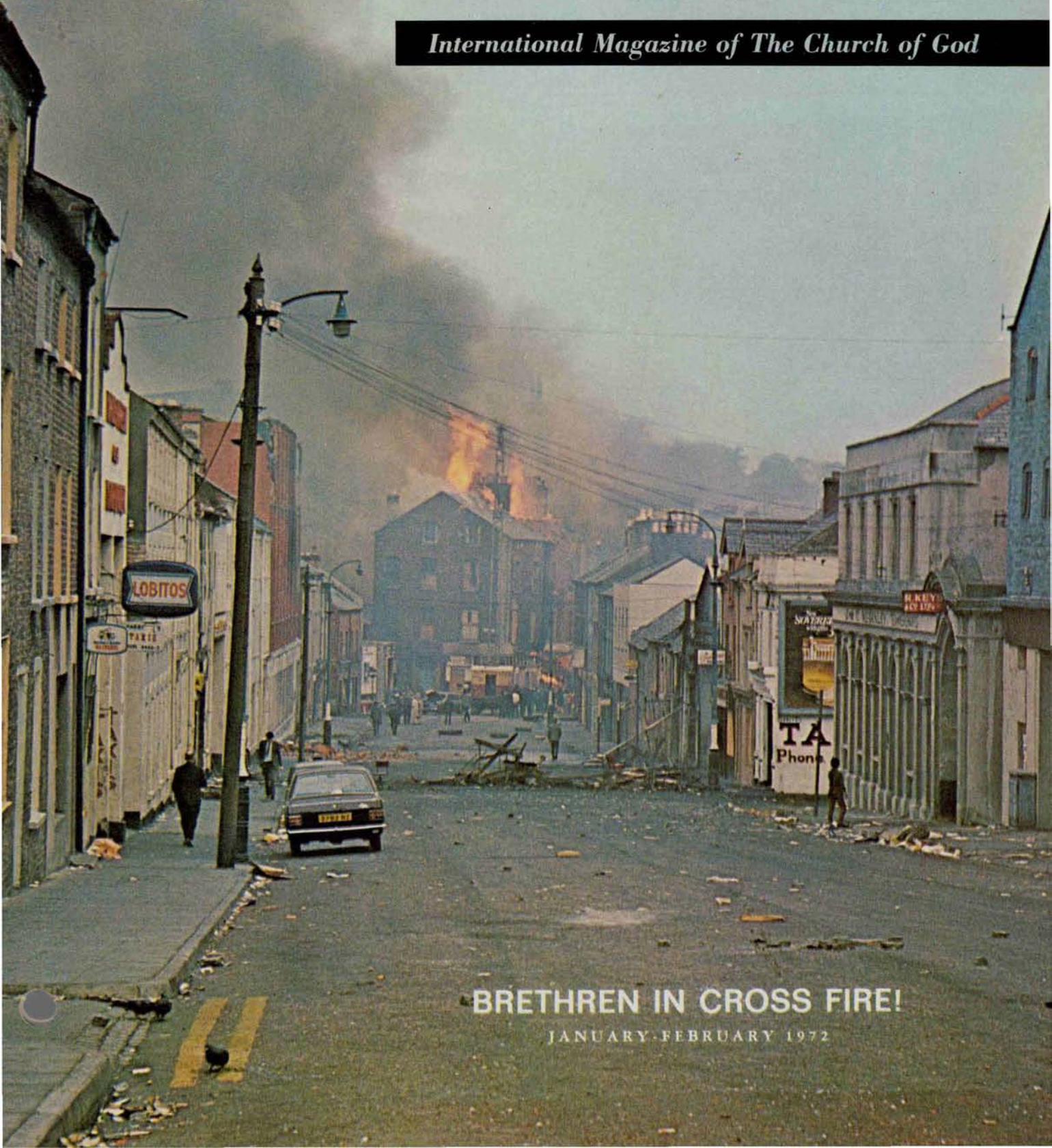


The Good News

International Magazine of The Church of God



BRETHREN IN CROSS FIRE!

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1972



More About Our Cover...

Our cover shows the aftermath of rioting now rampant in Northern Ireland. As destruction and death continue to mount, so does the danger to your brethren of the Belfast Church who are living in the crossfire of religious warfare! Read about it on page 6.

Ambassador College Photo

What our READERS SAY...

Foreign Work

Having just finished your most thorough article on the "Foreign Work" in the November-December *Good News*, I was so astounded, and even appalled, at my lack of knowledge and understanding of the vastness of God's Work and the problems of God's people in other countries. "Where have I been?" I have to ask myself.

Mr. Dart, I was amazed to realize that God's Work reached into tiny (and not so tiny) areas of this globe that I had never even heard of or known about. There were at least twenty-five countries I had never heard of and at least thirty-five territories, protectorates and other areas I had either never heard of or knew what they were! I just had to write and tell you about it.

In my two and one-half years in God's Church, I have read many inspiring and "move to action" articles, and many character-building articles, etc., and Mr. Hill's article on "Read the Book" even inspired me to read the Bible from cover to cover in one year (to the day); but this article of yours made me "grow up" from a "baby" drinking the "milk" of God's Word, to one who is ready for "strong meat."

I have not really been involved in the Work of God, as I had thought. I didn't even know where the Work of God had reached and what had been accomplished thus far, or even where my brethren lived and what their problems were.

I really want to thank you for taking the time to write that article, and to let you know that it is certainly what I needed. I really look forward to, hope, and will be praying for MORE articles like this.

I wanted to read about the "Foreign Work" last since it was what I was least interested in, simply because it was what I was least informed about. No wonder I found it practically impossible to relate to or pray for the Work of God around the world.

I am finally moved to study geography and learn where every one of those countries is located. I plan to obtain a map of the world, put it on a cork board, and stick a colored pin in every one of those spots. Then, perhaps I will be able to "see" the scope of God's Work, where it is, how it is growing and how much more has to be done before the Work is finished. Then I can pray the "fervent prayer which avails much," and no longer be so uninformed, so out of touch with

the only reality there is to be concerned about on this earth today—the Work of God. I now (for the first time since my conversion) have hope that God has heard my many prayers to help me become so involved with the Work that I can forget my unreal and unimportant personal problems and pray fervently for the Work, becoming totally involved in what God is doing on this earth.

I would like to have been able to say this all more simply, but if my many words didn't "lose" you, then you must surely know that I feel like Job must have felt when he said, "I have heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you" (Job 42:5). I, too, really "got" it, and I shall never be the same because of it.

C. M., Norwalk, California

"Desire God's Kingdom"

I just finished reading Mr. Colin Adair's fine article in *The Good News*, entitled, "Do You Really Desire God's Kingdom?" He painted quite a vivid picture of human suffering, even among our brethren in the Philippines. I have been thinking about and praying for these special people. Little did I realize what some of our brothers and sisters have had to go through recently.

Mr. Adair was inspired to write about it undoubtedly because of the dramatic contrast between that life and the relative ease so many of us of "modern day Israel" experience. I have thought about this, too. So I examined my own "comfortable" circumstances and wondered if I truly was desiring the coming of God's Government, with a completely new set of surroundings, and real opportunity and happiness for everyone. On the surface, it would seem I "had it made." Why should I need a change?

Thank you so very much for brightening up my hopes for the future with such fine articles as Mr. Adair's, not to mention all of the literature I'm privileged to receive each month. Keep up the good work.

Mrs. Joseph Mc., Edgewood, Texas

This short letter is to let you know that I was deeply moved when I read the article in the August *Good News* magazine concerning the brethren in the Philippines. We are praying for them and I believe our prayers are going to be answered.

Sinclair F., Ridgeville, South Carolina

The Good News

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*ministering to its members
scattered abroad*

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Garner Ted Armstrong

MANAGING EDITOR

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Thomas Haworth, Art Editor

BUSINESS MANAGER

Albert J. Portune

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS to the Editor,
P. O. Box 111, Pasadena, California 91109.

Canadian members should address P. O. Box
44, Station A, Vancouver 1, B. C., Canada.

Our members in United Kingdom, Europe, and
Africa should address the Editor, P. O. Box 111,
St. Albans, Herts., England.

South Africa: P. O. Box 1060, Johannesburg,
Transvaal, R. S. A.

Members in Australia and Southeast Asia should
address the Editor, P. O. Box 345, North
Sydney, NSW 2060, Australia.

In the Philippines, P. O. Box 1111, Makati,
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BE SURE TO NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY of any
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and new address. IMPORTANT!



King Leopold

A floating market on the River Menam near Bangkok, Thailand.

by Arthur W. Docken and
Gene R. Hughes

Christ commanded His disciples: "Go ye into ALL THE WORLD." Recently a baptizing tour was conducted in some very remote areas of the earth. Ipoh, Kuching, Kota Bharu are the strange sounding names of cities you have probably never heard before. But there are people living there who have heard of you and have recently become MEMBERS of the Body of Christ!

FOUR thousand miles from home and 12,000 feet in the air we looked down on a strange land of rubber plantations, tin mines and dense tropical jungle. The airline stewardess made an announcement over the public address system, but we could not understand what she said because the language was Malayan.

Our Fokker-Friendship aircraft landed and taxied to a small terminal building. We stepped out into steamy tropical heat and there, thousands of miles from our nearest church congregation, saw the radiant smiles and enthusiastic waving of a group of God's people who had come to the airport to meet us.

Yes, there are members of God's Church in this remote small town, Kota Bharu, Malaysia!

An Asian Work!

Most members of the Worldwide Church of God are unfamiliar with just what God is doing in such far away places. Except for the office and churches in the Philippines, we have

heard relatively little about this interesting corner of the globe. And yet for the past nine years there has been a very active Asian work, especially in Malaysia and Singapore.

The first minister to travel through Malaysia was Mr. Wayne Cole. Over nine years ago, Mr. Cole toured the area in response to requests for visits by readers of *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine. On that visit four people were baptized, Mr. and Mrs. K. M. Jurup and Mrs. Kiran Jonas, all of Indian ancestry; and Mr. Yong Chin Gee, of Chinese ancestry. After that small beginning Mr. Cole returned several times, baptizing many more. Our most recent tour increased the total number of members in the Singapore-Malaysia area to 33!

Our Itinerary

The itinerary of a baptizing tour through Asia reads like an airline's promotional campaign or a novel about



Ambassador College Photo

Brethren in Kota Bharu, Malaysia.
Mr. Gene Hughes is at extreme left.

foreign travel. Our most recent tour is a good example. It started in Taipei, Taiwan, where we met one man. Our next stop was Hong Kong, where we counseled and baptized a young Chinese fellow. In Bangkok we were able to visit a member, an American, who lives there with her serviceman husband and two teen-age sons.

From Bangkok we went into Malaysia counseling with those requesting baptism and visiting members in various cities. There we visited Penang, Kota Bharu, Ipoh and Kuala Lumpur, baptizing six more.

When we knew an individual was ready, we baptized him in the hotel room bathtub. Fortunately the tubs are large and the Asians are small! On other tours people have been baptized in various bodies of water from icy mountain streams to balmy tropical seas.

Next, we flew to the Island of Borneo and counseled with people in Kota Kinabalu, Bandar Seri Begawan and Kuching.

In Singapore, our next stop, we met with twenty individuals who were interested in the Work, but were not ready for baptism. While there we also held a Bible Study for 17 members and their children — 24 people in all!

The last stop was Djakarta, Indonesia, where we spent a couple of pleasant hours with two more readers who had requested visits.

Notice all these stops on the map. In each, people like yourself are zealously studying God's Word to learn how to better serve their Creator.

Not All Glamour

Sound exciting? It was. And inspiring. But it was also shocking and depressing!

Much of Asia is not the prettiest area on earth. It could be very beautiful, but millions of people jammed into close quarters bring about a set of conditions that are depressing. There is a monotonous sameness in most of the cities of Asia — the same smells, the same confusion, the mildewing, dull gray cement buildings, the clutter, the same heart-wrenching poverty of a people who have developed a stoic acceptance of a life they are helpless to change.

The lack of adequate sanitation is absolutely appalling. People bathing and brushing their teeth in virtual open sewers is a common sight in some cities. In Hong Kong, we saw tenements where *by law* five adults must share a small 10 x 12 foot room. In Aberdeen Harbor, near Hong Kong, families live out their lives jammed together on sampans (small boats) that are so close together they can hardly rise and fall with the waves.

Religion plays a big part in the lives of people in the Orient — but at what cost and with such tragic results! Everywhere are gold-encrusted temples dedicated to Buddha. The acrid smoke of burning joss sticks sending up prayers to Buddha permeates the air. One temple we visited was filled with snakes that come in to eat the food offerings made to the gods of the area. The natives feel quite honored by the snakes' presence! Magnificent marble mosques of the Muslims dominate the large cities. Only a short distance from these expensive buildings people live in stark poverty.

This doesn't mean there is no wealth in the region. Tin mining is a lucrative industry in Malaysia, but the damage to the environment is tremendous. We flew over vast areas where scars left in the earth from tin mining were tragic reminders that man's quest for wealth often destroys more than it enriches.

The Chinese Nationalist Government in Taiwan has a beautiful museum filled with priceless ancient bronze and porcelain artifacts, beautifully carved

jade and ivory. These rare antiques are but a reminder of the glory that once was China's. Today, outside the walls of the museum, many people live a penurious existence, continuously at the edge of starvation.

If a person stops to think at all about the poverty, the unsanitary conditions, the large number of children, he must conclude that these people are doing well indeed to live through childhood. And then you notice the crowded cemeteries and wonder if, perhaps, the really fortunate ones are those buried in the distinctive whitewashed concrete crypts that dominate Asian cities and towns. We could not help but be both impressed and depressed with what we saw from country to country in our tour. Asia's potential is indeed tremendous — but today the poverty and widespread suffering is appalling.

An Expanding Work

It has been over twelve years since our literature began going into this area. Today 40,000 readers wait patiently for the magazines and booklets published by Ambassador College. About half of all *The PLAIN TRUTH* readers here are also *TOMORROW'S WORLD* subscribers! Obviously the Gospel is being preached throughout these nations.

However, of the thousands of readers, only about 130 had requested a visit from an Ambassador College representative. The recent tour was undertaken to visit those people. Many were unable to meet us at the appointed time, but we did counsel 82 very interested and enthusiastic readers — Indian, Chinese, Malaysian, even one Scotswoman who was born in Malaysia.

Many wanted to be baptized, but only seven had been brought to a condition of real repentance. Unfortunately, the vast majority of these people lacked the depth of knowledge and understanding of what it means to submit to and obey God. Hopefully, the personal meetings we had on this trip will encourage and inspire more of these people to grow toward baptism.

It is interesting to note here that of the seven people baptized, six had previous meetings with our ministers. The

seventh one was in close contact with one of our very strong members in the area and had received guidance and encouragement from him.

This certainly points out the need for *personal contact* in bringing individuals into God's Church. Our literature does a tremendous job in leading people to Christ. But every prospective member must be dealt with on an individual basis. Each one has to be personally counseled for baptism. Each has to be immersed in water and have hands laid on him for the begetting of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38).

Much Left to Do

To see what an incredible job baptism alone represents, suppose one person were to spend one minute immersing each of the four billion people on earth today. It would take

over 7,600 years, hurrying day and night! Or, putting it another way, it would require 7,600 ministers baptizing night and day (at the rate of one a minute) for a FULL YEAR, to baptize everyone on earth. A tremendous undertaking! Perhaps you can begin to see the massiveness of the task ahead for God's Church!

Eventually, everyone *must* be reached. Christ said, "... teach all nations, baptizing them..." (Matt. 28:19). We cannot do it all now, but we are laying the ground-work in preparation for the time when all the world *will* be reached!

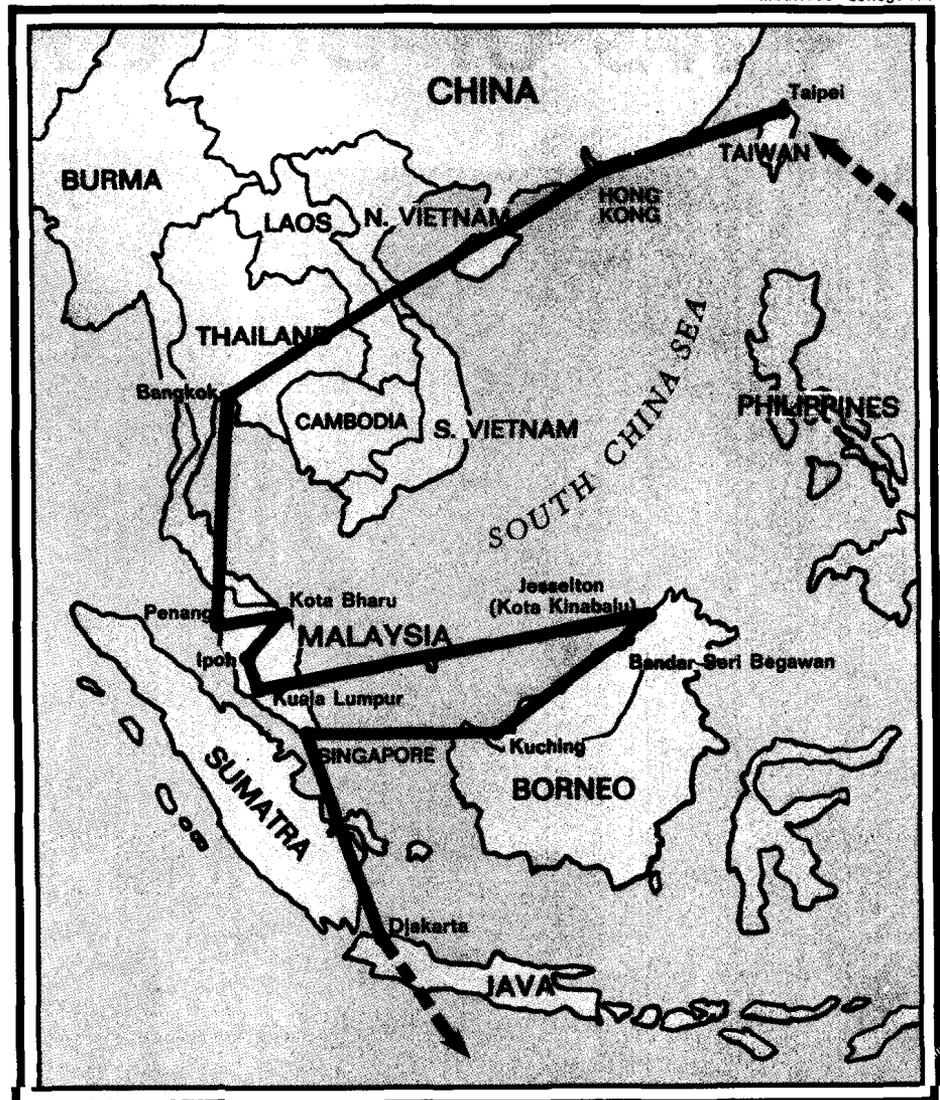
Was It Worth It?

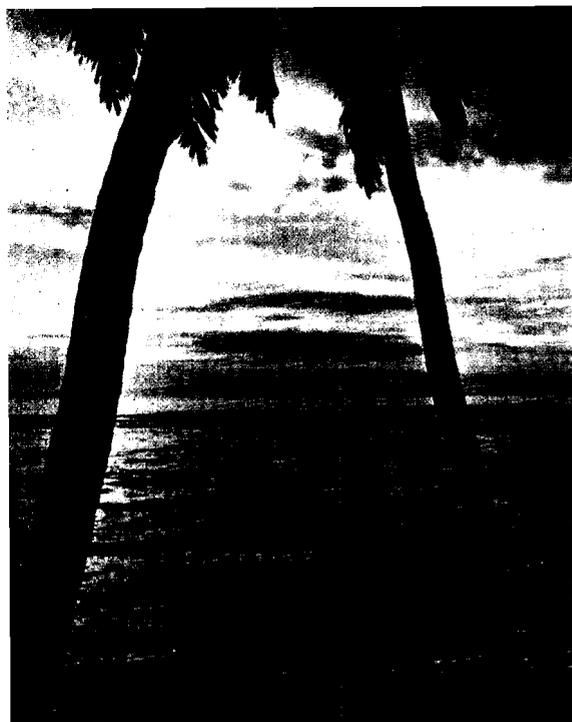
We traveled thousands of miles in 30 days and baptized only seven people.

(Pictures next two pages, text continues on page 12)

ITINERARY OF TOUR

Ambassador College Art

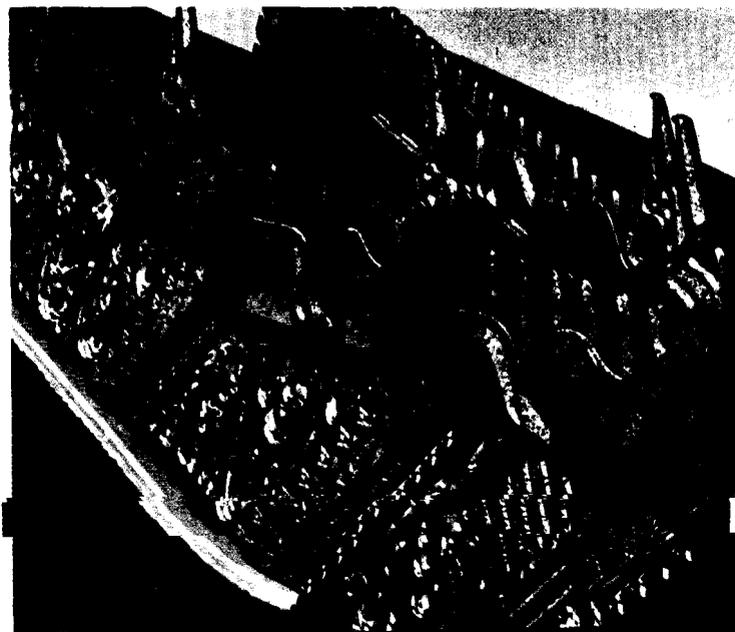




Views of Southeast Asia



Above, left to right: Idyllic scene from the island of Bali, Indonesia; looking across the border from Kowloon, Hong Kong into mainland Red China; barges on a canal in Singapore, Malaysia. Below, left to right: Idols outside temple of the Reclining Buddha, Penang, Malaysia; exquisitely carved gold-leaved roof ornamentation on Buddhist temple in Bangkok, Thailand; children swimming in polluted waters of Aberdeen Harbor, Hong Kong; typical "wealthy American tourist" (Mr. Arthur Docken) on a trishaw tour of Penang.





All photos Ambassador College



ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FOREIGN WORK

In this issue, Mr. Ronald L. Dart, Vice-President of the Foreign Educational Service, once again answers your questions about this expanding area of God's Work. Included are reports on conditions facing some of God's people in volatile areas such as Northern Ireland and the Philippines.

Q. With a state of virtual religious warfare in Northern Ireland, how is God's Church faring there? Have any of the brethren been hurt?

A. Here are excerpts from a letter we received from Mr. David Bedford, Pastor of the Belfast Church. His comments give quite an insight to conditions in the city.

One does feel here as if he were in the middle of a war, and, of course it is somewhat that way. Many are talking of a Protestant backlash that is expected to come at any time. Should this happen to any great extent, it will certainly mean civil war, with the British army in between.

The streets are constantly patrolled by the army. Those of us living in Belfast hear most of the explosions, and have lain in bed at times listening to the gunfire. I have lost count of the times we have been searched at road-blocks.

Just about all large buildings, and many small ones, are liable to bomb attack, particularly at night. Recently, though, they have been doing some bombing during the daytime. Last Sabbath about four o'clock, while we were all talking after services, a bomb exploded at the customs house, about 150 yards up the road. I have never heard 200 people shocked into dead silence so quickly before! The commissionaire said he had chased three men away from the hall shortly before that—they were carrying a brown parcel. He feels it was a bomb intended for our hall. However, he is a very dramatic type, so I don't know how seriously to take this.

Earlier that week the caretaker of the hall suddenly up and left for Liverpool without a word to anyone. The manager told me he had been acting very strange for the last couple of weeks. He feels the caretaker was probably intimidated by the I.R.A.—

wanting, of course, to have access to the hall in order to blow it up. He is a Catholic.

Many stores have been set on fire by incendiary devices left by shoppers. Stores are cleared at times due to bomb-warning telephone calls—many of these turn out to be hoaxes. With bombs recently exploding during the day, the tension is growing. One begins to eye everyone else with suspicion; almost looking over your shoulder at times to see if any odd things are happening behind you.

Most of the members live in fairly "safe" areas, although a number of us have only just missed trouble—passing through an area just before a bomb exploded or a riot started.

One member (his wife is not a member) had a very narrow escape a few weeks ago. It was at the time some Protestants were moving out of their houses and then setting fire to them. The street next to his was partly burned out, while the next two streets were completely gutted. These were terraced houses, and when one house is fired it quickly spreads to the others if the fire brigade is not on the scene—the roads had been barricaded so they couldn't get through.

Gunmen were actually crouching in their front garden while firing at the Protestants. He and two neighbors heard that the end houses of their street had been set on fire. If a fire had started they would have to move out quickly. All three started to run down the street to check. They had only gone a few yards when the other two men were shot—one dead, the other had his hand blown off! God must certainly have been protecting this member.

The next day he was able to contact me by phone and we moved him to his sister's house. They (he, his wife, two older children and few-months-old baby) had to leave as if they were going for a walk. Should they have taken anything such as a suitcase, squatters would have moved in immediately. The ironic thing is they had only moved a few weeks earlier from a very Catholic area to

this one. It was mixed and so they thought it safer. They moved back home after a few days.

Other members near the trouble areas have had to sleep with their clothes on at times. One member was searched by the I.R.A. at gunpoint. This was partly his fault for being in that area at that time. One or two have lost their jobs due to their place of employment being destroyed or damaged.

All in all the situation is not a pleasant one, and it appears it will only get worse. Still, I keep reminding the members if they can't fervently pray "Thy Kingdom come," then no one can!

Q. Do we have any members in Africa? We heard of an African baptizing tour—is there any news yet?

A. Mr. Harold Jackson and Mr. Bob Morton concluded a baptizing tour of the African continent shortly before we went to press with this issue. At the halfway point of the tour they had arrived safely in South Africa where they attended the Feast of Tabernacles, and sent us the following telex giving a brief report of the tour:

So far the trip has been very encouraging. Fifty-two met the tour. Eight haptized. Thirty-five percent did not show. Many interesting experiences such as meeting a man with PLAIN TRUTH in hand at Post Office, mistaking him as a prospective member. On identifying ourselves, he could not believe representatives to be in this country. Also baptized three Nigerian teachers who had traveled four days, encountering many difficulties, and reached us at midnight on the fourth day.

Also, while counseling with group of 18, a policeman on guard at bank had secreted himself behind counseling chamber doors, later acknowledging subscription to PLAIN TRUTH for three years.

These are a few of the experiences while working our way south. Most of those meeting tour are faced with two major problems: working for government on six-days-a-week basis and tribal customs. Will write more as tour resumes.

The incident with the three Nigerian school teachers is particularly interesting, because Mr. Jackson and Mr. Morton were unable to obtain any kind of visa for Nigeria. Over 50 people have requested baptism in that country whom we have been unable to visit. Hopefully, by the next baptizing tour, Nigeria's visa policy will have changed. We plan to have a full report on the African baptizing tour in the next GOOD NEWS.

Q. How have the brethren fared



Above, Wide World Photo; below,
Ambassador College Photos

AFTERMATH OF VIOLENCE — On last December 6, a five story Belfast carpet factory was set ablaze as terrorists' bombs ripped through the building. Below left, pall of smoke from a burned-out building hangs in the air in Belfast as local citizens pursue their daily business — each a potential victim of the next act of violence! Right, more scars of senseless rioting.



who were caught in the fighting in the Philippines? Did they have to leave their homes? Were they able to keep the Feast of Tabernacles? Is there any way we can help them?

A. At the time of this writing, information is still coming in to Headquarters about the Feast of Tabernacles in the Philippines. We have learned that hardly any members have had to actually leave their homes. The fighting has mainly shifted into an area where we have very few people. We did, however, have to move the Feast on the Island of Mindanao from Kiara to Don Carlos for reasons of safety.

Some have misunderstood our previous announcements regarding the problem and have assumed that we were not going to be able to hold the Feast of Tabernacles in the Philippines at all. This is not true. Kiara was the main Feast site on the Island of Mindanao, but *not* the main site of the Philippines. The main site in the Philippines is at Baguio City on the Island of Luzon. There were 766 registered for the Festival at Baguio City and the Feast was held as usual.

On Mindanao, 714 brethren assembled in Don Carlos as counted on the Last Great Day. In Manikling, another small Festival site, 244 were in attendance.

Mr. Adair received the following letter from Mr. Benitez who was in charge of the Feast at Don Carlos. Here are the details from his report, just as he wrote it:

Greetings from Don Carlos. The Feast of Tabernacles is over and it is time to think of the next Feast, 1972. Here is what we have seen in comparing the Feast held in Kiara for six years and that held in Don Carlos this year. It is the happiest Feast ever observed by God's people in Bukidnon. We were balanced in everything. We read in our brochure that the Feast site should be in a place accessible for transportation. We notice that during the Feast it is the rainy season and the road to Kiara is badly damaged and we have to walk to the tabernacle from Bokbok. This happens every year since the Feast began. Motels and hotels also serve an important part of the Feast as with the restaurant and recreation center that offers us afternoon bowling. The market supplies us with a good amount of fish and meat.

The post office and telegram office have also contributed to up-to-date communication. God's people are

also secure physically. We have not had all these things in Kiara, so the plan came to mind that we should build a permanent place here in Don Carlos for the future Feasts. We have found a place near the lake which is only about 200 meters from the heart of town. According to the news of some of the brethren, we can buy this for 3000 pesos per hectare, and we can erect our new tabernacle building there.

When I bring this plan in my announcement during the Feast, everybody was willing to give voluntary contributions for the purchase of the land. But I won't go ahead until I receive approval from Headquarters.

I do not think the people in Kiara will grow spiritually if the Feast remains as it was. First, some considered Kiara as their kingdom and always follow the idea of one man. They do not understand fully the worldwide work and refuse to be educated. Now that I have been able to bring them to Don Carlos, their mind is open and become unbiased. I hope this is God's plan.

The tribal war is a little bit calm now and the people in Kiara have no plan of moving to another place. God has answered our prayers and we are now back to our farms. God knows that it is not easy for his people to move to another place. But we have now a place prepared in Don Carlos in case the trouble starts again. I think God permitted the tribal war to scare the people in Kiara. I found out that they were not keeping their second tithe faithfully and God taught them a lesson. And those who did not save their second tithe were not able to come to the Feast. So everything worked together for good.

All the brethren in the Philippines are deeply encouraged by the situation that has developed, and are very grateful for all of your prayers. Truly, all things do work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose. When He promised to be with us, even unto the end of the world, He really meant it!

Many have been asking if there is any way they can be of further help to the brethren on Mindanao. Some have asked if they could send food or clothing directly to them. We appreciate the offers very much, but it is much easier and cheaper to meet those needs right on the spot. By the time we assembled food and clothing and shipped it to Manila, it would cost much more than it would cost us to buy it there.

I know if there's any way we can be of service from the United States, Mr. Adair will let us know immediately. He is keeping himself well informed about conditions, and stands ready to extend whatever help is needed. Mean-

while, prayer is still the most effective way of helping. As a result of the prayers of God's people, very few of the Philippine brethren have had to leave their homes, and as far as we know there have been no further incidents which directly involved our people. So far, most of them have only suffered from the anxiety that comes from living in such traumatic circumstances.

Q. Since Mr. Ted Armstrong's trip to Rhodesia, is the Work opening up in that area as well as it is in South Africa?

A. We've been running advertisements in Rhodesia for several months, and have had a moderate response. Since the white population of Rhodesia is quite small, our progress in that area has been very limited thus far. However, we have had a very good response from among the black population in Rhodesia and, as previously reported, had a Festival there this year with 38 in attendance.

Meanwhile, we have been talking with people in Rhodesian television about airing our program in Salisbury and Bulawago. We have a great deal of favor in some areas and resistance in others. Mr. Fahey will be seeing a minister of the government within the next few days. Fortunately, those on our side are fairly high up in authority in Rhodesia and those on the other side are much lower.

Q. What impact has the current monetary crisis had on the Foreign Work?

A. It has had serious impact! Since the dollar has been allowed to float on foreign exchange markets, it has generally drifted down in relation to the foreign currencies. In Britain, for example, this means that the dollars we send there are worth 5% less — or putting it another way, we have to send them 5% more to do the same work. This means we have to tack on an additional \$5,000 for each \$100,000 we spend there.

One of our biggest problems in 1972 in the Foreign Work will be the budget. Again and again we are asked what doors are opening up to us in

(Continued on inside back cover)

How You Can PRAY MORE FERVENTLY!

God's great Work is accelerating as we enter the "home stretch." Yet paradoxically, some have been letting down in prayer at this crucial time! Never has EARNEST, HEART-FELT PRAYER on the part of God's people been more needed. And never has there been more to stimulate us to WAKE UP and PRAY FERVENTLY!

by Brian Knowles

ZEALOUS for the cause of God, the prophet Isaiah was inspired to pray, "...there is NONE that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee..." (Isa. 64:7).

Does this scripture describe *you* and your current prayer life? Have *you* let regular daily prayer to the great God in heaven slip? Do you have trouble stirring yourself up to pray? We know some of you do.

Perhaps you haven't realized it till now, but praying is *the very most important thing* you can do for the Work of God! NOTHING is more valuable and effective!

A SIN Not to Pray!

Believe it or not, it is a *sin* for a Christian not to pray! When the ancient Israelites realized their error in wrongfully desiring a human king to rule over them in the place of God Almighty, they asked the prophet Samuel to pray for them (I Sam. 12:19). Notice Samuel's reply: "God forbid that I should *SIN against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you*" (verse 23).

It was Samuel's responsibility to pray — which it would have been *sin* for him to neglect. Brethren, God likewise holds us responsible to pray today!

While instructing His disciples, Christ did not say, "If you pray." He said "WHEN..."! (Matt. 6:5.) There

was no question but that true Christians *must* and *would* pray!

What Is Prayer?

Prayer is the way we communicate with our Creator. Prayer is *conversation* with God. It is our contact with Him. When we get down on our knees and address God, He *bears* us as any father would listen to the requests of his own children.

God wishes *all* people would come to Him and make their requests known. That's why the Apostle Paul wrote, "...let your requests be made known unto God" (Phil. 4:6).

Prayer is like sweet incense coming up before God's throne (Rev. 8:3-4). He really enjoys listening to earnest, believing prayers. And He is as interested in hearing your prayers as anyone's! Psalm 10:17 assures us, "Lord, thou hast heard the desire of the humble... *thou wilt cause thine ear to hear.*" David sang, "*O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come*" (Ps. 65:2).

But Why Pray?

Yes, but... *why* do we need to pray anyway? Doesn't God already know what we need before we ask? Yes, He does! (Matt. 6:8.) But He will not necessarily give or perform it until we are willing to demonstrate by the *works* of prayer that we really do acknowledge

HIM as the *SOURCE* of every good and needed blessing! We demonstrate our faith and trust in God to supply our needs by our willingness to perform the *work* of getting down on our knees and praying!

John the Baptist said, "*A man can receive NOTHING, except it be given him from heaven*" (John 3:27). And James said, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights..." (James 1:17). In God's Work we must realize that every bit of progress, every success, ALL **ADVANCEMENT** in preaching the gospel must come from God.

Notice how John 15:1-7 makes this very plain! "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. *Every* branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and *every* branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. *Abide in me, and I in you.* As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; *no more can ye, except ye abide in me.* I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: **FOR WITHOUT ME YE CAN DO NOTHING.** If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in me [rely on God

as the SOURCE of all spiritual power] and my words abide in you, YE SHALL ASK WHAT YE WILL, AND IT SHALL BE DONE UNTO YOU."

This beautiful analogy shows that since Christ is the true vine, He and God the Father are THE SOURCE of ALL good fruit brought forth by this Work or by each member individually. Remember, even Christ said that of Himself — as a mere human being — He could do *nothing!* (John 5:19.)

Realize that when you pray to God you are going before the very throne of the most powerful Spirit Being in the entire universe! Through the spiritual office of Jesus Christ, who is our high priest, we are able to enter into the *holiest place* in the cosmos! (Heb. 10:19.) Yet, we are instructed to come BOLDLY — with confidence — before that throne of grace. Notice it in Hebrews 4:16: "Let us therefore come boldly before the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace [favor and blessing] to help in time of need."

Antidote for Temptation

Jesus instructed his disciples: "Watch and PRAY, that ye *enter not into temptation*: the spirit [your intention] indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matt. 26:41). He showed that the only way you can strengthen the weak will of your flesh is *by prayer!*

Jesus also said regarding our day: "And because *iniquity shall abound*, the love of *many* shall wax cold. But he that shall *endure* unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Matt. 24:12-13). Today, lawlessness (iniquity) does abound. Never have Christians been bombarded with so many temptations to "give it all up" and "flake out." Never since the flood has the world been more in the grip of the devil!

You need as never before to pray and ask God DAILY, "Deliver me from evil in any form"! (Matt. 6:13.) It only takes a *short time* of being out of contact with God before you find your resistance to sin and temptations is dangerously low or nonexistent! Therefore, NO CONVERTED PERSON SHOULD EVER GET OUT OF THE HABIT OF PRAYER! To do so is to play with *fire* — the LAKE of fire!

You Must Pray Regularly!

Unless we habitually go to God the Father we cannot expect to be blessed in a powerful way as a Work or individually! It is critically important that we as a body send our prayers up before the throne of grace on a *regular, consistent basis*.

Thus I Thessalonians 5:17 commands us to "pray without ceasing"! This, of course, does not mean to be constantly mouthing a "prayer," but rather to *pray regularly* — never giving it up (Goodspeed) — *in order to be close to God*. Then when a sudden need arises it will not take hours of agonizing to contact God. Rather, we can be "INSTANT in prayer" (Rom. 12:12) — or *instantly* able to get through to Him!

Jesus Christ knew that God heard him "*always*." When God raised Lazarus from the dead, Jesus' prayer lasted only about 12 seconds. But He was heard INSTANTLY! (John 11:41-44.) Why? Because He *took* time to pray REGULARLY!

Daniel also prayed *regularly*. Even in the face of a possible death penalty for doing so, Daniel customarily got down on his knees for fervent prayer before God *three times a day* (Dan. 6:10).

David *also* followed the same custom. He said: "*Evening* [God's day begins at sundown] and *morning*, and at *noon*, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice" (Ps. 55:17).

Fasting Important too!

Truly effective prayer is often accompanied by fasting. When Christ was instructing His disciples with regard to certain types of demons He said, "... this kind goeth not out but by prayer *and fasting*" (Matt. 17:21).

When Daniel accompanied his prayers with fasting he got results! Notice Daniel 9:3: "And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, *with fasting*, and sackcloth and ashes."

Now notice the momentous result of such an appeal to God! "Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. And he informed

me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding" (verses 21-22).

God actually sent one of his top representatives, the great archangel Gabriel, to bring vital information to Daniel in answer to his prayer!

Stick-to-it-iveness

Apply some of the principles of the seven laws of success to your prayer life. Have a definite *goal* in mind when you begin. Then *stick* to your prayer and *don't give up* until you know you have actually prayed TO GOD — not just to the ceiling, the floor, or to yourself — and your prayers HAVE BEEN HEARD! *Force yourself to get down on your knees and stay on them until you have accomplished what you set out to do!*

One striking example of Christ's PERSISTENCE in prayer is found in Matthew 26:36-45: "Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and *pray* yonder. . . . Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and PRAYED, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me ONE HOUR?" The indication here is that Christ prayed for a span of *one hour*.

Continuing with verse 42: "He went away again *the second time*, and PRAYED. . . . And he came and found them *asleep again*. . . . And he left them, and went away again, and PRAYED *the third time*."

What an example of *staying with it* until the task is accomplished! These three prayer sessions, just prior to His being apprehended by an armed mob (see verses 45-47), insured Christ the spiritual strength to ENDURE the beatings, the questionings, and finally being nailed to the stake.

The Bible shows us that the Kingdom of God will be turned over only to those who are forceful and driving in fulfilling God's will! Wishy-washy,

irresolute quitters won't make it! Turn your natural carnal stubbornness in the right direction and *prevail in prayer!*

Praying Is Work!

Prayer is not always easy! It can be hard work. It takes mental and physical effort to stick with it and to be consistent. In short, it takes CHARACTER!

We cannot afford to become "weary in well doing." Many of us ought to *labor* in prayer more than we do. Christ, on His last night, prayed with such intensity that His perspiration became like great drops of blood dripping to the ground as a result of the enormous *effort* He put into His prayers! (Luke 22:44.)

We all ought to follow Paul's instruction to the Church at Ephesus. Notice how the Moffatt translation renders Ephesians 6:18: "... praying at all times in the Spirit, *with all manner of prayer and entreaty — be alive to that, attend to it UNCEASINGLY, interceding on behalf of all the saints and on my behalf also, that I may be allowed to speak with open lips in order to expound fully and freely... the gospel...*"

Widows in God's Church can render very effective and important prayers. God preserved in the Bible an example of one widow who must have been over 100 years old who *labored* in prayer and fasting regularly in the temple! Notice it in Luke 2:36-37: "There was also a prophetess, Hannah the daughter of Phanuel, who belonged to the tribe of Asher; she was *advanced in years*, having lived seven years with her husband after her girlhood and *having been a widow for eighty-four years*. She was never away from the temple; night and day she worshipped, *fasting and praying...*" (Moffatt).

God hears and honors these prayers! They can be a very powerful force in furthering the Work of God!

Remember, praying is work, but prayer DOES WORK!

When and How Long?

Some would like the Church to set an arbitrary length of time for each member to pray every day. This of course is not feasible. We should each pray according to the *needs* of the Work and

our individual needs. It depends a lot on your personal circumstances and other factors. But certainly anything *less* than half an hour a day is NOT ENOUGH! All should strive for *substantial* amounts of prayer, especially in the mornings.

David made it a point to pray in the morning (Ps. 5:3). On occasion Jesus rose up even before sunrise to pray (Mark 1:35). In most cases your whole day will be successful in direct proportion to your morning's prayer! To begin the day without praying is spiritually like facing the day physically *unclotted!*

Additional spiritual impetus and inspiration can be yours if you can pray again at mid-day. Of course you must pray discreetly and in a *private place*, as Christ instructed us (Matt. 6:6).

What to Pray About

God's names tell us what He *is* and what He *does*. Since He answers prayers according to their consonance to His own plan and will, His names can also tell us much about what we should pray for. Notice some of those names and what they mean:

YHVH-Jireh — "The Eternal will *provide*" (Gen. 22:14). He will provide us with everything to sustain and maintain our very lives, as well as the tools to do the Work and to overcome.

YHVH-Ropheka — "The Eternal that *heals you*" (Ex. 15:26). We must look to God for healing and physical well-being. James said, "... *pray* one for another, that ye may be *healed*" (James 5:16).

YHVH-Zidkenu — "The Eternal our Righteousness" (Jer. 23:6; 33:16). Our own human righteousness is as filthy rags to God (Isa. 64:6). We should ask God to forgive our sins, to clean up our hearts (Ps. 51:10) and give us His righteousness through His Holy Spirit.

YHVH-Nissi — "The Eternal my *banner*" (Ex. 17:15). Pray that God will continue to *guide* and *lead* the Work of God and the decisions that are made. Christ is called "the *captain* of our salvation" (Heb. 2:10). He is the one who goes before and behind us as He did with the children of Israel (I Cor. 10:4).

YHVH-Roi — "The Eternal my shepherd" (Ps. 23:1). God watches over and protects His Work as a shepherd does his flock from the wolves. We should pray daily that God will protect us from all our enemies.

There are many other names of God in the Bible, but space does not permit a comprehensive listing of them here. You can make a profitable study of them yourself.

Examples of Answered Prayer

"The effectual *fervent* prayer of a righteous man availeth MUCH" (James 5:16). Your prayers can bring about GREAT RESULTS!

The great prophet Elijah was merely a human being as we all are. But notice his example in prayer: "Elias [Elijah] was a man *subject to like passions as we are*, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it *rained not* on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he *prayed again*, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit" (James 5:17-18).

God heard Elijah's prayers. Why shouldn't He hear yours?

One prayer of Moses prevented the destruction of the whole nation of ancient Israel (Deut. 9:13-19).

Esther and Mordecai fasted and prayed, and all the Jews in the Persian Empire were spared from extermination.

The barren Hannah's *silent* prayer was responsible for the very existence of the prophet Samuel (I Sam. 1:5-20).

God heard the prayers of these *very human* men and women of old. You can depend upon God to hear your prayers *too*. This is never truer than when you are in deep trouble.

Notice David's plight in Psalm 18, beginning with verse 4: "The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid. The sorrows of hell [the grave] compassed me about: the snares of death prevented [came before] me." So what did David do? "In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he *heard my voice* out of his temple, and my cry came before him, *even into his ears.*"

What was God's reaction to David's prayer? "Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the

hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth . . . He bowed the heavens also, and came down . . . and he rode upon a cherub. . . . Yea, he sent out his arrows, and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings, and discomfited them. . . . He sent from above, he took me, he drew me out of many waters [armies]. He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me" (verses 7-17).

Notice that God was moved to *quick action* by David's prayer.

But why? Verses 19 and 20 explain: "He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, *because he delighted in me*. The Lord rewarded me *according to my righteousness*; according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me."

God delights in the prayers of those who keep His commandments. And God is no respecter of persons. If you are righteous through His Spirit in you, He will hear and answer your prayers. So don't sell yourself short insofar as the value and effectiveness of *your* prayers are concerned!

Pray in FAITH!

Brethren, it should be obvious that the end of man's age is drawing to a tumultuous close. The time when Christ will return to set up His government and bind the god of this world is rapidly drawing closer. And as that day draws nearer, the "adversary" — Satan the devil — becomes more and more intent on the *destruction* of this great Work and the people of God!

You need to be praying with greater frequency, fervency and intensity than ever before that God will "*deliver us from the evil one*."

Do not pray merely as a necessary ritual. Do not just "go through the motions" because you know you should pray. Don't just "log time" and pray by the clock.

When you pray, **PRAY IN REAL BELIEVING FAITH AND EXPECT MIRACLES!** Be confident that the great all-powerful God in heaven really does hear and respond to *your* prayers!

If you are praying according to God's will, in Christ's name and in believing, expectant FAITH, your prayers will bring **ASTOUNDING RESULTS!** Put *work* into your prayers, and your prayers will work — **MIRACLES** for God's Work! □

BAPTIZING TOUR

(Continued from page 3)

Was it worth it? Certainly. God does not equate His sons to money or time. He gave His only begotten Son for each one of those seven. Jesus Christ personally gave up His life for them. God has led these people to repentance and it is our duty to reach and baptize them.

These trips are few and far between. The last trip through this area was over 18 months ago. It may be even longer before the next one. Suppose they were your children. What would it be worth to you to have a minister of God meet with them and baptize them?

We wish we could meet with these brethren more often — it would be nice to have a local elder in the area. But the time has not yet arrived. God must open the doors and growth must continue before any local churches can be established. One day, these same people will be used to teach God's truth to others. In the meantime, these few scattered brethren are very *precious* in God's sight!

Notice this excerpt of a letter from a young girl in Southeast Asia. Her fine attitude is typical of God's people in the area, even though it was written some time ago.

Warmest greetings from all of us

here in Kota Bharu! We trust you and your family and the Church there have had another tremendous time during the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread.

All nine of us here were really very privileged to be able to observe the Passover together. It was the most solemn and awe-inspiring experience ever, for us to once again partake of the sacred ordinance; for all of us realized, as we were once more reminded, our need of our Saviour's sacrifice.

We partook of the Passover with gratitude and renewed zeal to overcome more than ever. My father led the short service. I don't know how to describe how inspiring it was. During the closing prayer, my father's voice shook as he prayed for God to continue to guide and help us — the little group here — to grow and overcome, and he beseeched God to keep us from sins and temptations that so often sneak into and weaken our lives.

During the sobering and silent service, it struck me (others too, I'm sure) that the other parts of Christ's Body scattered in the world, were that night also doing what we were doing.

On the "Night to Be Much Remembered" we enjoyed a Malaysian cuisine specially prepared for the occasion, in the open "courtyard section" of our house here. It was inspiring to have dined together on two large tables colourfully laid out. The full moon was beaming overhead! Altogether, we counted 20 persons who enjoyed the dinner!

We literally rejoiced that night as the Israelites of old did. . . .

Was the tour "worth it" to these people? What do you think?

Why Scattered Members

God is building His Temple of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:20-22). When

Solomon was assembling the physical temple in Jerusalem, all the parts were cut and shaped *away* from the temple site. When they were brought to the temple each part fitted precisely into place because it had been formed to exacting standards. Notice I Kings 6:7: "And the house . . . was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was building." So it is with all of God's people, no matter where they are being called. Each one of us is being shaped to the standard of God's perfect Word so that we will all fit into the Body of Christ when He comes to this earth.

Individuals in Asia, Africa, South America and other scattered areas of this earth are also being called by God. He is using us all to reach more and more people through the pages of *The PLAIN TRUTH* and *TOMORROW'S WORLD* magazines, the Correspondence Course, and our other literature, the broadcasts and magazine ads. And these baptizing tours are a continuation of our combined labor of love to these people.

Only the basic structural members of God's temple are being chosen and worked on at this time. But it is encouraging to know that God is using members from ALL NATIONS to build it! □

YOU CAN CONTROL YOUR TONGUE!

Have YOU ever said something you regretted later? Is YOUR TONGUE always getting YOU into trouble? You need to realize what the tongue is really like, and how YOU CAN CONTROL IT!

by Colin Adair

THE lady next door had recently moved into a better neighborhood and decided to invite all of her old friends and neighbors to a house-warming party. While her guests were talking the doorbell rang and the hostess left the room. Upon returning she announced that she had a little surprise. While away at the door she had left a tape recorder functioning and now, for “laughs,” she was going to replay it!

But her guests didn't seem the least bit amused. In fact, they all turned a crimson red and shifted about uneasily. For while she was answering the door they had talked about her — how she thought she was “it,” moving to a bigger house and rising up the social ladder, etc. They “ran her into the ground” *behind her back!*

As the tape began to expose their remarks, one by one the guests got up and left the house. They were too ashamed and embarrassed to listen to their own gossip.

Does this story sound far-fetched? Perhaps, but it actually happened!

What the Tongue Is Like

In James 3:6-10 we're told what the tongue is really like: “And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell . . . but the tongue can NO MAN TAME; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth

proceedeth blessing and cursing. *My brethren, these things ought not so to be.*”

Why did James say that no man can tame the tongue? Simply because it is the instrument through which the *mind* speaks. And of itself, *without any control*, the mind or heart of man is capable of producing a great deal of evil! (Jer. 17:9.) For as Christ said, “From within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders . . . wickedness, deceit . . . blasphemy. . . . All these evil things come from within and defile the man” (Mark 7:21-23).

Let's look at some of the bad fruit the tongue can and often does produce, and what we can do to change it.

Gossip

Gossip is perhaps the most common failing in the use of our tongues. It seems to be pleasing to some people to repeat a juicy bit of private information they have heard about someone else. If you are told something in private that involves the problems of another member, do not go spreading it around the Church.

Realize that what you should do is pray for those involved — don't see how many others you can inform. Rather cover it up — FORGET it! Notice Proverbs 17:9: “He that *covereth* a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.”

People who take delight in letting their tongues wag in this fashion are doing so out of *vanity*. They want to be

the one to receive the “glory” of having had this secret “knowledge.”

Rumors

Rumors are another common problem. You should never repeat something which you are not 100 percent sure is correct. Often something said in passing is blown up altogether out of proportion.

John 21:21-23 gives an example of a rumor that got out of hand. Peter asked Christ what was to become of John. “Peter seeing him [John] saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? Follow thou me.”

Now look and see what happened! “Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should *not die*: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, IF I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?” (Verse 23.) Obviously some of the disciples hadn't heard 100 percent correctly! They then told what they *thought* they had heard to other Christians and before long, the saying was abroad that the Apostle John was going to remain alive on the earth until Christ's second coming! And believe it or not, there are people on earth today who believe that John is *still* alive!

John himself squashed this rumor when he wrote his gospel. He told everyone the truth — that Christ said “IF I will that he tarry. . . .”

Actually, John *did* wait until Christ “came” to him personally. Christ revealed Himself to John when he was on

the Island of Patmos, and gave him the visions of the Book of Revelation. But this was in no sense a fulfillment of the false rumor that John would *not die*.

Follow John's example, brethren, and *squash all rumors*. GET THE FACTS before you mention *anything* to someone else!

Backbiting

How easy it is to turn on and accuse someone else. The problem of backbiting is perhaps one of the hardest to overcome because it involves turning the other cheek. It is the natural (and carnal) tendency to snap back at someone who has supposedly "done you wrong," or talk about them behind their back. But those who make it into God's Kingdom are going to be the ones who don't have this fault.

Notice Psalm 15:1-3: "Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill [share in God's government]? He that walketh uprightly. . . . He that *backbiteth not* with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour."

Do *you* have this qualification? The greatest example we have of one who did have this qualification is Jesus Christ Himself. He was beaten, ridiculed, scorned, mocked, spat upon, cursed at, jeered at, and yet He never once turned on His tormentors. Rather, He asked God to *forgive* them. *He turned the other cheek!*

Does your tongue backbite? Unless you overcome this human proclivity you will not have a place in God's Kingdom!

Making Rash Promises

In this day and age, it is becoming increasingly more difficult to find a person you can rely on — one who keeps his word. How many times have you heard someone say, "Just leave it to me, I'll see that it's done," and in doing so you find that the opposite has been the case? Solomon wrote: "Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful [trustworthy] man who can find?" (Prov. 20:6.)

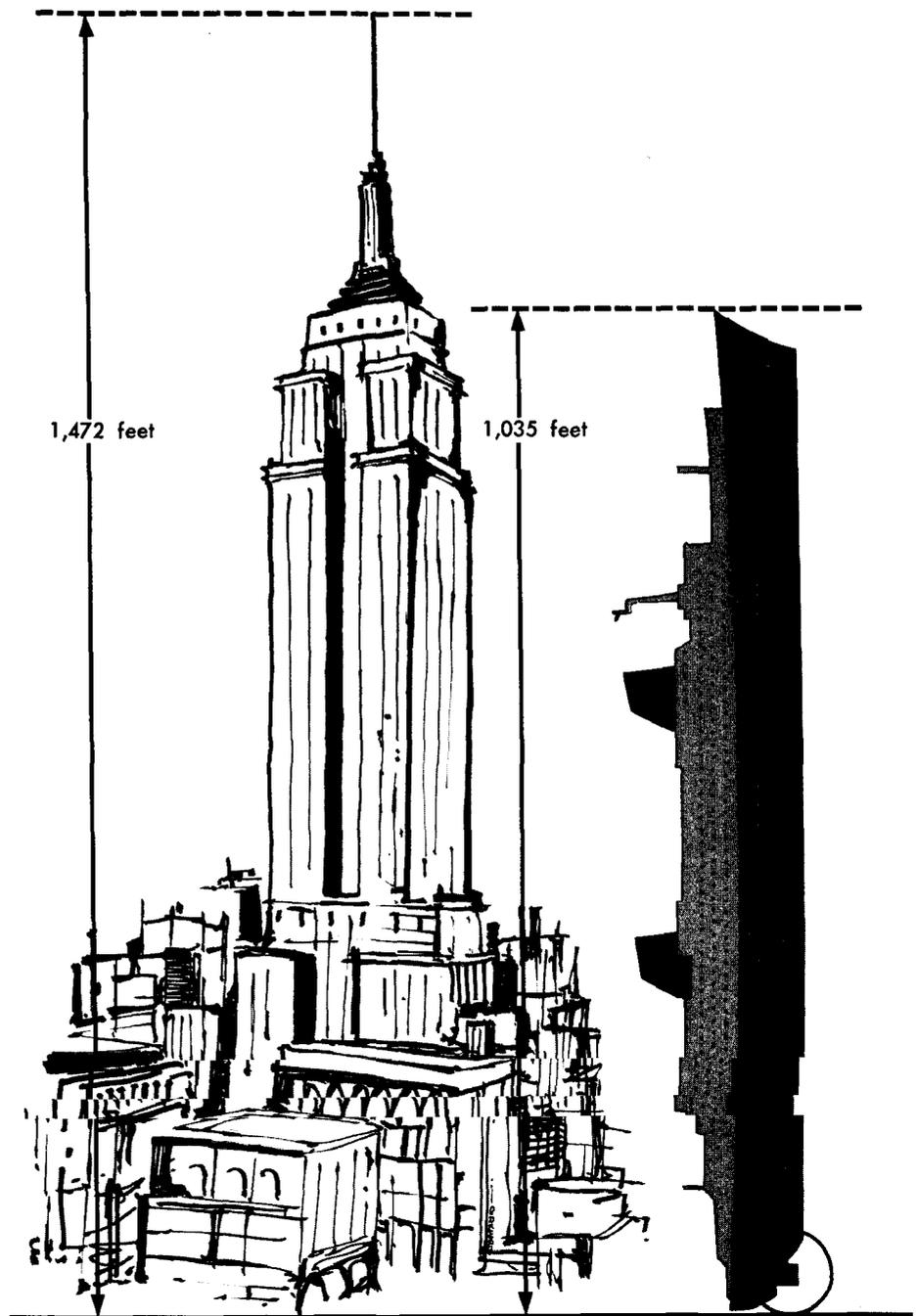
The person who says, "Leave it to me" *is* proclaiming his own goodness, but does he always keep his word?

Once you have given your word on something — if you have told someone you will do a certain thing for them, or meet them at a certain time, or promise them some other thing — then see that you carry it out. Be sure you *DO* it!

In Psalm 15:4 we see the sort of person who is going to be in the Kingdom of God. ". . . He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not." In other words, if you promise a friend (or an enemy) you will do a job for him, or if

you promise your children you will take them out, don't go back on your word even if it does mean you lose in some way. In modern language we could render this verse as follows: ". . . he that promises something and, even if it turns out to be inconvenient to him, or messes up his plans, doesn't go back on his word."

You see, brethren, God wants in His Kingdom those He can trust implicitly. During our present lives is the time to



Though very small compared to the vessel itself, a rudder can turn very great ships. The Bible compares the human tongue to a rudder (James 3:4). Picture shows length of the giant passenger liner, the France, compared to the Empire State Building.

develop this attribute. But how many times does our tongue get us into a position where we promise something we can't carry out? We should never allow it to happen. We shouldn't make rash promises.

Many people, in a moment of remorse, have vowed vows to God which, if they had stopped to think about, they were incapable of carrying out. Even though a promise is not a vow, the principle shown for *vows* in Ecclesiastes 5:4-6 certainly applies to this matter of making a promise you don't mean, or going back on a promise and becoming an untrustworthy or unfaithful person. We read: "When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed." In other words, when you make a promise see that you carry it out, for God will otherwise consider you a fool.

"Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay." Or, it is better *not* to make a *promise* than make one and then break it.

Continuing in Ecclesiastes 5: "Suffer not your mouth to cause your flesh to sin, neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error" (verse 6). That is, don't let your tongue make you unreliable — and don't say afterward to the person to whom you made the promise that you didn't really mean it. "Wherefore should God be angry at thy voice and destroy the work of thine hands?" And God *will* be angry at the unfaithful or unreliable and will *not* bless or prosper them, unless they *repent* and strive to **KEEP THEIR WORD!**

So you see how God looks on the man or woman who makes great promises and doesn't carry them through. The world is too full of such people. Word breaking is a common failing of man. Don't let it be your failing.

God Hates Lying

One of the seven things that God hates is a lying tongue (Prov. 6:16-19). "I don't lie now," you say? If you were to sit down and analyze your day, how many lies would you find you had uttered? Because of habit and because the natural mind is deceitful, we often lie without realizing it.

Remember when someone asked you how you were? You were feeling rotten, but you said you were feeling fine! Now don't mistake me, I don't mean that you should tell a person every ache and pain you have, but you should be honest when you *aren't* feeling so good! It's customary to say, "I'm fine thank you!" But that's not always the truth. A small thing? Perhaps. But it serves to illustrate the point.

Many times throughout the day our tongues cause us to lie and we need to be aware of it. Seek *always* to tell the truth. Before you answer a question, pause and think. Make sure you speak the truth.

Does this mean that if your wife or mother has bought a new hat and she asks you how you like it, that you should say, "I think it's the most ridiculous and crazy hat I have ever set eyes on!"? No, of course not! You can be truthful and tactful at the same time. If you don't like your wife's hat, tell her that it is not to your taste. This way you are telling the truth *and* being tactful.

Speaking Evil of Dignitaries

It seems to be the natural thing for people to speak against those in authority, especially if they happen to be of different political or religious affiliations. In our past lives we have freely spoken against governments or leaders we have not liked, or ridiculed someone who was in authority simply because he didn't believe what we believed.

But brethren, God tells us to be *subject* to the powers that exist and *not* to *revile* those in authority, whether they be good *or* bad.

Remember what happened to Miriam and Aaron when they rebelled against Moses because *they* thought he was wrong. God told them, "With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the Lord shall he behold: wherefore then were ye *not afraid* to speak against my servant Moses?" (Num. 12:8.)

There is no question that we should not speak against those in authority in the Church. But do you realize God also gives the carnal rulers of the nations their positions of authority? Notice Romans 13:1: "Let every soul be subject

unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God." So we should respect the office of the leaders of the nations and not speak evil of them, though we may abhor their evil practices as God does. God says those who despise government and are not afraid to speak evil of dignities are *self-willed* (II Peter 2:10).

Did you realize that not even angels, who are on a higher plane than mankind, dare to speak against those in authority (II Pet. 2:11)? Notice Jude 8-9 where God shows the type of person who speaks evil of leaders, and then shows that not even the archangel Michael dared to revile Satan:

"Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities. Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. But these [men — filthy dreamers] speak evil of those things *which they know not.*"

But brethren, *we* know. *We* understand. Don't let your tongue speak against those in authority in the world. Realize that their authority is God-ordained, and that these leaders are blinded by God and in most cases don't know to do better as *you* do.

A Time to Be Silent

You have probably heard the expression, "There's a time and a place for everything." This saying, though the majority of people don't realize it, comes from the Bible. It is found in Ecclesiastes 3:1: "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

It is certainly true that there *is* a time for everything. Did you realize that there is a time when the tongue should be still? Verse 7 says: "A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak." Children who are trained properly soon learn this principle. They realize that when their elders are speaking it is wrong for them to interrupt. They are taught to remain silent until it is their turn to speak.

But what about grown-ups? What

about you, brethren? Do *you* know when your tongue should be still? You've heard of the proverbial "loud-mouth," the person who is always talking — usually about himself. He's the sort of man people shy away from. The Book of Proverbs likens this type of individual to a fool who is always getting into trouble because he doesn't control his tongue.

Proverbs 29:11 reveals, "A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards." In other words, the wise person will watch what he says and when he says it.

Why do some people interrupt conversation? Why do others "hog" the limelight with their "words of wisdom"? The answer is — VANITY! They like the sound of their own voice. They love to have the attention of others, so they seek to seize it by using their tongue.

Now don't misunderstand me, I am not saying that we should all become speechless, but too many people don't know when to be silent.

Perhaps one of the places this fault shows up most is when a minister is visiting and explaining a point of doctrine, or giving advice of some sort. Sometimes the person interrupts before the minister has finished, with a comment or question on an entirely different subject. This shows not only rudeness, but outright disrespect!

Refrain from interrupting. Wait until it is proper and courteous to speak. Then ask any pertinent questions or make any suitable contribution to the conversation. Always strive to be considerate and respectful.

How Should We Talk?

When you see just how much trouble your tongue *can* get you into, it might make you want to say nothing at all to avoid "going wrong." But this is not the answer. Sometimes it is just as much a sin to say *nothing* as to say the *wrong* thing!

All these scriptural admonitions should not be viewed negatively so that you become fearful of ever opening your mouth. Rather, they should be taken as wise counsel and teaching, showing you HOW to use your tongue properly and effectively. It is not God's

will for us to be fearful of opening our mouths; but it is His will for us to learn to speak with discretion, wisdom, and consideration for others.

God tells us what the tongue of the righteous should be like: "The tongue of the just is as *choice silver* . . . the lips of the righteous feed many . . ." (Prov. 10:20-21). In other words, your talk should be refined, purged of all the dross of slander, bitterness, envy, gossip, unfaithfulness, etc., so that it becomes like pure silver. Notice also that you *are expected* to USE your tongue for good — to "feed many."

So see that your conversation is constructive, not destructive. Build up, don't tear down. See the good points in others and *use* the tool God has given you to edify others.

Notice Ephesians 4:29: "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." Use your tongue as an instrument of righteousness to benefit others.

You must have wisdom to know how and what to say in any given circumstance so that it will be upright. "The lips of the righteous *know* what is acceptable . . ." (Prov. 10:32). The more you obey God and drink in of the very mind of Jesus Christ, the more you will know what *is* right. Ask yourself, "How would Christ say it?" Or, "What answer would He give?"

The Tongue — a Precious Gift of God

There are many principles in the Bible relating to the use of the tongue. For instance, Proverbs 15:1 says, "A *soft answer* turneth away *wrath*: but grievous words stir up anger." How often we should remember these words when tempted to respond to a particular situation with heated words!

"The lips of the wise disperse knowledge," says verse 7. When you open your mouth, do you speak factual knowledge — things you *know* about — or empty speculation, foolishness and vanity?

And verse 23 declares, "A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, *how good* is it!" Brethren, using your tongue

correctly will bring increased joy and happiness into your life, helping you to avoid the sorrow and misery caused by uncontrolled, undisciplined words. When you learn to give a right word or answer at the right moment, you will be able to teach, help, and inspire other people more effectively!

Think about it.

Says God in the book of Malachi of those who please Him: "Then they that feared the LORD *spake often one to another*: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. *And they shall be mine*, saith the LORD of hosts, *in that day when I make up my jewels*; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him" (Mal. 3:16-17).

Consider, brethren. If we really worship and fear God, then we should often speak with one another, inspiring, encouraging, comforting one another. We should not neglect this opportunity. But our words must not be charged with gossip, backbiting, complaining, disrespect, malice, or self-centeredness or vanity.

How can we properly control our tongues? What is the key to mastering our mouths?

A Changed Mind the Key

Man cannot, wholly, *of himself*, tame his unruly tongue (James 3:6-10). It does not lie within his heart to do so. It requires a CHANGED MIND! The only answer then, brethren, is to seek the help of God. Ask Him to help you by filling your mind with more of His Holy Spirit. And study His Word more diligently to learn more of His character.

With the help of God's Spirit and your own concerted effort, your tongue will become an instrument for good. It will produce righteousness because it will manifest the thoughts of a *changed mind*. This is the only way to conquer and control your tongue — the most unruly member of your whole body.

So look to God for the help to control your tongue and pray as David prayed: "Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips" (Ps. 141:3). □

FOREIGN WORK

(Continued from page 8)

Scandinavia, Latin America, Italy, etc., etc. All kinds of doors are open, but we simply don't have the money to go through them all.

We've been having regular meetings at Headquarters to discuss the problems and the priorities of the doors that are open, to see where we should go. We very much *need your prayers* that God will send the Co-Workers necessary to support these activities. The sky would be the limit if the money and manpower were available!

Q. How is the Church in Martinique faring since the death of Mr. Jubert?

A. Remarkably well. Mr. Gilbert Carbonnel proved to be, in every respect, the very man the Church in Martinique needed after Mr. Jubert died. We now have a Spokesman Club and a Church choir. Weekly Church attendance (despite difficulties in transportation) is now averaging between 110 and 120 persons. At the Feast days, this figure reached as high as 150.

During the past few months a dozen new people were added to the Church, two of whom were from the Island of Guadeloupe, which Mr. Carbonnel visited a few weeks ago. You'll be interested to note that approximately 3,000 people in the West Indies are subscribers to *La PURE VERITE*, the French edition of *The PLAIN TRUTH*.

Mr. Carbonnel and his wife (who are expecting a "son" in a few months) recently completed a short baptizing tour to Haiti that turned out to be fraught with all kinds of difficulties. Mr. Apartian has translated excerpts of his letter (November 4, 1971) which follow:

We arrived in Haiti on Wednesday, October 27 at 11:30 a.m. A man with whom we had already made contact was there to meet us and took us to a hotel. Another had obtained a jeep for us to make the trip from Port-au-Prince to Hinche.

Hinche is located 60 miles from Port-au-Prince. This is where Mrs. Gilles lives — a woman who had been waiting for four years to be baptized! The road was very hazardous because of torrential rains, so we were not able to make very rapid progress. Consequently, it took us ten hours to

cover this distance. We waded across several rivers. At 9:00 p.m. we had to abandon the jeep which was bogged down in the mud. From there on, it was a five-hour walk, carrying our bags with us, which did not help our progress!

We had to cross several rivers on foot, one of which was flooded. It was three o'clock in the morning, the water was almost up to our necks and we had to hold our bags up high to keep them out of the water. Finally, after the last river, we arrived in Hinche.

The next day we met Mrs. Gilles, who is very ill. She is eighty-four years old and has been suffering from a kind of paralysis for seven years. I was afraid to baptize her in the cold water of the river, in view of her age and fragile state of health. Her friends thought this could be fatal, but she was determined. She had been "baptized" several years before, but wanted to be completely immersed even if she were to die moments afterward, so she said. Her whole desire was to obey God's commandments.

However, we managed to fill up a big tank from a neighboring distillery. Her friend — our guide — added some lukewarm water so that I could baptize Mrs. Gilles in water somewhat less icy than that of the river. Many of the village people watched us curiously, wondering why such an old woman, almost at death's door and after seven years of immobility, was being plunged into water which could have been fatal to her! After her baptism, she did not cease to thank God and when we left the next day she was on her bed relaxed and smiling, wishing us "bon voyage."

The return journey took seven hours. We were often stuck in the mud, had a breakdown and almost ran out of gas, but through all this God protected us constantly.

We arrived back in Port-au-Prince on Friday around 2:00 p.m. As you can see, this trip took up almost three days! We spent the Sabbath in the hotel and for the next few days had several interviews and counseling sessions with people who had contacted us by mail. They all had very interesting questions. After counseling for two hours with one group, four people expressed their wish to be baptized. Among them was a former Adventist leader of seventy-three years of age who had been trying for a year to get in touch with "Le Monde a Venir," either at Pasadena or at Fort-de-France, but without success. The postal service in Haiti really leaves a lot to be desired. The postal employees, it seems, hoard the stamps and never send the letters. The following day, I baptized these four people in a river a few miles from Port-au-Prince.

Almost immediately afterward, I was pleasantly surprised by the visit of another man to whom I had sent a telegram three days previously. I had told him to come along with the others of his group who wished to be baptized. However, they were not all able to make the trip, the distance being as great as from Port-au-Prince to Hinche, where we had baptized Mrs. Gilles. This man, as a result of

the rains, had to make a shortcut through the forest in order to reach us. I rented a room for him in the same hotel. He dined with us, and the next Wednesday morning I baptized him in the hotel swimming pool. It would have taken us four days by jeep to go to his home at Belle-Anse and back. I was almost out of money, having taken enough for about three days only. We needed almost \$200 to get there, as well as permission from the police to make the journey. There are frequent check-points on the road and there can be complications if one is not properly authorized. For a moment, I considered sending my wife back to Martinique and making the trip alone with the little I had in order to get to Belle-Anse, where his group was. However, I decided that this would not be wise. Besides, I was not sure whether I should stay away so long without letting you know. In Martinique, I had told them that I would be back Monday at the latest and it was already Wednesday.

I gave a little of the money I had left to Mr. Germain for his return trip, as well as a few dollars to help out the others. After giving him some more advice on the direction of his small group, we took leave of him. I promised him to ask your permission to go back once again, perhaps toward the end of November or during the month of December, to spend a day or so in Belle-Anse and baptize the eight people there who, according to him, are also ready.

He told me about their financial problems. They are all extremely poor. I am prepared to believe that he has some truly sincere people there — perhaps eight — but there are several others who are more interested in having a beautiful building and a church which can help them with their physical needs. This is something of a problem in Haiti where there are 97 denominations, 600 religious buildings in Port-au-Prince alone, and about four churches which pass themselves off as the Church of God.

These different churches rival each other in finding ways to hand out material help in order to attract the greatest possible number of people. Several people complained to Mr. Germain about not having a church which is materially powerful. I told him not to be concerned about those who leave for this reason. Those who are truly called are not shaken by this kind of appeal. Mr. Germain seems to be very sincere, even if a bit anxious about the religious competition which holds sway. It was really unfortunate that I was not able to go down there. The next time, I will know how to be better organized when it comes to crossing a country where the roads are no better than tracks made practically impassable by bad weather . . .

Haiti is a country many times the size of Martinique. The majority of the people live in a state of extreme misery . . . After being in Haiti, we are able to appreciate just how much God has blessed us in Martinique.

Several of those whom I baptized did not own a Bible. They studied from a common Bible. However, I noticed that they were much more



Ambassador College Photo

"MINI-FEAST" — Brethren who attended the "mini-Feast" held at the Federal Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Mr. Reg Platt is at center of top row; Mrs. Platt at extreme left, front row.

advanced in knowledge than certain of our members who possess several Bibles and have been in the Church for a long time. They almost all asked me to ask you if it would be possible to have other radio broadcasts, especially one in the Creole language — the "patois" of Haiti — which is identical to that in Martinique and Guadeloupe.

My wife and I left Haiti at 5:15 p.m. and arrived at 10:30 p.m. at the airport where Mr. Martial and Mr. Arokion were waiting for us. They had been awaiting us for three days, hoping to see us land on each plane coming from Haiti.

Q. We heard that the Feast of Tabernacles was going to be held in Malaysia this year. Is there any news from that area?

A. A shortened Festival was held for the people in Kuala Lumpur, with fifty-four people attending the last three days of the Feast of Tabernacles. Mr. Reg Platt, Pastor of the Melbourne, Australia Church, and his wife were present for the last three days after having spent the first half of the Feast in Baguio City in the Philippines. We received a letter from Mr. Platt with the following report:

We arrived in Kuala Lumpur safely, and the weather was beautiful. We had a total of 54 people, including ourselves. There were twelve children. It did not take us long to warm up to them, and they to us, and by their comments, and one or two letters that we have already received from the brethren there, I know they really

enjoyed it and were very grateful for their little "mini-Feast."

One can certainly feel for them because of the unusual problems that some of them have to face concerning the Sabbaths. Coupled with this, there are two other problem cases — one young lady from a Buddhist family, and a young man from a Moslem family. The parents threatened that they would be killed if they became involved with us. I am glad to report that no harm came to them while we were there. The young lady is now living with her sister who is a member of the Church, and is safe. The young man will try to get work away from home so that he will be able to keep God's way. The family ties are very strong, as you no doubt realize, which makes it difficult for many of them to break away and live according to God's commandments. I certainly hope and pray that they will be able to have a minister one day to take care of them, for they are very keen and willing to learn.

Caroline and I count it a great honor that we were given the opportunity to be able to serve these people. There were no dramatic experiences to report, except that it was really hard to part with the brethren in Malaysia, and several hung around for some time before going home.

You might as well know now, Mr. Dart, that these people in Malaysia are really looking forward to that eight-day Feast next year!

Q. How much impact is *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine having in India?

What kind of people are we reaching?

A. At present we are not advertising in India, but we are still receiving an average of about 5,000 regular letters each month — 50 percent of which contain requests for *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine. However, it has been necessary for us to exercise some caution in giving subscriptions. Some of our correspondents have so little grasp of the English language that it is obvious *The PLAIN TRUTH* would not be of much help to them. In these cases full subscriptions are not given.

Many who do receive subscriptions to the magazine turn out to be students, teachers, head masters, lecturers, and people in professional or supervisory capacities. We find that we are reaching the better educated in India, mainly, of course, because our initial contact with the Indian people was through the pages of *Reader's Digest* which does generally reach into the better educated homes.

Those receiving *The PLAIN TRUTH* in India are expressing deep satisfaction with the magazine. Comments show that it has broadened the readers' outlook on the world scene — political and otherwise. Since a great deal of social pressure exists in India to become "educated," we are fairly sure that most of the magazines are read — some copies being read many times among circles of friends. Occasionally *The PLAIN TRUTH* turns up on a street stall for sale!

The Indian people seem to be afraid to change their way of life out of fear of persecution from their Hindu neighbors. Everyone starting to keep the Sabbath experiences great difficulty in obtaining work and is also persecuted by his friends for his new beliefs.

By the time you read this there will be about 170 people awaiting counseling for baptism in India. We plan to send Mr. Richard Frankel on a tour into India in late January and early February to counsel with these people and baptize those who are ready.

At the same time, we have had requests to meet and work with some members of the Seventh Day Church of God in India. It remains to be seen what will come of this visit. □