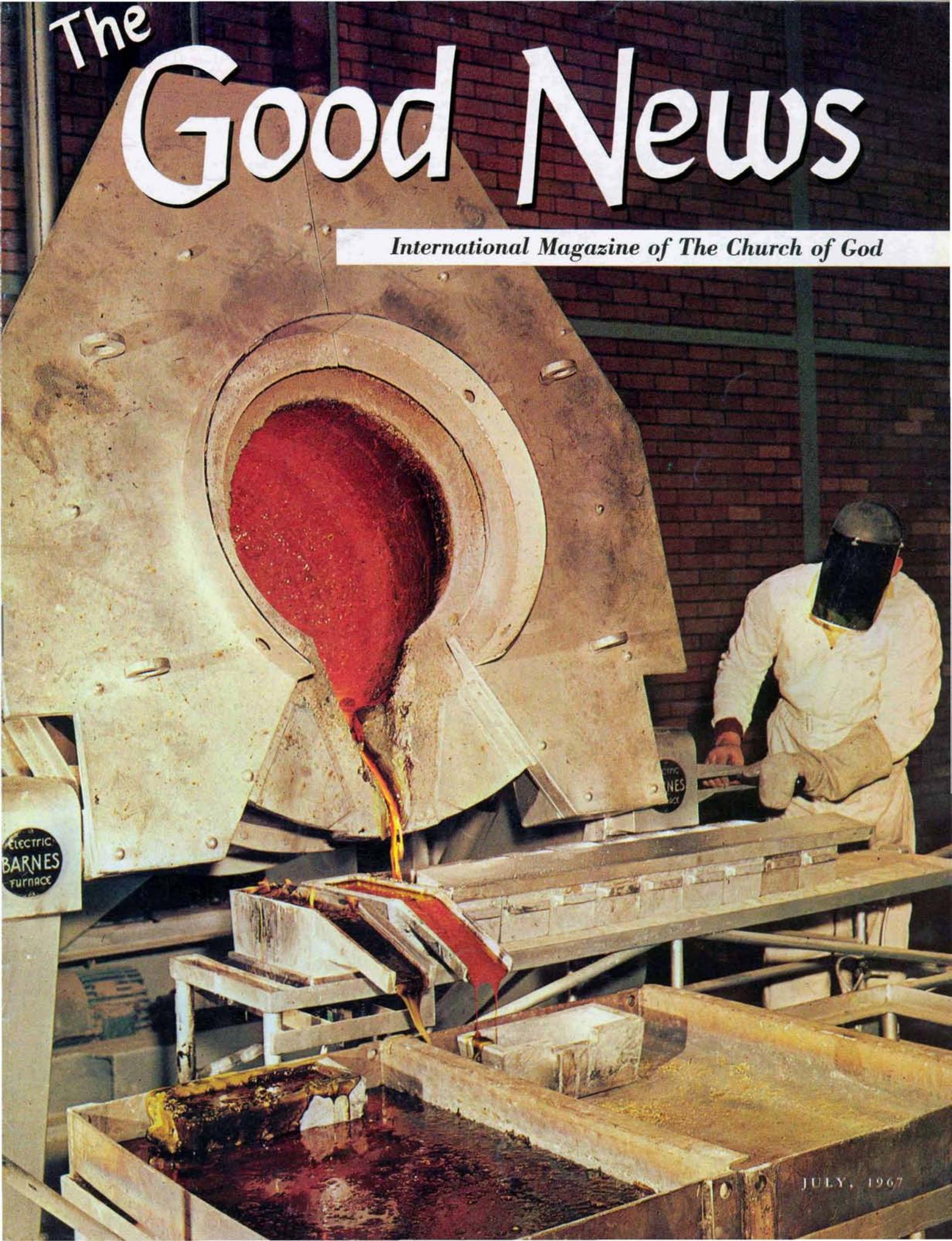


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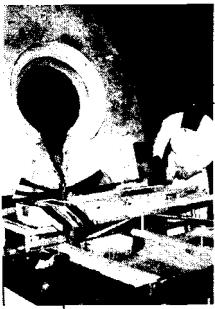
Good News

International Magazine of The Church of God



ELECTRIC
BARNES
FURNACE

JULY, 1967



More About Our Cover...

The bulk of the world's gold is mined in the heart of South Africa. After refining under intense heat the impurities and slag are poured off and pure gold is left. Here in a refinery in Vaal Reefs you see gold "tried in the fire" of the blast furnace being cast into "one thousand fine" ingots. Read why such fiery trials are necessary in the life of every Christian, beginning on page 7.

Anglo-American Corp. of South Africa, Ltd.

What our READERS SAY . . .

First Feast in Poconos

"I want to say that the article on the Poconos was just wonderful. This Feast of Tabernacles will be our first. My wife and I are so very excited about going to the Poconos where God has set His name. The pictures in *The Good News* are truly 'breathtakingly beautiful.' How wonderful are God's ways! We could never afford a real vacation before and to look forward to the Feast of Tabernacles in the Poconos is just truly, greatly, wonderfully exciting."

Mrs. Wm. L. W., Ohio

Bible Difficulties

"The articles by Mr. Robert Boraker about 'How to Solve Bible Difficulties' were really good. They gave older students of the Bible something to think about and are good lessons to those that are new! I have heard people say the Bible contradicted itself. In the past there was little I knew about the Bible, but I could never believe this. To me there would be no point in believing in a God if He was an unreliable, contradictory person."

M. S., Mississippi

A Computer to Serve You

"I just finished reading the article 'A Computer to Serve You' by Mr. Hugh Mauck. It is amazing to realize that God surely inspired the designing of these miracle tools, the computer, and especially the Data Cell, for the great increase during these closing days of His Work."

Mrs. C. W. D., Texas

Festival Brochure Received

"I received my book on the 1967 Feast of Tabernacles yesterday and am so very pleased with it. Thank you so very much. It certainly will be a great help and pleasure as it gives us so many interesting and informative pictures and articles. The paper is so beautiful and the colors are something to behold. We are certainly the fortunate ones."

Mrs. R. M. H., North Carolina

Husband and Wife Contract "Feast Fever"!

"I would like to say that the brochure for the Feast is just beautiful. My husband and I already have 'Feast Fever' since receiving the brochure. You do such a wonderful job on all literature sent out. We never know what to expect next, but we always know that it will be nicer than we received previously. Although it seems that the literature can't get better, it always does (that includes all literature!). It's just another reminder that this truly is God's work, the way you all work to improve even though what we receive is just great. Thanks so much. It truly is a blessing to be part of such a great work."

Mrs. D. G., Arizona

Importance of God's Church

"I enjoyed so much the article on why we need a Church. This I know from experience. We need it very badly. It seems more needed to me, I suppose, because where we are now, I am completely without fellowship with God's Church. And it's so much harder with

The Good News

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ministering to its members
scattered abroad

July, 1967

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only the written Word to help. You see, I can't even hear the Broadcast here. So, more prayer and Bible study is necessary for even the smallest growth. Please understand—I am not complaining. I'm thankful for what I do have. This is just to express my full heart's gratitude for the 'food' you send me and to exhort the brethren to maybe be a little more thankful for having the great and marvelous blessing of being near a regular Sabbath service each week and the opportunity of hearing Mr. Garner Ted speak every day. How wonderful it must be! We need to have the people of God's Church near in love and friendship and help in walking the always happy, though sometimes difficult, road to God's Kingdom. May He bring it soon. I pray for you constantly and God's wonderful Work."

R. D., Kodiak, Alaska

Good to Meet with True Christians

"It is so good to finally be able to gather with other true Christians. Thanks to Mr. Bryce who paid me a very welcome visit in April and invited me to join with them where they meet at the Leisureland Motel on the Sabbath day, and thanks also to a very thoughtful couple, who have been so good as to go out of their way to pick me up and take me with them. I have never met people like this. I have been attending many 'churches' ever since I was a child. During the past twenty years I had missed very few Sundays. But these people are different. During the service one does not even know children are there. They are so quiet. Everyone follows in their Bible and takes notes, even the children. I have never seen so many people take such interest and concern in each other and in strangers, which I was."

Mrs. H. V. E., New York

Thankful for Visiting Teams

"I want to express gratitude especially this time for the visiting teams. Every time we have been visited, we discover that God blesses us in ways that we can really see. I listen very carefully when the men come—and I always receive sound doctrines and very important counsel and instruction—even if it

does hurt to be corrected. We are so very thankful that you are mindful of us."

R. L. C., Texas

Hard to Write Headquarters?

"Did you ever stop to think about how difficult it is to write to Headquarters? What can you say to cheer up the happiest people on earth? What can you say to encourage people who have Christ living in them? What can you say to strengthen people who have no strength but have the power of God with them? What incentive to success can be offered to a work that cannot fail? Maybe this is a little selfish but I hope we can find a rock near the front to sit on, so we can shake your hand in Petra."

Mr. and Mrs. R. W., Tennessee

• *Thank you! You have said it!*

Woman Healed of Cancer

"I am so grateful for the healing of cancer on my arm (which was quite 'angry looking'). Mr. Kunz anointed me as he and Mr. Swisher (who was present at the time) both knelt with all hands upon my head. I was so grateful to God! In around 7 to 10 days the cancer dropped off, leaving no scar!"

Mrs. H. L. S., Florida

Healed of Kidney Infection

"I must tell you also that I sent for a prayer cloth for a kidney infection and was healed instantly when I got it. All pain, swelling, etc., left me immediately and I am so thankful. God is so great."

Mrs. A. D., West Virginia

Healed of Skin Cancer

"I wrote you asking for prayer. Well, the same hour I received your letter and cloth I laid it on the skin cancer on my face and prayed. I received a blessing that minute and I knew the Lord had healed the cancer. For about 3 or 4 days I would not look in the glass at myself because I was afraid the devil would make me doubt. But when I looked, as I said it was 3 or 4 days, all sign of the skin cancer was gone. Well, I was here alone but I did rejoice in the Lord. I do thank and praise His wonderful name. It has not bothered me since."

C. I. C., Missouri

Husband's Voice Healed

"We received your letter on Friday, April 21, 1967, which contained the prayer cloth. I laid the cloth on my husband's forehead and prayed to God to heal my husband. My husband's voice had been rather weak because of his heart. After the cloth had been removed, the words my husband spoke to me were so strong and clear. Also, the severe pain which he has suffered over the years began to ease. We both witnessed a miracle performed by God in our home which we shall never forget. When he left for work this morning, he had a new spring in his steps. God has healed him completely!"

Mrs. G. F., Texas

Hearing Healed

"I would like to tell you of God's healing of our two-year-old daughter. She had an infection which was causing her to lose her hearing. We called God's minister and asked him to pray for her healing. The cloth came the next day and she was healed in a couple of days. After we knew she had been healed, because her hearing came back, we were tested one night as she had a bad earache. We prayed to God and continued to trust in Him and by morning she was healed of the earache with no further trouble. We really do thank God for the wonderful blessing of healing."

R. M. M., Washington

Salary Increase

"When I tithed, even when I felt I couldn't afford it, God has rewarded my work. When I started to tithe regularly, my monthly salary was \$407. Today I have a new job on which I have been working for one month and my monthly salary has jumped to \$1,000. Yes, I'm happy that God is my partner."

Mr. and Mrs. K. W.,
Washington

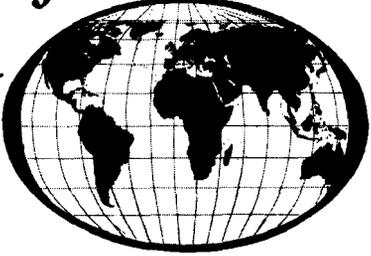
Six-Year-Old Wants to Read

"I am 6 years old. I looked at the pictures in *The GOOD NEWS*. I thought every picture was just beautiful. I told Mother I wished I could read it like she does."

G. S., Tennessee (age 6)

Church of God News—

WORLDWIDE



by David Jon Hill

MR. HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG has been keeping all of us thoroughly informed of the major news of God's Work—Jerusalem Office and radio, TV plans, *The PLAIN TRUTH* reaching the million mark in circulation, etc.—through his Co-Worker letters, Semi-Annual letter and *The PLAIN TRUTH Personal From The Editor* column. In addition to these giant events in the Work of God many other important events have taken place in the day-to-day growth and administration of the Body of Christ!

Ordinations

At Sabbath services just after graduation here in Pasadena Mr. Armstrong was joined by the Headquarters Evangelists in ordaining seven Elders—five Local Elders and two Preaching Elders.

Mr. Keith Crouch was born in Australia where he grew up and completed his education including three years of university work before coming into contact with God's Truth. He was baptized by Mr. Bill Winner in 1963 and the following year entered Ambassador College, Bricket Wood as the Freshman Class President. There he first met the young lady who was later to become his wife, the former Patricia Clark, herself a transfer to Bricket Wood from the Pasadena Campus. Both were transferred to Pasadena for their Senior year, during which Mr. Crouch served as Senior Class President. He was ordained a Local Elder on May 27, married on May 28th and assigned to assist Mr. Wayne Cole in the Sydney Church of God via a honeymoon stop-over in Hawaii with his bride on May 29th!—Quite a sudden whirlwind of blessings! It is interesting to note that

he has completed a very unusual trip *around the world*—going first to Bricket Wood, then Pasadena, then back to his native land of Australia.

Mr. Fred Brogaard spent a year and a half in Concordia Lutheran College before God began to work with him. Mr. George Meeker baptized him in 1963 and after attending the Milwaukee Church of God for less than a year Mr. Brogaard was accepted to Ambassador College. In December of 1964 Mr. Brogaard married the former Betty Jo Hayley a graduate of Ambassador, and last summer they served under Mr. Carlton Smith, District Superintendent of the Portland District. Now they have been permanently assigned to serve in the Seattle area under Mr. Kemnitz. Mr. Brogaard leaves Ambassador College with his degree and the responsibility of Local Elder, with a fine wife to help him carry out his new responsibilities.

Mr. Durrell Brown is the most recent Negro graduate of Ambassador College. Mr. Brown came to Ambassador College from the Brooklyn, New York Church in 1965. He had previously had several years of college work at Jackson State College in Mississippi, his original home state. Dr. Benjamin Rea baptized Mr. and Mrs. Brown in the Fall of 1960. Mr. Brown was able to graduate from Ambassador in only two years, and now he, his wife and their baby girl have been assigned to the Mobile, Alabama Church. He has served in the Los Angeles Church as the leadman on the Visiting Program and now God has increased his responsibilities by ordaining him as a Local Elder and giving him the opportunity

to serve in Mobile—congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Brown!

Mr. Bill Gordon worked for the Edison Company as an industrial electrician from 1946 until 1962. He and his wife were both baptized by Mr. Waterhouse in 1958. Mr. and Mrs. Gordon were both blessed by God in receiving a son after eighteen years of marriage—a young boy just about ready to enter school now. In 1962 Mr. Gordon was hired by Ambassador College to work in the Electrical Department. He was soon put on the Visiting Program and in 1965 served for a year in the El Monte area before being sent to assist Mr. Royer in the Bakersfield area. Mr. Gordon has had the opportunity to attend many of the Ambassador College classes while serving in and near the Campus and now is ordained to the capacity of Local Elder and permanently assigned to the Bakersfield area.

Mr. James Chapman comes originally from Fallon, Nevada. He was baptized in the Sacramento area by Mr. Frank McCrady in 1963. As soon as the Church was established there he began to show his leadership, became a pillar in the area, and last year was asked to come to college for additional training. Now after one year of college training and another to look forward to, Mr. Chapman is ordained to the capacity of Local Elder which he has certainly shown himself capable of fulfilling with God's help, and assigned to serve God's people in the Glendale area.

Mr. Don Lawson, baptized in the Spring of 1960 by Mr. Raymond Cole, began attending God's Church in Eugene, Oregon. Originally from Oklahoma, Mr. Lawson and his wife moved to Oregon to work in the lumber industry.

He was ordained a Local Elder in 1963, but continued in his job until 1965, when he began to work full time for the Church in the Eugene area. Then Mr. Lawson came to Headquarters this past Fall for a year of Ambassador training. This past year he has assisted Mr. Howard Clark in the Glendale Church in addition to his college training. Now Mr. Lawson, his wife and family have been permanently assigned to the Amarillo-Liberal Churches of God. This will necessitate a change in the district areas (see the Manpower Report for full details), and has made possible the beginning of a new Church in Abilene, Texas by freeing Mr. Smith from the responsibility of the Amarillo Church. Mr. Lawson, before going to his permanent assignment, was ordained to the rank of full Preaching Elder in God's Church by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and the Evangelists at Headquarters.

Mr. Bill Swanson was baptized in 1957 by Mr. George Mecker in Texas. After a tour in the Navy, Mr. Swanson, with his typical determination, went back to school to get his high school diploma and finished it with honors at Imperial Schools in Pasadena. After his high school graduation he worked for a year or two in the Cabinet Shop at Ambassador College and then entered the College as a full-time student and Fresh-

man Class President in 1960. At the end of his Junior year, Mr. Swanson was married to a lovely Ambassador co-ed and sent to assist Mr. Dennis Luker in the Oakland-San Jose area. The pressing need in the local area demanded his staying on for a considerable period of time. He was ordained as a Local Elder in 1964 to better serve the brethren. And this past Fall he was brought to Headquarters again to finish his College career before going on to greater responsibilities in God's Work. Now ordained as a full Preaching Elder in God's Church he has gone to his assignment in Tennessee, pastoring the Church of Knoxville and being assigned to raise up a new Church in Chattanooga.

Also ordained as a full Preaching Elder was Mr. Ken Martin presently serving in the Dallas, Texas Church. Mr. Martin came to Pasadena College Campus in 1962 and was transferred to Big Sandy in 1964. His last year in school he served as Student Body President of the Big Sandy Campus. At graduation Mr. Martin took as his wife the former Barbara Lading and was ordained as a Local Elder and sent to assist in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. Now he continues to serve in the same area but with greater responsibility being ordained a full Preaching Elder by

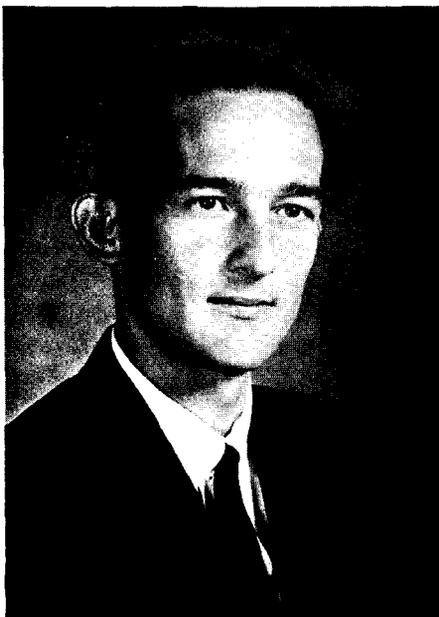
Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong shortly before Pentecost this year.

Joining the ranks of Preaching Elders, Mr. Fred Kellers was ordained in the Church where he has been serving, Richmond, Virginia, on the 24th of June by Mr. Plache, the visiting Pastor from Headquarters in the area for Pentecost. Mr. Kellers came to Ambassador College from the University of South Carolina in the Fall of 1959. At graduation in 1963 he was married to the former Lucretia Leonard an Ambassador co-ed and sent



Fred Kellers

PREACHING ELDERS



Bill Swanson



Don Lawson



Ken Martin

Ambassador College Photos

to assist in the Portland area. A year later he was transferred to Boise, Idaho and the following year to Eugene. At the Feast of Tabernacles in 1965 in Squaw Valley Mr. Meredith officiated in ordaining Mr. Kellers a Local Elder. His last assignment brought him back to the East Coast to serve in the Baltimore-Richmond area under Mr. Engelbart, and now the full responsibilities of Preaching Elder are his to continue to serve God with.

Mr. Roderick C. Meredith, Superintendent of Ministers, was in the Denver area for Pentecost this year. While there he was joined by Mr. Burk McNair in ordaining Mr. Ledru Woodbury as Local Elder in God's Church. Mr. Woodbury has been a member of God's Church for over fourteen years—five as a Deacon, and this last year as a full-time worker in visiting the brethren. Mr. Woodbury attended Oklahoma A and M, studying animal husbandry, and has been a successful farmer-rancher in the Colorado-Oklahoma area for many years. The father of four teenage children, he and his wife and

family are highly respected in the community. Now Mr. Woodbury can serve in greater capacity with this ordination to the rank of Local Elder.

New District Established

Mr. Roderick C. Meredith, Superintendent of Churches, is happy to announce Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's approval of a new Church District at Detroit, Michigan. Once local Churches began to be established as God called individuals in greater numbers out of this world into a knowledge of the Truth, it became necessary to establish *Districts* of administration within the continental United States. When the Districts were originally organized, there were five covering the entire United States. Now there are eleven!

By experience it was soon discovered that the optimum number of Churches a District Superintendent could supervise efficiently and thoroughly is about twelve to fifteen. As the number of new Churches being added increases it will—as in *this* case—become

necessary to establish new districts and appoint new District Superintendents.

Mr. Arthur Mokarow, a minister of Pastor rank, was selected to supervise this new district with his local Church becoming the Headquarters of that Church District. Mr. Mokarow is an old hand at supervising offices and men since before he came for Ambassador College training he was in charge of *eighteen* separate insurance offices and managing a considerable staff of both men and women in and around Chicago, Illinois. Now God is using that training and experience—modifying Mr. Mokarow's natural abilities with His Spirit and producing Sons of God instead of policyholders! Congratulations to both Mr. and Mrs. Mokarow in their new responsibilities!

Please check the accompanying Manpower Report to find out which Churches are in the new District, and be sure to remember Mr. and Mrs. Mokarow in their new responsibilities as you pray for all of those in God's Work. New Churches and Bible studies have been established since the last GOOD NEWS was published but space does not allow more than a listing of these in the 1967 Summer Manpower Report—read it and USE IT!

News From Australia

Ambassador College Press in Australia reports that their new four-color press is installed and functioning well. It is a large four-color press manufactured by M. A. N., printing a sheet on one side with four colors 35 x 49 inches. It is now running smoothly producing *The PLAIN TRUTH* in an Australian edition at five thousand impressions per hour! The present number of *PLAIN TRUTHS* the Australian Printing Plant produces is over *one hundred thousand* per month, as they print not only for Australia, but for the entire Australasian area. With this present plant equipment addition, they feel they will be able to print *The PLAIN TRUTH* from here on out if it does not exceed *three hundred thousand* copies in that area. Don't forget this area of God's Work in your prayers—

(Continued on page 21)



Fred Brogaard



Durrell Brown



Jim Chapman

LOCAL ELDERS

Ambassador College Photos



Keith Crouch



Bill Gordon



Ledru Woodbury

FIERY TRIALS ARE NECESSARY

Throughout its history, God's Church has experienced many persecutions and tribulations. God's children often experience severe trials and tests! Why? Do you know why a LOVING Creator has decreed that all of His children must go through their share of fiery trials? Read, and understand this. Trials are a vital part in developing spiritual character.

by Raymond F. McNair

MANY FAIL to realize that *TRIALS* are really *BLESSINGS IN DISGUISE* — unpleasant though they may be at the time! You, brethren, need to understand *why* our loving Father has ordained that all His children must experience a number of temptations, trials, persecutions and tribulations.

God Almighty has deliberately designed the begetting and birth of a child in this life to be a type — an exact picture — of the spiritual begetting and birth which the child of God must experience — before he can be born into His Family.

We were born into this world under terrific pressure! In childbirth, both mother and child usually experience much stress and strain, as well as a certain amount of physical pain.

This is an exact type of the spiritual birth.

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

What are the very *beginning* steps toward salvation? (1) repentance (2) *baptism* and (3) the receiving of God's precious Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38).

But — after our real conversion and baptism — we must continue to "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ" (II Pet. 3:18).

The apostle Peter revealed how this growing must take place: "As newborn babes, *desire the sincere milk of the*

word, that ye may grow thereby" (I Pet. 2:2).

After repentance, baptism and the receiving of God's Holy Spirit, we must continue the vitally important process of *spiritual growth* in the womb of the Church, so we can someday be born into God's Family. We can only continue to grow spiritually *if* we steadfastly keep drinking in our daily supply of God's living waters — His Holy Spirit (John 7:37-39; Isa. 55:1).

We continue to receive our daily portion of God's Holy Spirit if we continually feed on the Word of God. "It is written, *That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God*" (Luke 4:4).

The words of God Almighty as recorded in the Bible are life-giving, and will nourish us if we regularly receive them into our very innermost being! Christ said, "It is the *Spirit* that quickeneth; the *flesh* profiteth nothing: *the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life*" (John 6:63).

If we mix *prayer and fasting* with our daily study of God's Word, we receive a rich supply of spiritual food which will nourish us to full spiritual maturity. After safely completing a full term — usually much longer than the nine months required for *physical* birth — of growth in the womb of the Church, we will then finally be ready to be born into God's *spiritual* Family.

Can you now see how the *spiritual birth*, like a *human* birth, is usually preceded by a most difficult period of stress and strain?

Stress and Strain Are Necessary

Jesus Christ, our High Priest, doesn't want us to be relaxed Christians! God does not want us to go to sleep on the job (Mat. 25:5). "Wherefore He saith, *Awake* thou that sleepest; and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light" (Eph. 5:14).

Jesus Christ will reject any who remain lukewarm (Rev. 3:15-16).

WE CAN ONLY BE BORN INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD UNDER STRESS AND STRAIN — UNDER PRESSURE!

You need to understand *why* this is necessary, and also *how* God will permit us to be sorely tried at times!

King David, a man after God's own heart, will have a very high position of rulership in the Kingdom of God. He will be king over all Israel (Ezek. 37:24; Hosea 3:5; Jer. 30:9). In order to qualify for this high position of responsibility and service in God's Kingdom, David first had to suffer many trials, persecutions and afflictions. His life was, in fact, full of tribulations.

He understood that God's people must experience many trials and tests in this life: "*Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivereth him out of them all*" (Ps. 34:19).

David made some very serious *mistakes* in his life, and had to be afflicted by God to learn his lesson — the lesson that **SIN NEVER PAYS!**

In a moment of weakness, David yielded to the terrible sin of *lust*. He gave in to his carnal urge and committed adultery with Bath-sheba. Then, when she had conceived an illegiti-

mate child by him, he sought to cover his sin by devious means. When this failed, he connived to bring about the death of Bath-sheba's husband, Uriah. He had him put in the hottest part of the battle where he would be certain to be killed by the Ammonites (II Sam. 11).

But is God a respecter of persons? Would He turn a blind eye to David's sin? "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: *for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap*" (Gal. 6:7).

God sent Nathan to point out David's terrible sin to him (II Sam. 12). David bitterly repented of this grievous sin (II Sam. 12; Ps. 51). Nevertheless, God Almighty showed that he must reap what he had sown.

What would his punishment be? He would have *perpetual war* from that day forward! God also afflicted David through *sickness*, and through taking the life of the very child which he had begotten in adultery! This was a very high price to pay for sin — but this was God's way of bringing David to his senses!

Did David know why God had afflicted him? Certainly! "*Before I was afflicted, I went astray [I sinned]; but now have I kept thy word*" (Ps. 119:67). He then freely confessed that God was righteous in punishing him: "*It is GOOD for me that I have been AFFLICTED; that I might learn thy statutes*" (Ps. 119:71).

Much Tribulation

The zealous apostle Paul also understood the absolute necessity of God's people going through tribulation in this world — in order to purify them. He exhorted the disciples "to continue in the faith, and that *we must through MUCH TRIBULATION enter into the Kingdom of God*" (Acts 14:22).

He solemnly warned the evangelist, Timothy: "*Yea, and ALL that will live godly in Christ Jesus SHALL SUFFER PERSECUTION*" (II Tim. 3:12).

Paul will certainly have a very high position in the Kingdom of God. The many temptations, trials, persecutions, tribulations and labours which he endured fully qualified him to receive a position of great responsibility.

Have you ever carefully noticed just how much this dynamic apostle suf-

fered and endured for Christ's sake?

"Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more: in *labours* more abundant, in *stripes* above measure, in *prisons* more frequent, in *deaths* oft. Of the Jews five times received I *forty stripes save one*. Thrice was I *beaten with rods*, once was I *stoned*, thrice I suffered *shipwreck*, a night and a day I have been *in the deep*; In *journeyings* often, in *perils of waters*, in *perils of robbers*, in *perils by mine own countrymen*, in *perils by the heathen*, in *perils in the city*, in *perils in the wilderness*, in *perils in the sea*, in *perils among false brethren*; In *weariness* and *painfulness*, in *watchings* often, in *hunger* and *thirst*, in *fastings* often, in *cold* and *nakedness*. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, *the care of all the churches*" (II Cor. 11:23-28).

In addition to these trials, Paul revealed that he had cert. in physical "*infirmities*" which Jesus Christ had refused to heal — in order to keep Paul humble — so he would look to Christ and glory in God, rather than in what he had done (II Cor. 12:1-9). Paul concluded: "Therefore I take pleasure in *infirmities*, in *reproaches*, in *necessities*, in *persecutions*, in *distresses* for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong" (II Cor. 12:10).

The Fiery Trial

Did the Apostle Peter believe the lot of a Christian would be an easy one? No! He revealed that the faith of the Christian must sometimes be sorely tried: "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, *if need be, ye are in HEAVINESS through manifold temptations*: That the *trial of your faith* being much more precious than gold that perisheth, though it be *tried with fire*, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (I Pet. 1:6-7).

This same apostle was also inspired to give the following warning: "Beloved, *think it not strange concerning THE FIERY TRIAL which is to try you*, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when His glory shall be

revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy" (I Pet. 4:12-13).

Christ's exemplary life — especially during the three-and-one-half years of His earthly ministry — was not a life of idleness and ease but a life filled with constant trials of every sort! He was continually opposed, persecuted, slandered, criticized, and was finally *crucified* by the very people whom He loved — loved so much that He was willing to die for them!

Yes, Christ knew what *real* tribulation was. "In the world *ye shall have TRIBULATION*" said Jesus, "but *be of good cheer*; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Many Bible prophecies reveal that the peoples of America, Britain and the Commonwealth (modern Israel) have become terribly enmeshed in loathsome sins (Hosea 4:1-3; Jer. 30:11-15).

God also shows that He will correct and chastise Israel because of her sins. "And though the Lord give you the *bread of adversity*, and the *water of affliction*; yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers" (Isa. 30:20-21).

Why will God so severely afflict Israel? Because He loves Israel and wants our people to turn from their mounting sins!

There are various ways in which God tries us. God tried and tested Abraham — by commanding him to offer up his son, Isaac. Abraham had to be *willing* to give up his only true, legitimate son — in order to obey his Creator, and receive God's incredible promises. Actually, God didn't want Abraham to slay his son. He only wanted to test Abraham to see if he loved Him, his Creator, more than anything else (Gen. 22).

How does God try and test us? How does He learn what is really in our heart?

We have already seen that God sometimes afflicts us in order *to humble us* or *teach us an important lesson* (Ps. 119:71; II Cor. 12:7-10).

God Chastens Us in Love

Yes, God Almighty has to chasten all of His sons and daughters — just as

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The First Resurrection Is a Better Resurrection!

Do you understand God's Plan of Salvation through the three resurrections? If you had a choice, in which resurrection would you choose to be? This article explains which resurrection God has chosen for us, and why it is a better resurrection!

by Dennis G. Luker

I WISH God hadn't called me in this age. I wish He had waited until the second resurrection when everyone will know the truth. It will be much easier then to qualify for God's Kingdom."

Have you ever said that? Have you ever thought or silently wished that God had waited to call you? *Some have!* They feel the going is too tough in this age of unbelief, doubt, scorn and ridicule. Some of you have wished this because of severe trials and tests. Some who have unconverted mates or relatives have wished that God had waited to call them until He was ready to call the whole family!

Brethren, if you have wished these things then you do not fully understand what it means to be called in this age just prior to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ! You could not possibly understand the fantastic, almost unbelievable goal and purpose set before you and then wish God hadn't called you!

Possibly some of you do not understand God's plan and do not realize that He is going to call *everyone* to the knowledge of the truth and give *everyone* an equal chance for salvation.

God's Plan

Peter was inspired to write, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Pet. 3:9). God wants *all* to come to re-

pentance! And Paul added that God "... will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (I Tim. 2:4).

It is God who calls us to the knowledge of the truth and God who grants us repentance (John 6:44, 65; Rom. 2:4).

God is in absolute control and He is working out a plan. That plan involves adding spirit-born sons to His own divine Family!

All human beings who have ever been born or ever will be born will have their chance to come to the knowledge of the truth. All will someday understand that they were born physically to be "born again" into the Kingdom of God as spirit beings. This is the real purpose in life—to qualify for the Kingdom of God. Matthew 6:33 says, "... seek you *first* the Kingdom of God and His righteousness..."

Most human beings have lived and died without ever knowing their real purpose in life. So when will they have a chance to know God's plan and purpose and qualify for eternal life? At the time of the second resurrection, during the Great White Throne Judgment!

The Second Resurrection

The Bible does not use the term "second resurrection." But it does teach a resurrection of all the dead who have never known the truth. This resurrection comes *after* the resurrection of the saints, called the "first resurrection" (Rev. 20:6), and is, therefore, generally called the "second resurrection."

When does the second resurrection

take place? Exactly who will be in it and what will it be like? How long will those in this resurrection live? Let's answer these questions!

The apostle John was given a vision into the future by God. He saw things which "must shortly come to pass" (Rev. 1:1). John wrote, "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them; and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ and shall reign with him a thousand years" (Rev. 20:4-6). Verse six should begin with the last sentence of verse five, "This is the first resurrection." Man, not God, divided the scriptures into chapters and verses. It is obvious by reading the context of verses 4 through 6 that the first resurrection (for the saints) takes place at the beginning of the thousand years and the second resurrection (for "the rest of the dead") occurs after "the thousand years were finished." So the second resurrection takes place shortly *after the millennium*—the one thousand-year rule of Christ and His saints

on this earth. That answers the question, *when?*!

Next — Who?

The apostle John continued, "And I saw a great white throne and him that sat on it from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works" (Rev. 20:11-12). The answer to the question who will be in the second resurrection is, "the dead, small and great" — who never "were judged out of those things which were written in the books [of the Bible!] according to their works."

When does God begin to judge a person from the Bible? From the time he understands what it says and means! Notice I Peter 4:17 — "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?" The house of God is the *Church* of the living God (I Tim. 3:15). We in God's true church are *now* being judged according to our works (our obedience to *all* His laws and precepts)! Our judgment began when God first called us to the knowledge of the truth and it will continue until the day we die, or are "changed" (the flesh still dies) at Christ's return! Judgment, then, takes place over a period of time.

Those who have lived and died without having this period of time to know the full truth and be judged according to their works, will be given that chance during the Great White Throne Judgment. Most of the kings, leaders and rulers who have ever lived will be resurrected then — great and important men in the eyes of this world! And the billions they have ruled over will also be in that resurrection!

What will that resurrection be like and what will life be like during that judgment time? At the time of the second resurrection, people will be rising out of their graves, out of the sea or from wherever they died,

back to physical life again on a beautiful earth (Rev. 20:13)! It doesn't matter how or where they died — God has the power to give them another physical body, breathe life into it and place them in a dry, safe, place! You can imagine how *shocked* some are going to be when they find they are not in "heaven" or "hell" but on earth! Ezekiel saw and heard the way it is going to happen! "...there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above... and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army" (Ezek. 37:7-8, 10).

This is the time of the second resurrection! It is a resurrection to *physical* life. What a fantastic event this will be! Wouldn't you like to be there and have a hand in helping those people?! Some of them will be your own children, friends or relatives!

How long will they live and what kind of world will they live in? God reveals this in the book of Isaiah — "...the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die *an hundred years* old; but the sinner being *an hundred years* old shall be accursed. And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them... They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them... The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord" (Isa. 65:19-21, 23, 25). What a wonderful, happy, peaceful, productive life they will have! Families will be together. No broken homes! Everyone will work and enjoy life! There will be peace, happiness, and safety everywhere! Verse 20 indicates that everyone who is resurrected, those who died young and those who died old, will be resurrected and live a

full 100 years more. No new babies will be born during this period. After the 100-year period all who have qualified will be born into God's Family as spirit beings and live forever! If they do not qualify after this period of time they "shall be accursed." They will be destroyed in the lake of fire and remain dead forever! This will happen at the third resurrection.

The Third Resurrection

Neither does the Bible use the term "third resurrection" but there is *one final resurrection*. Three is God's number of finality! There are more than three individual resurrections mentioned in the Bible. Christ was resurrected (Mat. 28:5-7) spirit-born (Rom. 1:4). Some Christians were physically resurrected at that same time for a special witness (Mat. 27:50-53). Christ resurrected Lazarus from the dead (John 11:43-44) and there are other examples. But Revelation 20 (and John 5:25-29) shows that there are *three GENERAL resurrections* through which God will accomplish and complete His plan of salvation for humans on this earth.

Who then will be in the third resurrection? When will it happen? What will it be like?

In relation to knowing and obeying God's Word there are three general categories of people on earth today — those who know and obey, those who do not know and consequently do not obey, and those who know but *will not obey!*

The first resurrection is for those who have lived, known and obeyed God before and up to the second coming of Christ. They are called "saints" in the Bible. When people qualify during the millennium they evidently will be changed immediately from "flesh" to "Spirit." There is no resurrection from the dead mentioned in the Bible for those who qualify for God's Spirit Kingdom during the Millennium.

The second resurrection is for those who have lived and died prior to the second coming of Christ without ever knowing the truth of God. This will include by far the vast majority of all human beings who have ever lived — billions and billions! If you are won-

(Continued on page 18)

STUDY GOD'S LAW

The Bible is a book of law. It lays down fundamental principles and rules for the conduct of men and women in their daily lives. It also gives civil laws for perfect government — the only laws that can bring peace, happiness and prosperity to the individual and the nation. Read more about these laws in this article.

by Robert C. Boraker

We live in a lawless society! Crime and violence are increasing at a fearful rate. There is practically *no respect for law or constituted authority* among the nations of the world. There is no law and order in our cities. Riots and demonstrations are now commonplace. Mob leaders teach the philosophy of "obeying only the laws you like."

It is also a sick society plagued with *social diseases* and problems of all kinds. Our cities are troubled with traffic jams, crime on streets and subways, breakdowns of public services, racial friction, filth, squalor, polluted air and inferior schools.

People worry about a shortage of water, high taxes, strikes, unemployment, the cancerous spread of decaying slums and "ghettos." They complain about the corruption that is seeping through the layers of city, state and national government.

This is the world in which YOU live!

The Only Way to Prosperity

People of this world do not know that serving and *obeying* the laws of God is **THE WAY**, and the *only* way, that leads to increasing and perpetual prosperity, peace and happiness. All the problems that cause people to suffer could be eliminated by obeying God's Laws. They are for *our good*. The nation is suffering and facing **DOOM** because it is living in flagrant violation of Laws God set in motion at Creation.

Before you can live by obeying God's Law, it is necessary to **KNOW** what it

Wide World

"Riots and demonstrations are now commonplace." Here police use force to control demonstrator during a hearing on Communism by the House committee on un-American Activities.



says. Too many brethren in God's Church neglect to study God's Law. They often don't even *know* much less UNDERSTAND the laws God gave to His people Israel.

Even though you have heard much about God's basic Ten Commandments, *can YOU say them from memory?* Do you know where they can be found in the Bible? You *should know* these very basic points.

Let's face it, brethren, many of you are just not as well acquainted with God's Law as you should be. *Why* you should acquire this knowledge should be obvious. God's Law defines sin (I John 3:4). If you don't know what God's Law says, you could very well be sinning and not know it. And how can you judge and rule nations in the millennium if you don't know God's Law? The study of God's Law, then, is a *very important matter*.

God's Spiritual Law

The Ten Commandments are God's basic *spiritual* Law. This is the great, fundamental, invisible SPIRITUAL LAW which regulates man's relationship with his CREATOR, and man's relationship with his fellowman. The purpose of this spiritual Law, like all of God's Laws, is to make possible man's HAPPINESS — to bring man PEACE and JOY — to make life REALLY worth living.

Most people have no real standard of judgment or conduct. They don't know of any supreme authority that can tell them what is right or wrong. They have no standard of conduct because the only righteous standard has been rejected.

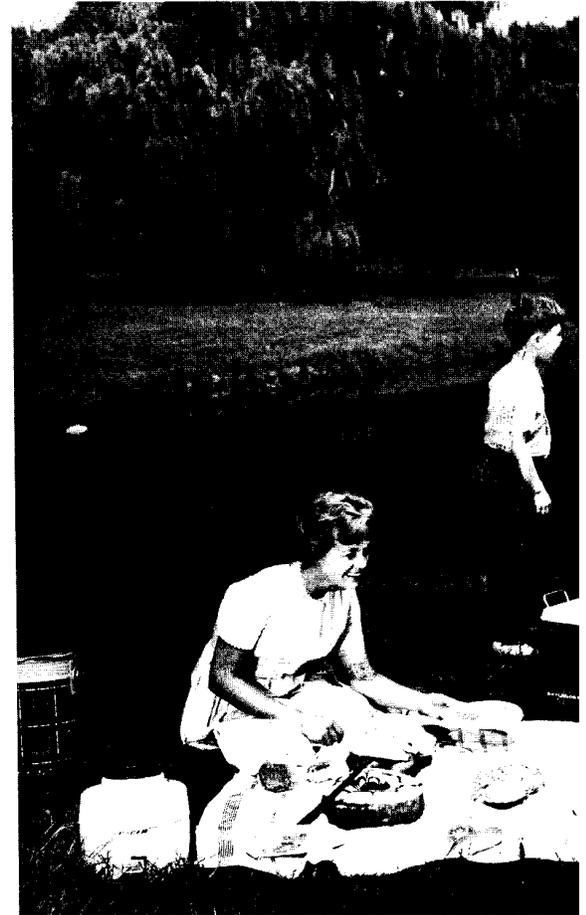
God's Law tells us the difference between right and wrong. It defines sin. Sin is *breaking God's Spiritual Law* — the TEN COMMANDMENTS (I John 3:4). This is the standard for a PERFECT moral code. But instead of obeying the Laws of God that govern morals and affect men's minds, men are desperately trying to work out their own system of morals.

The result is that there is now occurring a *total breakdown* of moral authority in this country. And if you don't have moral authority, the other authorities are no longer effective. They erode away very rapidly.

Most of the Ten Commandments warn

H. Armstrong Roberts

Obedience to God's Law brings the peace and prosperity pictured Right, instead of the poverty and squalor pictured Below.





H. Armstrong Roberts
God's Laws bring abundant harvests and fruitful fields (Above) . . . not waste-filled deserts (Left), slowly engulfing former croplands.

us what *not* to do. They warn us how to stay out of trouble, how to keep well, how to avoid pain, heartache and grief. Sin always brings on a penalty sooner or later. But God's Law helps us avoid what is *bad* for us — the way that seems so right to us, yet brings on problems later. Happiness can only come when man gets in harmony with God's Law.

We can observe nature and see that there is law and order working in the animal world. The behavior of bees and ants, for example, is highly organized and in order. There is no rioting, warfare, unemployment or any social problem such as in the world of human beings. They live and conduct their lives by instinct — a way of life set in their brains by Almighty God the Creator.

But man doesn't live by instinct. He must *learn* how to live by following the Revelation given by God. God not only told man in His Word how to worship Him, and get along with his fellowman, He also revealed other laws that would regulate society and prevent social problems. Although man can learn about the physical laws of the universe through experimentation, it is impossible in this way to come to an understanding of God's Laws pertaining to justice, equity and moral conduct.

Source of All Law

This world in general remains in ignorance of these laws because it has forgotten the very *source* of ALL law and authority! Your Bible says: "There is *one* lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy" (James 4:12). That Lawgiver is Almighty GOD.

God is the one source and origin of all basic laws. This is true whether they govern the material universe, the physical creation or the spiritual, moral and economic life of man. God is the fountainhead of all law and order. It was God who revealed to mankind His laws which govern an orderly creation.

God did not put Adam on earth without showing him the way to live. Law is the essence of life. Our very health and prosperity, our conduct individually, socially and governmentally are all governed by law. If we, individually or as a nation, keep and observe these

laws, we will be blessed with peaceful, prosperous and abundant living. Notice what God said to Israel: "And all the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, THAT YE MAY LIVE . . ." (Deut. 8:1).

But if we violate God's Law, retribution and suffering will follow in the form of injustice, poverty, distress and war.

Obedience to God's Law is encouraged by blessings and enforced by curses. Rewards are promised to those who keep God's Law and punishments are threatened to those who violate it. These blessings and curses are listed in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 — and these are still in effect *today*.



The bitter anguish and destruction of war is the price of disobedience.

Wide World

Those who obey God's Law are promised the blessings of fruitfulness, happiness, health, longevity, peace, prosperity and safety. On the other hand, a curse is pronounced on those "that confirmeth not all the words of this law *to do them*" (Deut. 11:28; 27:26).

God said in Deuteronomy 28:15, "But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt *not* hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to *do all his commandments* and his *statutes* which I command thee this day; that all these *curses* shall come upon thee, and overtake thee."

Price of Disobedience

Then follows 53 verses foretelling the terrible price of disobedience which our nation *is actually paying today!* They portray a story of poverty, hardship, famine, vexation, unhappiness, fear, pestilence, warfare, defeat, mildew, degenerative disease, mental disease, blindness, heart disease and almost every other disease and trouble imaginable.

How simple it would be to prevent all this anguish. All we as individuals or as a nation would need to do is to *obey* God's Law. This Law is summed up in the Ten Commandments given by God to Moses on Mt. Sinai. But these Commandments existed from the very beginning — since creation. About Abra-

ham, God said: "Because that Abraham *obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my STATUTES, and my LAWS*" (Gen. 26:5).

Not only did Abraham keep God's Commandments, but also *STATUTES* and *LAWS*. What were these statutes and laws? The Ten Commandments formed the basis of God's Law given to His chosen race. But in addition to these Commandments, many other *common STATUTES* were also given for the general well-being of the people — together with *JUDGMENTS* for the protection of everyone's legal rights.

Statutes are expressions of a law-maker, usually commanding or forbidding that certain things be done. *Judgments* are binding *decisions* of judges based on God's previously revealed law. They are used in settling disputes and to render a sentence or verdict.

The Commandments apply to individual conduct, the statutes to national administration, and the judgments to decisions rendered under the Commandments and the statutes.

Perfect Statutes and Judgments

These statutes and judgments are all *perfectly* just and designed by God for the perfect working of the nation. God's Law embraces all the needs, activities and requirements of men and nations. They cover every possible situation and give the solution to every moral, social and economic problem likely to affect the individual or nation. They limit, guide and direct man in all the things that should, and should not, be done.

God's Law contains statutes for regulating all the activities of modern life — sickness, disease, commerce, labor relations, legislation, farming, land tenure, international affairs, finance, sex and marriage, warfare, state and religious ceremonies, politics and government.

This *perfect* Law forms the *basis* of ALL human relationships, as well as man's relationship toward God. It provides the basic general rules affecting every phase of man's life. God's Law protects a man's life, property, character and reputation. It sets the rules for successful agriculture, for safe sanitation, for public health, and for international peace.

There are commandments and statutes which govern religious life and man's relationship to God. They direct the individual and nation in the right kind of faith and worship — forbidding false teaching and idolatry.

Since the family is the building stone of the nation, there are commandments and statutes for the purpose of protecting family life. A man's relationship to his parents, wife and children is governed by laws designed to preserve the blessed sanctity and dignity of the home.

There are statutes in God's Law dealing with next-door neighbors and

friends. Civil relationships are dealt with respecting murder, larceny (theft), adultery and perjury. There are many statutes governing economic and social life.

God's Law is COMPLETE. It is expressed in commandments, statutes and judgments. It contains, in brief summation-principle, all the positive and negative obligations of the PERFECT, rightly balanced life. *It expresses and reflects the very character of God!*

This Law, in its basic *principles*, defines THE WHOLE MAN (Eccl. 12:13). It is the blueprint for the building of individual life and character as well as national life and character. Disregard this Law and the life and character of man or nation will collapse. By building in harmony with this Law expressed in commandments, statutes and judgments, the life and character will be established and can endure.

Perfect System of Law

The very happiness of people depends upon the system of law under which they are required to live. The system of law God gave to Israel is *perfect*, not obsolete in any way. David said: "The law of the LORD is PERFECT, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The STATUTES of the LORD are *right*, rejoicing the heart: the *commandment* of the LORD is *pure*, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the JUDGMENTS of the LORD are *true and righteous altogether*" (Ps. 19:7-9).

When God gave this perfect system of law to His nation Israel, He came "down also upon mount Sinai, and spake with them from heaven, and gave them *RIGHT* JUDGMENTS, and *TRUE* LAWS, *GOOD* STATUTES AND COMMANDMENTS. And made known unto them thy holy sabbath, and commanded them precepts, statutes, and laws, by the hand of Moses thy servant" (Nehemiah 9:13-14).

How righteous, how just, and how equitable was God's Law — not only the Ten Commandments, but also ALL His statutes and judgments which followed.

When King Alfred the Great first founded the British Constitution he drew up all its statutes and judgments on

lines similar to the Law of Israel. He recognized how unsurpassed they were. Alfred's code, or "Alfred's Doms" as they are called, are an almost exact parallel to the judgments given in Exodus 21, 22 and 23. This is why English law is still considered the best form to this day. But it is incomplete and does not adopt many of the statutes God gave. This is one reason why social problems still exist.

No system of law can be effective without proper *administration*. The happiness of the people depends both on the system of law and those who administer it. A good system of law may be made very burdensome by bad administration. Along with the knowledge of the right system of law, there is a need for an effective instrument or organization through which the law may be administered for the benefit of all men.

Why God Chose Israel

God chose Israel as the nation to receive His perfect laws—laws designed to build an ideal social organization. If these laws were properly administered, enforced and obeyed, Israel would be an example to the nations around about. God taught Israel His statutes and judgments and said: "Keep therefore and *do them*; for this is YOUR WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING *in the sight of the nations*, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this *great nation is a wise and understanding people*. For what nation is there *so great*, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for? And *what nation is there so great* that hath STATUTES AND JUDGMENTS *so righteous* as all this law, which I set before you this day" (Deut. 4:6-8).

Israel was to set an example to demonstrate to the world the perfection of God's Law in operation. This system of law made Israel great as long as they administered and obeyed the statutes and judgments God gave. The days of Israel's greatest glory was at the time of King Solomon. God gave abundant peace, wealth, health and happiness to Israel because King Solomon, like his father David before him, led the people into the way of OBEDIENCE to all the

commandments, statutes and judgments of the Lord.

As David was about to die, he told his son Solomon to "keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to KEEP HIS STATUTES, and his COMMANDMENTS, and his JUDGMENTS, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whither-soever thou turnest thyself" (I Kings 2:3).

Israel's prosperity was a marvel to other nations. Many people, including the Queen of Sheba, came to admire and wonder—not only at the wisdom which God had given Solomon, but also at the prosperity, health and happiness of the Israelites (I Kings 4 and 10).

God Blessed Israel

After Solomon built the temple, he dedicated it by offering a prayer to God. Read this prayer in I Kings 8:23-53. Compare it with what God said in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28. Notice the similarities.

Then Solomon blessed the congregation of Israel and said: "The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our fathers: let him not leave us, nor forsake us: That he may incline our hearts unto him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his COMMANDMENTS, and his STATUTES, and his JUDGMENTS, which he commanded our fathers. . . . Let your heart therefore be perfect with the LORD our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day" (I Kings 8:57-58, 61).

God then made a covenant with Solomon, promising to establish his throne upon Israel forever if he kept the commandments, statutes and judgments. If he didn't, Israel would be cast out of God's sight (I Kings 9).

But Israel didn't continue to obey God. The people went into practicing idolatry and forgot the true God. They stopped observing the Sabbath and the other days God set apart as HOLY TIME. Solomon himself began worshipping the pagan gods of his foreign wives. The curses that God pronounced for disobedience began to take their toll.

God said to Solomon: "Forasmuch as this is done to thee, and thou hast NOT KEPT my covenant and my STAT-

UTES, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant" (I Kings 11:11). Israel then became a divided nation.

Jeroboam became king of the ten tribes of Israel. God spoke to him through the prophet Ahijah: "And it shall be, if thou wilt hearken unto all that I command thee, and wilt walk in my ways, and do that is right in my sight, to KEEP MY STATUTES AND MY COMMANDMENTS, as David my servant did; that I will be with thee, and build thee a sure house, as I built for David, and will give Israel unto thee" (I Kings 11:38).

Jeroboam Made Israel to Sin

Jeroboam also forgot God and led the people into idolatry (I Kings 12:28). God again punished Israel "because of the sins of Jeroboam, who did sin, and WHO MADE ISRAEL TO SIN" (I Kings 14:16). Jeroboam's son, Nadab, followed his father's bad example and leadership and also led Israel into sin (I Kings 15:25). Baasha, Elah and Zimri all did the same.

Then Omri began to reign over Israel. "But Omri wrought evil in the eyes of the LORD, and did WORSE than all that were before him: For he walked in all the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin, to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger with their vanities" (I Kings 16:25-26).

Ahab, the next king, did even worse than Omri (I Kings 16:30). Israel had troubles as a result and Ahab was so blind to the truth he couldn't see why. He even accused the prophet Elijah for bringing these problems on Israel. Elijah spoke the truth: "I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have FORSAKEN THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim" (I Kings 18:18).

God holds the leaders of the nation responsible for leading the people into sin. He held the kings of Israel responsible and he holds the leaders of our nations today responsible. If our leaders live in corruption, can the people who follow them be expected to do any better?

Israel didn't heed the words of Elijah. They continued to sin against God. Read through the books of Kings and Chronicles and notice what the Bible says about each king. Mark these scriptures. Also notice the troubles and strife that existed in Israel. But Israel went deeper into idolatry.

Jehu Rejects God's Law

When Jehu began to reign, he killed the worshippers of Baal. The idolatrous images and temple of Baal were destroyed. He made a good start in rooting idolatry out of the country. But even so, "Jehu took no heed to walk in the LAW OF THE LORD GOD of Israel with all his heart: for he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam, which made Israel to sin. In those days the LORD began to cut Israel short" (II Kings 10:31-32).

God finally allowed Israel to be captured by Syria (II Kings 13:2-3). Syria oppressed Israel all the days of King Jehoahaz. But God had compassion, love and mercy toward Israel. During the reign of Jehoash, Israel was able to shake off the Syrian yoke (II Kings 13:22-25).

The following kings of Israel did no better than those before them. Jeroboam, son of Jehoash, Zachariah, Menahem, Pekahiah, Ramaliah are all given the same character description: "And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, as his fathers had done: he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin" (II Kings 14:24; 15:9, 18, 24, 28).

Israel was then taken into captivity by Assyria. How Israel sinned against God is enumerated in II Kings 17:7-18. Notice verses 15 and 16: "And they REJECTED HIS STATUTES, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them . . . concerning whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them. And they left ALL THE COMMANDMENTS of the LORD their God . . ."

Notice the ultimate penalty for Israel's national sins: "And the LORD rejected all the seed of Israel, and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand

of spoilers, until he had cast them out of his sight" (verse 20).

The Righteous Kings of Judah

While the kings of Israel were always sinful and continued to disobey God's Law, some of the kings of Judah were *righteous* and did *obey* God. Jehoshaphat was one such king. "And the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim; But sought to the LORD God of his father, and *walked in his commandments*, and NOT after the doings of Israel" (II Chron. 17:3-4).

The princes and Levites taught the Law of God throughout the cities of Judah. "And the fear of the LORD fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were round about Judah, so that they *made no war* against Jehoshaphat" (verse 10).

Hezekiah was another righteous king. "He did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father did. He removed the high places and brake the images . . . He trusted in the LORD God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him. For he clave to the LORD, and departed not from following him, but KEPT HIS COMMANDMENTS, which the LORD commanded Moses. And the LORD was with him; and he *prospered whithersoever he went forth*" (II Kings 18:3-7).

But Hezekiah's son didn't follow in his steps. Manasseh restored idolatry and seduced the people to do even more evil than the pagan and wicked Amorites (II Kings 21:2-11). "Moreover Manasseh shed innocent blood very much, till he had *filled Jerusalem* from one end to another; *beside his sin wherewith he made Judah to sin*, in doing that which was evil in the sight of the LORD" (verse 16).

Josiah Obeyed God's Law

Manasseh's son Amon was also an evil king (I Kings 21:20-22). After Amon was assassinated, his son Josiah became king. Here was an exception. Josiah "*did that which was right* in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not

aside to the right hand or to the left" (II Kings 22:2).

Josiah read all the words of the book of the covenant to the people. He then made a covenant before God "to walk after the LORD, and to *keep his commandments* and his testimonies and his STATUTES with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant" (II Kings 23:2-3).

Josiah had all the images and idols destroyed. He reinstated the Passover and led the people of Judah in obeying God's commandments and statutes. "And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, *according to all the law of Moses*; neither after him arose there any like him" (II Kings 23:25).

But because of Manasseh's horrible sins, God had to also remove Judah from out of His sight. Josiah was killed in battle. The three kings that followed Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim and Zedekiah — all did evil in God's sight. Judah was finally taken into captivity by Babylon.

During Judah's captivity, God raised up Ezra to lead His people in the right direction. Ezra "prepared his heart to *seek the law* of the LORD, and TO DO IT, and to *teach* in Israel STATUTES AND JUDGMENTS" (Ezra 7:10). Artaxerxes, the king of Persia, allowed Ezra and the Jews to return to Jerusalem to worship and live as they wished.

At Jerusalem, the people assembled on the first day of the seventh month — the Feast of Trumpets — and Ezra began reading from the *book of the law*. Ezra and the Levites also helped the people to *understand* the law. "So they read in the book *with an interpretation* [marginal reference], and *gave the sense*, and caused them to *understand* the reading" (Neh. 8:1-8). This was just like our Church service today.

God's Law Again Obeyed

The people were amazed at what they found written in God's Law. They discovered that God commanded them to observe the *Feast of Tabernacles*. This they did (verses 14-18). Then after the Feast, the people again assembled for

fasting and worship. They confessed their sins and the iniquities of their forefathers. Read the confession of the Levites in Nehemiah 9:5-37. It gives the sad and sinful history of Israel. It shows how God blessed Israel in love and mercy. "Nevertheless they were disobedient, and rebelled against thee, and *cast thy law behind their backs*, and slew thy prophets which testified against them to turn them to thee, and they wrought great provocations" (verse 26).

Notice verse 34: "Neither have our kings, our princes, our priests, nor our fathers, KEPT THY LAW, NOR HEARKENED UNTO THY COMMANDMENTS *and thy testimonies*, wherewith thou didst testify against them."

This little remnant of Judah then made a new covenant with God, "*to walk in God's law*, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and DO ALL THE COMMANDMENTS of the LORD our God, and his *judgments and his statutes*" (Neh. 10:29).

By now you should see how important it is to observe God's Law — His commandments, statutes and judgments. To have a good society, you must have good people. But people must also have good leadership — kings and rulers who can set the right example and rule with justice and mercy. The lesson of history shows this is *impossible without God's Holy Spirit* to change the hearts of carnal-minded human beings who have a nature that battles against God and His righteousness — "for it is *not subject to the law of God*, neither indeed can be" (Rom. 8:7).

God's Law in Men's Hearts

A perfect government must have perfect laws administered by righteous rulers. This will never be achieved in our day and age before Jesus Christ returns. But when Christ comes to establish His government on earth, God's Law will again be administered. "But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel: After those days, saith the LORD, *I will put my law in their inward parts*, and write it in their *hearts*; and will be their God, and they shall be my people" (Jer. 31:33).

God's Law will be kept in the spirit as magnified by Christ, rather than the

mere letter. It will be administered with love, compassion and mercy. Those who show *real repentance* and *change* their wicked ways will be forgiven and allowed to live — rather than stoned to death.

There still will be strict law enforcement. It will be *swift* and *certain*. Judgment will be given to the saints (Dan. 7:22) — DIVINE ONES — able to read human minds and hearts. There will be *no escape* for the guilty. There will be no miscarriage of justice. As a result, men will have such FEAR to do wrong that crime will disappear! No one will fear thieves, murderers, gangsters. There will be PEACE and SAFETY — and the only fear will be the fear to break the law!

But, we, whom God *now* calls to salvation, are to *teach* God's laws then, and enforce them. Our life now is the training ground to educate and prepare us for that grave responsibility and wonderful opportunity.

Study God's Law. Become a Biblical lawyer. Prepare yourself to be a king and ruler by studying the statutes and judgments given in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and especially Deuteronomy.

In the Book of Deuteronomy — the Book of the Law — are written the commandments, statutes and laws which would produce national and individual BLESSINGS, if followed, and national and individual CURSES if neglected, ignored or disobeyed. This Book was to be *studied by every king of Israel* (Deut. 17:18-20). The Law in this Book is BINDING ACCORDING TO ITS SPIRIT AND INTENT ON US TODAY.

The statutes and judgments MAGNIFY and expound the Ten Commandments by revealing how the Ten basic principles are to be applied. We are to *keep* this part of the Law, not in the strictness of the letter, but according to its spirit and intent. *Only the ceremonial customs and rituals* of the Law of Moses have passed away.

The laws in Deuteronomy were given to a physical nation to regulate physical conditions. When Christ returns again, He will rule over a physical and carnal nation. Laws will be needed to regulate the physical conditions that will then exist.

Study God's Law to see how His commandments, statutes, and judgments apply to your life now. How will they be applied and executed in the Millennium? *Teach them to your children* (Deut. 4:9-10; 11:18-20).

Meditate on God's Law as Joshua 1:8 says: "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but *thou shalt meditate therein* day and night, that thou mayest *observe to do* according

to all that is written therein: for *then* thou shalt make thy way *prosperous*, and then thou shalt have GOOD SUCCESS."

God gave His Law so we can learn to live the right, the sensible, and the happy kind of life. God's eternal, spiritual Law — the TEN COMMANDMENTS, together with the spiritual statutes and judgments — are the basis for that way of life. *Study it and learn how to live now and throughout all eternity.*

First Resurrection

(Continued from page 10)

dering how there will be room for them all on earth then read the question box article in the September, 1965, GOOD NEWS magazine, on page 23.

The third and last resurrection is for all who have known God's Way but who would not repent and obey! It is also for these who did repent, were baptized and started on the road of obedience to God but then gave up, quit, or just turned from God's Way and began to sin *willfully* after they had come to the knowledge of the truth. These people "sear their consciences" or "harden their hearts" and *live in willful sin!* This is the unpardonable sin (Heb. 10:26-27)!

The third resurrection would *include* those in this category and those who will not repent and obey during the millennium. All will be resurrected and/or cast into the lake of fire to die the second death which is eternal death (Rev. 20:14-15)! This is what will happen to those brought up in the second resurrection who are *still sinners* at the end of the one-hundred-year period called the Great White Throne Judgment. They "shall be accursed" — burned up in the lake of fire (Isa. 65:20)!

What will the lake of fire be like? The answer is hot! *Very hot!* It will be a literal "lake of fire burning with brimstone" (Rev. 19:20) — probably something like a hot burning sulphur pit! Those who rebel against God will be burned alive in this "lake of fire" which will spread around the entire earth destroying every vestige of man's *physical* achievement and environment

with its "fervent heat" (II Pet. 3:10-12).

Don't let this happen to you! This is the second death—ETERNAL DEATH!

Which Will It Be for You — the First or the Third Resurrection?

Brethren, do you realize that if you do *not* qualify to be changed into a spirit-born son of God at Christ's soon return that you *will be* in the THIRD resurrection?! Remember — the second resurrection is *only* for those who have *never known* the truth! If you are a converted member of God's Church there is *no chance* for you to be in the second resurrection. For YOU it must be the first or the third! If you are a baptized member of God's Church and are beginning to slip away, remember — *there is no second chance* for YOU! If you do not qualify to be "changed" at Christ's return you will be in the third resurrection — in the lake of fire or cast alive into it at Christ's return, along with the beast and the false prophet! (Rev. 19:20.)

There is *too much to lose* to even consider "slipping away"! The "lake of fire" is for the "fearful and unbelieving" (Rev. 21:8). Get rid of fear ("perfect love casteth out fear" — I John 4:18) and believe the wonderful promises God has made to us! "... for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb. 11:6)! And remember II Timothy 1:7, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." God has given us the Spirit of *power* to

overcome and *qualify for the first resurrection!*

The First Resurrection

Now I want to show you *why* the first resurrection is a "better resurrection"—better than the "second" or the "third." The phrase "better resurrection" is used in Hebrews 11—the faith chapter. Notice Hebrews 11:35, 39-40—"Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a *better resurrection* . . . And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some *better thing* for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."

Notice also that verse 40 says God has provided "some better thing for us." This chapter is telling us that many before us by their faith (demonstrated by works—James 2:17, 18, 22, 26) have *already qualified* for the "better resurrection" but that they have not yet received the promise. They are dead in their graves waiting for us to qualify!

ARE you *qualifying*? Maybe some of these facts about the first resurrection will help you to strive harder!

A Resurrection to Eternal Life

The first resurrection is the *only* resurrection to *eternal life!* Did you realize that? Notice I Thessalonians 4:16-17, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." Let's put that together with I Corinthians 15:51-53, "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality." Those verses alone show that "the dead in

Christ"—all true Christians who died before Christ's return—"shall rise *first.*" They shall be "raised incorruptible." They will be immortal. They will be spirit-born Sons of God! Then we (true Christians) who will still be alive at Christ's return will be changed "in the twinkling of an eye" from physical, mortal, corruptible flesh to incorruptible, immortal spirit beings! We will have received the gift of eternal life!

If you will build Godly character now in this present physical life, you will be given a glorified, powerful, Spirit body which will *not die which cannot be destroyed!* This will happen at the first resurrection.

Remember that the second resurrection is a resurrection to *physical* life not *spiritual* life. Those in the second resurrection will be flesh and blood human beings who have not yet qualified for God's Kingdom. They will have to fight the same battle we are now fighting to qualify for eternal life. Satan and his demons will be bound, yes. It will be a peaceful world, yes. But they will still have the greatest enemy of all to overcome—their own human nature. It will not be *easy* for them to qualify for God's Kingdom. They will have to build the same Godly character then that you and I do now! They probably will have to fight the downward pulls of human nature a lot longer than most of us now living. How would you like to battle your human nature for 100 years before qualifying?! There isn't one tenth that much time left for us! We have only a few years left before Christ comes. Wouldn't you rather fight the battle now and be in the first resurrection—the one to eternal life? If you don't you will be in the third resurrection and suffer *eternal death.*

Kings and Priests of God

Those in the first resurrection will live and reign with Jesus Christ for a thousand years as kings and priests of God! This is what God revealed to the apostle John, "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years" (Rev. 20:6).

We shall rule *on this earth* as kings and priests of God (Rev. 5:10)!

Think about that! Meditate on it! Read again, study and *understand* Mr. Armstrong's booklet on *The Wonderful World Tomorrow! What It Will Be Like!* Study very closely Mr. Meredith's series of articles in *The PLAIN TRUTH* on "Prepare Now To Be a King!"

YOU will be ruling over people in the World Tomorrow. YOU will be helping, guiding, correcting, blessing, teaching them! Notice what God reveals through Isaiah about how we will teach them, "...yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left" (Isa. 30:20-21).

We will be their *teachers!* As spirit beings we will have the power to manifest ourselves as human beings. They will *see* us and *hear* us. Whenever necessary we will appear to them and say, "This is the way, walk ye in it"! We will teach generation after generation God's way of life!

Do you want to miss out on the opportunity to live and work with Christ a thousand years? He is coming soon to rule this earth, to bring God's government, to establish peace, happiness and prosperity! You can have a direct part in all this. God has called you to be in the first resurrection—to be a king!

More Promises and Blessings

In Revelation chapter two and three God says, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." The seven churches mentioned represent the seven "eras" or "stages" of God's true Church from the time of the apostles to the end of our present age.

Let's notice the specific promise and reward to the Philadelphian era of God's Church—"Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast

which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name" (Rev. 3:10-12). Brethren, I hope you do hear and understand! These blessings are for *you!* We are *now* in the Philadelphian era of God's Work. God has given us the open door of radio and the printing press right now to preach and publish the Good News of the coming Kingdom of God and to warn the world of the coming Great Tribulation — "which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth." You and I can escape the Great Tribulation because we have been called now. We can also help others escape by being faithful and doing our part in God's Work today!

If we will catch the vision, do our part in God's Work and overcome our sins, we have the very special promise that we will be "pillars" (strong supports, mainstays, leaders) in the very temple of God Almighty for all eternity! Read about that fabulous city where you can live and work — Revelation 21:10-21! You can be at the very Headquarters of the universe working with God the Father, Jesus Christ, Abraham, David, Paul and many, many others — if you are in the first resurrection!

Pleasures for Evermore

Many think that being a spirit being in God's Kingdom will not be much "fun." Some members have asked me if we will be able to see one another as spirit beings! Some don't really desire to be a spirit being because they think they are going to lose all the pleasures we enjoy as human beings. If only we could realize that this physical life is on a much lower scale than spiritual life. God, who is Spirit, gave us physical life and physical pleasures. What God has given us is only a small type of what He enjoys!

Even a happy marriage and the right kind of love between husband and wife is only a type of the greater, deeper

spiritual love, joy and happiness that God does experience. One of the songs we sing in church services has this stanza, "There are depths of love that I cannot know 'til I have immortality; there are heights of joy that I may not reach 'til I rest in peace with thee." This is what God's Word says, "... in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore" (Psalm 16:11). David knew that he could not be completely happy — that he could not be satisfied until he was resurrected into God's Kingdom as a spirit-born son of God (Psalm 17:15)!

The apostle Paul also realized that same thing. He said, "If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead... I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:11, 14)! Paul said that the physical pleasures of this life are like "dung" compared to what spiritual life will be like (Phil. 3:8). He was willing to give up anything, even his own life, to be a spirit being in God's Kingdom!

How about you? Have you come to that point yet? Do you *desperately* want to be a spirit being in God's Kingdom? Are you sick and tired of your rotten human nature? Have you come to abhor yourself so much that you cry out daily for God's Kingdom to come? We certainly don't want to be selfish and just think of ourselves. We *must* serve and help others. But we also must "work out our own salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:12).

While he was in a Roman prison waiting to die Paul wrote the epistle of II Timothy. He said, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (II Tim. 4:6-8).

Paul knew he had qualified. He knew he would receive a crown of righteousness at the time of Christ's return when the "dead in Christ" would be resurrected. Paul made it because he knew

what his purpose was and came to desire that purpose more than he desired anything on earth! Paul knew that being born into God's Kingdom as a spirit being would be the most fantastically thrilling event that could ever occur. He realized that spiritual life is much superior to physical life.

Jesus Christ — Our Example

Jesus Christ is the only one who has experienced both spiritual life and physical life. The God of the Old Testament is the One who became Jesus Christ. If you don't understand this, then write for the article, "Is Jesus God?" Reading John 1, Hebrews 1 and I Corinthians 10, will prove it to you. Paul was inspired to write this about Christ — "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men" (Phil. 2:6-7). The phrase "made himself of no reputation" could also have been properly rendered from the Greek as "emptied himself." In other words, one member of the Godhead, the God of the Old Testament, "emptied himself" or gave up divine power and glory to become a human being — Jesus Christ!

God lived on this earth as a man and experienced every type of temptation, trial and test. He also enjoyed the pleasures of physical life — all except marriage. Yet marriage and physical love between husband and wife is only a type of a much more glorious and pleasurable relationship — the deep, close, intimate, spiritual love that we will have with Jesus Christ when He returns (Eph. 5:22-32).

Brethren, Jesus Christ was willing to forsake the love, joy and pleasure of a happy physical marriage in order to help us qualify for the most important marriage of all! Read about it in Revelation 19. Verse 9 says, "Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb." The marriage of the Church to Jesus Christ is the most important marriage of all! Christ has already qualified. You should be striving to qualify with all your might!

After Jesus Christ had finished the work which His Heavenly Father had

given Him to do on this earth, notice what He said, "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was" (John 17:5).

He wanted to be back with His Father as a glorified spirit being! He did not want to remain in the flesh! Christ prayed for Himself—that He would receive divine power and glory again—and He also prayed for us, "Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast

given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which you have given me: for you lovedest me before the foundations of the world" (John 17:24). Christ prayed that we would be with Him and also inherit glory, honor and power!

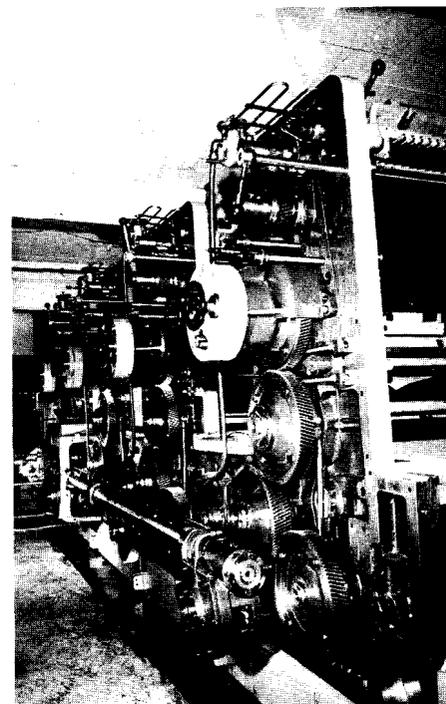
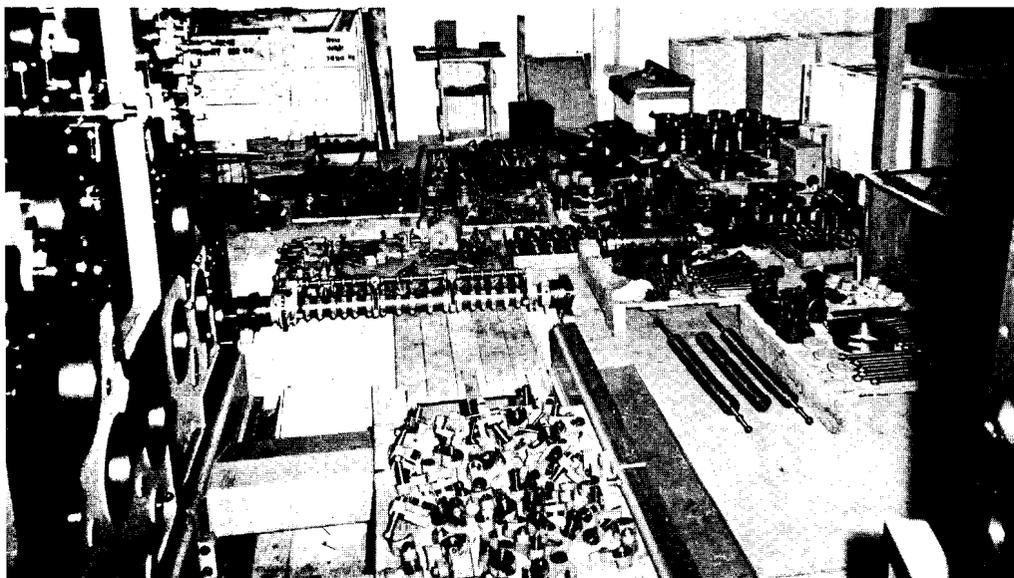
Brethren, I hope you can begin to see that life in God's Kingdom as perfect spirit beings will be a lot greater than this present physical life. Lived according to God's laws, even this present

physical life can and should be a happy, full and abundant one! God intended it to be so. But we need to realize that we were born physically to be born again spiritually into God's Family. And we need to understand that eternal, spiritual life will be even happier, fuller and more abundant with pleasures for evermore!

To attain unto the God Family, you and I must be in the first resurrection—the best resurrection!

Church of God News-Worldwide

(Continued from page 6)



Ambassador College Photos

From package to assembled press!

dynamic growth is taking place here as well as everywhere in God's Work around the world.

Mr. Docken Reports From the Philippines

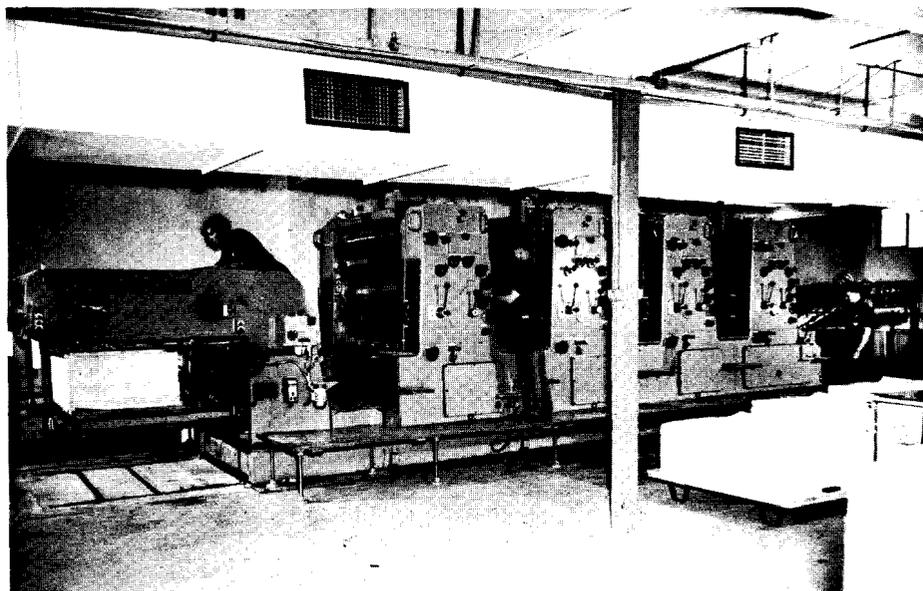
This past month has been a busy and exciting one for the Philippine Work. A Spokesman-Club-sponsored "Open House" at our offices was a great success. Tours were conducted through the different departments, refreshments were served, movies of the Ministerial Conference shown—everyone enjoyed the fellowshiping and a greater understanding of how God's Work functions.

On June 7, the magazine *Graphic*, carried one of our ads. The ad, *The Seven Laws of Success*, has proven to be the most effective ad we have run in the *Philippines Free Press*, and we expect similar response from *Graphic* readers. This will not be a regular monthly ad, but only an experiment to see if it

might be worthwhile placing ads in other magazines here in the future.

The Filipino brethren are all excited about the choice of our new Feast site

—Baguio City. Baguio City was developed by Americans when the Philippines belonged to the U.S. because



of the cool and refreshing climate there. Although it is a tourist center, October is not the tourist season and we should have the area pretty much to ourselves. We will occupy the Teacher's Camp, a summer school where teachers from all over the nation come to further their education in the summer. There we have facilities for one thousand persons, and in a city about a mile away, many recreational facilities are available including bowling, roller skating, horseback riding and the other features you find in most resort areas.

The first regularly scheduled Bible Study was held in Rosales on June 3 with *sixty-five* in attendance. This will be a monthly meeting conducted by Mr. Ortiguero and should prove to be a

able on the market so it has to be *created and built* by our own employees.

The introduction of the Model-C Cheshire Mailing Machine pictured in the January GOOD NEWS, increased mailing efficiency considerably. This machine labels *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazines at a speed of 22,000 an hour. After they are labeled, the Cheshire kicks them onto a conveyor where the magazines are separated into bundles to meet Post Office Department requirements and are then sent to the various cities in the U. S.

The magazines come off the labeler so fast that it requires six employees operating *three* manual tying machines going full speed to even begin to keep up with it. At times, the tyers would be

was developed in less than eight weeks' time from a material and labor budget of less than \$2,500. Needless to say, representatives of several industrial manufacturing companies have shown keen interest in our tying unit.

One operator and one loader now do the work that formerly required six employees. This saves about 150 man-hours each month on *The PLAIN TRUTH* mailing. The unit is still in the development stage, but is operating more efficiently as minor modifications continue to be made.

Progress in *every* department is the keynote of God's Work Worldwide!

FIERY TRIALS

(Continued from page 8)

we have to correct our children: "And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, *despise not thou the chastening of the Lord*, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For *whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth*, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth" (Heb. 12:5-6).

The apostle Paul then goes on to show that if we "endure chastening," then God deals with us as with sons.

But if we will not receive this loving correction, then what does God call us? He bluntly calls us (spiritual) "bastards"! We are not really God's sons at all but are merely pretending to be His sons.

Does Godly chastisement cause us to bear good fruit?

Notice *why* God chastens us. "Now *no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous*, but grievous: nevertheless *afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of RIGHTEOUSNESS* unto them which are exercised thereby" (verse 11).

God has ordained that this life will not be an easy life — for a very good reason. He knows that, if we have no severe trials and tests, then *we become spiritually soft and flabby!*

A comfortable man is a complacent man. A comfortable man doesn't want to change — doesn't want to alter the *status quo!* Why should he? He is quite happy to let things continue as



Automatic tyer in action. Inset shows PLAIN TRUTHS being tied!

Ambassador College Photos

real help and inspiration to the members in that area who are unable to attend services here in Manila because of the distance.

And at Headquarters

A need for faster and more efficient machinery becomes increasingly more critical as God's Work continues to grow. This is especially true as we enter the gun lap of mushroom growth of the last critical years. In many cases, direly needed equipment is not avail-

hundreds of bundles behind the labeler.

We searched the market for an automatic tying unit to ease the congestion but couldn't find one to fill our needs. Just recently one company came out with an automatic unit but it is *too big, too slow* (1200 bundles an hour), and *too expensive* (approximately \$50,000.). So, *our men* conceived an idea to automate the tying and then proceeded to develop the unit.

The tyer developed by our men is compact, ties 2,500 bundles an hour, and

they are. Why change — when everything seems to be going along so very smoothly?

God Almighty knows that we *need* problems, temptations, trials, necessities, weaknesses, persecutions and afflictions to stir us to action — to stir us up enough to overcome our spiritual lethargy!

God promises a special blessing on those who steadfastly resist and overcome temptations: "Blessed is the man that *endureth temptation*: for when he is *tried*, he shall receive the crown of life which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him" (James 1:12).

How We Are Tried

What are some of the main ways by which we are afflicted? Ways by which we are caused to go on our knees to God in heartrending prayer? What are some of the *trials* which cause us to really cry out to God (as unto a merciful and loving Father) for help and strength to overcome our trials and tribulations?

PERSECUTION is one of the main ways by which God's people are drawn closer to Him.

PHYSICAL NECESSITIES often cause God's people to have to go to Him in prayer. When we don't have the necessities of life (food, clothing, shelter) we are often brought to our knees before our heavenly Father.

WEAKNESSES, PHYSICAL INFIRMITIES AND SICKNESS are often the means by which God brings us back into line. When we are told that we may remain an *invalid* for the rest of our lives, or when we know that we may actually *die* of an incurable disease (unless God miraculously heals us!) then this brings us to our sober senses. Such a shock often causes us to get down on our knees in heartfelt prayer, beseeching our merciful God for mercy — for health and healing (II Kings 20:1-7).

OVERPOWERING TEMPTATIONS are often the means by which we are brought to the realization of how weak and wretched our human nature is. Through strong and persistent temptations (fears, worries and anxieties; lust and covetousness; hatred and malice; envy and jealousies) we are often sent to the throne of grace for additional strength

to overcome our wretched nature (Rom. 7:14-25).

Has God solemnly promised to deliver us from all of our temptations — if we will only rely upon Him? "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but *God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able*; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (I Cor. 10:13).

When we really repent of our sins and turn from them, accepting the blood of Christ as the means by which our transgressions will be washed away, then we are assured by God that sin will no longer rule over us — will no longer dominate our lives.

God promises: "*For sin shall not have dominion over you*: for ye are not under the [death *penalty* of the] law, but under grace [pardon]" (Rom. 6:14). Once we are forgiven our sins, God has solemnly promised that sin will no longer reign over us — will not control our lives!

A true Christian must continually suffer trials, tribulations, persecutions, pressures, hardships and temptations of every sort. But God will not let them overcome or defeat us as long as we steadfastly look to Him for complete deliverance: "For He hath said, *I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee*. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me" (Heb. 13:5-6).

Is it God's will that His children be kept under a certain amount of *pressure*? He knows that we need to have *continual* trials, tribulations and persecutions in order to toughen us up spiritually — in order to show us how weak and helpless we are so that we will always look to Him and rely on Him for *everything*!

Pressure is Essential

There are several analogies in the Bible — analogies which clearly show us why God permits us to have trials and tribulations.

The Christian is compared to *precious metals* — gold or silver — which has to be put into a fiery furnace in order to *burn away* the *dross* and *impurities*. Also, gold and silver must

become molten before it can be poured into a mould. This is true with the Christian. We must at least be heated red hot in order to be malleable enough to be able to be easily bent and shaped by the hands of our faithful Creator (see I Pet. 1:7; 4:12; I Cor. 3:12).

The Bible compares the saints to *precious jewels* or precious stones (Mal. 3:17). Again, it is interesting to note that diamonds, rubies and other precious jewels can only be made under terrific heat and *pressure*!

So it is with us. We must be subjected to the tremendous heat of our fiery trials and to the constant pressure of temptation, persecution and tribulation — in order to become a precious jewel in the sight of God!

God even compares His people to common *clay* in the hands of the Master Potter: "But now, O Lord, thou art our father; *we are the clay, and thou our potter*; and we all are the work of thy hand" (Isa. 64:8).

When in Egypt I was privileged to see a potter at work. The potter must first make sure the right amount of *water* is mixed with the clay so it will be pliable. God reveals that the Holy Spirit is the *living water* (John 7:37, 38) which will enable our adamant minds and hearts to voluntarily yield to God — so He can mould and fashion us into the spiritual shape, image or character of His Son, Jesus Christ.

By using a very simple potter's wheel an experienced potter is able to quickly and expertly make beautiful pieces of pottery — cups, plates, bowls, vases, waterpots and jars of every description.

But, after the potter moulds the clay into the desired shape, he must then *bake the pottery in a fiery furnace*. It is in the fiery furnace that the clay takes the permanent shape into which the potter has moulded it. So it is with the Christian. Is it not in the *furnace of affliction* that God Almighty sets (or fixes) us in the particular shape (or character) He would have us take — for all eternity?

Endure Hardness

The Word of God compares the true Christian to a *spiritual soldier* for Christ: "Thou therefore *endure hard-*

ness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (II Tim. 2:3).

Before a raw recruit can really become a good soldier, he must first take an intensive course which will toughen him up for the battles ahead.

The best soldiers have always been those who have been toughened and hardened by being subjected to hard work, exercise and discipline. So it is with the Christian. He must submit himself, willingly, to his Captain, Jesus Christ, and must voluntarily endure hardness — persecution, deprivation, tribulation and severe temptation — if he ever expects to become a good soldier for Jesus Christ.

And must not he put on *all* of the *spiritual armour* mentioned in the 6th chapter of Ephesians — *breastplate* of righteousness, *shield* of faith, *helmet* of salvation, *sword* of the Word of God, and all the other pieces that make up the complete spiritual armour of a Christian?

We are commanded: "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Eph. 6:11).

God Almighty knows that we tend to get flabby, spiritually speaking, when things go too smoothly. We tend to *let down* in our prayer, Bible study and fasting when we have very few trials, problems or persecutions.

God would like to see us *prosper* and be in *health* (III John 2); but He will even deny us these blessings if He knows that we need to suffer *deprivation*, *affliction* or *persecution* — in order to cause us to really look to Him as our Provider and our Deliverer from all our trials.

Jesus Christ will *reject* anyone who remains in a *lukewarm* condition (Rev. 3:15-16)! He doesn't want to see us become *spiritually drowsy* — insensitive to our Creator's wishes. God doesn't want us to be spiritual drones.

Spiritual Exercise Is Vital

God Almighty knows that it is only through the constant spiritual exercise of problems, trials, tests, persecutions, temptations and tribulations that we develop real *spiritual sinews* and

strength. If one doesn't actually tire himself with a certain amount of strenuous daily exercise he can't develop his body to its optimum and remain in the best physical health.

So it is spiritually. If we don't daily exercise our spiritual faculties by overcoming and solving our spiritual problems, trials and hardships — then we will not remain in very good spiritual shape. We will then become spiritually weak and flabby. God doesn't want this to happen!

Yes, brethren, whether we like it or not, this is the type of life our loving Father has ordained that we must lead. It is only those who constantly *overcome* who will make it into the Kingdom of God (Rev. 2, 3). Only those who *exert themselves* enough to hang on for dear life — to *endure* unto the very end — will be saved (Mat. 24:13). "But *he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*"

We came into this world under terrific stress and strain — under pressure and anguish — and we will not be born into the Kingdom of God unless and until we have proven that we can withstand the pressures and strains of the everyday trials, tribulations, persecutions and temptations of this world.

"If Any Man Draw Back"

But, regretfully, some prefer to *give up* and *quit* — to turn back! What does God think of these quitters?

If we wilfully, deliberately sin against God, we will never receive forgiveness (Heb. 10:25-31). "Now the just shall live by faith: but *if any man DRAW BACK, my soul shall have no pleasure in him*" (Heb. 10:38).

Yes, some are not willing to really fight, to endure, to labour, struggle and strive in order to make it into the Kingdom of God. Christ showed that we must really *strain* if we wish to make it into His Kingdom. "STRIVE [struggle and strain] *to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able*" (Luke 13:24).

Furthermore, Christ revealed that it is only those who are so fervent in their desire to make it into God's Kingdom

that they are willing to be "violent" with themselves — who actually make it (Mat. 11:12).

Trouble Is Certain, But . . .

The truth of the matter is that we are going to have trials and tribulations — whether we obey God or not. Job declared: "*Man is born unto TROUBLE, as the sparks fly upward*" (Job 5:7). Yes, we will have troubles whether or not we obey God. But if we obey Him, He will give us the needed *wisdom* and *strength* to overcome all our trials and temptations (I Cor. 10:13).

Hardships, trials and persecutions are certain to befall *all* who live an upright, godly life. But these tribulations are all designed by a loving Creator to teach us to go to God daily — completely trusting in Him for our every need, including deliverance from all our sore trials.

God declares: "*If thou faint in the day of adversity [hardship], thy strength is small*" (Prov. 24:10).

An all wise, loving Creator God has deliberately designed life in such a way as to include many trials and afflictions. The Almighty even goes out of His way to *rebuke and chasten us* — in love — so as to keep us on the straight and narrow path.

Knowing this, should we not earnestly desire *God's correction*? You need to learn to *desire* — and even *PRAY daily for chastisement from the hand of God!*

"Behold, *happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty*" (Job 5:17).

Don't ever forget that God corrects us for our good — because He loves us and longs to share with us the eternal inheritance of co-ownership and co-rulership of the whole Universe.

Can you now clearly see how trials, temptations, pressures and hardships have been put here as a blessing in disguise? These tribulations assist us in building the kind of perfect, godly character that we need to possess throughout all eternity.

Thank God for the blessing of these trials! It is through them that we develop godly character!