

The

Good News

International Magazine of The Church of God



SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1971

**SPECIAL FESTIVAL
EDITION**



More About Our Cover...

The cover of our special Feast edition of *The GOOD NEWS* features a twilight shot of the Festival Administration Building on the Big Sandy campus. Just a little over one year ago, the Festival headquarters was transferred from Pasadena to Big Sandy, Texas. Mr. Leslie McCullough, deputy chancellor of Ambassador College, Big Sandy, became the new Festival Coordinator. Assisting Mr. McCullough with his additional responsibility is Mr. Bill McDowell (shown entering the building), formerly district superintendent over the Chicago area before his transfer to the Big Sandy faculty in the summer of 1970.

The Big Sandy Festival Administration Building is the newest Feast administration building to be completed in the United States. Almost identical buildings are at our Feast sites in the Poconos and Lake of the Ozarks. Another is nearing completion at our newest Feast site near Wisconsin Dells. These buildings become the nerve center of each Festival area. Built with funds from the tithe of the tithe (fully explained in Mr. Portune's article beginning on page 14 of this issue), these facilities provide a base of operations to insure an efficient and smooth-running Festival in each area.

The facility at Big Sandy gets especially full usage. Primarily, it houses the main Festival Office and all of the related staff. However, unlike the other buildings, it houses an IBM 360 Computer for Festival as well as general college use. Also made available is a fine first aid facility not limited to Festival use, but open year-round for students and staff of the Big Sandy campus. And the large, open foyer area doubles as a student lounge for college students who live in nearby Booth City. Big Sandy students were especially excited about getting to use the foyer as a lounge, since the men and women living there have had no nearby common lounge for early evening study and fellowship since the campus opened in 1964.

This year over 70,000 people are expected to attend the Feast of Tabernacles in the United States, with greater and greater numbers expected in the future! This means that more fine Festival sites will have to be found and prepared for the use of God's people. Many other Festival Administration Buildings, such as the one at Big Sandy, will have to be constructed as the need for additional Feast sites grows.

Are you prepared to attend the Feast of Tabernacles this year? Is your sense of expectancy, enjoyment, and anticipation already beginning to stir your imagination?

This special issue of *The GOOD NEWS*, produced in conjunction with the Festival Office at Big Sandy, will give you the instruction you need to prepare wisely, competently, and fully for the fall Festival — both spiritually and physically. Be sure to read every article carefully, for each one was designed with YOU in mind, to help you have a really profitable, pleasant, and fully satisfying Feast of Tabernacles this year!

We of *The GOOD NEWS* and Festival Office staffs wish you and your family a MOST enjoyable, uplifting and spiritually edifying Feast!

Ambassador College Photo

The Good News

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scattered abroad

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change in your address. Please include both old
and new address. IMPORTANT!

WHY WE MUST OBSERVE THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Bigger, better, and more meaningful than ever before, the Feast of Tabernacles will soon be observed by brethren around the world! To know what is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY, and how to really REJOICE in the Feast . . . read this important article.

by Garner Ted Armstrong

AS WE ASSEMBLE around the world, or as we look toward this Festival even in the privacy of our own homes, brethren, let's come to fully REALIZE the deep *significance* of the Feast of Tabernacles.

God instituted these days, giving them to our ancient forefathers to keep His true people in mind of the GREAT PLAN He is busily working out here below!

The Real MEANING of the Feast

God gave His great Feast of Tabernacles to PICTURE to us the conditions on this earth in *the very next era now just ahead of us*. The time of the *reign* of the KINGDOM OF GOD!

He has commanded us to COME OUT of this world for these eight days, for the Feast of Tabernacles, and the Final Great Feast of the year picturing the great JUDGMENT to follow. He has told us to dwell in *temporary* domiciles, *living together* in peace and harmony, hearing inspiring messages from God's ministers, working, eating, listening, studying, praying, fellowshiping together — so we can learn a vitally important LESSON.

The real meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles is to portray to us the Kingdom of God — the earth here below as it will be under the rule and reign of that Kingdom, which is the great ruling

family of God into which we must be born.

The Feast pictures government on earth, order on earth, system on earth, harmony, peace and happiness on earth!

How YOU Must Take Part

What *is* idolatry? Have you ever really analyzed it?

Why did God place the first two commandments in the *order* He did?

Because He knew these would be the very FIRST commandments men would tend to *break*! You've heard of "matinee" idols. You have heard it said that anything that gets between you and God is an idol. But how do people idolize other people?

By MIMICKING them!

Notice little children. They want to "act" LIKE their heroes, their "matinee idols." American advertisers, recognizing this carnal trend in human beings, try to sell certain soaps, cigarettes or cosmetics to gullible hero worshippers by assuring the public their IDOLS use this particular brand!

That is FALSE *worship*!

But *we* are to *worship* God, in spirit and in truth! *True* worship is also mimicking! But it is mimicking God the Father and Jesus Christ His Son! John said if we say we KNOW Jesus Christ, we should LIVE like He did! (I John 2:6.) Paul urged, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ"

(I Cor. 11:1). Peter said Jesus Christ had set us an example that we should follow in His steps (I Peter 2:21).

God has ordained that we should, in a sense, *act out* a part of His plan in our observance of His Holy Days. By living in the actual conditions He shows will prevail on earth, we learn to really understand His plan — what the world will be like, and our part in it in the future.

We worship God by imitating Him. Jesus Christ is the very image, substance, nature and character of God the Father (Heb. 1:3). Jesus kept the Feast of Tabernacles! He shows whole nations will be under severe plagues from God if they refuse to keep these Festivals in the millennium (Zech. 14:17-19).

Remember, God has ORDERED that we observe His Feasts! He will not accept weak "excuses" for staying away! God has said YOU simply *MUST* take an active part in these Feasts if you are at all able to do so! It is only in THIS way you will really learn — by experience — the true meaning of the wonderful plan God is working out here below.

How to REJOICE in the Festival

God says, "But unto the place which the Lord your God shall choose . . . thither ye shall bring your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, and your

tithes, and heave offerings of your hand, and your vows, and your freewill offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and your flocks, and there ye shall eat before the Lord your God, and ye shall REJOICE in all that ye put your hand unto, ye and your household, wherein the Lord thy God has blessed thee" (Deut. 12:5-7).

God says we are to be truly happy at the Feast. He wants us to rejoice! But in what way?

Notice. He included the burnt offerings and sacrifices in this section, when speaking to ancient Israel. Today, as we know, Jesus Christ's ONE sacrifice has rendered these offerings — those which came on the *annual* Festivals and those which came on every day of the year — unnecessary. He caused these ordinances to cease (Dan. 9:27). They were not an *original* part of the annual Holy Days of God when He called His people out of the land of Egypt (Jer. 7:22).

But sacrifices are not over! Today, God requires a *spiritual*, not an animal sacrifice. Notice what God inspired Paul to write in Romans the twelfth chapter: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye *present your bodies a living sacrifice*, holy, acceptable

unto God, which is your reasonable SERVICE" (Rom. 12:1).

A little later in that same chapter, Paul described the attitude of a truly converted person who would be "distributing to the necessity of saints; GIVEN to hospitality" (verse 13).

The *sacrifices* YOU should bring with you to the Feast, brethren, are the sacrifices God says He will *not* despise. Notice it: "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise" (Ps. 51:17).

God says the way you can *prove* you really love your brethren is to lay down your life for them (I John 3:16).

And you can be actively proving how much you really love God during this Feast of Tabernacles. You can do it by *GIVING of yourself!* By *OFFERING of yourself* in service, in labor, in help, in whatever your hand can *find* to do, as you are directed by those in positions of responsibility — to make the Feast *MUCH* more enjoyable.

Not JUST a Vacation

Many find God says to REJOICE in the Feast. So — they decide to be obedient. They decide to really REJOICE! Some have said, "No, thanks!

Not *me* volunteer for some job — this is my vacation time!" But what a totally *WRONG* attitude, brethren!

Let's really get it straight! God did not say He calls you to His Festival to sit down and let others wait on you! He does want you to rejoice — to get a real thrill out of the Feast, to be truly *HAPPY* there! But the way to happiness is through *giving*.

What *YOU* ought to be doing is *seeing how much you can contribute* to the enjoyment and well-being of others!

See how much of your interest, your time, your energy, your concern, your warm smiles and words of encouragement you can sprinkle through the Feast. See if you can make it a point to *MEET* more of your brothers and sisters than you did last time — really get acquainted with them — have and show more love than last time. See if you can do more good working at straightening chairs, sweeping, dusting, cleaning, serving in *ANY* capacity than you did last time.

But suppose there are enough laborers in different jobs? Suppose *YOU* are not really needed in a particular duty to help serve, after all? What then?

Why, that's where the really *BIGGEST* responsibility for *ALL* of us comes





in. You can really serve by **MAKING AS LITTLE WORK AS POSSIBLE FOR OTHERS!** If you are clean, neat, orderly, and follow directions faithfully, you will be doing a real **SERVICE** to your brethren!

You would be surprised how much dirt, trash and litter volunteer Feast of Tabernacles crews have to clean up from the floors and walkways every Feast. You'd be surprised at how many man-hours and how much special attention is required just to collect, keep track of and return lost and misplaced items. Why not do your part to make some of your brethren "unemployed" at the Feast?

And there is one other very, very big thing you can do. If you are *cheerful, cooperative*, humble, easy to be led, easy to be directed, always following suggestions and instructions from the deacons and their assistants, and if you are always really illustrating the very fruits of a totally changed, converted life, it will make your Feast immensely more enjoyable. And that joy will not only be yours, but that of your brethren as well.

Do you see? *That's* a very important way **YOU** can serve! By being as cooperative **YOURSELF** as Christ in you would be, and by offering to **HELP** others

wherever possible — you will have a tremendously enjoyable time! I absolutely guarantee it! God *proves* to us we are *far happier* when we're **DOING, WORKING, ACCOMPLISHING, GIVING, SERVING**, than when we're *being served!*

What Is Your **GOAL** at the Feast?

There is something else which also has to do with your basic attitude toward the Feast.

Think carefully. Why are you going to the Feast?

Certainly not just for the scenery alone, are you? Are you going to the Feast to go hunting, fishing, boating or horseback riding? Are you so looking forward to some of these activities that they are becoming your primary goal in attending the Feast?

What about fellowship? Are you so eager to renew old acquaintances, and make new friends, that you are just *excited* about it? Are you making *this* your primary goal at the Feast?

If you are — **YOU HAVE A VERY WRONG GOAL!**

God **HAS** given us **FINE** facilities. He has added *many* additional attractions in the form of beautiful scenery along the

way and while we're attending, and in the form of fine recreational facilities. But these things are very much *secondary!* These things are just a few of the added little "fringe" benefits that God gives us as an **ADDITIONAL** blessing!

The really **BIG REASON** for your being at the place God has placed His name should be, *first* of all, because God **COMMANDS** you to be there — and you desperately want to be **OBEDIENT** to Him!

In explaining the place where your second tithe is to be spent, God says, "And thou shalt eat before the Lord thy God, *in the place which he shall choose* to place his name there..." But why? What is the purpose? What is your goal in obeying this command? God answers "... **THAT THOU MAYEST LEARN TO FEAR THE LORD THY GOD ALWAYS**" (Deut. 14:23).

Let's face it, brethren. We don't learn to really **FEAR** God if we're spending too much time on mere recreational activities — if those activities are keeping us from our *primary* purpose in being at the Feast in the first place!

You will learn to fear God by being obedient to His commands — and by hearing of Him and from Him as

He inspires His own chosen servants to talk directly to you!

THINK of it in that way! If you knew that GOD ALMIGHTY, and CHRIST HIS SON, were going to be ON THE PLATFORM — *personally speaking with you* — would you be out in the camping area? Would you be boating, swimming, or fishing? Would you be horseback riding *during services* — if you KNEW GOD would be there? If you have any shred of respect and awe for God — if you are even *remotely converted* — you certainly would **NOT!** Rather, you would make it a special, vital *important* point to be in EVERY service — *ahead* of time! You would be quiet, attentive, eager to learn!

PLAN to attend EVERY SERVICE, brethren! THAT is the reason you are GOING to the Feast, isn't it? And, frankly, brethren — and I do write with the authority of Jesus Christ — if you do not intend to be in the services — *you should NOT COME* to the Feast! YOU *should STAY HOME* — so you do *not* set the *wrong example* for others who may be weak, and may be led off by a wrong influence!

Make it your aim to be in the services! Each one will be totally different from the one before! What a shame if the only sermon preached on child rearing, or family problems, or prayer, or prophecy would be just the exact one you needed so badly — and you *missed* it because you let the cares of *this physical world* get in your way!

So let's show our Heavenly Father we all really MEAN it this year. Let's not miss a service unless it is because of sickness or some genuine exception. We *will* fellowship together, but remember our FIRST fellowship is with God the Father, *through* Christ His Son, and *then* with the brethren, but only *in* and *through* Christ! (I John 1:3.)

PREPARE Your Offering Ahead of Time

Remember, also, brethren — God commands us NOT TO COME EMPTY to His Festival, but to *plan ahead*, and be *prepared* to give a generous offering, according to the BLESSING He has given us.

“Three times in a year shall all thy males appear before the Lord thy God

in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, and in the feast of weeks [Pentecost], and in the feast of tabernacles, *and they shall not appear before the Lord empty*” (Deut. 16:16).

God says each is to GIVE, as he is able (verse 17).

But frankly, brethren, *many* of you have been putting into the *special annual offerings* at the Feast what you would have sent in if you had remained at home, in the first place!

Each year, Mr. Portune notices a sharp decline in tithes and offerings just before and during the Feast! This period of about one month becomes one of the most severely difficult times for God's Work! Many, anticipating giving a large offering at the Feast, are saving money they would have given as offerings anyway, even if they could not have attended! So even though we make a truly *fine* showing with our offerings — these special offerings, instead of bringing up the normal income merely BRING INCOME UP TO NORMAL!

Let's NOT let this happen this year! Where OUR TREASURE IS — that is where our HEARTS will be! Where is YOUR heart — in your own personal interests and pleasures? Or in the Work CHRIST is doing?

If you leave home, temporarily discontinuing your normal tithes and offerings as you journey to, attend, and then return from the Feast — then you have temporarily severed that vitally needed, *constant flow* of income that MUST keep coming in to keep this great and growing Work going!

Even a sizeable offering — if that offering only represents what you would have given anyway, with just a *little* over — will just barely help us struggle through another financial bind — but it will NOT give us the big extra BOOST we ought to have at this time of the year!

So THINK about it, brethren. Remember that “God loves a “cheerful giver” (II Cor. 9:7). PLAN to give as generous an offering as you can possibly afford — according to the blessing God has given you — but send in your regular offerings besides. Surely we are God's people. Let's keep *proving* it to Him!

Don't Miss the Experience of a Lifetime!

Perhaps some few of you reading this are planning NOT to attend. Maybe there is a valid reason. Perhaps you are a *newcomer* to God's Church, and, even though now faithfully saving your second tithe, you simply have not had enough time to save enough since you learned of this principle of God. Perhaps you are a widow who has been counseled not to attend this year so that others may come.

But if there is NOT a *really* valid reason — then you should RECONSIDER *very seriously!*

Brethren, if Almighty God were to APPEAR before you, and COMMAND you to do something — would you DO it? *Think* about it for a moment! *Would* you, really?

Some of you simply have not traveled much before. You are FEARFUL of circumstances you might encounter at “faraway” places. Some have never been on a bus, or a train, or an airplane. Some have older cars, and think they may not make it. Others need tires, or parts, or perhaps are fearful of traveling ALONE.

Brethren — whatever your problem — think it through! Make sure your reason for thinking you might miss this glorious Festival is a really VALID one!

Perhaps some of you, if you do not have enough second tithe or other money to get to the Feast, and RETURN HOME should *not* come. But be sure to check with your local Festival Advisor; or if you are one of the few scattered brethren, write to Headquarters (or the overseas office closest to you) about your circumstances *immediately* and get wise counsel concerning your problem.

It would be a real SHAME for anyone in God's Church to miss these wonderful days of preaching services, special activities, and all the jam-packed, fun-filled days of REJOICING together, as God's own people — away from the cares of this sin-sick world!

Brethren, pray about the Feast. PLAN to come — if necessary ask God to make a way for you to attend — and come prepared to serve, to give, to *rejoice* before your Creator! □

GOD'S VACATION PLAN FOR YOU!

God has instituted a special vacation for His people. It's the Feast of Tabernacles — and **TOTALLY DIFFERENT** from the vacations of this world. Read how you can really rejoice with God's people this fall.

by Roderick C. Meredith



DID JESUS ever take a *vacation*? Would God have YOU take a trip and vacation?

Has God in His perfect wisdom *revealed* that each of us should have a change and a rest from our normal work during each year? Has He given specific instructions as to *how* this is to be carried out? Has God revealed a way which *ensures* that this vacation will be made possible to all His children?

The Feast of Tabernacles

God is LOVE. And so in His love and wisdom, He has revealed to us that it is

His will that we take a *special kind of vacation*. It is to be done in a manner which will bring us the greatest possible joy and *lasting benefit*. Most of you brethren already know the kind of “vacation” I mean. And you know from personal experience how loving and gracious God is to give us all this blessing.

I am speaking of your attendance at God's annual Feast of Tabernacles. And, as one of God's children, you are commanded to *keep* this Feast for your own good.

People of this world generally take

their vacations at a *time* and in a *way* that seems right to them. And religious groups plan major gatherings called "camp meetings" according to what seems right to *human reason*.

What they don't realize is that God shows we can *combine* these two activities according to the marvelous plan He has revealed. We are commanded to both *worship* and *rejoice* together in God's presence at His annual Feast of Tabernacles. This is the *best possible* kind of vacation, as many thousands of you brethren know from experience. How could you more joyfully spend your vacation than with other brethren who believe God's truth as you do, and with whom you can talk and play and worship in an atmosphere of love secluded from the outside world?

A Command and Privilege

Most of you brethren who receive *The GOOD NEWS* already understand the subject of God's annual Holy Days.

But some of you may have been recently converted and baptized. You especially need to study the Holy Days and their meaning. And you should *study* this matter prayerfully in your Bible — remembering that we are commanded to get back to "the faith once delivered to the saints" (Jude 3) and to follow the *inspired example* of Jesus and the apostles. (Send for our booklet explaining the meaning of the Holy Days, if you don't already have a copy.)

The annual Sabbaths or Feast Days God gave His people were commanded and intended to be kept *forever* (Lev. 23:21, 31, 41). Jesus set us a perfect example in keeping them, and the apostles *continued* keeping them and even commanded Gentile converts to keep these days of God (I Cor. 5:8).

While the world is busy observing the pagan holidays of Christmas and Easter, and devising "camp meetings" according to

human reason — the "way which seemeth right unto a man" (Prov. 14:12) — it sneers at the days God has *made holy*. The world ridicules these days as "Jewish" — forgetting that Jesus and the apostles kept these days in the *New Testament*. These days are *never* referred to as being "holy to the Jews." But God calls them "MY feasts" (Lev. 23:2) — holy unto the Lord!

These annual Festivals *are* holy to the Eternal Creator who gives you every breath of air you breathe! He *commands* you to keep them — for your own good. You are *defying Him* if you refuse to keep them. In so doing you will lose out on knowledge of the true God and of *His plan* which is pictured by these days. And you will be missing out on the most happy, joyous, and really worthwhile *vacation opportunity* there is if you don't keep the Feast of Tabernacles!

God's annual Feast of Tabernacles is truly a *great blessing* to those who are yielded to God. Many of you brethren have come out of this world, and then found yourselves *unable* to have fellowship with any of God's people. It is often impossible to meet with other true brethren except on the weekly Sabbath. But the Feast provides an opportunity and means of travel to have that needed fellowship with other members of the true Church of God.

The brethren who have attended the Feast of Tabernacles before eagerly an-

ticipate its recurrence as an opportunity to renew the wonderful fellowship with brethren from several states and even other countries — and to drink in spiritual food in the inspiring meetings which are the highlights of the entire year.

Yes, God Himself instructs us that *we should take this "vacation."* In His wisdom, He has ordained that we should take time each year to make the trip to attend this annual Festival — where we can *relax* from our daily routine, *rejoice* with other brethren, and *learn* more spiritual truth in a few days than we ordinarily would in months. This is *God's way!*

For YOUR Good

The very *presence* of God the Father and of Christ is in His Festivals in a very *SPECIAL* way! All who have regularly attended the Feast of Tabernacles know this. They have *experienced* the fact that certain points were brought out — and certain lessons were learned by *living* and *worshipping* with God's people — that simply *WOULD NOT* have been learned any other way!

In Zechariah 14:16-19, God declares He is going to *PUNISH* Egypt or any other nation that dares to stay away from the Feast of Tabernacles during the millennium! It is so important to God that He is going to intervene in the weather patterns and send a terrible drought if they won't come. Then, if they still refuse, God will send a horri-





In a Balanced Way



ying PLAGUE on those who refuse to attend (verse 18).

God MEANS BUSINESS! And He says: "For I am the Lord, *I change not*" (Mal. 3:6).

Attending the Feast is a means of developing God's very CHARACTER in you. You need to PROVE to God that obedience to Him is *FIRST* in your life! If you simply *won't* exert the effort and exercise the self-discipline to attend God's Festival NOW, why should He suppose that you DO put His Kingdom first?

With the end of this age approaching, you should see more than ever the great NEED to attend the Feast of Tabernacles this year for YOUR GOOD.

Have You the Money?

Except for the comparatively few who have recently been baptized and haven't understood about God's Festivals, *every single one of you* should have SAVED a second tithe or tenth of your income — as God commands — to enable you to *keep and rejoice* in the Feast of Tabernacles.

But if any of you have *wrongly* "borrowed" from your second tithe or simply failed to save a full second tenth to attend God's Feast of Tabernacles, you should if at all possible *pay back* this tenth part of your income and OBEY God by attending His Feast.

Christ, after He comes to lead us personally in keeping the Feast, will accept no wishy-washy "excuses." We have already seen that revealed in Zechariah

14. And so — since Christ does not change, and since He is right NOW the living Head of the Church — *He will not accept any such excuses at this time either!* You should strive to attend the Feast of Tabernacles THIS YEAR unless illness or serious financial adversity keeps you from doing so (and God does know what your situation *really is*).

REJOICE at the Feast

Over and over again, God tells us that the Feast of Tabernacles is a time of *rejoicing!* It pictures the millennial reign of Christ — the happy world tomorrow.

Describing how we are to *use* the second tithe, God tells us to spend the tithe on good 'food' and 'drink' in a way that will cause us to REJOICE at His Feast (Deut. 14:22-27). God says: "And thou shalt bestow that money [the *second tithe*] for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after [margin, *rightly desires*], for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: and thou shalt eat there before the Lord thy God, and thou shalt REJOICE, thou, and thine household" (verse 26).

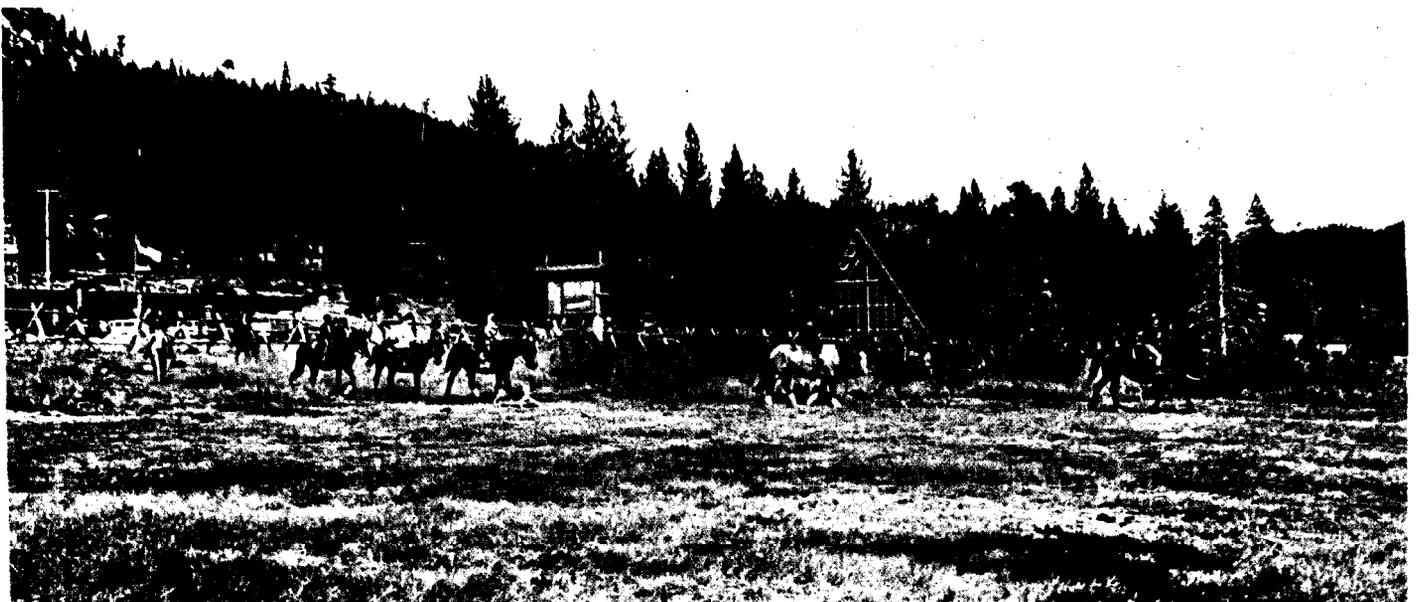
Commanding us to keep the Feast of Tabernacles, the Eternal declares: "Seven days shalt thou keep a solemn feast unto the Lord thy God in the place which the Lord shall choose: because the Lord thy God shall bless thee and all thine increase, and in all the works of thine hands, *therefore thou shalt surely REJOICE*" (Deut. 16:15).

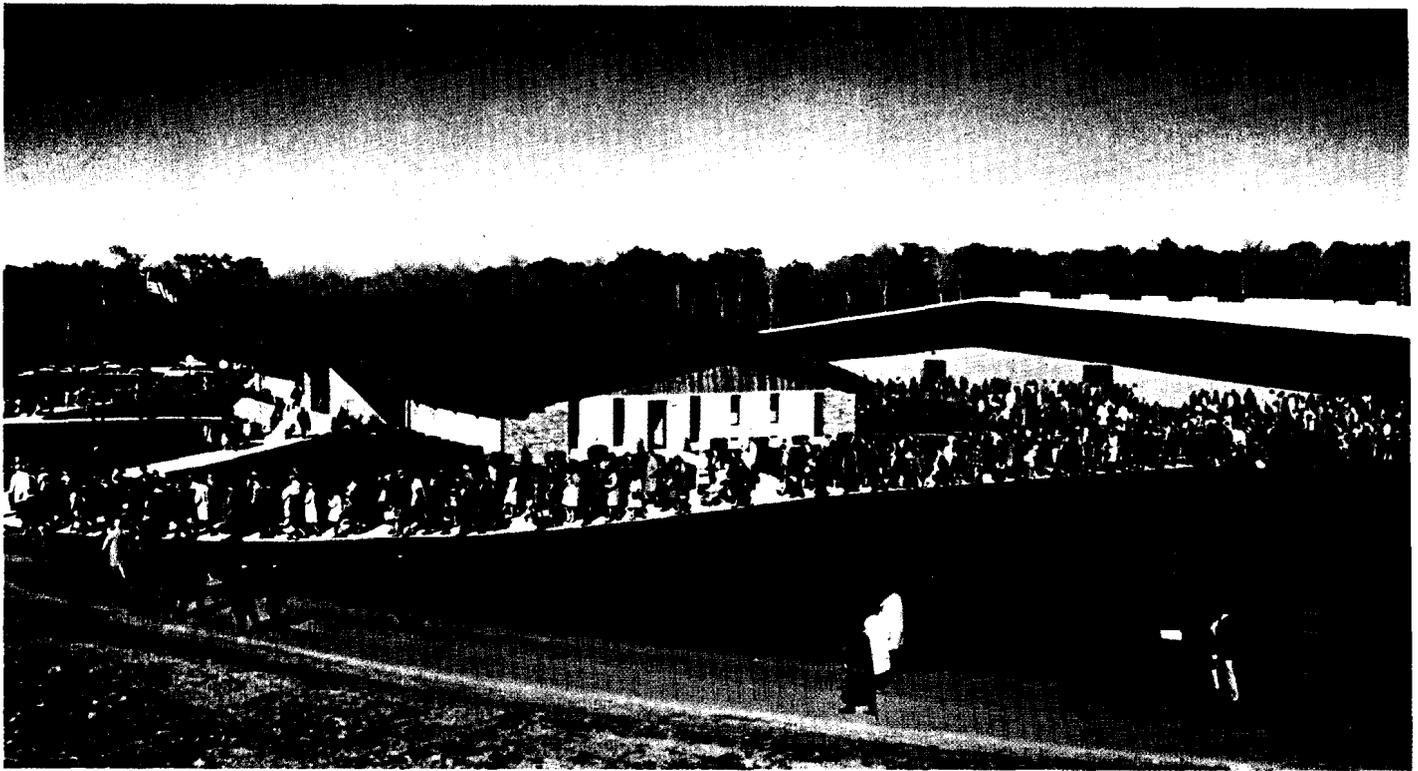
Did you notice that? God promises to BLESS you and all the work of your hands — on your farm, at your job, whatever your occupation or source of income might be — IF you *obey Him* and keep His Feast. And, He says, for this reason you shall REJOICE in the Feast knowing that you're receiving a blessing from keeping it!

So let us keep God's Feast with *humility* and also with JOY and HAPPINESS! As you come, realize that this observance is to picture the HAPPY world tomorrow when Jesus Christ really BLESSES this world!

DO NOT go to the Feast with a sentimental, pious, "holier than thou" attitude. Don't be searching and looking for "sin" in your brethren — many of whom may be newly converted and just 'beginning to understand and grow. Consider *yourself* and be THANKFUL for God's mercy to us all!

Remember, the theme of the Feast of Tabernacles which God Himself sets forth in His Word is that of spiritual *and physical* REJOICING. You should come, therefore, not only expecting to be blessed with wonderful spiritual food through sermons and direct spiritual fellowship with converted brethren, you should come also expecting to *rejoice* in good food, drink, recreation, exercise and *laughter!* You should come with a humble and thankful spirit of being able to ENJOY yourself thoroughly before the Father of *love and mercy, happiness and joy!* □





HOW TO USE YOUR SECOND TITHE

What is "second tithe"? What is it for? How, when, and for what should it be spent? Here are the answers to these often asked questions.

by Leslie L. McCullough

A SECOND TITHE — you've got to be kidding!!" may have been your reaction the first time you heard the term mentioned.

Most people when first becoming converted are somewhat alarmed when they hear that God's True Church teaches tithing. However, they generally readily accept it, thinking "Well, it's going to be difficult, but I'll do it."

Then, sooner or later they hear about a *second tithe* — not to mention a third tithe twice in seven years. Usually the discovery of the second tithe produces quite a shock. But once experienced, most true Christians come to think of

second tithe as a fantastic blessing provided for by a thoughtful and All-Wise Creator.

All for a Reason

Being a *loving* God (I John 4:8), He has not only provided a tithe (tenth) for His ministry to do His Work on earth, but He has also provided a tithe for YOU that you may grow spiritually and rejoice before Him.

Notice Deuteronomy 14:22-23: "Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year. And *thou shalt eat* before the Lord thy God, *in the place* which he

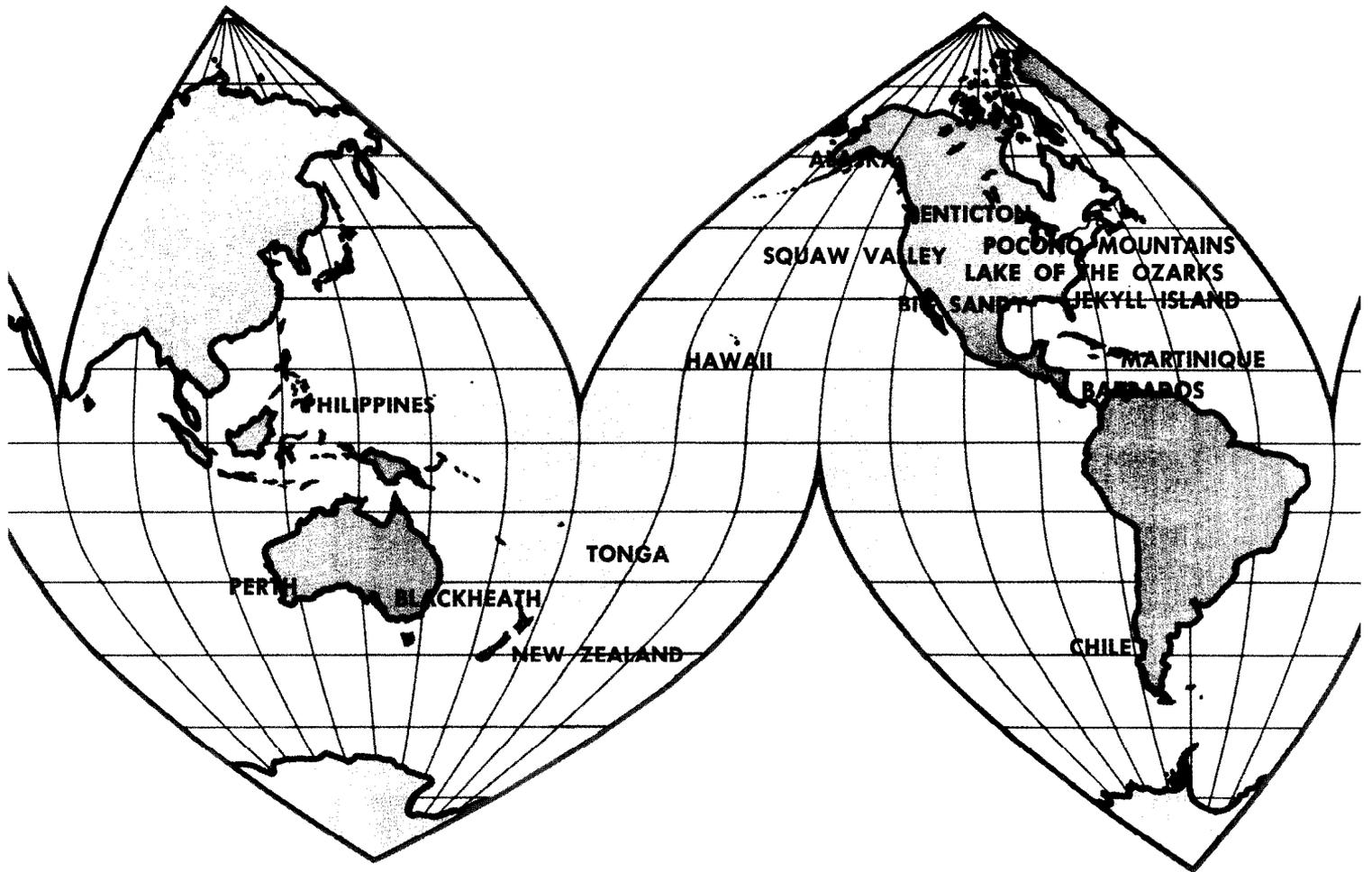
shall choose to place his name there, *the tithe* of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest LEARN TO FEAR the Lord thy God always."

For Your OWN Use

Here God is speaking to the people and telling them *THEY* are to eat of the tithe of their corn, wine, oil, etc. This then is a *separate* or *different* tithe from the one to be used to carry out the work of the ministry!

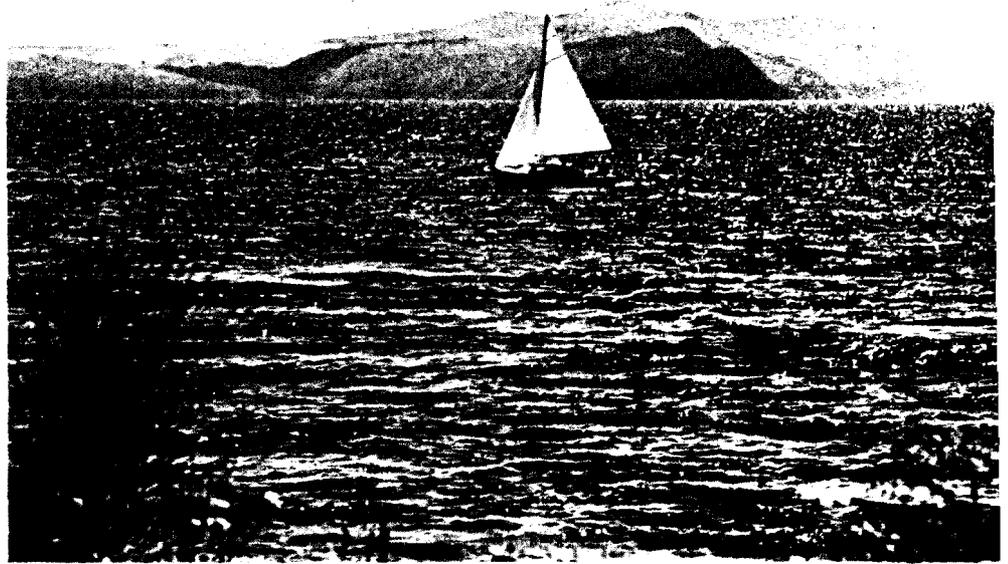
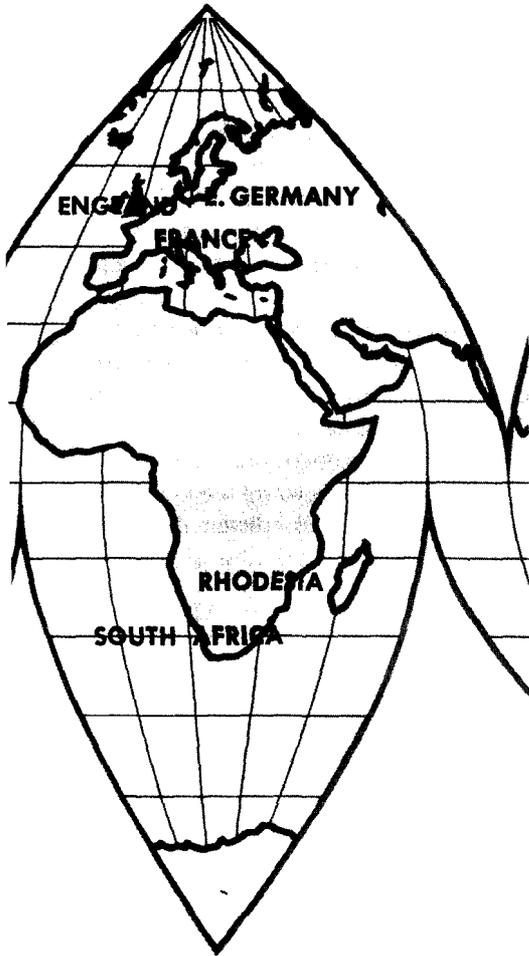
The first tithe was originally given to
(Continued on page 12)

The Sun Never Sets On God's F



Left: In "the land down under," bi site located in Perth. Above: Service Tabernacles.

East Sites



From New Zealand to the British Isles, God's people are found keeping the Feast of Tabernacles. Above: Yachting on beautiful Lake Taupo close to our New Zealand Feast site. Below: Some of the fine recreational facilities used by our brethren at Minehead, England.



en enjoy Australia's second festival Barbados during the 1969 Feast of



the Levite. But since the crucifixion of Christ, it is given to the Melchisedec priesthood for the carrying out of the Work of God. It was absolutely FORBIDDEN for people to take of that tithe for their own personal use.

But this *second tithe* is for YOUR use. Why? "So thou mayest learn to *fear* the Lord thy God always" (verse 23) — so you might learn to properly stand in awe of, revere, respect and worship your Creator God *at His Festivals!*

God has commanded that you keep this tithe strictly for *your* benefit. It is to provide for *your* expense to the Feast — for *your* transportation, for *your* food and for *your* entertainment and pleasure during these days.

What a thoughtful and loving Creator to command you to save a tithe for your own enjoyment and pleasure! Not many people of the world can be assured a vacation *completely paid for* each year. In fact, many people spend their vacations puttering around the house and save for years to enjoy the kind of trip provided for us each year. And yet . . .

Some Rob Themselves

In spite of all this, some have complained about having to save this tithe for their own use. Some save only a *part* of it. Others have waited until it's time to leave for the Feast and take their last check or two, pile the children into the car and start out for the Feast hoping against hope they will have sufficient cash to keep from running up a bill they cannot afford to pay.

Such people often wonder why their car seems to break down more often, their gas mileage seems to be low and someone *always* seems to get sick before they return home. They are under a CURSE and don't seem to realize why!

Perhaps this is the very reason some of you have not been blessed financially as abundantly as many other brethren in the Church. If you have not been paying God His full tithe, as well as faithfully saving your second tithe, YOU ARE UNDER A CURSE! You definitely will not be blessed until you begin to keep all of God's commandments!

God is holding you *accountable* for the way you use the money He allows

you to have. *His* tithe is to be used so that His Work may preach the Gospel to the world as a witness and bring many more to repentance and deep conversion.

But what about the use of "second tithe"?

Managing Your Second Tithe

Ancient Israel, being a farming nation, was told to bring the second tithe of their corn, wine and oil to the place where God set His name. (Deut. 14:24-25). He then said that if the distance was too great and the produce too bulky, they could sell this tithe, thereby getting money which would be much easier to carry, and use that money to provide transportation to the Feast and to purchase the food they would need.

Some of you reading this article are farmers by occupation. You could certainly bring a part of your second tithe in the form of canned or frozen fruits, vegetables or meats, even today. This produce could then be used to provide your meals while you are at the Feast. Others of you work at some trade or occupation to earn your living. You are not paid in the form of produce but with a salary check. A tenth of that check should be laid aside *each payday* to provide for your expenses to, from, and during the Feast.

Your second tithe should generally be placed in a bank for safekeeping. Large sums of money should *never* be stuck away in a drawer in your dresser.

One of the members of God's Church had to learn this lesson the hard way. His house was broken into and nearly \$300 of his second tithe stolen. He learned a bitter, hard lesson, but apparently the lesson was well learned. He repented deeply of being so foolish and a few days later God allowed him to get back the bulk of the amount which was stolen.

It is usually better to keep this second tithe in a completely *separate* account from your regular checking account. In that way you will not be as likely to "borrow" (steal) from your second tithe, perhaps unintentionally, and thereby find yourself in serious trouble.

A few individuals have rationalized themselves into thinking they can "bor-

row" from their second tithe for some *special* occasion and repay it later. Some have borrowed from their second tithe to start a business which they were sure would enable them to return the money in a short time. Usually they have found that their business has gotten *worse* instead of better and that they *NEVER* were able to repay the money they had stolen! As a result, they had to lose out spiritually, miss the Feast for a year, and learn a very bitter lesson.

By putting your second tithe in a special savings account, you can obviate the possibility of getting your personal money mixed up with your second tithe, and at the same time earn a small amount of interest on your account. In this way, you are *using* your second tithe to *earn* a small amount more for you!

Learn to USE — Not ABUSE Your Tithe

God expects you to USE your second tithe properly and *not just* "blow it." Anyone can throw money away. It takes a wise man to *use* it in a proper manner. In Deuteronomy 14:24-27, God tells you some of the ways in which you are to use your second tithe — specific things for which to spend it.

One of the chief items, of course, is food. But here the *principle* is also revealed that transportation to, from, and during the Feast, lodging and *any* Feast-related expense is to be included. Let's notice exactly how you should *properly* use your second tithe for the Feast.

What About Your Automobile Expense?

Can you use a portion of your second tithe for repairs needed on your automobile in order to go to the Feast? Can you buy tires? What about a battery? Just what expenses can and should be paid from your second tithe?

Under these circumstances, it is good to ask yourself the question, "Is this expense *necessary* in order to attend God's commanded Feast, or is it simply work the car needs and this would be an easy way to pay for it?"

If your car *needs* repairs in order for you to attend the Feast, you may pay a

certain portion of the cost of repairs from second tithe. You can prorate the expense as follows: Figure the *total* number of miles you drive each year. Then figure what percentage of those miles is driven in attending God's Feasts. If you drive on an average of 10,000 miles a year and the total mileage driven to attend God's Feasts is 2,000 miles, you could then pay one fifth of the annual upkeep of your automobile from your second tithe. This principle would apply to tires or any other necessary upkeep of your car.

But the most important thing to remember is that you **NEED** to attend God's Feast. That is God's command (Ex. 12:17; Deut. 16:16). It is conceivable, in some cases, that you could spend the bulk of your second tithe using this prorated method and then not have enough money left to pay for your Feast expenses. Obviously this would *not* be the thing to do.

If the portion of the upkeep on your car which could be covered by second tithe would be so large as to take most of your second tithe, you should plan to use some other means to get to the Feast. Perhaps you should do the repairs with your own money to assure that you will have sufficient second tithe to attend God's commanded Holy Days.

Can You Buy Clothing?

What about the buying of clothing from second tithe? Normally, you should not plan to buy clothing from your second tithe, except for special types of clothing which would be needed at the Feast but would not *normally* be a part of your wardrobe. Brethren from warmer climates who must travel to the Feast in Squaw Valley or Penticton which have colder climates have to buy heavier and warmer clothing than they normally need at home. It is all right to use second tithe for clothing for the Feast under such special circumstances.

It would be a very rare occasion when you should buy an integral part of your wardrobe with second tithe money. However, such an occasion might arise in the case of an individual who simply does not have proper clothing to wear to attend God's Feast and could not otherwise afford it. We should all appear before God well groomed and

nicely dressed out of respect to our heavenly Father.

"Whatever Your Soul Desires"

At times people have asked whether they could buy slipcovers for the furniture, tricycles for the children and a gun or fishing equipment for Dad. In spite of the fact that these items would not be used *primarily* at the Feast, they reason that the Scripture says you are to buy "*whatsoever your soul desires,*" and their soul certainly desires slipcovers, tricycles, and a gun or fishing equipment. But this is erroneous reasoning!

God is talking about your buying whatever you might desire to be used **AT THE FEAST!** He is talking *primarily* about food and drink.

The whole reason for spending your tithe in this way is that you may rejoice and learn to look forward to the wonderful, enjoyable and pleasant time of the millennium.

Gifts?

Then what about gifts for the children and family? Is it wrong for you to buy gifts for your children on the way to the Feast? The answer is no. But wisdom should be used. You should not buy your child great expensive gifts simply because it is from your second tithe. A suitable toy, books or games which will help make the Feast a pleasant and enjoyable time for your child are perfectly all right. But **DO NOT** buy the year's supply of toys on the way to the Feast!

In the meantime, you should teach your child the principles of tithing the year around. If your child is old enough to have a small income from mowing lawns or doing odd jobs around the neighborhood, teach him to pay God's first tithe and to save a second tithe. Regardless of your child's age, take opportunity to teach him how to use money properly by giving him a small amount and guiding him in spending it during the Feast.

Help your child learn to make decisions and learn the value of money by doing his own shopping. Let him learn early that he only has a certain amount to spend and will have to stay within that amount. These lessons are *priceless* in future years.

Side Trips?

In journeying to the Feast, is it right and proper to plan your trip so that one or two of the natural wonders and scenic spots might be included on the way? Since these wonders help us to realize the power, glory and might of our God, the answer is *yes!* Such side trips help us worship God and appreciate Him more deeply.

These side trips might take you as much as one hundred miles or so off your regular route of travel. But when the trips begin to entail an additional two or three hundred miles in the *opposite* direction of the Feast, they should not be taken *on second tithe*. If a trip of this nature is to be undertaken, it should be done at your own expense.

Some have wanted to detour several hundred miles in order to see relatives and members of the family and haven't been too pleased when a minister has advised against it.

Let's look at this problem for a moment. Sometimes it may be all right to plan to see your family before or after the Feast. But such a visit must not be allowed to detract from the **MAIN REASON** for the trip — the observing of God's Holy Days which picture His plan of salvation! If the reason for the trip is to see the family — and incidentally you are going to one of God's Festivals — brethren, **THAT IS WRONG!** We are to be putting the Kingdom of God first in our lives, *not our physical relatives*. The second tithe is to help us *serve God more fully*, not to visit our own families. Therefore, if a minister advises *against* a particular trip, you should realize he has *your* spiritual welfare in mind.

Use the Tithe at Home?

What about those who do not have sufficient second tithe to go to the Feast? Can they stay home and use what they have there? Deuteronomy 12:17-19 declares: "Thou mayest **NOT** eat *within thy gates* the tithe of thy corn, or of thy wine, or of thy oil... But thou **MUST** eat them *before* the Lord thy God *in the place* which the Lord thy God shall choose..."

God says we must use our second
(Continued on page 20)

THE TITHE of THE TITHE

This year over 70,000 people will attend the Feast of Tabernacles in sites prepared with tithe of the tithe. With the increase in Festival attendance, the need for facilities continues to grow ever greater. The tithe of the tithe MUST PROVIDE them! Here is a look at the need for the tithe of the tithe, how it was begun and how it is utilized to this day.

by Albert J. Portune

THE 1970 Feast of Tabernacles was, as usual, the most profitable and thrilling Feast ever. Over 60,000 people attended in the five locations in the United States last year. Sixty thousand lives were enriched and deeply influenced by powerful messages from God's servants, and by the many hours of fellowship and the unforgettable experiences that only God's Feast of Tabernacles can bring.

But this year there will be over 70,000 at the Feast!

Planned Success

Brethren, I wonder if most of you realize how much goes into making God's Feast of Tabernacles the blessing that it is. Planning for the Feast of Tabernacles is now a YEAR-ROUND job.

Behind the success of each year's Feast of Tabernacles there is a monumental amount of planning, preparation and work that most of you brethren never see. The smooth functioning and

coordination of the many activities associated with the Feast don't JUST HAPPEN! Only through many, many hours, days, weeks and months of diligent thought, careful planning and hard work come the efficient Feasts we enjoy.

Within a few days after the last strains of the final hymn echoed through the giant buildings in which our people met last year, preparations began to be made for the next Feast of Tabernacles — plans and preparation for an even bigger and better Feast this year!

This year we have planned for seventy thousand brethren! Our Festival locations have been improved and enlarged to accommodate nearly a 20 percent increase. To accomplish this is a *frightening* organizational and FINANCIAL responsibility!

Where Does the Money Come From?

In order to finance His Feasts, God has shown us how to provide the money to take care of this responsibility. He has made it a *mutual* responsibility for us all!

God's Feasts are *commanded assemblies*, or HOLY CONVOCATIONS (Lev. 23:4). And God has commanded us all to save a second tithe — one tenth of our income — to come before Him and *rejoice* and to keep the FEAST OF TABERNACLES (Deut. 12:17-18).

A place to meet together — to convoke — is a vital part of the Feast of Tabernacles. These facilities in which to meet are part of *our* responsibility in rejoicing before God. Therefore, God has led His ministers to see that using PART

of our second tithe is the way we are to provide these facilities.

God has blessed His Church with a large annual increase in members for many years. This phenomenal growth is now beginning to reach "snow-balling" proportions. Now, *each year* there are several THOUSANDS added to the Body of Christ.

With this tremendous increase God has also inspired the *way* to provide facilities and prepare for His annual Feast of Tabernacles. He has led Mr. Armstrong and those of us here at Headquarters to see that if each of us gives TEN PERCENT of his second tithe — that is, a "tithe" of the second tithe, or one percent of our total increase — we can provide adequate facilities for all without hampering or slowing down the WORLDWIDE Work of God.

The principle of tithing — or tenths — is God's way. Therefore, if each of us *mutually* shares in providing these locations through tithing ONE TENTH OF OUR SECOND TITHE we are following His principle.

Brethren, this is a *blessing!* We should all REJOICE that we can have a part in making it possible for multiple thousands to attend God's annual Feast of Tabernacles and rejoice before Him.

Are We Doing Our Part?

With the phenomenal growth in God's Church, we at Headquarters in the Office of Financial Affairs and Planning, in conjunction with the Festival Office at Big Sandy, must carefully plan and accurately budget this "tithe of the tithe." Each year we carefully estimate the amount of tithe of the tithe

that we expect will come in from you brethren. We are *most conservative* in our estimates, using information from our member files and from the average income of God's people.

Using this information, we set up our "Feast Budget." We carefully plan the NEEDS in each of the Festival areas. Every available means of providing the very most for all the brethren at the least possible cost is explored.

We do our part here at Headquarters! The Festival Office at Big Sandy does it part. But brethren, some of YOU haven't done YOUR PART.

Some of you simply have not sent in your tithe of the tithe for this year!

We go "ALL OUT" for you brethren. The Festival Office works *around the calendar* planning for your convenience, comfort and benefit. But this must be a "team" effort. We are all part of the one BODY of Christ. If any of the members *let down* — they let down the rest of the Body.

Brethren, this year the tithe of the tithe has fallen behind the budgeted needs of our Festival Fund here at Headquarters. Many of you have apparently put off sending in your tithe of the tithe this year. Please don't neglect this *vital* responsibility God has given you!

How the Money Is Spent

As director of Financial Affairs and Planning, I have complete information on the current costs of preparing and holding the Feast of Tabernacles. I wish you could look over my shoulder, and Mr. McCullough's, for a moment and see the *tremendous* list of expenses involved in the five Festival locations in the United States and the future sites under development. I think you would be surprised.

Some of the many "smaller items" here on the list are telephone service, lighting, maintenance supplies, loud speaker systems, bus rentals, sanitary service, electrical supplies, rentals for wheel chairs, oxygen, first aid supplies, chairs, pianos, organs, office supplies, printing expense, transportation, flowers, fuel, permits, U-haul equipment, etc.

Although these are only the *minor* items, they still run up into the thou-

sands of dollars. The really big items are the costs for the development and construction of whole new Feast sites, such as are in progress at Wisconsin Dells and at Estes Park, Colorado.

All in all, many thousands of dollars are expended in each area to make God's Festival the blessing He commands it to be. We all can certainly feel rightfully proud to have had a financial part in it.

Plans for the Future

Now we are faced with the planning for future years. Those entrusted with the responsibility are continually at work planning how to make each succeeding Feast even more profitable and enjoyable for all you brethren.

In 1972 we anticipate Festival attendance to jump to about 85,000 in the United States and Canada — a truly fantastic increase. Many changes, additions and improvements will be necessary to accommodate this tremendous leap in attendance.

At Wisconsin Dells, bulldozers and heavy ground-leveling equipment have already completed the work of grading and leveling the site for the HUGE numbers who will attend there. This vast, newly constructed Feast site will be ready next year to receive thousands of members of God's Church. In the meantime, development at Estes Park must also continue progressing. And still more future sites must be found, purchased and developed to accommodate the surging growth of God's Church!

Brethren, these vitally necessary projects will cost a considerable sum of money. Yet, we will save multiple thousands of dollars in building and developing these facilities ourselves, and add to the net worth of God's Work at the same time.

Your Part

As carefully and as wisely as we are able to estimate and project expenses over the years ahead, we *should* be able to continue providing facilities for the burgeoning growth of God's Church through the tithe of the tithe from God's people. But it is going to take every resource at our disposal to continue to make these great Feasts the joy

and blessing they have always been. **YOU MUST DO YOUR PART!!**

ALL OF YOU BRETHREN should send in your tithe of the tithe (10 percent of your second tithe) *as soon as possible* after each Feast of Tabernacles. This helps us to *plan ahead* wisely. As I mentioned before, the planning for these Feasts is a year-round undertaking.

Following each Feast, each of you should *estimate* the amount of second tithe you will save by *next* year's Feast. Then *as soon as it is possible*, you should send to Headquarters 10 percent of that figure from the second tithe you have already set aside.

For example, if you estimate your second tithe from Feast to Feast will be, let's say \$800, then you should be able to send 10 percent of that — \$80 — to Headquarters no later than January of each year, unless you find yourself without an income. (But if you have not already sent in your *tithe of the tithe* since the last Feast, do it NOW, even though it is late!)

If, just before the Feast, you find you have *underestimated* your second tithe and the total second tithe for the year will be *more* than you expected, you may send in the 10 percent of the additional amount toward the *end* of the festival year — just before the Feast. Or, if you find later you have *overestimated*, you may write and we will refund any overage you may have sent if you so desire.

Some few of you may have to send in partial amounts from time to time "as you go" because it is impossible to estimate your income for the year.

We can provide the Feast sites and facilities we need, and meet all expenses of the Feast of Tabernacles from the TITHE OF THE TITHE if we are all diligent and cooperate 100 percent in this TEAM effort. In the meantime our COMMISSION to preach the Gospel to the world as a witness will go on *unhindered* in ever-increasing POWER.

Brethren, this is OUR JOB! This is OUR WORK! This is OUR RESPONSIBILITY!

Let's all DO OUR PART! Let's also try to make up for the lagging tithe of the tithe this past year. And, above all, let's all PRAY EARNESTLY for this phase and ALL PHASES of God's great Work. ◻

STRENGTHEN YOUR LIFE AT



God's great Fall Festival climaxes the plan He is working out here on earth. This time of rejoicing, recreation, and spiritual rejuvenation is VITAL to your life. Learn from this timely article how to use every moment profitably.

by Albert J. Portune

THE WHOLE WORLD desperately needs what YOU are going to receive at this year's Feast of Tabernacles!

Society is rapidly deteriorating into chaos and lawlessness. More troubles for this sick world emerge daily than this world's leaders can solve.

Yet the answers to these universal problems plaguing mankind have been available for thousands of years. Throughout history those who have applied these principles have found happiness and purpose, while mankind generally has leaned to its own understanding — rejecting the source of true happiness — *God's true way of life and His laws.*

We, God's people, have been given

the staggering task of proclaiming the coming of God's wonderful and saving Kingdom. God wants the world to hear that message in such power and strength they will have no way of escaping it. God has said: "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins" (Isa. 58:1). He also said: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the GOSPEL [good news of the Kingdom of God] to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

In today's desperate world situation God is dramatically multiplying the power and impact of His Work to accomplish these purposes. New, unprecedented doors are being opened to bring to the world the electrifying NEWS and witness that God's way of life — His rules for moral conduct, respect for authority, peace and service are the ONLY solutions to this world's ills. In keeping with this stepped up pace, this Feast of Tabernacles will have a greater IMPACT than ever before on your life — *if you let it!*

Inspiration and Rejuvenation Necessary

You need to get the real lift and inspiration these days have for you. You

need the courage, the knowledge, the *reality* for the times ahead. Truly the great 1000-year millennial rest of God is coming, a time of peace and plenty, a time of rejoicing and happiness. The Feast of Tabernacles is a time to portray that wonderful world tomorrow.

Jesus Christ encountered a lawless, sick world when He was sent to become its Savior. He found men using God's name, but rejecting His way of life. He indicted them with the words: "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and *do not the things which I say?*" (Luke 6:46).

God COMMANDED His people to attend the annual Holy Days (Deut. 14:23 and 16:16). He gave this command because He wanted us all to live and relive the meaning of these days in His overall plan.

Your active, meaningful participation in the Feast is an *essential ingredient* in your Christian growth. For the Feast will be jam-packed with just the things we need.

Be Feast Oriented

Brethren, in this world of gadgets, affluence and *GET*, most people are thinking only of pleasures. But we should not be so oriented.

We should be *GOD CENTERED*. Our primary purpose for attending

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

God's Festival should be to come before HIM to rejoice and drink in the deep meaning of these days. Put the Feast of Tabernacles FIRST in your mind.

Because of the pulls and temptations we have grown up with in this world it is easy to degenerate into a *worldly attitude* of frivolity and "vacation." At the Feast of Tabernacles we should portray the peaceful, orderly, purposeful and happy world tomorrow. Our activities should portray that our *whole lives* are centered around the coming of that world tomorrow.

While the Feast is a time of rejoicing, it is rejoicing with a POINT. Notice in Deuteronomy 14:23 that we come to eat and drink before the Eternal *that we may learn to fear the Eternal always*.

God has not ordained these Feasts to entertain Himself. They are the most important capsule of time we have been given to be exposed to a *concentrated* period of experiences and teaching.

What will YOU get out of the Feast of Tabernacles this year?

Sad, but true, *some* of us are faltering. Many of us need to make this Feast a GIANT TURNING POINT in our lives as we race into the gun lap of God's Work! Many need a spiritual *awakening* and *rejuvenation*. There is no better time than the Feast of Tabernacles to "come alive" and rededicate yourself — to change!

Why don't *you* resolve to make THIS Feast the most profitable one in your Christian experience?

Brethren, the Feast of Tabernacles is so jam-packed with vital lessons and opportunities you can't afford to let it JUST HAPPEN! You will be given much concentrated spiritual "meat" during eight days of services. The sermons portraying the meaning of recent events and the fulfillment of prophecy will be ABSOLUTELY VITAL to hear.

But if you don't plan ahead, you will not get the most out of these messages. So here are seven points to help you strengthen your life at the Feast of Tabernacles.

1. Get Into a Feast of Tabernacles Attitude

You need to *identify* your life with the purpose of the Feast of Tabernacles.

God has centered His Holy Days around the harvest seasons in Palestine. There were *two* harvests — the smaller early spring harvest, and the large fall harvest. The first harvest was called the harvest of *firstfruits* (Lev. 23:9-17). It was also called the Feast of Pentecost (fifty) because of the numbering of fifty days from the day after the weekly Sabbath during the days of Unleavened Bread.

God thus revealed there would be two great times of SALVATION. The first a harvest of the firstfruits, the second the great fall harvest of ingathering.

Brethren, we are that first harvest. We are the firstfruits. The Apostle James writes: "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of FIRSTFRUITS of his creatures" (James 1:18).

We are called the "ELECT." Peter calls God's Church the ELECT according to the foreknowledge of God (I Peter 1:2).

We are called to join the family of God, as brothers and Co-workers with Jesus Christ, to comprise the family of kings and priests under God (Rev. 20:6) which will teach and rule all nations — to bring peace, order, knowledge and happiness to the whole world, and to reap the SECOND harvest!

The Feast of Tabernacles pictures that wonderful time. So, brethren, as you attend this Feast, *look around*; visualize the far-reaching purpose of everyone gathered there. Realize what we MEAN to this teetering world.

2. Rejoice With Purpose

The Feast of Tabernacles is a time of COMMANDED rejoicing. The rejoicing at the Feast has deep and significant *meaning*. We can't afford to miss this deep meaning.

The special second tithe God commands us to save (Deut. 12:17) is not

to be spent on anything but keeping His Festivals. God says we are to take this tithe and come to the place He has chosen and rejoice before HIM (verse 18). God further says: "And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after [rightly desires], for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: AND thou shalt eat there before the Lord thy God, and THOU SHALT REJOICE, thou, and thine household" (Deut. 14:26).

Why commanded rejoicing?

Our rejoicing should picture the deliverance, exuberance, spontaneous joy and happiness of a world given true freedom from fear, want and turmoil. It should picture a world of fatness, goodness and peace.

That is indeed the meaning of the Feast.

God, in that happy world tomorrow, is going to wipe away all tears from all eyes. There shall be no more purposeless sorrow or crying. The former ways will be changed to God's abundant ways.

Isn't that worth rejoicing over?

3. Plan to Endure Any Inconvenience as True Christians

As long as we have not been taken out of this world (John 17:15), we are still going to encounter some of this world's ways and offenses — even at the Feast of Tabernacles. We must realize the words of the Apostle Peter apply to us, even at the Feast. "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an EXAMPLE, that ye should follow his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: who, when he was *reviled*, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously" (I Peter 2:21-23).

At the Feasts around the world we have to depend much upon the facilities available to us from unconverted entrepreneurs. Most of them sincerely do us

an excellent service in a fine spirit. However, in our relationship with motel and hotel owners, restaurant owners and operators and other managers of various facilities, there can occur disagreements and misunderstandings.

Some of our brethren in the past have argued bitterly and fought toe to toe with some of these. Brethren, in many cases WE have shown a greater degree of carnality than THEY! This simply should not be!

Plan to be inoffensive in ALL THINGS. Plan to accept inconvenience and unexpected, unforeseen discomforts, if they come your way, in the spirit of Christ — as a true Christian. Don't grumble at your meals. Accept your accommodations in gratitude and with the deep perspective of how blessed we are even to have the opportunity to attend in peace and safety. Be cooperative with traffic control and seating arrangements.

Just make up your mind in advance to be willing to endure *any* inconvenience in a true spirit of *humility*. Sure it's true you may be able to demand or argue your way into a better room, better seats or treatment you feel your position or station deserves. But, brethren, I can assure you from God's point of view that the ones who endure *without complaining* or even commenting are the ones GOD will claim are His sons doing His will.

The love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5) will give offense in NO WAY. Notice the qualities that should be expressed by that love: "Charity [love] suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things . . . endureth all things" (I Cor. 13:4-7).

Truly the OVERCOMER will inherit sonship with God and the Kingdom of God. Overcoming our carnal tendencies to fight back, to argue, to vindicate self and to get the best for ourselves is one of the hardest assignments for human beings. Yet, Christ expects us to overcome if we are to qualify.

Those who at the Feast of Taber-

nacles, in the very environment picturing a world of overcomers, hold down their human nature and can return home knowing they have held themselves in check in situations like these, will be enriched with warmth and love. They will have grown in one of the very elementary attributes of God.

Brethren, plan to endure patiently, if necessary, and to give absolutely NO OFFENSE. Then you will truly be the children of God. "Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved" (I Cor. 10:32-33).

4. Let Your Light Shine

Christ said this Gospel of the Kingdom must be preached in all the world for a witness. This is the job the whole Work of God is actively doing. But, brethren, that witness does not stop with the radio program, the TV program and the publishing. That witness is borne heavily by each of us directly in our conduct and EXAMPLE. The personal, individual witness of the brethren has been a strong element in the calling of many. What kind of witness are YOU — especially at the Feast of Tabernacles?

"Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. . . . Therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, that I AM GOD" (Isa. 43:10-12).

Every year come dozens of reports from all Feast areas of how the people are impressed. The citizens of the various areas are usually dumbfounded at the order, neatness and obedience of our people. Law enforcement agencies have said, and we have the letters in our files, that they truly look forward to our "conventions." They say they do not have to worry about a sudden leap in crime incidents and teen-age violence when our group comes. Yet, they candidly admit when "other" groups came to town they had to add additional men to their forces to control the people. Other *religious* groups are

noted for their rowdiness and disorder.

Brethren, this is a living testimony — not only that WE are the people of God — BUT, that *OUR GOD IS GOD!*

Think of that a moment!

Our conduct in this kind of situation either declares that *OUR GOD IS GOD* or that our God is no different than the gods of all the rest. Is that a responsibility or isn't it?

Jesus said we are indeed the LIGHT of the world. He said we shouldn't hide that light, but rather let it shine to the world so that they will realize there is a great God and benign and powerful spirit behind our actions. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16).

Think ahead and plan that *you* are going to be an example of God in all things. Be clean and orderly in your accommodations. Expect to leave things cleaner and neater than you found them. Be a true light and example of obedience and mannerliness.

5. Get to Know and Love the Brethren

The Apostle Paul calls us *holy brethren* who are partakers of the heavenly calling (Heb. 3:1). When we understand how great our calling is and just what part we are to play in the plan of God, it truly does make us holy brethren. Realizing our unity of purpose and calling should cause us to feel very close in a bond of brotherhood.

It isn't possible for us to share such a common heritage and purpose without feeling love and kinship as brothers. But, we can intensify this kinship with a purposeful effort to be closer and to love one another. What better opportunity to do this than at the Feast of Tabernacles, where the whole theme is our common purpose and effort! We will be all assembled together as a single community or body, rejoicing, eating, serving, learning and overcoming together.

We should draw from the Feast a deeper and rededicated oneness!

When Jesus left this earth and commissioned His Church to carry on the Work He began, He wanted us to do it collectively as brothers in the same love

and fellowship together He shared with the disciples. "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: CONTINUE YE IN MY LOVE. . . . This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you" (John 15:8, 9, 12).

Feel that brotherhood and oneness at the Feast. Make an effort to get acquainted with as many of YOUR brethren as you can. Don't just remain all the time in your own little clique or group. Get around and meet and fellowship with the body of Christ.

You will no doubt meet others who are enduring trials, handicaps and even suffering. Feel love, compassion and sympathy for other members of CHRIST'S BODY. Get involved with the brethren. See how much love and warmth you can impart and you'll find YOUR life flooded with new love and happiness.

"He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes" (I John 2:10-11). "For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another" (I John 3:11).

Think of your brethren all around the world — especially at the Feast. Remember that they also must endure many afflictions just as we do (I Peter 5:9). Realize your family extends around the world.

What a priceless heritage to have so many brethren and family members who love one another. What a privilege for all to have the same goals, the same hopes and dreams.

Brethren, come to the Feast of Tabernacles in the bond of brotherhood. Use some of your time at the Feast to truly get to know and love the brethren. If you diligently apply yourself to this you will return home with new life and compassion that will *change your life!*

6. Plan to Increase Spiritual Knowledge and Understanding

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sit-

teth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the *law of the Lord*; and in his law doth he *meditate* day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (Psalm 1:1-3).

The Word of God and the UNDERSTANDING of the Word of God is priceless. Without an understanding of the law and will of God expressed in His Word, the Bible, we are lost, blinded and helpless.

At the Feast of Tabernacles each of us will have the precious opportunity to hear many, many messages from the Word of God. These sermons and sermonettes are beyond value.

Think for a moment! The ministers of the TRUE Church of God *alone* can instruct in the ways of righteousness. They are the chosen vessels of God to feed the flock (John 21). God made His ministers as GIFTS to the people, servants to teach them the ways of life so they might enter His Kingdom (see Eph. 4:7-13).

True, God says all who call on the name of the Eternal shall be saved, but realize this: "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have *not heard?* and how shall they hear WITHOUT A PREACHER? And how shall they preach, except they be *sent?* As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10:14-15.)

Just how important do you think these messages are to YOU? Brethren, they mean life or death to all of us.

Jesus said to the Samaritan woman at the well, "If thou *knewest* the gift of God, and WHO it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of HIM, and he would have given thee LIVING WATER" (John 4:10). Brethren, do we realize who has convoked us together, for what purpose, and that these are HIS MESSAGES of life given to us as a gift?

In these last annual convocations of the year we will have once again lived through the whole plan of God. Against the backdrop of God's wonder-

ful plan of salvation will be portrayed, through the Holy Spirit-inspired messages from God's ministers, the vital lessons and experiences of life we all need in order to GROW and ENDURE.

Plan ahead of time to listen carefully. Come to learn and *expect* to be changed and inspired by the messages. Plan to attend EVERY service. Be there on time, in your seat and receptive. Look in each message for that special meaning just for you, because God does speak to us individually through His ministers.

Brethren, when we realize just how important and meaningful these messages are — how *vital* to our eternal lives — we won't take them lightly. Listen carefully and study thoroughly what you hear and see in the Bible, then make *it a part of you* — CHANGE YOUR LIFE. Hold fast to it and make the things you learn a *part* of your life!

Ask God in your personal prayers before the Feast to give *special* inspiration and understanding to the ministers so that their messages will be especially helpful to the body of Christ and to you personally.

Brethren, if we come to the Feast of Tabernacles in this attitude and frame of mind we will really drink in of the *spiritual food* God will prepare for us. If we listen and heed these words and let them sink deeply into our lives, we *will* be changed by this Feast.

7. Resolve to Make This Feast a TURNING POINT in Your Life

Brethren, all of us have many things to overcome. Usually we are fighting that one *big problem*. For some of us it will be lack of prayer. For others it might be lack of study. Some may have a problem with being overweight. Perhaps you are still hiding a problem with smoking or overdrinking. For some it will be a problem with temper or with being cooperative, friendly or understanding. Perhaps it's not spending time with the family or children.

Whatever YOUR one big problem is, why not resolve RIGHT NOW that you are going to make THIS FEAST that *turning point* where you set your jaw and really overcome that problem?

You CAN do it with God's help.

"Him that OVERCOMETH will I make
(Continued on back cover)

SECOND TITHE

(Continued from page 13)

tithe only in going to and from the Feast and for our expenses while there.

During the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the other Holy Days, services may be held right in your own area. In that case, you could use a *small* amount of your second tithe for expenses of those Feasts because that is the place where God has put His name *for those Feasts*.

You could use a small portion of your second tithe to help provide the food which is so abundantly served during those days. If you were to have Church members from an outlying area in your home at that time, a portion of the groceries to feed these people could be purchased out of your second tithe.

However, remember that the Feast of Tabernacles is the time when God's Church all gathers together to keep the Feast. Never cut yourself short financially by spending too much money at the other Feasts so that you cannot be with God's people at the great Feast in the fall!

Proper Use at the Feast

Just how should you use your second tithe in going to the Feast and while you are there? God tells us in Deuteronomy 14:26-27 that we are to enjoy ourselves in what we eat and what we drink. He commands us to *REJOICE* before Him!

Some families in the past have journeyed to the Feast by sleeping each night in their car. In the morning, they would stop at a supermarket, buy some fruit and cereal and eat them in the car. When night fell again they would once more curl up in the car for a few short hours of uncomfortable, cramped sleep.

It wasn't that these people didn't have sufficient second tithe to eat in restaurants and sleep in motels. They were simply denying themselves so that they might turn in a large amount of excess second tithe once the Feast was over.

They were unwittingly disobeying one of the major commands concerning the Feast. They weren't able to *REJOICE* before God! They were stoically depriving themselves of the enjoyable, plea-

sant time they should have been having.

Traveling to and from the Feast, and during the Feast, you should use second tithe in order to *eat* in GOOD restaurants and *stay* in NICE motels. You should learn to enjoy and appreciate the finer things which you may not be able to afford at other times of the year. You should learn to leave a tip and conduct yourself in the proper manner in a public place.

This is the time you can afford to buy the better wines and the more expensive cuts of meat which are offered in good restaurants. In this way, you will learn to appreciate quality. To some people, a rug on the floor is a needless luxury simply because they have never had one. Yet once you become familiar with these things, and learn their usefulness and utility, you can see their desirability. And the lessons involved here certainly have a spiritual application for eternity.

Be Balanced

God expects us to live *BALANCED* lives, brethren. It is right to use your second tithe to eat in good restaurants and to stay in fine motels. But it isn't right to *SQUANDER* and throw away second tithe just to get rid of it. God isn't a waster! He doesn't want anyone of us to be, either!

Since the Feast is now being held in many different locations around the earth, most of you, especially those in the United States, have far shorter distances to travel in order to attend. Many of those with good paying jobs find that they have an abundance of second tithe even after they have paid all their own expenses.

Because of this super-abundance, some *few* have brought reproach and ridicule on the Church of God by the way they have "blown" their second tithe. These people have unthinkingly squandered their money just to get rid of it. They have felt they had to spend it all on themselves lest they be deprived of what was rightfully theirs.

What if you are one of those who has been abundantly blessed by God and have an excess of second tithe? You have paid your *tithe of the tithe*, taken care of all your needs and still have money left over. What are you supposed to do with it?

God's way is the way of giving and sharing. Jesus said, "... freely ye have received, freely give" (Matt. 10:8). Paul repeated the same thing in Acts 20:35 by saying, "... It is more blessed to give than to receive."

God has given us love, repentance and forgiveness. He has also blessed us from His abundance. Should we do less for those less fortunate than we?

God repeatedly exhorts us to remember the Levite, the widow, the fatherless, the poor, and the stranger within our gates. The Levitical priesthood has been replaced by the spiritual ministry of Christ today. God's ministers do not save a second tithe even as the Levites didn't save a second tithe. Your excess second tithe is to help pay their way to the Feast so that they might teach and make clear the plan of salvation to you.

Your extra second tithe also is used to help some of the elderly or widows who have no second tithe to attend the Feast. When you give your extra second tithe to the ministry, the Church will make sure those who *should* will be given the privilege of attending and rejoicing before the Lord their God.

Remember, you are not to deprive yourself in order to give more into the excess second tithe account. God commands you to *REJOICE* before Him, and that is your first responsibility. But at the same time, you are not to deprive someone else of the privilege of attending because you have *misused* the abundance God has given you.

Remember, be *BALANCED* in all things.

Once you see how much you need in order to rejoice before God and return home again, you can turn any *extra* which is *over and above* what you need into the business office at the Feast. God will bless you for giving someone else the chance to share in your abundance.

Now let's all look forward to the most enjoyable and marvelous Feast ever by determining *RIGHT NOW to be there* *REJOICING* before the Lord our God. Really enjoy the abundance God has given you! Drive carefully. Remember to be *praying for the safety of one another* and don't forget to thank the loving God who makes your rejoicing at the Feast possible through the second tithe He has given to you. □

SPECIAL REMINDERS FOR THE FEAST

IN ORDER to really rejoice at the Feast this year, we all need to strive to maintain good health and physical vitality. In the past, too many of us have neglected the laws of health during this season to our own detriment and that of others as well.

This year, let's be extra careful not to overexert, to *always* get PLENTY of sleep and to maintain a balanced, wholesome diet. God wants us to enjoy the Feast, but if we break the laws of health, and either overeat or eat too many starchy foods, there will be an inexorable toll of unnecessary sickness. So let's AVOID becoming sick by making sure we do not trespass God's health laws!

Communicable Diseases

Another extremely important thing for us to do is to STOP infectious, contagious, communicable diseases from spreading. In past years many brethren have been inexcusably careless and inconsiderate of others by bringing sick children to the Feast. Sometimes children have even been brought to services having whooping cough, measles, mumps, flu, chicken pox and other contagious diseases — exposing other members' children.

We must guard against this!

There is always the possibility of spreading contagion in a large crowd of people. Therefore, each one of us must make it a personal responsibility to STAY HOME FROM THE FEAST if we have a contagious disease. If your child has been *exposed* within two weeks before coming, DON'T bring him. And if we or our children should develop such symptoms while attending the Feast, we must keep the afflicted persons away from services — UNTIL they are fully recovered.

If and when you or your children are sick, God instructs you to call upon Him through one of His ministers for healing (James 5:14-15). But you should NOT bring a sick child or adult back to services UNTIL you can actually

see that he has been healed. When you are anointed, have FAITH — BELIEVE in God's healing power — but if God does give you a test of faith, DO NOT COME (or bring a sick child) to services on the strength of that faith. Let the sick be HEALED on the strength of their (or your) faith (Matt. 9:29), but do not bring him to any Church meeting or Festival until every physical symptom is gone and the healing is complete.

In Old Testament times, Moses expelled those with communicable diseases from the camp of Israel. We hope that such actions will not be necessary, but we must be considerate of the health of God's people attending His Festivals.

Pregnant Women

In some past years, babies have been born at the Feast of Tabernacles. God's Church, for the welfare of the individual members, has determined that no woman who is to be as much as eight months along by the END of the Feast is to attend. It is too difficult and *dangerous* for such a woman and her unborn child to attend.

Any women just a few months along in pregnancy should also be very CAUTIOUS about attending the Feast at all! Most miscarriages occur the first two to five months of pregnancy. The higher altitudes and colder climate at Squaw Valley in particular might be too much for some during this period. Sudden temperature changes are also possible at the other Festival sites. So use WISDOM. Don't risk miscarriage of a precious life! Remember, God does not lay the same stress on attendance of women as He does men (Deut. 16:16). Check with the doctor who is to deliver your baby and check with your local minister if you have any questions.

Avoid Accidents!

Finally, we should all be reminded to be very careful to avoid accidents on the way to, from, and even during, the Feast. This includes auto accidents,

falls, swimming and boating accidents, and every other kind of accident.

According to the National Safety Council, the ten-year death toll from all accidents *broke the million mark* for the first time in the decade of the 60's, and the cost of all accidents during that time soared to \$180 billion in the United States alone. Almost half a million deaths occurred in motor vehicle crashes.

Besides deaths, in 1969 alone there were 10,800,000 disabling injuries resulting from all kinds of accidents. Clearly, it behooves each one of us to be SURE that we drive safely, to be SAFETY CONSCIOUS at *all* times, and to SUPERVISE our children's activities!

It would be a tragedy we would never forget if one of *our* children suffered a disabling injury during the wonderful Feast of Tabernacles, or if *one of them died as a result of carelessness, neglect, or lack of proper supervision.*

We would do well to remember that for children aged 1 to 14 years, accidents claim more lives than the six leading diseases *combined!* Also, from ages 15 to 24, accidents claim more lives than ALL other causes combined, and 7 times more than the next leading cause! So for the Feast, brethren, let's be careful, watch our step at all times, and keep our children under proper control and supervision. We CAN PREVENT most accidental deaths and injuries, *maimings and broken limbs. It is up to us!*

If we do our part, brethren, we will surely have the most ENJOYABLE, thrilling, sparkling Feast of Tabernacles ever in the history of God's Church! So let's strive to make THIS Feast of Tabernacles the *safest*, healthiest, and BEST that we have ever had by obeying the rules, and by showing outgoing concern for our brethren!

Remember, how much you and your family enjoy and profit from the Feast is up to YOU! □

Ten Commandments of MOTORING

These Ten Commandments of Motoring are given in the booklet, "Road Craft" — The Police Driver's Manual, published in Britain.

1. Obey the traffic laws of the land. If you drive according to the vehicle or highway code, you will drive safely and well.
2. Concentrate on your driving and drive defensively. Never take it for granted that the other driver will do the right thing — Drive defensively.
3. Think before acting. Be alert — think about what you are doing while you are doing it.
4. Never tailgate. The cause of most accidents on freeways and expressways is tailgating — following too closely.
5. Drive with deliberation and overtake as quickly as possible. When in doubt, never pass.
6. Use speed intelligently and drive fast only in the right places. Don't drive too fast or too slow. A skilled driver never drives faster than the conditions of the road, traffic and weather permit.
7. Develop your car sense and reduce wear and tear to a minimum.
8. Use your horn thoughtfully; give proper signals; never black out headlights.
9. Be sure your car is road-worthy and know its capabilities. Keep your car maintained in good mechanical condition.
10. Perfect your road craft and acknowledge courtesies extended to you by other road users. Courtesy is an important factor in road safety.

STRENGTHEN YOUR LIFE

(Continued from page 19)

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 I will write upon him MY new name" (Rev. 3:12).

We must overcome!

There is no better time than at the Feast of Tabernacles to CHANGE. In the Feast environment you can MAKE YOUR START. Then, returning home you can continue with determination and be an OVERCOMER.

Jesus said in Matthew 18 that we should *cast away* those things in our lives which are offensive. To those who have the courage — who make it important enough to themselves — who truly change their lives and overcome — will He grant eternal life in happiness and productivity.

Resolve to make THIS Feast a turning point in *your* life. Go *all out*.

Remember not to neglect your *prayer* during the Feast. Don't get caught up in this world's vacation attitude and forget to talk with our great God every day. Don't neglect *daily Bible study* in addition to the services. Don't neglect to have family Bible study and prayer at the Feast.

The Apostle Peter speaks of Christian living and overcoming. He outlines how to *ADD strength* and Godly attributes to our lives whereby we may claim the precious promise of sonship and eternal life. He concludes by saying: "For if these things be *in* you, and *abound*, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that *lacketh* these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, GIVE DILIGENCE to make YOUR calling and ELECTION SURE: for if ye do these things, YE SHALL NEVER FALL" (II Peter 1:8-10).

This Feast CAN BE the most important time in your life. It CAN BE the turning point in YOUR LIFE whereby you WILL become a SON OF GOD! □