceful, and persuasive messages on prophecy, brotherly love and other vital issues were veritable masterpieces. It was evident to all that God directly inspired them.

"Three Pastors—Messrs. Leroy Neff, David Antion and Tony Hammer—were present. These men have grown noticeably in outstanding speaking ability and preached deeply moving, thought-provoking messages on repentance, bearing fruits and remaining faithful to the end.

"Three Preaching Elders—Messrs. Richard Prince, Ben Chapman and David Albert—aided in speaking and counseling. They, too, delivered very helpful and uplifting messages on various principles of life.

"Five Local Elders were in attendance and assisted in counseling, anointing the sick and in giving sermonettes.

"The theme of the Feast, bearing fruits, was clearly manifest to all.

"Nine hundred forty-three members partook of the Passover symbols. A new system was instigated to expedite the foot-washing service which eliminated all confusion and cut the time in half.

"Twenty-five hundred assembled on the Night To Be Much Remembered. This occasion truly was a marvelous display of order and efficiency. Everyone was seated around tables in the new Tabernacle Building, which had been systematically arranged in four sections. All ate together at the same time. After Mr. Armstrong's brief discourse on the purpose of this festive night, the food was then served piping hot. It was prepared at the dining hall and transported to the Tabernacle in trucks. The food was served at various locations and brought to individual tables by competent servers who had been previously rehearsed in the matter. A community song-fest of religious numbers was held after the banquet and was ably conducted by Mr. Portune.

"Highlight of the meeting was the ordination of Mr. Harold Treybig to the office of Local Elder. He was a Deacon in the Houston Church and has served the brethren well in that area. All who know Mr. Treybig have come to admire him for his dedication and service in God's Work.

"The Feast was indeed a wonderful success and all were deeply grateful to God for the priceless opportunity to attend."

The Passover at Chicago

The third major Passover Festival was held at Chicago. Many of the area churches came in for the full eight days of preaching services during this period.

My wife, Margie, and I had the

privilege of flying back from Pasadena to be there, and it was a wonderful Festival indeed in every way.

On the Passover night, we were blessed with the largest attendance of any single place on earth with 1103 converted members partaking of the Passover. On the first Holy Day, there were approximately 2600 brethren in attendance—and it was certainly an inspiring crowd!

Mr. Dean Blackwell—Evangelist and District Superintendent of the area—and I shared the burden of the preaching, but were ably assisted by Mr. George Meeker, Mr. John Bald, Mr. Carn Catherwood, Mr. Sherwin McMichael, Mr. Frank McCrady, Mr. Allen Manteufel, Mr. Harold Jackson and other elders in the area.

The highlights of the Festival were the ordination of Mr. Elisha Crim as *Local Elder*—together with the ordination of several Deacons and Deaconesses, and the beautiful and inspiring concert presented by the Chicago-La Grange Chorale.

The *inspiration* of the sermons and the *response* of the people was especially noted. The theme which seemed

to predominate in this location was going ALL OUT to overcome, and becoming HOLY as God is holy.

Passover in the Pacific Northwest

The brethren in the Northwest met together for eight full days of preaching at Portland, Oregon. Mr. David Jon Hill—Managing Editor of *The GOOD NEWS*—joined Mr. Carlton Smith, District Superintendent, in conducting the services for the brethren there.

A total of 622 baptized members took the Passover in Portland, with 359 partaking in Seattle, 154 in Vancouver, B. C., 66 in Medford, Oregon, and an additional 50 partaking at Boise, Idaho. Except for the Vancouver group, which met separately during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, all came to Portland for the eight days of preaching services. On the Holy Days in Portland, there were nearly 2000 brethren in attendance.

The first sustained sunshine of the year brightened up the festive days with additional inspiration provided by the

163-voice choir of the combined Seattle-Tacoma-Portland-Eugene choirs bringing special music.

The theme of the Festival was our desperate need to *qualify* for the great commission given God's Church. Each one was exhorted to be an individual *growing* part of God's great endtime Work.

Nobody wanted to leave when the Festival was over, despite the fact of the *extra* Sabbath immediately following the final Holy Day. All felt like those keeping the Feast of Unleavened Bread in Hezekiah's day! (See II Chron. 30.)

Passover in Canada

Mr. Dean Wilson reports on the Passover and Feast at Vancouver, B. C.: "We had 154 for the Passover service, 7 times 22, which was quite an increase over last year when we only had 72. The service went very well and several remarked how wonderful, after all these years of being deceived, to finally observe the memorial of the Lord's death in the right way.

"The Night To Be Much Remembered was also a wonderful evening.

Ambassador's tennis courts provide ample room for the feasts.

Ambassador College Photo





In the Big Sandy Tabernacle, everyone got a foretaste of the huge dining-room-to-be for 1965!

Ambassador College Photo

With spring beginning here and many of the new spring flowers in bloom we were able to get an abundance of fresh flowers and the tables were decorated beautifully. The ladies came through with an overabundance of food, combined with singing and the fellowship of the scattered brethren. The evening was all too short and one we won't forget for a long time.

"The next day followed the same pattern. We had 278 in attendance and

were provided adequately with both physical and spiritual food. We followed with an impromptu social on Saturday night which was like putting frosting on the cake. We were all tired but very happy and thankful to a loving God who had just showered every blessing that was possible on a handful of His people in the Pacific Northwest. We hated to see it all end, and there was more than one tear shed upon leaving that evening. All of us are

looking forward to the next opportunity to be together and serve God in the place and the way that He chooses."

Passover in the Colorado Area

Mr. Kenneth Swisher — Southwest District Superintendent — drove up to join Mr. Burk McNair, area Pastor, in conducting the Passover and Feast Day services in the Colorado area. A total of 320 converted members partook of
(Please continue on page 11)

Simon Magus Begins *UNIVERSAL* Church

History comes alive with the startling story of how Simon Magus—branded a FALSE PROPHET by the book of Acts—established HIS OWN UNIVERSAL church!

by Ernest L. Martin

SIMON MAGUS was a Babylonian priest. He was a part of the Babylonian community that had been living in the land of Northern Israel ever since the Northern Ten Tribes were carried away captive by the Assyrians. God tells us that these Samaritans, as they were called, were *claiming* to be the true people of God while at the same time *practicing many heathen rites* which came directly from Babylon (II Kings 17:41).

This was the type of religious environment in which Simon Magus was born. This was the environment in which he commenced his own ministry and was finally proclaimed the "great one . . . the great power of God"—that is, God Himself (Acts 8:9-10).

He so swayed the whole of the Samaritan nation that *all* gave heed to him—they did for *a very long time* (Verses 9-11). But when he saw the

potential of Christianity, he endeavored to *buy an apostleship* in the Church. Peter rebuked him sternly.

Simon Magus and HIS Universal Church

Simon Magus, after his rejection by Peter, began to fashion *his own* "Christian" church—a church of which HE was *head*—a church designed to completely overthrow the True Church of God. His idea was to *blend together* Babylonian teaching with *some* of the teachings of Christ—especially to take the *name* of Christ—and thus create ONE UNIVERSAL CHURCH! But a church with *Babylonianism* as its basis.

Harnack, a church historian, states that Simon Magus "proclaimed a doctrine in which the Jewish faith was strangely and grotesquely mixed with BABYLONIAN myths, together with some Greek additions. *The mysterious wor-*

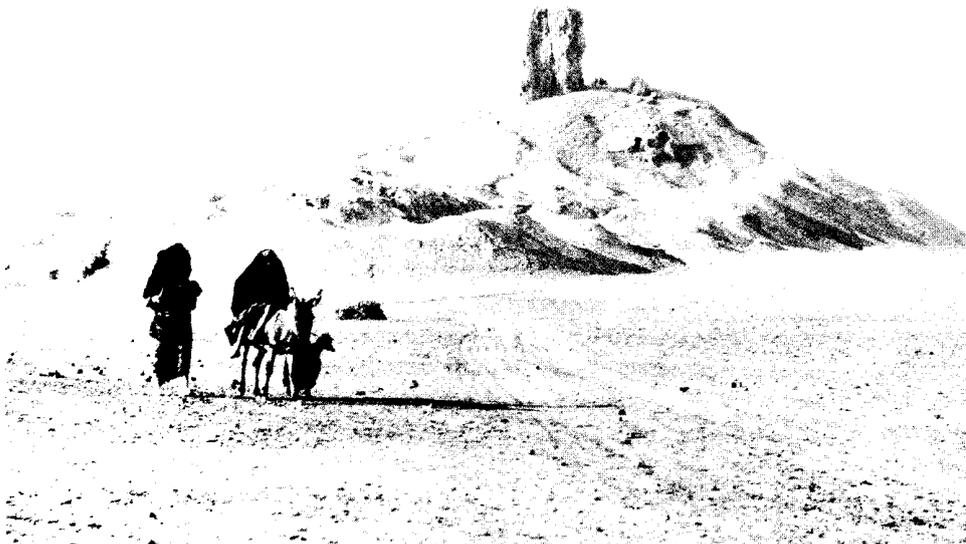
ship . . . in consequence of the widened horizon and the deepening religious feeling, finally the wild SYNCRETISM [that is, blending together of religious beliefs], whose aim WAS A UNIVERSAL RELIGION, all contributed to gain adherents for Simon" (Vol. 1, p. 244).

Simon can be classified among the major group of *so-called* Christians (and Simon called himself such), called by Harnack the: "decidedly anti-Jewish groups. . . . They advanced much further in the criticism of the Old Testament and perceived the impossibility of saving it [that is, the Old Testament] for the Christian UNIVERSAL RELIGION. They rather connected this [universal] religion with the cultus-wisdom of BABYLON and SYRIA" (Vol. 1, p. 246).

With this background, we can understand why Peter so strongly rebuked Simon for his Babylonian ideas. Peter

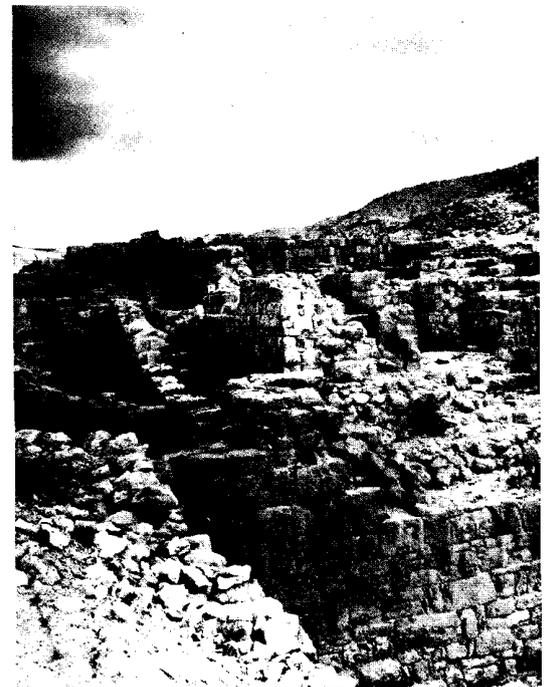
This is the supposed site of the tower of Babel—the home town of the spiritual progenitor of Simon Magus!

Matson Photo



The ruins of Samaria.

Matson Photo



prophesied that this was the man who was to be the "gall of bitterness, and bond of iniquity" to the True Church. Simon's attitude was *corrupt in the extreme!*

The Bible shows he had been working through *demons*. And yet, he finally called himself a "Christian." Dr. McGiffert speaking of Simon Magus says: "His effort to rival and surpass Jesus very likely began *after his contact with the Christians that Luke records*. His religious system was apparently a **SYNCRETISM of Jewish and Oriental elements**" (Hasting's *Dictionary of the Apostolic Church*, Vol. 2, p. 497).

Simon's Later Activities

To read all the material that the writers of the 2nd to the 4th centuries wrote about this man and his followers, would literally take days. He has been called by many of them "*the father of HERESY*," and, apart from the Bible, the amount of literature devoted to him and his activities, shows he lived up to that title.

Some of the following authorities to be brought forth were eye-witnesses of many of the things mentioned, and they were writing to others who were likewise eye-witnesses. Much of the testimony to be mentioned is conclusive and cannot be set aside.

With this evidence of Simon's activities *after his rejection by Peter*, we will clearly be able to see why Luke thought it most important to tell the real condition of this man, proving that he was in actuality NEVER an Apostle of Christ. In this regard, notice the comment of Hasting's *Dictionary of the Apostolic Church*, Vol. 2, p. 496:

"But it need NOT be supposed that when Simon broke with the Christians HE RENOUNCED ALL HE HAD LEARNED. It is more probable that he carried some of the Christian ideas with him and that he wove these into a system of his own. This system did contain some of the later germs of Gnosticism. Thus he became a leader of a retrograde sect, perhaps nominally Christian and certainly using some of the Christian terminology but in reality anti-Christian and exalting Simon himself to the central position which Chris-

tianity was giving to Jesus Christ" (*Ibid.*).

Simon Magus Blends Paganism With Christianity!

What Simon did was to bring in the Babylonian and Greek religious beliefs into a form of Christianity in order to bring about, as Harnack says, a **UNIVERSAL [Catholic] religion**.

"The Amalgam of paganism and Christianity which was characteristic of Gnosticism, and which was especially obvious in the Simonian system, is readily explicable in the teaching of Simon Magus, who, according to the story in Acts, was brought into intimate contact with Christian teaching *without becoming a genuine member*" (*Ibid.*, p. 496).

We further find in Schaff's *History of the Church* a reference to this Simon Magus. He says:

"The author, or first representative of this baptized HEATHENISM, according to the uniform testimony of Christian antiquity, is Simon Magus, who unquestionably adulterated Christianity with pagan ideas and practices, and gave himself out, in a pantheistic style for an emanation of God" (*Apostolic Christianity*, Vol. 2, p. 566).

Simon only used the name of Christianity to bring about his own desired ends. *The Dictionary of Religion and Ethics* says that Simon was "a false Messiah, who practiced magical arts and subsequently attempted, by the aid and with the sanction of Christianity, to set up a rival **UNIVERSAL [Catholic] RELIGION**" (Vol. 11, p. 514).

Again, what do the histories tell us Simon's doctrines consisted of primarily?

"Two independent traditions profess to preserve the teaching of Simon, the one betraying the influence of Alexandrian allegory, the other of Syrian and Babylonian religion" (*Dictionary of Religion and Ethics*, Vol. 11, p. 516).

It is no wonder that Luke hits hard at the *infamy* of Simon—for Simon claimed to be a Christian—even an Apostle—and yet was preaching *Babylonian paganism*. HE WAS CALLING PAGANISM BY THE NAME OF CHRISTIANITY!

"Evidently the Simonian heresy always had a Christian tinge. This made it more dangerous to Christians than a gnostic which did not affect any Christian influence. Luke therefore would be anxious to disclose the true circumstances that accounted for the origin of the sect—circumstances highly discredit-able to Simon" (*Hasting's Bible Dictionary*, p. 498).

The reason Luke recorded this encounter with Simon was its far-reaching effects. As Hasting's explains, the important reason was that of "Luke's well-known plan of describing THE FIRST MEETING between Christianity and rival systems" (*Ibid.*, p. 498).

Luke gives in detail the principal character who established the so-called Christian counterpart of the Truth in the Apostles' days. This is the reason the Apostles in their church letters many times mention the false system as **ALREADY IN EXISTENCE**, but fail to describe its origin. They didn't have to. That was already done **RIGHT AT THE FIRST** by Luke!

Who History Says This Simon Became!

"When Justin Martyr wrote [152 A.D.] his *Apology*, the sect of the Simonians appears to have been formidable, for he speaks four times of their founder, Simon; and we need not doubt that he identified him with the Simon of the Acts. He states that he was a Samaritan, adding that his birthplace was a village called Gitta; he describes him as a formidable magician, and tells that he came to ROME in the days of Claudius Caesar (45 A.D.), and made such an impression by his magical powers, **THAT HE WAS HONORED AS A GOD**, a statue being erected to him on the Tiber, between the two bridges, bearing the inscription 'Simoni deo Sancto' (i.e. the holy god Simon)" (*Dictionary of Christian Biography*, Vol. 4, p. 682).

That these things actually happened **CANNOT BE DOUBTED!** Justin was writing to the Roman people at the time and they could certainly have exposed Justin's credulity if what he said was not so. And, that a statue of Simon was actually erected *is definite*, for
(Please continue on page 24)

The Bible Answers Your Questions

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

How can I prove that the Tribulation and the Day of the Lord are two separate events?

Here is what certain denominations and *men* claim:

"It is again important to emphasize the fact that the day of the Lord is the day of His wrath. So *also is the tribulation*. That is the only explanation of the terrible things that come to pass at that time" (Strombeck, J.F.; *First the Rapture*, p. 47).

But notice what the BIBLE SAYS concerning these two events:

"IMMEDIATELY AFTER *the tribulation* of those days shall the *sun be darkened*, and the *moon shall not give her light*, and the *stars shall fall* from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken" (Matt. 24:29).

Notice, carefully! These are the events recorded to happen *after the Tribulation*:

1. Sun is darkened.
2. Moon doesn't give out light.
3. Stars fall from heaven.
4. Powers of the heavens shaken.

This all happens AFTER THE TRIBULATION!

Now notice another scripture.

Revelation 6:1-11 gives us the first FIVE SEALS. The fifth one is the GREAT TRIBULATION where we find "the souls of them that were slain for the word of God" (Verse 9).

Then we read about the sixth seal—*after the Tribulation!* These are the Heavenly Signs:

"When he had opened the sixth seal [the Tribulation is now over], and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the *sun became black* as sackcloth of hair, and the *moon became as blood*; And the *stars of heaven fell* unto the earth" (Rev. 6:12-13).

So these are the events recorded after THE TRIBULATION—which is the fifth seal:

1. Sun became black.

2. Moon became as blood.
3. Stars fell to the earth.
4. There was a great earthquake.

Compare these with the events in Matthew 24:29. They are *identical*—and occur AFTER the Great Tribulation!

But then a most surprising fact becomes apparent. These events—the Heavenly Signs—occur BEFORE THE DAY OF THE LORD! (Rev. 6:17).

Joel tells us, "I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth . . . The *sun shall be turned into darkness*, and the *moon into blood*, BEFORE the great and the terrible day of the Lord come" (Joel 2:30, 31).

Read very carefully! What does this say?

It says that the *identical signs* (sun being darkened and moon turning to blood)—come AFTER the Great Tribulation (Matt. 24:29; Rev. 6:9, 12, 17)—and BEFORE the Day of the Lord (Joel 2:30, 31)!!!

There is just one conclusion.

First, comes the Great Tribulation; *second*, come the Heavenly Signs; *third*, comes the Day of the Lord. Any men who hold theories to the contrary are found to be in total error. The Bible again is proven to be the perfect Word of God!

Mark these verses in *your own Bible* so you will remember them. Put these cross references in your margin—they will remind you of the answer to the question if it ever comes up again—and you may be able to use it to help someone else!

Greatest Passover Ever!

(Continued from page 8)

the Passover and about 600 were present for the first Holy Day with slightly less in attendance on the other days during the Festival of Unleavened Bread.

Mr. Burk McNair reports: "We certainly enjoyed having Mr. and Mrs. Swisher with us. He gave some very inspiring sermons.

"We were richly blessed to have so many days of loving fellowship among God's people in this area. These Feast Days are like a "shot in the arm" to us and come right at the time of the year needed. We are thankful God ordained these Festivals.

"The harmony and service was outstanding for the entire Feast. Everyone seemed happy and eager to serve for the most part. Each one seemed to be absorbed in the sermons and many seemed reluctant to leave when the last services ended. We are eagerly awaiting the next Feast of Pentecost!"

Passover at Sedalia

The brethren in the Central Midwest were privileged to have available for the very first time, a full eight days of services in Sedalia, Missouri. Mr.

Bryce Clark, District Superintendent, was joined by Mr. Les McCullough—visiting Pastor from Headquarters—in conducting a full Feast of preaching and fellowship for the area members. During the Days of Unleavened Bread, they were also joined by Mr. Roger Foster, Mr. Hal Baird, Mr. Bob Steep and Mr. Art Roesler, who assisted in the preaching and counseling. Members from Nebraska, Kansas, Illinois, Kentucky and Missouri were present at the State Fair Grounds in Sedalia for the Days of Unleavened Bread.

A total of 499 took the bread and wine on the Passover evening. The next day 1350 were present. Although the attendance dropped somewhat during the week, it rose to more than 1300 once again on the last Holy Day and weekly Sabbath.

The opportunity to meet together with all the brethren was greatly appreciated by all who were present, and certainly helped greatly in knitting the Body of Christ more closely together.

Passover at Pittsburgh

Moving further east again, we come to the Pittsburgh area. Nearly 600



brethren — 596 to be exact — observed the Passover at the Perry Theater Auditorium in Pittsburgh. This was in addition to 224 brethren who took the Passover at Detroit and later drove down, when possible, to attend the preaching services during the Days of Unleavened Bread at Pittsburgh.

Mr. Ronald Kelly flew back from Pasadena Headquarters to join Mr. Bill McDowell, Pastor of the area, in conducting the preaching services. They were assisted by Mr. Bob Hoops, and Mr. Arthur Mocarow in the preaching and counseling during the Festival.

The Night To Be Much Remembered was observed by over 1100 of God's people—in spite of a nearly blinding snow storm and nearly four inches of snow on the road. The weather didn't dampen the spirit and enthusiasm of the people, however.

Led by the combined Pittsburgh and Akron Church choirs, the song services throughout the Festival were *particularly inspiring*. The special music showed a great deal of fine talent God has called in this area.



Ambassador College Photo
Even the little children enjoyed to the full both the physical and the spiritual Feast!

On the final Holy Day and weekly Sabbath, many of the brethren came down from the Detroit and Toledo areas—once again in spite of adverse weather conditions. This time a heavy rain was falling.

These additional brethren swelled the final days' attendance to over 1400—filling every nook and cranny of the Perry Auditorium!

The fellowship, spiritual exhortation and fun rounded out another fine Festival season—as usual, the best Feast ever held in the area.

The Passover in New York City

Under the direction of Mr. Raymond Cole—Evangelist and District Superintendent for the entire East Coast—a total of 533 brethren partook of the Passover in New York this spring. The high attendance during the Feast of Unleavened Bread was 941 with over 550 attending even the week-night preaching services.

Some 22 new brethren were buried in baptism just before the Passover, and during the Feast a total of nine ordinations took place—the high point, of course, was the ordination of Mr. Charles Nickel as *Local Elder*, with six Deacons and two Deaconesses also being ordained.

Reports indicate that the brethren experienced a sense of *oneness* and UNITY even in the midst of cold, hectic New York City. Response to the announcements and instructions to help

others was especially heart-warming.

The theme of the sermons was two-fold. First, the meaning of Unleavened Bread in God's over-all plan was expounded; then, especially pointed instruction was given on how to recognize and root out sin.

Joining Mr. Cole in conducting the Passover and preaching services was Dr. Charles Dorothy from Headquarters in Pasadena. Dr. Dorothy—recently ordained to Pastor rank in God's Church—is slated to be the Dean of Instruction at the new Ambassador College near Big Sandy. Also, messages were brought by Mr. Richard Plache, who came up during the middle of the week from Greensboro, and from Mr. Guy Engelbart, *Local Elder* in Philadelphia, from Mr. Rufus Turner, *Local Elder* among the Negroes in New York, and from Mr. Gary Antion—full-time ministerial assistant under Mr. Cole in New York.

The entire church stayed over one evening to hear the Chorale Concert which was most inspiring. The New York Church Chorale is directed by Mr. Leo Bogdanchik—who is slated to become the Musical Director of the Chorale at God's third college in Big Sandy.

So in "Babylon the Great," as Mr. Carlton Smith used to call it when he was there, the brethren experienced a wonderful Feast and *God's* presence and blessing was certainly felt in the assemblies of *His* people!

Passover in the Southeastern United States

Mr. Norman A. Smith—Evangelist from Pasadena Headquarters—flew back to join Mr. Arthur Craig, area minister, in conducting the Passover Festival in Birmingham, Alabama. A full eight-day Festival was observed, with 391 adult members partaking of the Passover and an average of nearly 800 in attendance on the annual Holy Days.

After the Passover and first Holy Day, Mr. Carl McNair came over from Memphis to assist in the preaching and Mr. Virgil Cox, *Local Elder*, also assisted in the preaching and counseling during the Festival.

A most enthusiastic response to the

messages was felt throughout the Festival. An outstanding highlight was the unusual *zeal* and *enthusiasm* Mr. Norman Smith noted among the Florida brethren who were hoping and praying for a local church as soon as possible!

Special events during the Festival included an evening fun show and two special educational movies which were shown.

Here, too, the brethren were sorry to see God's Feast come to an end, and are eagerly looking forward to the coming Festival of Pentecost!

Negro Brethren Meet at Mobile

The Negro brethren of the southeastern section of the United States held the Passover and the first Holy Day at the Armory in Mobile, Alabama, with Mr. Harold L. Jackson of Chicago in charge. Fifty-six people were the recipients of the Passover this year, the first to be held in Mobile. On the following night (The Night To Be Much Remembered), 92 persons held a scrumptious feast after a brief service. As usual, the fellowship and relaxed manner was much in evidence, spiced by the lilting laughter of joyous hearts as all wine and dined in social fellowship.

Sabbath morning 107 seats were taken as the service got under way.

Mr. Edwin Marrs (the *Local Elder*) gave a sermonette showing the right attitude all must be in to produce the fruits of the Spirit. Mr. Jackson followed the theme by explaining the meaning of the Days of Unleavened Bread and the importance of a complete repentant attitude in being effective in putting sin out of our lives.

The afternoon services began with a sermonette by Mr. Marrs showing Gentiles as well as Israelites are recipients of God's blessings (Gal. 3:28, 29). They will also receive of the curses if they do not obey.

The final sermon highlighted the present catastrophic events in relation to Matthew 24:3-12. Also Ezekiel 5, 6, 7; Leviticus 26—with Deuteronomy 28 and Jeremiah 30.

After the service there was a brief pause for dinner before coming together for a social evening.

There were six people added to the

church by baptism, five women and one man. All had much in which to rejoice.

It was, indeed, a happy and joyous Feast.

First Passover Observance in North Carolina

Mr. Richard Plache—area minister—reports that the first Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread to be held in North Carolina proved to be an overwhelming success: "God certainly poured out His abundant blessings upon His Festival in this area. Everything far surpassed even our fondest expectations."

In this new area, a total of 37 were baptized just a short time before the Passover service. In the service itself, the attendance exceeded his expectations and the total number of converted brethren who partook of the Passover finally stood at 248.

For the preaching services on the first Holy Day 432 brethren were found to be in attendance!

In this new area, an unusual expression of *warmth* and *zeal* was expressed. Mr. Plache reports: "The people were filled with boundless thanksgiving and joy. Real love and concern for each other were apparent. Many remarked how wonderful it had been. Renewed determination and zeal to overcome could be seen in the people's expressions. All in all, this Festival will never be forgotten by those who were present, and we look forward to the future anticipating even greater and more wonderful Festivals."

The Passover in Central California

Another area where a full eight days of preaching services were held was at Sacramento, California. Mr. Dennis Luker, area minister, was joined by Mr. Al Carozzo—*Local Elder* from Headquarters—who drove up to assist in the preaching and counseling.

A total of 438 adults took the Passover, with 806 in attendance on the first Holy Day.

God *inspired* Mr. Luker and Mr. Carozzo in the preaching, and reports indicate that the brethren were truly *moved* to want to overcome their hu-

man nature and qualify for the tremendous goal ahead.

The Passover in Arizona

People from the entire state of Arizona plus others from Colorado and New Mexico gathered in Phoenix for the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread. Mr. Vernon Hargrove, local minister, assisted by Mr. Walter Sharp—a graduating Senior from Ambassador College—conducted the services.

One hundred thirty-eight adult brethren took the Passover. There were 276 for The Night To Be Much Remembered and 300 the next day for the preaching services. About 250 were present for the last Holy Day and the weekly Sabbath. An all-day picnic was held on Sunday during the Days of Unleavened Bread. This was the most successful ever as far as total active participation in the games and activities, Mr. Hargrove reports, and the weather was extremely nice for the Holy Days and for the picnic.

Many commented that the Holy Days had more meaning this year than ever before. One man was overheard to say: "I seem to understand twice as much this year as I did last year."

The reply was, "Maybe your ears were twice as open."

For those who threw their hearts

into God's Festival, it was the most wonderful, enjoyable and meaningful Feast yet.

Scattered Passover Services

In addition to the above-mentioned major Festival areas—and the *hundreds* of brethren who may have had to take the Passover in their own homes—there were several areas in the United States where the Passover *only*, or perhaps the Passover and the first Holy Day were observed—with the brethren going into one of the major areas for the preaching services.

Here is a partial summary report of these scattered Passover services: in Wichita, Kansas, a total of 97 brethren partook of the Passover. At Dallas, 245 partook. At Houston, 218 brethren took the symbols of Christ's broken body and shed blood. In San Antonio, 157 partook. In Odessa, 116 partook. In Oklahoma City, 232 partook—plus others who went to Big Sandy.

In St. Louis, 257 adult members partook of the Passover plus 124 in Harrisburg, Illinois, before journeying to Sedalia, Missouri, for the area preaching services. In Memphis, Tennessee, 202 partook of the Passover. And in Minneapolis, Minnesota, 265 partook, with 435 in attendance on the first Holy Day before leaving for the rest of the Festival at Chicago.

Now we will cover the news of the

Passover and Festival observances overseas and around the world!

The Passover in Australia

In the "land down under" there were—for the first time—THREE Passover observances this year.

In Sydney, our local Headquarters Church in that area, 179 members partook of the Passover with 312 in attendance on the "Night To Be Much Observed."

God's Evangelist in charge of the Work in Australia, Mr. Wayne Cole, conducted all services in Sydney. His sermons were "meat in due season"—giving the history and *meaning* of the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread from both the Old and New Testaments as applies to God's people and the world.

The theme of the sermons was the URGENCY of *seeing* the leaven in ourselves, *admitting* it and being *zealous*, dedicated and determined to *put it out* of our lives. Toward the end of the meetings, several were mentioning their desire to return for Pentecost and their realization that time is "running out" for all of us doing God's Work.

In Melbourne, Mr. Bill Winner conducted the Passover with 103 partaking and with an attendance of 179 on the Feast Night and about the same for the first Holy Day services. These figures

Mr. Norman Smith is making announcements here in the fine hall available to the brethren in Birmingham—gathered from throughout the Southeast.
Ambassador College Photo



represent a sixty-six per cent increase in attendance over last year's Passover and a fifty-six per cent increase for the Feast!

The *first* Passover service ever held in the Brisbane Church was conducted by Clarence Huse with 65 present. This attendance was in spite of constant rain and flooding, and 125 attended the Feast on the following evening. Mr. Huse reports that everyone willingly "pitched in" to make the Festival in Brisbane a long-remembered event.

In these three Australian Church areas, a total of 22 repentant persons were baptized just before the Passover and during the Festival! So God's Work is certainly GROWING in Australia—and let us *not forget* these brethren in our prayers!

Passover and Festival Observances in Great Britain

Only incomplete reports are in from Britain as yet, but news has come that at our London Headquarters there were 294 who took the Passover. This is an increase of 70 over the number who partook last year. Then, on the "Night To Be Remembered," they had 455 in attendance.

One member reported that there were *excellent* sermons during the Feast, with Mr. Raymond McNair and Mr. Charles Hunting—God's Evangelists—leading in the preaching, assisted by Dr. Benjamin Rea, Mr. Ronald Dart, Mr. Ernest Martin and the other ministers in Britain.

Many brethren came over from Germany and other countries on the Continent. The beautiful new dining hall on our English campus was packed for the Feast Days, and two rooms upstairs were also used where they employed closed-circuit TV for those who could not attend the services in the dining hall. So our brethren in Great Britain also enjoyed a wonderful and inspiring Feast—one that will be long remembered!

The Festival in South Africa

Mr. Gerald Waterhouse—God's Evangelist in charge of His Work in South Africa—reports: "Jesus Christ has just led us through a very *successful* and *inspiring* Festival season here

in Johannesburg, South Africa! It was very much in evidence that Jesus Christ was leading the activities in this *part* of His Body!

"Regardless of the sermon topic, Jesus Christ inspired a definite THEME throughout the entirety of our meetings—that of our being a *part* of His Body with HEADQUARTERS in Pasadena, California! This theme clearly showed He, through His Headquarters, is directing this great Work, which is not only proclaiming the Gospel as a witness, but also preparing us to assist Him in WORLD RULE when He sets His hand to RE-EDUCATE mankind to God's WAY OF LIFE! In fact, it became clearer with each sermon that the WAY TO COME OUT OF SIN is by being re-educated to God's way of life!

"The surety and quickness by which God's WAY produces *rewarding* RESULTS was much in evidence to the congregation when they *saw* the FRUITS produced through the *application* of God's METHOD of CHILD REARING set forth in the booklet on 'The PLAIN TRUTH About CHILD REARING.'

"At the close of the weekly Sabbath following the Days of Unleavened Bread, the brethren departed with *great JOY* in knowing there is a *sure* and *accurate* and *rewarding* WAY by which we qualify for positions in God's Kingdom and with *greater* DETERMINATION to be more profitable members of the Body of Jesus Christ in the months and years to come.

"Now to a few statistics and other details about the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread. On the evening of March 26, 85 of us observed the Passover (42 were present last year). The following evening, 150 gathered on the 'Night To Be Much Observed Unto the Lord' and rejoiced that God has delivered us from sin! In the daylight part of this first Holy Day, the *same number* attended both the morning and afternoon services, with a 'covered-dish' meal in between. All-day services continued throughout the remainder of the Festival, as well as on the weekly Sabbath of April 4. The attendance never dropped below 142 at any of the meetings and by the last meeting rose to 153! This was very gratifying in that it showed an increase

of sixty-four per cent over the *Feast of Tabernacles* last year when our top attendance was 93. Just before and during the Festival, 29 people were BAPTIZED which helped to promote this good increase in attendance.

"The brethren were surely inspired to see the assistance Christ has given me to make this the MOST SUCCESSFUL Festival thus far in South Africa! Mr. Ernest Williams, who was ordained a Local Elder on March 7 of this year, assisted by giving sermons and sermonettes and in the over-all direction of the Festival. Too, the people were encouraged to hear one of their own countrymen, Mr. Adrain Botha, give three helpful sermonettes.

"In that Christ has extended this same help to His Body in other parts of the world, we know that God's Church has been greatly *edified* and *strengthened* through the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread. Now we are looking forward to Pentecost and the Feast of Tabernacles, knowing that God surely does help and give a GOOD UNDERSTANDING to those who OBEY Him *in keeping the Festivals* He has ORDAINED to keep His Church mindful of His PLAN OF SALVATION!"

Passover in the Philippines

From the Philippines, Mr. Pedro Ortiguero—our Local Elder there—reports that 513 of God's people partook of the Passover this year and many more attended the daily services and Bible studies. Due to the geographical location of the brethren on the islands in the Philippines, the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread were observed in *six different locations!*

Mr. Ortiguero reports that an especially inspiring service was held at San Nicolas, on the island of Luzon. Mr. Ortiguero states: "On the appointed time, shortly after sunset of March 26, 47 people assembled together for the Passover, quietly and reverently. All the things were prepared in advance—wash tubs, water, towels, bread, wine and seats in their proper places. The procedure of the Passover as contained in the loose-leaf binder from the Headquarters was followed very well.

"On the light part of the day—the



Ambassador College Photo

The Combined Chicago-LaGrange Chorale sings "Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor" as Mrs. Joyce Hitch portrays the Statue of Liberty in the grand finale of "Panorama America."

27th—we did not meet but instructed the brethren to take out leaven from their quarters. A caribou was butchered and distributed to all the brethren. Each family prepared its own food, except those new ones who were not prepared. They ate in our dining hall. Some of the older women helped prepare their food.

"In the Festivals, there were three times in which we all ate together—everyone bringing covered dishes. The eating together was done at the beginning of the Days of Unleavened Bread, one at the middle and one at the last day. The accounts of Acts 2:1, 42-46 were very much like the recent Festivals. It was surely a day of rejoicing and happiness.

"From the first day to the last day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, daily services and Bible studies were conducted. On the Night To Be Much Remembered, I had a short service speaking on the meaning of the first day and after this we had a feast. We had a variety of delicious food—Filipino dishes.

"My subjects covered during the whole period of God's Festival were all about doctrines, and some about prophecy, happy living and other things vital to the brethren. I followed the subjects outlined before the Festivals which list was sent to Headquarters. All of those who attended the Festivals were strengthened in their faith. Mr. Ames, God's Director of the Work in the Philippines was able to be with

us for the last day and for the Sabbath Day following the Festival.

"The Feast was ended with rejoicing, and on the following Sunday (April 5) all had gone to their respective places."

The Passover in Martinique and in Central Africa

Our representative on the island of Martinique—where many are being converted to God's Truth through the French broadcast—reports: "This is to bring you good news from all of us here in Martinique. We are in the middle of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and there is great joy and a feeling of gratitude to our Heavenly Father when we meet together.

"Seventy-two were present for the

first day of the Feast. I cannot express the joy we experienced at our services. . . ."

And a brief note from Mr. Joseph Mwambula, our representative in Northern Rhodesia, states: "Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We had a very good time in God's Holy Days where we have studied God's plan to save mankind from the ways of sin and death.

"We thank the ALMIGHTY GOD through the *Radio Church of God* where God chose His own people to preach the good news for the coming Kingdom. The Kingdom of God where Christ will rule in justice.

"We had a very profitable time in the annual Holy Days we had, and it was a blessing to us who attended Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. We had Bible studies and services in those days. We were very glad to meet with brethren and sisters."

We Have a WORK to Perform

Each of us should REJOICE that we have brethren *all around this earth* who join with us in the true *worship* and *service* of our God! No matter what our nationality, race, education or social background, we are all *bound together* in one Body—the Church of God.

"So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another" (Rom. 12:5).

Let us, therefore, remember to *sincerely* and *fervently* PRAY for our brethren everywhere! Through keeping in touch with the scattered churches and members of Christ's Body, through keeping our minds on where CHRIST is working—let us grow in the deep LOVE and *concern* we should have toward one another .

As we consider the manifold *blessings* of this recent Passover season, let us realize that we probably only have SEVEN or EIGHT more Passovers left before we will have to flee to a place of safety from the Great Tribulation! Every evidence is that our brethren in Australia, South Africa and some other areas have *even fewer* Passovers left to observe in their own lands before fleeing!

So let us keep our hearts and minds centered on God's swift-moving PLAN and on the Work He has given us to perform! Jesus said: "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: *the night cometh, when no man can work*" (John 9:4).

We are fast approaching the blackest "night" in human history! We have

a JOB to do—a Divinely commissioned WORK to perform!

With deep *love* for one another and *worship* toward our God, let us *diligently* put sin totally out of our lives—set the world a right example—and unitedly THUNDER God's Message to this dying world before the darkness closes in upon us!

Mr. Leon Ettinger, leading the Ambassador College Chorale, added inspiring music to the Festival menu.

Ambassador College Photo



Personal . . . from the Editor

(Continued from page 2)

what he *assumed* to be true. Indeed, it may have *appeared* to be the correct exposition of the passage to most readers.

As Editor of *The GOOD NEWS* not only, but also of *The PLAIN TRUTH* and the Bible CORRESPONDENCE COURSE, it might be expected to be my responsibility to check carefully all manuscripts for all these publications before they are set to type. But there are not enough of me to do that—beside all the other responsibilities. And somehow, this particular manuscript got by the Executive, Managing, and Senior Editors without being caught.

Yet when I read it in print in the magazine, after returning again to England, I was really shocked with dismay to read such a glaring misuse of a passage of Scripture in God's own publication for His Church! It is, in fact, what I should have expected to find in the journals of *this* world's churches. Had I read it in one of them, I should have considered it another example of their twisting and wresting the Word of God.

But for those who really do *TREMBLE* before the sacred Word of GOD, such careless and misleading use of a verse of Scripture should never occur. I am personally grieved, mortified and *hurt* that it did—and I am shoving aside all other work, pressing though it is, to type this Editorial and rush it into the very next issue of *The GOOD NEWS*.

And I hasten to assure all members of God's Church that all editors and writers for *The GOOD NEWS* and *The PLAIN TRUTH* shall have been severely cautioned and warned—before you read this—to be more careful and more diligent in checking what goes into these publications. Actually the article in question was written by a young man who is an advanced student at Ambassador College, not yet graduated. But it certainly was the responsibility of those of us who *are* God's ordained ministers of highest rank and are the *Editors* of the official magazine of God's Church, to check most carefully

any article written by an unordained and inexperienced young man, before allowing it to appear in *The GOOD NEWS*. I personally apologize and assure our readers we shall try to be much more careful hereafter.

The article in question began on page 13, issue of April, 1964. It is captioned "IS THE BIBLE A PROTESTANT BOOK?"

Of course all members of God's Church realize, I'm sure, that most of the writings called the Old Testament were written, originally, in the Hebrew language, and all of the New Testament was written in the Greek. Our Bibles, in the English language, have been translated into English from the Hebrew and the Greek languages. The article in question was concerned with the Greek texts from which our English Bibles have been translated.

I'm sure you also realize that today there exist only Hebrew and Greek *copies* of the Scriptures. The actual pieces of paper, sheep-skin or papyrus on which Moses wrote—or on which Peter, Paul, or Luke wrote originally, are no longer in existence, as far as men know. These original writings were *copied* by trained and professional scribes or copyists. But there are hundreds of copies. The question in the article concerned *which* of these many, many *copies* in the Hebrew, and in the Greek, are the accurate and *true* copies, containing the *exact* Hebrew and Greek *words* that were in the originals. Humans make mistakes. Humans have done the copying. Which are free from either mistakes, or from deliberate alterations?

The article gave *PROOF* that God *used* the Jews in preserving accurate and true copies of the Old Testament in the Hebrew language. Also the article, at first, made clear that it was GOD who actually preserved the *exact same words*, in the *true* Hebrew and Greek *copies*, that He had *inspired* in the original writings. He merely *used* the Jews as His instruments in accurately copying and re-copying (as copies became used, worn, and old with age)

the Hebrew texts of the Old Testament. All this was true and accurate. God actually committed the "*oracles of God*"—that is, the actual *written words* of these Scriptures—to the Jews (Romans 3:2).

But the glaring *ERROR* which slapped me in the face with shock, amazement, and dismay, occurred in the middle column of page 18. The question is asked: "To whom then was the New Testament given for preservation and transmission?" And I was actually horrified to read the answer: "Romans 1:16 reveals the answer." And then, the writer only *partially* quoted that verse, *omitting the vital words!* Here is what actually got into print in *The GOOD NEWS*:

"Romans 1:16 reveals the answer. 'For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ . . . to the Jew first, and *also to the Greek.*'"

By omitting the vital words in the middle of the sentence—and the three periods denote that words, supposedly without altering the meaning, have been omitted) and by emphasizing the words "also to the Greek," it was made to *appear* to say, "The *writings*, preservation, and transmission of the New Testament was committed to the Greek."

BUT IT DID NOT SAY THAT AT ALL!

The words left out of that verse were, and I italicize them here: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: *for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*" That is the whole verse.

That verse *DOES NOT SAY* the Greek words were committed TO the Greeks. It says the POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION was *PREACHED TO* the *JEW*S—and then, *secondly*, also to the Greeks! It is not talking about preservation of *Greek copies* BY the Greeks, and denied to the Jews—as *this article falsely claims*—but of preaching the Gospel *TO* THE *JEW*S first and primarily—and then, also to the Greeks. It says SALVATION is open to EVERYONE—first to the Jews, but ALSO to Greeks—EVERYONE!

Brethren of God's Church, if I did not know that this was merely a care-
(Please continue on page 23)

WITNESS FOR CHRIST--

How should you witness for Christ? Wrong witnessing has caused heartache and grief. Learn how you can PROPERLY witness for Christ.

by Selmer L. Hegvold

WHY IS IT that nowhere in the pages of *The GOOD NEWS* magazine can you find any reference to the Church of God *missionaries* in China, in the Congo, in Brazil or in the Arctic regions of Eskimo land?

Are we failing in a major commission from Christ, the Living Head of His Church, when He commanded, "Ye shall be *witnesses* unto me . . . unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)?

How can the world be alerted to the terrible calamities that are already beginning to occur unless it receives our witness? Will God hold *you* responsible if you fail to witness for Christ? If so, *HOW should you witness for Christ?*

Witnesses Continue to Witness

We know this to be the *one True Church of God* carrying out the end-

time commission to a dying world. Yet many other churches are vigorously engaged in vast missionary programs, expending millions of dollars in missionary expeditions, schools and medical programs for the underprivileged peoples of the world in far-away places. Are these also witnessing for Christ?

Are the many and varied religions preaching the *name* of Christ, after all, carrying out the commission for Christ in making known the very name of the Saviour in these areas of the world? Are they really doing God a service, saving the Church of the Living God untold expenses, and preparing the way for *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast in many of these places where ignorance of the name of Christ would have to be overcome?

The *name* of Jesus Christ is being carried by these missionaries to all the far corners of the world—and still *over one-half* of the population of this

world has *never even heard that name!* Faced with this astounding fact—we *should be vitally concerned* over exactly what Christ expects *us* to do about it.

We *know* that the end of the age is *very close* at hand. Are we falling down on this great commission?

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a *witness* unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matt. 24:14). *That is a direct commission!*

The Urge to Witness

Scores of letters from members in God's Church testify to the fact that God's people are filled with the urge to witness to others. Listeners to *The WORLD TOMORROW* program the world over are thrilled to report results, both good and bad, of their *witnessing for Christ*.

Here's an excerpt from such a letter: "My seven-year-old son just finished

Such "witnessing" as you see in this photo only turns people from the real Christ! It is also a flagrant breaking of the commandment against taking God's name in vain. Ambassador College Photo



his first year of school. I teach him against pagan traditions. The teacher had those who had been to Sunday school hold up their hands. He didn't, so she asked him why not. He said *it was the Devil's day.*"

Consider this person's attitude. She was happy over her son's prompt rejoinder. Was she happy only that her son knew the truth?—or was she proud of her son's boldness in "witnessing"?

The urge to "witness" is a universal urge—but it can be a tool of Satan the Devil! Some of us have put ourselves, unwittingly, into his hands.

"Witnesses" support their proselyting excursions with these scriptures: "Who-soever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 10:32, 33). *Also*, "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and *with the mouth confession is made unto salvation*" (Rom. 10:9, 10). Again, "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels" (Mark 8:38). Are they right?

Has God charged each of us to proclaim the Gospel to unwilling ears? We need to understand. What responsibility has God rested upon us as His servants—Christians—His begotten children? Most are pursuing the wrong way!

The Wrong Way

A young teen-age girl writes: "Mamma burnt a picture of Santa Claus that one of Daddy's friends gave him and in turn Daddy burnt all of our [Bible Correspondence] courses. I am sorry to have to quit it. I would love to take it."

Some are incensed to anger over the idolatrous practices of those around, and the anger of this girl's mother exploded into unwise actions. That is *not* the way to witness for Christ. Though sincere in what she did, the

results—the fruits—backfired instantly upon her!

Another very enthusiastic follower of Christ, with misguided zeal, writes: "I teach the teen-age class in our church and have discarded our denominational quarterly and have embarked on a study of the Bible as it is written. Would you please send me all of the available publications that you offer, that I might be guided in the right paths. *I have the opportunity of helping shape these young minds.* Since we have started this method of conducting our Sunday-school class, enthusiasm has been at an all-time high." From literally hundreds of sad experiences of others we can predict that this man is headed straight for one of the most shocking disappointments that can come to any individual. His days as a teacher of young people in that denomination are numbered!

These are just a very few examples of over-zealous individuals. There are other far more tragic instances that have *wrecked homes and lives.*

Ignorance Is Dangerous

Some have shrugged off persecutions—reveled in a sense of martyrdom—quoting Christ, "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household" (Matt. 10:34-36). Ignorance over "witnessing" has caused broken homes, physical violence and even death!

Known instances are all too numerous in which such individuals have been committed to mental institutions as being fanatically unbalanced—unsafe to mingle with society. These are the *reported cases!* Scores of others are never reported!

Brethren, *we need to HEED!* Many thousands of you are suffering unnecessarily. We are forced to conclude that *there is hardly a family* (in the very Body of Christ) that is free of *guilt* in this very grave fault. It is *NOT too late for change!* Turn about! Go the way

of Christ! Not the way that *seems RIGHT to you* (Prov. 16:25)!

Confused Individuals

So many in spiritually divided homes are baffled because their mates or their relatives fail to understand the plain Word of God. They preach endlessly to no avail. The literature left lying around is all too obvious, but it fails to rouse any spark of interest.

One man, now active in God's Work, for years could not be used at all because of his endless devices to "cram his religion down his wife's throat." Her violent reactions brought their marriage to the brink of divorce. Desperate to save his marriage, he *yielded* to advice wholeheartedly. Thereafter he never allowed religious matters to be discussed under any circumstances in his home.

He listened to *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast in the *PRIVACY of his car*; he arranged his study and prayer time so that it *NEVER INTERFERED* with any of the family activities. He resumed *taking his family to ACTIVITIES* that they had formerly loved so much. He began to *live* once more *WITH his family!* *HIS LIGHT BEGAN TO SHINE.* *The results were phenomenal!*

No longer was his wife on the defensive. The "din" had ceased. She began to note remarkable changes in his personality, his character. What she saw she liked. His consideration, cheerfulness and enthusiasm became irresistible. The family sparked into new life . . . tragedy of another broken home averted.

Within weeks this woman was earnestly studying and preparing for baptism. Needless to say, she is, today, a member in God's Church.

Mental institutions are full of misguided "witnesses for Christ," incarcerated by equally well-meaning, misguided and concerned relatives. Psychiatric treatment, bodily injury and even death, has come to those who witness wrongly.

Not Up to You to CONVERT Others

Does *witnessing for Christ mean PREACHING CHRIST?* The most power-

ful witness for Christ is YOUR *OWN* CHANGED LIFE!

David was such a witness. He served God as perfectly as any human being has been able to do. He *did not go about the countryside* preaching hour after hour. His conduct, his integrity, honesty and loyalty to his duty as king over all Israel spoke louder than words. He made grievous mistakes, yet God promised him kingship over all Israel in the Millennium. Here was a man after God's own heart (Ezek. 34:23 and Acts 13:22), after he had bitterly repented (Ps. 51:3, 10).

John said, "My little children, let us not love *in word*, neither *in tongue*; BUT IN DEED AND IN TRUTH" (I John 3:18). Jesus said, "GO NOT FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE" (Luke 10:7)! That is plain speaking! Those commissioned to preach were to go ONLY to those who were obviously seeking enlightenment.

Paul said, "And God hath set *some* in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers. . . . Are all apostles? are all prophets? *are all teachers?*" (I Cor. 12:28, 29). We find we have far more "teachers" than God ordained to that office! God inspired the Apostle James to warn, "My brethren, *be not many masters* [teachers], knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. . . . Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation [conduct] *his works* with meekness of wisdom" (James 3:1, 13). A teacher of others carries a terrible responsibility. He *answers directly to Christ* for his influence. "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Heb. 10: 31)!

Common Witnessing Faults

Some *refuse to salute the flag* of the country that gives them the freedom to worship, to choose their own vocation and to rear their families in the way they choose. That stand is NOT SCRIPTURAL! That is *false witnessing*. Such as hold this wrong tenet bring *persecution upon themselves!* The scriptural answer was given by Paul, "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers [ruling government under which each lives] . . . Render therefore to all their

dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour" (Rom. 13:1, 7).

The call to *jury duty* often has prompted unwise public statements such as, "My CHURCH does not advocate any human being judging another human being by the laws of men." Such unfortunate statements have brought reproach on this Work of God! (For further information regarding jury duty, write the Letter Answering Department of Ambassador College.)

More than one has PREACHED to his employer—or fellow employee—on the subject of the Sabbath, the Holy Days, or the celebrations the company sponsors.

Lack of wisdom is a shocking reality in the character of far too many of you! This lack has often caused unnecessary unemployment. The reasons have been painfully apparent.

Never express your limitations to an employer. Point out your favorable abilities. Be honest, but not wordy. Your willingness to work overtime at other times than on the Sabbath, your dedication, your frankness, your loyalty and your good WORKMANSHIP will tide you over any crisis that arises. You need not witness with your mouth to gain or hold a job.

Here Is How

WITNESS FOR CHRIST IN ACTION, IN WORKS, IN CONDUCT—NOT IN WORDS!

The WORLD TOMORROW broadcast reaches into every continent on earth—over twenty-two million watts of power. That is GOD'S WAY of evangelizing the world! *Man's way* is to cram religion down the throats of others. Remember!—"NO MAN CAN COME TO ME, EXCEPT THE FATHER WHICH HATH SENT ME DRAW HIM" (John 6:44)! God has His way of doing this.

Your example of radiant happiness and joy; your sincere desire to serve others in menial tasks; your honesty, loyalty, dependability; your cleanliness, your orderliness and your vital zest for living are THE TRUE WITNESS God expects of you! In Christ's words, "LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE BEFORE MEN [*not your voice so sound before men*],

that they may SEE [*not hear*] your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 5:5-16).

Here is the proper way to witness for Christ. Can you do this? Christ says YOU CAN!

"If ye KNOW these things, happy are ye if ye DO them!" (John 13:17).

Visiting Program or Gestapo?

(Continued from page 4)

that personal contact with servants of Jesus Christ that they so desperately need—and fervently desire!

The Visiting Program was established to HELP, to SERVE, to satisfy a definite need! It was NOT established as an "elite corps" of furtive SPIES who are busily engaged in "checking up" into the private lives of members to see what evils they can uncover.

The Men on the Visiting Program

The men on the Visiting Program are HUMAN beings, filled with their own problems, all very similar to yours! But they are, nevertheless, men of sufficient spiritual growth and integrity that they have been chosen to assist the pastors and the ministers in offering patient, sincere, earnest and willing help for the many thousands of hungering sheep of God's flock who are scattered abroad.

MOST of these men have wives, families, homes. Usually, they must do their visiting during hours when *you brethren* may be found at home! This means, *after* the daily working hours, and at a time which would be both convenient (AFTER dinner, usually) and helpful.

This means our members of the Visiting Program must be *away* from their own wives and families in order to be in YOUR homes at such a convenient hour.

Let's get the true picture.

MANY of these men receive absolutely NO REMUNERATION for their services. MANY have visited spiritually hungry brethren at their own expense, using their own automobiles, paying for their own gas and meals. Others, while having their gasoline and meals

(if any) supplied by the Church, are receiving *no* regular salary or pay from the Church, whatsoever.

Of course, if a man is FULL-TIME in Christ's ministry, either as an ordained Pastor, or Elder—or as an unordained "second man," *assisting* the local pastor in the field, he is probably paid a salary of which he is eminently *worthy*.

Remember, God says those who labor in *word* and *doctrine* are worthy of DOUBLE salaries! (I Tim. 5:17). God's Work is simply unable to *pay* salaries which would be approximately *double* that of an average wage-earner, today. However, YOUR BIBLE—yes, the God-breathed, inspired Holy *Scriptures*, say it would be good if they *could* be paid at this rate!

Yet, MANY of the men on the Visiting Program receive absolutely NO PAY, whatever!

And this is *not wrong*. It is GOOD for them to be *so blessed* as to be able to serve—doing it *willingly*, of a "ready mind," and NOT doing it for physical gain.

This is a BLESSING for them, not a curse. It is a great *opportunity* to be able to SERVE—to HELP—and to do it freely and voluntarily.

I explain these points thoroughly, so all of the brethren will understand these men are NOT members of a Church-founded CIA, FBI, MVD, or Gestapo!

They are physical human beings with problems of their own. They have wives, children, homes of their own. They have jobs, physical disabilities, temptations and frustrations—*just like yours!* However, they HAVE shown by the "fruits" in their own private lives that they have begun to make *real progress*, through the help of God's Holy Spirit, in OVERCOMING these problems!

They have become, spiritually, *leaders*. It is BECAUSE they have begun to master, through the help of God's Spirit, their OWN problems that they are able to *help you* master yours.

It is because they *are* men of past mistakes, faults, wrong habits and misdeeds—but men that have become thoroughly *converted* that they have been specially selected for the Visiting

Program! These men earnestly *desire* to help and to serve. They have a literal "*burden*" for the brethren. They sense and feel *deeply* your private and personal struggles—knowing how similar are their own!

It is with THIS motivation these men are diligently striving to wait on, serve and help their own brethren in Jesus Christ, engaged in the same life-or-death struggle as they!

No wonder it deeply saddens and cuts them to see professing "members" play a furtive game of hide-and-seek when the sincere brethren of Jesus Christ come to call!

Are YOU Truly a Member of Christ's Body?

Surely by now you've read enough articles, or heard enough sermons, and studied in your own Bible to thoroughly *know* the definition of a true Christian!

The Apostle Paul said, "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His" (Rom. 8:9). The Spirit of Jesus Christ, dwelling IN (Gal. 2:20) us, will give us the very *fruits* of the Holy Spirit of God. "But the *fruit of the Spirit* is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law!" (Gal. 5:22-23).

Are *these fruits* truly evident in your private life? If they ARE, then GOD knows. Remember, God *sees the heart* (Jer. 17:10). God the Father and Christ His Son are the silent *witnesses*, along with multiple *millions of angels*, to EVERY deed, action, thought, impulse, lust, desire that makes up your innermost life.

We can't deceive God!

Doesn't it seem to be a little ridiculous, then, that we should try to *deceive one another*? To quote from a recent Visiting Program Report, "More and more cases are coming to light of people "kidding" themselves and trying to deceive the Visiting Teams also, concerning their personal habits and lives."

But, brethren, it is not the Visiting

Program you are deceiving, and you certainly cannot deceive God—if you are living in this fashion, you are truly DECEIVING YOURSELF! James says, "If any man among you *seem to be religious* [that is, outwardly "appears" to be a member, *seems to be*—but isn't!], and bridleth not his tongue, but *deceiveth his own heart*, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, *To visit* the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world!" (Jas. 1:26-27).

Yes, brethren, it is *possible* to deceive your own self! It is truly *possible* to be living ONE kind of life in secret, in private, and trying to "APPEAR" to be living a totally *different* kind of life before the brethren!

Something To Hide?

Let's be honest. Let's admit what is obvious.

The *only reason* ANYONE would act in such a furtive manner as has been described in this article, when the Visiting Program comes to call, is because he has *something to hide!*

But who is he hiding it from?

Not from God. Not from himself. He is only attempting to HIDE it from other men!

But this is proved to be, by your own Bible, *vain*.

Why bother, brethren? What difference does it make? What good does it do? Why carry on the agony? Why prolong the wearisome, nettlesome, fearful struggle any further? Your Bible THUNDERS, through the voice of Elijah, "If God be God—then SERVE HIM!" Elijah *thundered* at the people during his day, "CHOOSE you this day whom you shall serve!"

Have YOU made this choice? Are you truly a servant, a fellow member in the Church (which is the *Body*) of the Living Jesus Christ? Are you a brother, or a sister *with those on the Visiting Program*, with your pastors, teachers and elders? *Are you a child of God?*

If so, then you are going to truly *rejoice*—and rejoice *deeply* to have an opportunity to SHARE your personal

problems and Bible questions with those whom *God* has called and is using on His Visiting Program.

You will experience absolutely *no emotion* except one of *love, joy, peace*—a sense of expectation and *fervent desire* to get into another *private Bible study and sincere talk* with those of like faith, those who have truly *dedicated* themselves to *SERVE*, when the Visiting Program arrives!

You will realize it is a *rare opportunity*. You will treat it like a real *PRIVILEGE*—and make real *USE* of the time!

Remember, these men are not already perfect—they are not powerful overlords; awesome, frightening personalities; members of a secret service; or spies!

They are, rather, sincere, converted, *dedicated men* whose lives are being *given* in service so that *YOU* might have an even better opportunity to grow in grace and in knowledge—finally being *born* of *God*!

Treat the Visiting Program like brothers—*welcome* them into your home like members of *your own family*—for that's what they truly *ARE*!

Personal . . . from the Editor

(Continued from page 18)

less mistake by an overly eager undergraduate college student, which through carelessness was not caught by any of us who are Editors, I would say that this is absolutely reprehensible! It slapped me a stinging blow in the face! I am mortified and ashamed! And I hasten to do what I can to *CORRECT* it!

This verse *HAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING WHATSOEVER TO DO WITH COMMITTING THE PRESERVATION OR TRANSMISSION OF WRITINGS—THE NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES TO ANYBODY*—and, if it *did* refer to committing this custodianship to anybody, it says, *PLAINLY, "TO THE JEW FIRST."* Notice the context. In the preceding verse, Paul desired to go to Rome "to *PREACH* the Gospel to you that are at Rome also." "*TO PREACH*"—not *preserve WRITINGS!*

Yes, I am shocked, humiliated, and ashamed. In all the years of my ministry as the called and chosen Minister of Jesus Christ, I have always tried, above all else, to be *HONEST* with the *WORD OF GOD*! I am sure there was no intended dishonesty on the part of this student writer—but I do promise you Brethren—*God's flock*, over which He has made me chief human overseer and shepherd—that there is going to be a definite "tightening of our belts" by the Editors of this magazine—and any further articles by younger, inexperienced, unordained men will hereafter be checked and double checked for accuracy and *TRUTH!*

But that two paragraphs is not all. This young writer jumped to his conclusion from that one *MISAPPLIED* verse of Scripture, and based the remaining half of his article on it!

Just two paragraphs later, he says: "We saw the principle in Romans 1:16 that *God* was going to use the Greek-speaking world to *preserve and copy* the New Testament canon." Brethren, as your Pastor General, I apologize for that and say to you, *WE SAW NO SUCH THING* in Romans 1:16!

Again, two more paragraphs after that, he wrote: "But the Greeks were given the responsibility to *copy and transmit* the New Testament canon." And his next words are: "The truth of Romans 1:16. . ."

The very fact that the words above, "*preserve and copy*," and "*copy and transmit*," were emphasized in italics, makes the error the more glaring and *INEXCUSABLE!*

I certainly never expected to see, in either *The PLAIN TRUTH*, or in *The GOOD NEWS*—both of which magazines *God* founded and established by me, this method of giving false and distorted and misapplied Scriptures as the basis for a conclusion, and then assuming the conclusion to be true! The only thing I can do now, is *CORRECT* it!

Now in the paragraph last above quoted he mentioned "many interesting historical developments" as giving some indication that *God* preserved the Greek-language copies of the New Testament through the Greek people

rather than by the *ROMAN Catholic Church*. And that is true. There are historical developments, some covered in the latter part of this article in question, which give indication that the *GREEK* copies, not the *LATIN* copies of the Roman Church, are the accurate ones. But the article seemed, from that point on, to assume that *God* turned the custodianship of the New Testament portion of *HIS WORD* over to heathen Gentile Greeks of the Greek Catholic Church, as if *God* had "bowed out," and we must *RELY ON* the Greek Catholic Church. *THAT ASSUMPTION IS UTTERLY UNTRUE!*

Our sole *RELIANCE* is on the living *JESUS CHRIST*, and Almighty *GOD* the Father. It is *GOD* who has seen to it that men, in spite of themselves, have been made to accurately preserve *HIS HOLY WORD!*

God's Church does not rely on the Greek Catholic Church. It is merely one branch of the *FALSE Church* founded by Simon Magus in 33 A.D. We look to other, far more dependable factors to determine *which* are the *accurate* Greek texts. Actually, the *CONCLUSIONS* of the article were approximately the truth. No one would have been harmed or misled by the article—but it is simply intolerable to me to misapply, twist, or wrest *GOD'S WORD*, even to present a true conclusion.

To confess and quickly to *CORRECT* a mistake is no sign of weakness, but of *STRENGTH*. I know of no other Church which has the courage to do it. Those in *God's own Church* must be humbled and completely yielded to *HIM!*

PLEASE NOTE MAP ERROR

The map with the churches, Bible studies, offices and Feast sites appearing with the *MARCH GOOD NEWS* showed Vancouver, B. C., Canada, as a Feast site. Vancouver will *NOT* be a Feast site, but should be keyed as an *office* and church site. Please change this on your map.

Simon Magus Begins Universal Church

(Continued from page 10)

Justin asks the authorities in Rome to destroy it!

There are many writers, who lived in Rome itself, who afterwards repeated Justin's account. Those who want to reject these clear statements have nothing in their favor. Justin is clearly giving us fact!

Hasting's *Dictionary of the Apostolic Church*, Vol 2, p. 496, states that there is "very slight evidence on which to reject so precise a statement as Justin makes; a statement he would scarcely have hazarded in an apology addressed to Rome, where every person had the means of ascertaining its accuracy. If he made a mistake, it must have been at once exposed, and other writers would not have frequently repeated the story as they have done."

At the time of Claudius, it was illegal to erect a statue to any man as a god or greatly honored person unless the *permission of the Emperor* and the Senate had been secured. The statue was still standing in Justin's day (152 A.D.), people were *still giving regard to it!*

There are many other accounts of Simon's traveling to Rome and becoming one of the great gods to the city and to the people of Rome. There are records which show that Simon "prophesies that Rome will be the scene of

his crowning glory, when he will be adored as a god" (*Dictionary of Religion & Ethics*, Vol. 11, p. 522).

Simon Peter NOT With Simon Magus in Rome

Later, about the 4th century, a flood of works came out about Peter encountering Simon Magus in Rome and overthrowing him. But these works are clearly fiction. Almost all scholars realize the absurdity of maintaining such a thing. In the first place, it can be Biblically shown that Peter the Apostle was NEVER in Rome when these fictitious writings say he should be.

It was NOT Simon Peter who went to Rome to become Apostle to the Gentiles but the SIMON in Rome was SIMON MAGUS!

That Peter the Apostle was not with Simon Magus in Rome is made plain by the *Encyclopedia Biblica*, col. 4554.

"The attempt has been made to meet this by pointing out that church fathers mention the presence of SIMON in Rome while at the same time NOT speaking of controversies between him and PETER. This is indeed true of Justin [one of the earliest witnesses—152 A.D.] *who knows nothing of any presence of Peter in Rome at all, as also of Irenaeus.*"

Not only did Justin feel that Peter was NOT in Rome at the time, but his deliberate silence shows he didn't want to perpetrate such fiction. After all, Justin lived very early in the history of the church, and the legend of the Apostle Peter's being in Rome HADN'T GOT



Wolfe Slides, Los Angeles

This much-revered black statue—claimed to be Peter, the Apostle—sits in the splendor of St. Peter's Basilica, its toe nearly worn away by the lips of ardent worshippers. In reality this idol represents Jupiter Olympus!

STARTED YET! Continuing with the *Encyclopedia Biblica* about Justin's reference to SIMON MAGUS:

"One part of this tradition—that about Simon's presence in Rome—he [Justin] found himself able to accept [in fact he held it to be confirmed by the statue, which he brought into connection with Simon]; the other—that about Peter's presence in Rome—he was unable to accept" (col. 4555).

Of course Justin was unable to accept the latter teaching. The fact is, *Simon Peter was NOT in Rome*. It was another Simon who went there—SIMON MAGUS, the one bringing "Christianity" to them in the guise of the old Babylonian mystery religions. Simon came to Rome with the grand idea of establishing a UNIVERSAL RELIGION in the NAME of Christianity! And what is remarkable, he did just that!

Next month we will see how Simon Magus became later confused with Simon Peter and how he cleverly brought into "Christianity" the mystery religions of Babylon.

(To be continued)

The Tiber River near the Vatican—the river in which a statue of Simon Magus was found.

