

The Good News

International Magazine of
THE CHURCH OF GOD

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Nearly 11,000 Attend Feast of Tabernacles!

*God's Feast was observed in SEVEN different places
around the world! More people than ever attended.
And FIVE new churches have been raised up!*

by Roderick C. Meredith

“THOU shalt observe the feast of tabernacles seven days, after that thou hast gathered in thy corn and thy wine: And thou shalt REJOICE in thy feast...” (Deut. 16:13-14).

This year, nearly 11,000 people around the world heeded this command of Almighty God! And they DID REJOICE!

For in exactly SEVEN different locations—on *five* different continents—God's people assembled to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. It was the GREATEST Feast in the modern history of God's Church.

The Feast was observed this year at Gladewater, Texas; Squaw Valley, California; Bricket Wood, England; Sydney, Australia; the Philippines; Northern Rhodesia, Africa; and Saint Lucia, British West Indies.

The Feast at Squaw Valley

“All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name,” we sang as we looked out at beautiful mountain peaks rising to a height of over 9,000 feet in altitude.

This was God's Feast of Tabernacles, 1961, at Squaw Valley, California. The air was warm, crisp and clear, and the *enthusiasm* of everyone was in high gear at Squaw Valley throughout the

entire Feast of Tabernacles there. The inspiring rugged mountain scenery in the background—which could actually be seen by the congregation during preaching services—added a great deal to the sense of beauty and majesty during this wonderful spiritual convocation.

“And GREETINGS everyone,” Mr. Herbert Armstrong said as he began God's Festival in this new location which had been revealed to us by Jesus Christ. Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong kept the first half of the Feast at Squaw Valley and then switched in the middle—by jet plane—to spend the last half of the Feast at Gladewater.

I was privileged to accompany them on this circuit, and it was certainly a blessing to be at both places and to see the *thousands* of God's people with the SAME spirit and attitude meeting in both locations.

Mr. Raymond Cole, Mr. Norman Smith, Mr. Albert Portune and the other ministers on the West Coast remained at Squaw Valley throughout the entire Festival. The preaching of each minister seemed more mature, and the sermons carried a greater sense of URGENCY than ever before. Mr. Charles Dorothy gave an especially helpful sermonette on

the theme, “It Is Later Than We Think.” He showed that we only have about 123 more months left before the time we *may* have to flee to a place of safety. We only have about two or three more third tithe years left at the most! And most of us will only have *one* more year, if we are farmers, to keep God's seventh year Sabbath for the land! When you think of it that way—TIME IS RUNNING SHORT!

Mr. Herbert Armstrong directed the theme of the entire Feast by his series of sermons on, “Why Are We Here?” Mr. Ted Armstrong gave an exceptional sermon on child rearing and a moving sermon describing the conditions that lie ahead of us in prophecy. Mr. Hoeh gave an inspiring sermon on properly preparing our young people in the field of sex and marriage. And the final day—before Mr. Ted Armstrong's sermon describing the Great White Throne Judgment—Mr. Portune gave an especially moving and powerful sermon on the importance of being in the RIGHT ATTITUDE. No brief statement here could begin to convey the depth and meaning of these sermons, of course.

Throughout the Festival at Squaw Valley, there were *many* opportunities

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*ministering to its members
 scattered abroad*

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for recreation, fellowship and JOY. *Hundreds* of the brethren were inspired by the gorgeous scenery in the area—and especially by the opportunity to see this scenery by taking the ski lifts up to the tops of two nearby peaks. Many *dozens* enjoyed the opportunity to go horseback riding, ice skating, and to use the three beautiful swimming pools at our disposal. Other unusual recreational opportunities were available and were enjoyed by many.

Since the Ambassador Chorale was in Gladewater, the Imperial High School Choraliers, directed by Miss Kathryn Meredith, sang many beautiful numbers throughout the Festival. Their singing certainly inspired us all—and it was amazing to realize that *every student* in high school took part in producing this beautiful music. Then there was the excellent "fun show" put on by the college students for the enjoyment of everyone, the annual business meeting, and many other special activities.

It all ended up in producing a JOYOUS Festival of Tabernacles as a foretaste of the *blessings* and *happiness* which will be experienced under the rule of Christ during the Millennium.

This first Feast of Tabernacles in Squaw Valley will long be remembered with joy by those who were privileged to attend this first convocation of God's people in that beautiful place.

At the Tabernacle in Texas

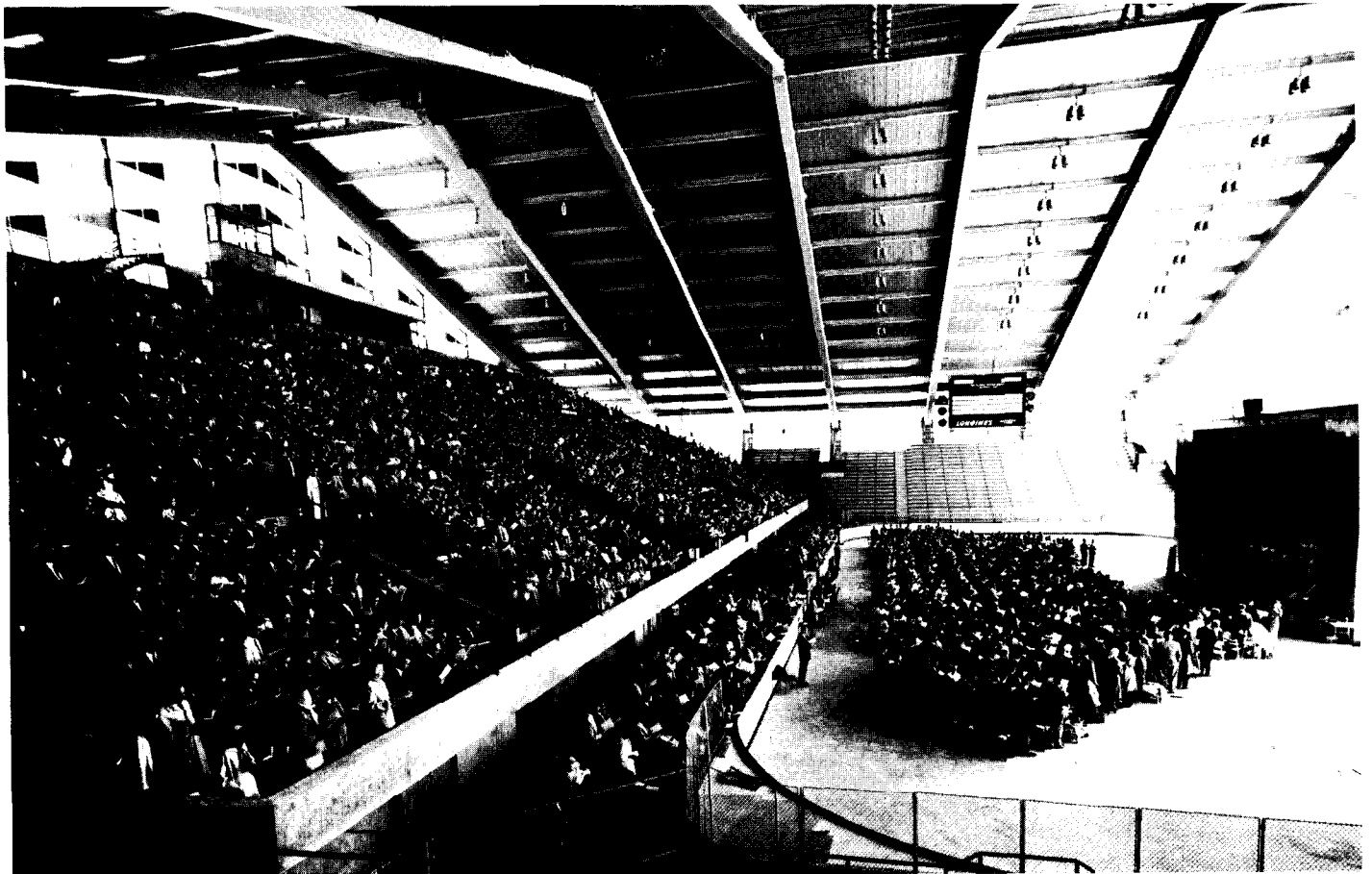
Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong and Mr. Herman L. Hoeh started out the Feast at the big Tabernacle near Gladewater, Texas. Then they switched in the middle—as did Mr. Armstrong and I—and ended up at Squaw Valley for the last half.

While there were about 3,400 in attendance at Squaw Valley, about 6,400 people attended the Feast at Gladewater. So it was still the largest crowd—and the huge Tabernacle looked almost as full as it did last year despite the many brethren meeting in Squaw Valley! There was warmth and joy at God's campgrounds, and the sermons and spiritual fellowship throughout the Feast were truly inspiring.

Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong spoke on the meaning of the Feast and explained the conditions that will exist on this earth during the Millennium to come.

Mr. Hoeh spoke on the seven basic

Inside view of huge Blythe Arena while services were in progress. Notice scoreboard at far end which was used for 1960 Olympic Games.





Marvelous aerial view of Squaw Valley. Blythe Arena, where services were held, is in left foreground with ski-jump just behind it on mountainside. Olympic Village and dormitories are seen at lower right.

doctrines of the Church and also brought an important message in handling family affairs and the training of teen-age children. Later in the Feast, Mr. Carlton Smith, Pastor of the New York Church, gave an important sermon on the laws of health. Mr. Dean Blackwell gave a pointed explanation of our need to really FEAR God, and Mr. David Antion movingly described the human tendency to *justify* the self.

The Ambassador Chorale was present, and contributed greatly to the services by rendering many fine hymns and beautiful sacred numbers during the services. On the final Saturday night, came the Ambassador Chorale Concert! The theme this year was the "gay nine-

ties." There were beautiful costumes, excellent voices, and lots of fun. Then came the rain! Right during the middle of the concert, a terrific Texas thunder shower nearly drowned out even the voices of the Ambassador Chorale. Mr. Richard Plache—the master of ceremonies of the presentation—stepped forward and entertained all of us for several minutes with some lively, but good, clean humor. Then the rain ceased, and the concert continued to a smashing finale! It was a wonderful success, and everyone enjoyed it immensely and will remember it for many months to come.

On the last Great Day, I gave a sermon on the need to live by real FAITH

in God—the knowledge that this *is* His Church, that Christ is the LIVING Head of this work, and that God has commanded us NOTHING which we will not be able to perform through the *power of His Spirit*.

Then, in the final afternoon, after the blessing of children, Mr. Herbert Armstrong explained the meaning of the last Great Day and then went on to give a most important and moving sermon on, "How to Keep on Overcoming."

In this final admonition, guided by God's Spirit, Mr. Armstrong told us to keep our eyes on the goal, crush selfishness and vanity, quit justifying the self, encourage and serve others, keep praying and studying, keep building our



Cafeteria line outside Olympic Village. Notice beautiful, soaring peaks in the background.

physical health, keep filled with LOVE—and NEVER get bitter!

After this sermon, and the final closing prayer, it was hard for everyone to leave. But they realized that at last God's Feast of Tabernacles, 1961, had come to an end. And so everyone said good-bye—wishing somehow that it could last longer—knowing that TIME IS SHORT, but THANKFUL that God had blessed them and enabled them to draw closer to Him by observing His Feast of Tabernacles this year.

The Feast in Great Britain

Mr. Raymond McNair, God's evangelist in charge of the work in Great Britain, has written us that the brethren there observed the greatest Feast of Tabernacles ever in the British Isles. He states: "God granted us a wonderful Feast of Tabernacles here this year. Four hundred seventy registered for the Feast. This was two more than we needed to double the attendance over the previous year. As you may remember, 234 registered in 1960.

"Also, God granted us the best weather which I have ever witnessed at any Festival which I have attended, and we had what many of us believed to have been the best food which we have ever had at any Feast. Mrs. Horn [formerly our cook at Ambassador College in Pasadena] was primarily responsible for this, though some of us assisted her in making out the menu, and were able to

give some helpful suggestions. We had two hot meals served each day, and had a wonderful variety of food with plenty of fruit and vegetables.

"The average attendance was 400 or more and there was less fluctuation in attendance than I have ever seen at any Festival. We rented five buses to bring the people from London, Watford, St. Albans and London Colney each morning. This enabled us to begin the morning service at 10:00 a.m.

"I am sending you a list of the ser-

mons and sermonettes which were given at the Feast of Tabernacles. In the main, I felt that we had as good a balance of topics given as I have ever heard given at any Feast. God truly did bless us with a wonderful Feast in every way, and I'm sure all of you will be happy to learn of this happy news.

"It still seems incredible that we doubled again in attendance at this past Festival, but I think I can understand why we have continued to have a doubled increase each year over the previous. In Britain (since the evangelistic campaigns last summer made this possible) most of those who have been baptized are able to attend the weekly Sabbath services or they can at least attend one of the churches now and then. This keeps them informed and admonished, resulting in more people attending the Feast of Tabernacles. Britain is so small that traveling distances are much less—resulting in a higher attendance."

Did you notice, brethren, that Mr. McNair reports that the attendance in England DOUBLES each year at the Feast! So they are building up even faster than we are here in America. Perhaps this is God's way for compensating for the fact that they started later—and thus by growing faster they may be able to catch up with us if we don't keep on growing as we should! THIS kind of competition—as Mr. Armstrong has said—may be a good thing if we have the proper attitude about it! At any rate, we can certainly all REJOICE that God has blessed His work in Britain so much and granted them a wonderful Feast there.

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View of clean, modern cafeteria at Squaw Valley where most of the brethren ate and enjoyed delicious food during the Feast of Tabernacles.



What is *YOUR* Obligation?

As a member of the Church of God, do you have any obligation to an ORGANIZATION? Is church attendance, tithing, Holy-Day observance and attendance at God's Feasts REQUIRED of you?

by Garner Ted Armstrong

“I’VE NEVER been much for goin’ to Church!” one hears exclaimed from time to time. “I don’t belong to any ‘church’—they’re nothin’ but a social club!” you have heard another say.

If you’re like most members of God’s true Church today—you are pretty much disgusted with organized “churchianity” of this world!

Maybe you used to be a member of one of the denominations. Perhaps you were not—perhaps you were suspicious of all this “church-going” and remained aloof.

Perhaps you saw certain flaws in the minister of a false church, or didn’t like the way the people claimed to believe one thing, and actually practiced another.

Religious Independents

We live in a basically “PROTESTANT” country. We are the kind of people, who, by our very natures, REBEL against strict authority!

We are naturally suspicious of really strict and stern GOVERNMENT.

As a result of our basically protesting, our “protest-ant” background, many of us are totally unfamiliar with any real CHURCH GOVERNMENT!

Today—many are “religious independents.” They feel “above” the “church-going” crowd around them—disdaining and spurning church attendance. Many of you brethren of God’s Church have clearly seen the error of the worldly churches, and have been faithful to God’s commands to “COME OUT OF HER, my people...” (Rev. 18:4).

You have now come out (we prayerfully hope you really have!) of this organized confusion of the modern “Christian” world.

But herein lies a great DANGER!

Here is a pitfall!

It could rob you of your salvation unless you truly recognize it, and make sure YOU are not trapped by it.

If, brethren, any of you have carried this suspicion of ORGANIZATION, this hostility toward GOVERNMENT, this resentment of RULE, this aloof, superior, suspicious attitude toward

CHURCH — ATTENDANCE, TITHING, BEING SUBSERVIENT TO AN ORGANIZED, ESTABLISHED, CHURCH—then you possess a frightfully dangerous attitude! You have an attitude that could, literally, rob you of your crown!

Self-Sufficient?

Perhaps this basic attitude—this basically “protestant” attitude is one which has actually HELPED bring you out of today’s false religions, into the glorious LIGHT of God’s true Church!

But this brings us to a vitally important principle!

COULD IT BE SOME OF YOU HAVE THIS SAME ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD’S CHURCH?

Have you carried this suspicion of organization, this reluctance to attend regular church services, this resentment and hostility toward a regular established organized BODY — a false “CHURCH”—right on over into the ONE AND ONLY TRUE CHURCH—the one Jesus BUILT?

Brethren, some of you have!

“You shall know them by their fruits!” said Jesus (Mat. 7:16).

This is the Bible equivalent of the old saying “actions speak louder than words.” If you, by your actions, show you are a “religious independent,” suspicious of any government or organization within God’s TRUE Church, then it is plain YOU are one possessing this dangerous attitude.

From time to time, on the summer baptizing tours Mr. Armstrong sends out from Ambassador College, this attitude of self-sufficiency is encountered.

Some have felt these young men were merely “Armstrong’s boys.” They realized God demands they be baptized (Acts 2:38). They know, and have proved carefully to themselves that baptism is REQUIRED for them.

But, their real contact with God’s Church has always been ONLY VIA THE RADIO OR THE PRINTING press. They have never before had any personal, individual contact with God’s own servants, or those who are doing

the work of God for this age.

Somehow, they would like to be baptized.

They want to “get right” with God.

Then, they want the men to leave, and their former contact with God’s Church to remain the same as before. They have been hearing Mr. Armstrong or me personally. It is OUR voices they are used to hearing.

Therefore, when they are told there is a local Church near them—they are somehow RELUCTANT to attend!

These cases are, thank God, few and far between, but they have occurred.

Do you see, brethren?

Because many have falsely assumed this is merely “Armstrong’s work,” the single-handed work of a MAN whom they regard as himself being a “religious independent,” they want to associate themselves with that man! They want to regard themselves as “believing like Armstrong does,” or being a Co-worker with Armstrong! But THEY DO NOT WANT TO COME UNDER THE ORGANIZATION, THE GOVERNMENT, THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHURCH OF GOD AND ITS MINISTERS.

Some years ago, my brother, Mr. Richard D. Armstrong, wrote a similar article to this one. He entitled it, “YOU ARE NOT AN ARMSTRONGITE!”

Perhaps the reason my brother (who, before his death, was one of God’s top Evangelists, Director of the Foreign Work, and Associate Editor of the Plain Truth and Good News) and I have especially noticed this tendency in some of you brethren is this:

Many people simply ASSUME, since our names happened to be ARMSTRONG, that we are only “going along” with “Dad’s” religion.

NOTHING could be further from the truth!

Mr. Armstrong and I are merely TWO of the MANY true ministers of the Almighty God, through whom He is carrying out HIS, not our, WORK!

We are ministers in a highly organized, bona-fide, registered, recognized, official, CHURCH! That Church is the

TRUE CHURCH OF GOD founded by Jesus. It is NOT "Armstrong's Church." It is NOT the church of some new "method" of government, called the "Methodist" Church. It is not a church emphasizing the second "advent" of Christ and so adopting the name "Adventist." It is not the church of John the Baptist, not a church of any man, woman, or group of men and women!

It is THE CHURCH OF GOD!

You Are a Member of a CHURCH!

If you have *really* repented, and have been baptized according to God's commands, then you are a member of a Church!

That Church is ORGANIZED. It has many ministers, local congregations, and its members are *responsible* for certain DIVINELY imposed OBLIGATIONS!

Among those *obligations* which God makes plain THROUGH His Church are *attendance regularly*, tithing, and complete and total submission to GOD's government He has placed in His Church.

Jesus said, "...I will build my Church" (Mat. 16:18). *He*, Jesus Christ Himself, is the HEAD of that Church (Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22; 5:23).

There is only ONE True Church of which Jesus is the Head—THIS Church!

"There is *one body* [the very body of Christ—the Church] and one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling. One Lord, one faith [body of belief—system of doctrine—God's own TRUTH] one baptism..." (Eph. 4:4-5).

Yes, IF you have been truly repentant, and have been duly baptized by God's own chosen servants, God has *put you into* His own TRUE CHURCH.

"By ONE SPIRIT are we all baptized into *one body*..." (1 Cor. 12:13)

Peter said only when we REPENT and are baptized can we *receive* of God's Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). Paul was inspired to write, "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ he is none of His" (Rom. 8:9).

It is only through receiving of His SPIRIT—the spiritual *begettal* to potential God-life that YOU BECOME A CHRISTIAN!

And—notice it—if you have received His Spirit, you have AUTOMATICALLY BECOME A LITERAL, RESPONSIBLE MEMBER OF AN ORGANIZED, VISIBLE BODY — A CHURCH!

Is ORGANIZATION of the Devil?

Today, we are living in a world of "organized *confusion!*" It is in chaos, disagreement, darkness, *confusion*. But it is ORGANIZED.

The governments of this world, their military arms, their police forces, their educational systems, their complex, intricate business and social strata are *highly organized*.

Satan is the god of *this world* (II Cor. 4:4). *He* is the author of *its* systems, its governments, its religions (Rev. 12:9).

Satan has a KINGDOM (Mat. 12:26). It is called "BABYLON THE GREAT!" (Rev. 17:5).

But Satan's kingdom is a *mixture* of good AND evil. The Devil is the arch counterfeiter! He cleverly MIXES truth and error, bad and good, right and wrong, to *allow* the human mind to *see the good*, but to be deluded, to be blinded to the bad!

Some suppose all CITIES to be EVIL—of Babylon, of *this world*. And—true enough—all of THIS WORLD'S CITIES ARE EVIL! But GOD HIMSELF IS LIVING IN A CITY! He is going to bring the WHOLE COMPLEX, HIGHLY DEVELOPED, BEAUTIFUL CITY TO THIS EARTH! (Rev. 21:2).

Maybe you have supposed all connected with the *military* is inherently EVIL. But God is an organizer of ARMIES, believe it or not! (Rev. 19:14). Jesus showed when His Kingdom comes to this earth, *then* will His servants FIGHT (John 18:36 with Rev. 19:11-16).

The WRONG thing about military organizations is their goal! *They* are organized for the purpose of KILLING, of destroying, of going to war.

Actually, there is no *earthly* system *closer* to the real Government of God than that of the military. Soldiers are taught absolute, unquestioning obedience to their superior officers—and failure to comply brings severe penalties!

No, brethren—*organization, departmentalization, order, SYSTEM*, are OF GOD, not of the Devil.

"For God is not the author of *confusion*, but of PEACE, as in all churches of the saints" (I Cor. 14:33).

The word inspired by the Holy Spirit in this scripture for "peace" comes from the Greek word "eirene" which, according to the Exhaustive Concordance, and the Greek-English Dictionary, means "*unity, concord, HARMONY!*"

Yes, God is the Author of Government, of harmony, organization, system, ORDER.

God's Government Works!

God Governs His Church—not any man! Jesus Christ the Son is its living Head. Below Christ are Apostles, Prophets (though not occupying an administrative rank), Evangelists, Pastors and Elders. The Apostles realized the need for *real organization* in God's work!

When widows were being neglected, and *confusion* ensued, they ordained *Deacons* to *organize a system* for taking care of these physical needs (Acts 6:1-7).

Later, God inspired Paul to write of the divinely ordained offices in His true Church: "And HE [God, not any man] gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers..." (Eph. 4:11).

But why? God answers, "For the *perfecting* of the saints, for the *work* of the ministry, for the *edifying* of the body of Christ, TILL we all come in the UNITY [The SYSTEMATIZATION, ORDER, ORGANIZATION, HARMONIZATION] of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect [COMPLETELY ORGANIZED] man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ..." (Eph. 4:12-13).

Jesus was the most *orderly* man who ever lived. He did things in ORDER, His life was carefully ORGANIZED. Jesus did things EXACTLY ON TIME. He was responsible for the meticulous, careful, exact fulfillment of literally DOZENS of all-important prophecies, on which hinged His very office and Messiahship!

The one great sign, the great PROOF He left of His DIVINITY was the *exact time schedule*, the way He and the Father had ORGANIZED the EXACT time of His time in the tomb and His resurrection!

Had there been the slightest confusion, the slightest variance from this promised sign (Mat. 12:40), YOU WOULD HAVE NO SAVIOUR!

When Jesus fed the four and the five thousand, He said, "MAKE THE MEN SIT DOWN" (John 6:10). Jesus wanted perfect *order*. Notice Luke's account of the same event, "For they were about five thousand men. And He said to His disciples, 'Make them sit down by *fifties* in a company'" (Luke 9:14).

Jesus was orderly, systematic, organized!

He has inspired His true ministers to clearly see the great need for smoother and better ORGANIZATION within His own Church! Without it, God's work would not continue—it would be in chaos, confusion.

With it, God's work is leaping ahead year by year to become the greatest work in radio this world has ever seen!

Why Organization is Needed

Think for a moment, brethren!

At the annual festivals, especially at the Feast of Tabernacles, we meet many myriad organizational problems.

Let me give you just a LITTLE bit of an *insight* into what is BEHIND a successful Feast of Tabernacles.

This year, with the Feast having been held at *two* locations in the United States, there were literally HUNDREDS of details to look after, things to organize, systematize, get in order.

For example, months and months in advance, many of you were making reservations in the booths. This took organization. There were dozens of problems—many from the Pacific Northwest had left personal items in the booths they had rented the previous year, not even dreaming they would not be coming back. All these stoves, cots, mattresses, tents, and other items presented a great problem!

Crews of men had to see to the *parking* problems, carefully diagramming, laying out road systems, parking lanes, one-way streets, and traffic control. Every eventuality had to be considered, talked over, and written about.

Whole crews were working toward providing song books, chairs, getting the big buildings in both places readied. In Squaw Valley, we had to have an architect draw up plans, and a lumber company *build* a big *stage* for the sermons, one strong enough to hold an organ and grand piano, and the whole high-school choir!

There were meal tickets to be designed, printed and sold. Central registration to be taken care of, with complete plans of each building, each motel, each camping area, each numbered and carefully catalogued. Each person had to be located as near as possible according to their own choice, and according to their needs, and yet according to the over-all considerations of space availability, cost, size of room, nearness of facilities to the valley, and so on. All this took GREAT ORGANIZATION, it took PLANNING, it took myriads of HOURS OF TIME!

Many ministers' meetings were called. A complete speaking schedule, which minister would go where, and when he would speak, had to be talked over, mulled about, prayed over, and approved. These were then printed, and mailed to all ministers.

Complete counseling teams, sections

A and B had to be selected, checked and approved, with a printed sheet then distributed. Ministers to be available for anointings at certain hours had to be scheduled, roving teams of men to help those on the grounds, in booth city, in the camping area, or in the areas at Squaw Valley had to be assigned.

Letters had to be drafted and written, then sent out to the *whole* membership, even with brochure, including pictures and a MAP to those attending the Festival at Squaw Valley.

Menus had to be carefully put together, checked and approved. Then tons of food had to be ordered, and provisions made for storing it properly, having just enough always on hand, and yet preventing spoilage!

Buses had to be either purchased, leased or rented. Schedules had to be carefully set up, involving many hours of careful planning, talking and checking.

Dozens and dozens of personal questions had to be answered in advance by letter. Questions about housing, about extra bedding, about staying near a friend, about food, about temperature, altitudes, extra second tithe, and a host of others.

Music groups were training. The Chorale members had been called to college MUCH EARLIER, even way before College began—men had been returned from the field *early*, to get in the extra practice sessions needed to provide smooth, beautiful, inspiring music for the Feast. Miss Kathryn Meredith and the Imperial High School Choraliers of Pasadena had been practicing *well in advance* of the beginning of school.

Students were working on acts, singing, individual variety performances, working hard to put together an enjoyable "fun show" for the members.

Men were laboring on the newly-acquired tabernacle grounds to clear brush, provide a nice area for a barbecue for hundreds of our older single people, the widows and widowers, the "eligibles" in God's Church!

The New York Church was inviting all these to attend its own sponsored "Texas Barbecue"—and had been working, organizing, arranging MONTHS IN ADVANCE for it.

Mr. Jackson was organizing special events, including spiritual meetings, recreational activities for the Colored brethren in God's Church.

Mr. Kermit Nelson, acting Principal of Imperial School in Gladewater, had been typing, scheduling, looking over the grounds, contacting concessions in

the nearby areas, to arrange a hearty recreation schedule for young and old, to have announced.

Specially picked men from Pasadena, arriving days and days well in advance of the Feast in *both places* had to look into the electrical systems, sewage and drainage systems, parking systems, availability of conference and mothers' rooms, checking the public address systems, getting plenty of key personnel placed in just the right areas, to *help* direct God's people smoothly, orderly, so they could have a more enjoyable Feast!

And there were many, many more complex activities which I have not mentioned!

Brethren, all this took THOUGHT! It took PLANNING, and it took careful ORGANIZATION.

God Blesses His Work

God has truly BLESSED His work by sending more and more truly CAPABLE men and women, truly dedicated and consecrated to His service, who are carrying vital responsibilities in His Church.

He has *blessed* His work with humble, hard-working, *volunteer* laborers, *who are not being paid* for their services to others during the Feasts, to make it more and more enjoyable for YOU!

Yes, this is truly a great blessing!

But wait! Something is wrong! Something is still LACKING!

Uncooperative Attitudes

Let's honestly face it, brethren. While many were diligently WORKING toward preparing these myriad things for the Feast, others were dragging their heels!

Many brethren wrote they were *unsatisfied* with their reservations! HUNDREDS UPON HUNDREDS DID NOT PURCHASE MEAL TICKETS! *Hundreds* seemed to be hostile, suspicious, wondering if they were being "taken in" in some way!

Some didn't want to obey the traffic directors! They wanted to drive on the WRONG side of streets, go AGAINST the organized flow of traffic, drive their cars *from* booth city and *from* the camping area to services when they had been repeatedly directed *not* to do so.

Some simply WOULD NOT save their garbage until the orderly, systematized, regularly running truck came for it. Some simply *would not* bother to be ON TIME in the meal line, or for services, for the beginning of other activities.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"Thank You"

"I have a problem—how to say 'thank you' to all through whom God worked to bless us with such a happy Feast of Tabernacles! Everything was just lovely—the valley, the arena, being able to sing at the top of our lungs, the special music, etc. One of the most impressive things was the good conduct of the students and young people. It is sad to come back and watch the behavior of the young people of the world."

Woman, Lebanon, Oregon

New Member Expresses Joy

"I attended the Festival and was baptized. Oh, how glad I am to become a member of God's true Church. I'll never be able to express how much I enjoy the wonderful things that I heard, saw and learned during the Feast. One thing I would like to thank Mr. Ted Armstrong for is his sermon on the rearing of children. I have read the articles in *The PLAIN TRUTH*, but never got it so plain and clear until I listened to Mr. Armstrong."

Woman, Marion, Alabama

Agrees Chorale Is Tops

"This was my first year at the Feast and indeed one does receive much spiritual food! The fellowship was wonderful too. I don't know of any other church where they would dare to tell you how to rear your children or what food to eat! I thought I had heard some wonderful singing by choirs but the Chorale under the direction of Mr. Ettinger is the best I have ever heard, bar none! I had thought you might be partial to the Chorale since they were from Ambassador College but you are justified in rating them at the top!"

Woman, Columbia City, Indiana

Saving Tithe Brings Blessings

"This was our first year to attend the Feast of Tabernacles. My whole family including the 3 children received blessings and unforgettable experiences from it. The second tithe which God commands us to save has enabled us to keep His Holy days."

Man, Vincennes, Indiana

Healed At Feast

"I am still living in the afterglow of the Feast of Tabernacles. That was the

most joyous, happiest, greatest occasion in my life. Miraculous, too, for I was healed of a heart condition. It was wonderful to be *with* God's people. I thank God for the excellent sermons, the music and the fellowship at the Feast of Tabernacles."

Woman, Edmonds, Washington

Team Shows God's Spirit

"We have now had the blessing of being baptized, a truly wonderful experience. Mr. Robin Jones and Mr. Ben Chapman, who baptized us, showed themselves to be, by their knowledge and patience, true servants of God."

New Members from Southsea,
Hants, Eng.

Editor's Comment: Many new converts have expressed similar impressions. Every true Christian is a light of the world.

New Convert Strives To Overcome

"Last August 23, you sent two of your ministers to me. Mr. Huse talked to me quite a while and decided I was ready for baptism. It was the most glorious moment of my life. I am trying harder than ever to become a true Christian."

Woman, Minden, Ontario, Canada

Healed of Prolonged Sickness

"It is with the deepest gratitude that I write to thank you for such a speedy reply to my letter, asking for God's healing upon my wife. She lay in bed this morning and followed exactly the directions you gave. You cannot imagine my joy, when returning home in the evening, I found her so steady and composed that she had done all her housework and cooked a meal. This she has not been able to do for months. The tension and the tears which she has suffered for so long have not occurred today. Truly, my understanding has undergone such an enlightenment today that I can hardly believe it. I retired into a room apart and thanked God from the bottom of my heart, and I know that my wife will too."

Man, Bournemouth, Hants, England

A Definition of Faith

"I again thank my God for the healing of my poisoned thumb. The poison rapidly travelled up over the left shoulder, but I knew my God's promise. I

only had slight fever for one day and one night out of fourteen days of poisoned arm. I will be back at work tomorrow. I now expect healing whenever the need arises."

Member, Glenrothes, Fife,
Scotland

Editor's Comment: This is an example of true faith. God *will* answer a servant who really trusts His Word.

Doctors Astounded

"I am writing to thank you for your prayers and the healing cloth. The doctors had told my husband and myself that if our son did not improve in 24 hours, he would die. The next day, he showed improvement. The next, he was ready to go home. Doctors remarked that it was amazing how quickly he recovered."

Woman, Duluth, Minnesota

Third-Tithe Year Most Prosperous

"This was my first third-tithe year. I was worried to begin with. What if my income would fall so low I couldn't make it? So happens this was my best year since I started."

Woman from Watertown, S. D.

Discovers Tithing Is A Joy

"It is very strange how things have worked out since I sent my first tithe to you; I don't seem to have wanted for anything and I feel a lot happier in myself knowing that I am helping your great work around the world. It seems to give a person a real purpose in life."

Person from Leeds, England

Former Announcer Appreciates Program

"I would like to express my appreciation of your approach to the world around us and the Bible. Your talks are the only ones I have not become irritated with to the point of changing stations. As a former radio announcer, I can appreciate the tremendous amount of work and research and preparation that goes into your talks."

Man from California

Program Brings End to Despair

"It is very seldom that I turn the radio on. I was retiring and flipped it on. There you were. I've been reading—taking courses and searching for fifteen years, for the plain truth. I was

(Please continue on page 16)



People emerging from Blythe Arena, at Squaw Valley, after services. Notice the striking design of this huge arena which won an architectural award.

Nearly 11,000 Attend Festival

(Continued from page 4)

Australia Observes the Feast

We just received this wonderful report from Mr. C. Wayne Cole for the 1961 Feast of Tabernacles in Blackheath, N. S. W., Australia:

"God's Feast of Tabernacles in Australia took a *big leap* ahead this year. Through many circumstances God revealed to Mr. Gerald Waterhouse, the director of the work of God in Australia, that the Feast should be held away from the hustle and bustle, the noise and confusion of Sydney, N. S. W., this year. Rather, *God* revealed that this Festival should be observed in the beautiful Blue Mountains in the Community Hall of the small semi-resort town of Blackheath about 70 miles inland from Sydney.

"The facilities opened wide their doors that we might have this wonderful Festival. A local catering service was

very cooperative in providing adequate meals. The motels and hotels of the area that we needed for accommodations opened to us and several managers spoke very favorably of the behaviour of our people. God blessed us with favor in the eyes of the manager of one of the leading hotels in the area. This manager was completely willing to exclude all other guests from his swimming pool at any time suiting our convenience that we might use the pool for baptisms...this service was done for us without charge...he would not even accept a token stipend.

"The weather for this entire Feast was very ideal. Right up until the time of the Festival the weather had been quite cool and rainy. However, as we began coming into the area on Sunday, the day prior to the Feast, we drove right into brilliant, warm sunshine. This sunshine continued throughout the en-

tire 8 days of the Feast and, amazingly, after sundown of the last Holy Day, a cool mist began to move into the area. Many local businessmen mentioned how unusual the weather was...even the ladies serving the tables for the catering service said, 'We wish you people would stay another week, we would like some more of this weather.' *God surely blesses His people!*

"Another very noticeable and frequent blessing was the *rapid healing* of so many that they might be able to enjoy the entire Feast. While we were at Blackheath to observe this Feast, a wave of stomach trouble, vomiting and dysentery passed throughout the area, it has continued in some areas since the Feast, but as this condition hit some of God's people they were raised up almost immediately that they might not be forced to miss the spiritual blessings of the sermons.

"The attendance for Australia took a *65% increase over last year's Feast of Tabernacles*. Last year the attendance was 104 and this year we had 169 the



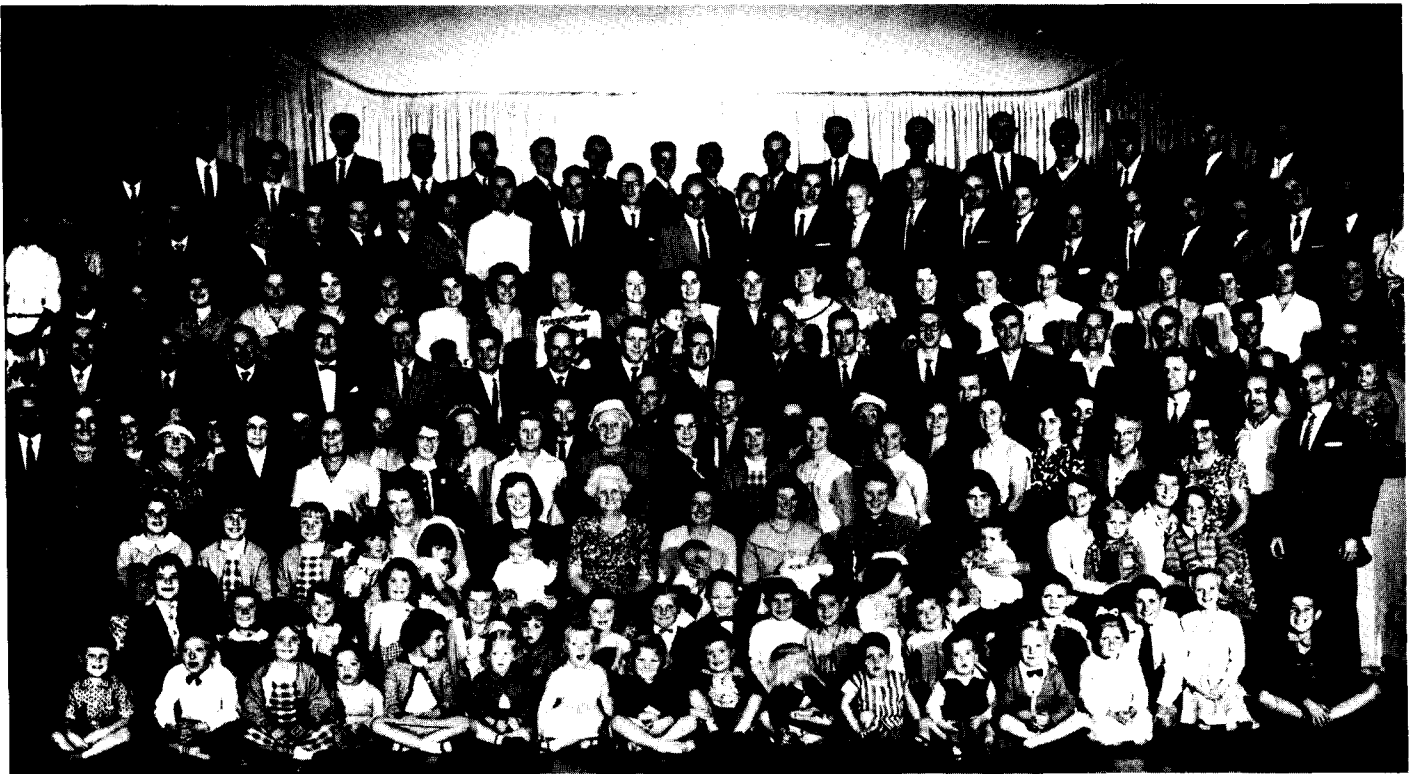
The Feast of Tabernacles in Europe—on our own Ambassador College grounds in England.

first Holy Day and 171 for the last Holy Day. *Some* of those attending both last year and this year came from distances near 3,000 miles, from the lower west side of the continent. *Many* came distances of from 600 to 1500 miles.

"Among the other blessings of this Festival, we had the blessing of baptizing a 'tith' of our attendance. *Seventeen of the total 170 attending were baptized.*

"I have attended the Feast of Tabernacles in Belknap Springs, Oregon, several years ago, at Seigler Springs, California, and also for the past number of years in Gladewater, Texas. *I can truly say that the spirit, warmth and rejoicing at this Feast was the same spirit, the same over-all attitude and joy of any of those past Festivals I have attended.* Perhaps I should confess to the Australian brethren through this report that I

An outstanding group picture of the brethren who attended the Feast in Australia.



was expecting to find a more aloof and reserved type of people here in Australia. However, to my very pleasant delight I found the people here warm and friendly, such that I felt immediately at home among these brethren. God's Spirit surely is the same wherever you go and if that Spirit is in us the same general fruits are produced."

The rest of us in God's Church around the world can truly REJOICE in this report from Australia, and in the ever-deepening realization that wherever we are—among the real people of God there is "one *body*, one SPIRIT, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling" Eph. 4:4).

Brethren in the West Indies Keep the Feast of Tabernacles

Mr. Leo Joseph, our representative in the British West Indies, writes of the joyous observance of God's Feast of Tabernacles by many brethren there under his charge. He writes: "Now I am sending you a brief report of the Feast of Tabernacles in Saint Lucia, the West Indies. First let me speak to you a little about the power of God, and how He heard and answered our prayers. The day before the Feast of Tabernacles, some of the brethren and sisters came to help me decorate the booth. It was a very bright sunshiny day, the place was decorated very beautiful (more beauti-

ful than you will imagine). The trees all around the Tabernacle ground were painted in white. Now about 4:00 p.m. going to sunset, the weather suddenly changed and became *black* which brought a heavy shower of rain and thunder. At first I was a bit down-hearted, but soon, I told the brethren when they go home pray that God may change the weather.

"In the morning when they came to the Tabernacle, they all came with one voice saying, "Brother Joe, the Lord has heard our prayers."

"So the Eternal gave us a bright and fair weather for the whole season with light showers in the night to supply water in our tanks. On the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles, when the brethren arrived, they were surprised at the sight of the beautiful, magnificent Tabernacle ground. And looking into the Tabernacle, some said that they felt that such a place was not prepared for them. It was indeed beautiful.

"On the first day, my sermon topic was, 'The Establishment of the Glorious Kingdom of God on the Earth.' There were 28 adults and 20 children present. The second day, the sermon topic was, 'Blessings of God's Kingdom.'

"There were joys unspeakable from the first day to the eighth, the last Great Day of the Feast. There were food and drinks in abundance, also fun and laughter. I took a photograph on everything that took place during the entire Feast of Tabernacles, but unfortunately four rolls of our film were spoiled. The brethren brought big baskets of fruits, and vegetables, big bunches of raisins and bananas, sheep, goat, eggs, etc.

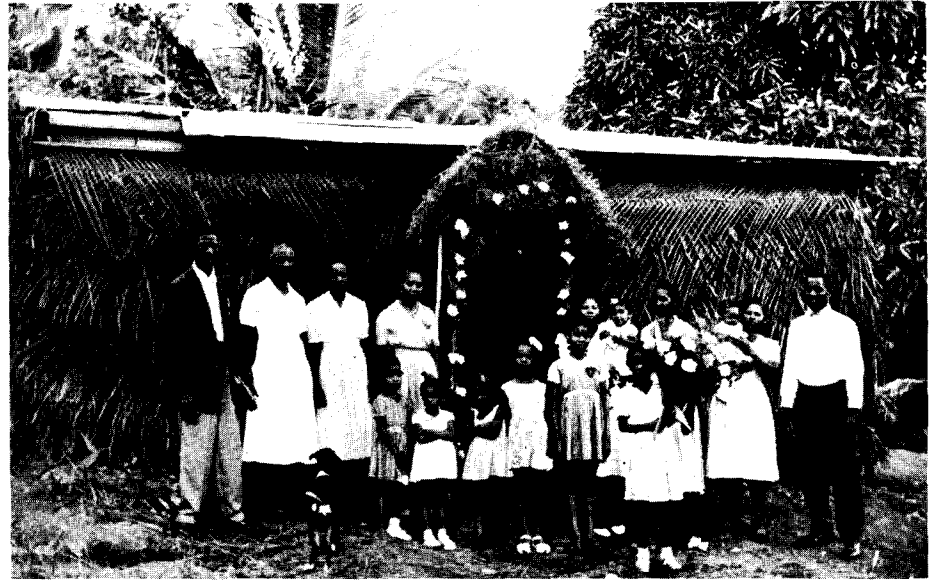
"I worked long hours night and day preparing for this great Feast. The brethren said it should continue 16 instead of 8 days. If God will, next year I will begin to work earlier. Hoping that the brethren in the U.S.A. had a very happy Feast of Tabernacles as we in Saint Lucia. Greet all the brethren from us. Yours, in Christ's service, Leo H. Joseph."

Thank you, Mr. Joseph, for that inspiring report on the Feast there in the British West Indies. We in America, in Britain and Australia, and around the world are **THANKFUL** that God is blessing you as He has us!

Next month, God willing, we will report on the other Feast observances if we are able to get full information on these.

Five New Churches!

In just the past few weeks, *five new churches* have been established by this work of God!



With the brethren in the West Indies. Here you see the temporary Tabernacle built especially for the occasion of the Feast—it's an outstanding work of art!



For the past several years, the brethren in the Santa Barbara area and to the North have had to drive nearly a hundred or more miles to Sherman Oaks, and now North Hollywood, in order to attend church. They have long wished that a church could be established in their area.

Now, at last, that has been made possible! Just a few weeks before the Feast of Tabernacles, the new Santa Barbara Church of God had its first Sabbath services—conducted by Mr. Selmer Heggvald, who will be the Pastor of the church.

Mr. Heggvald reports that the brethren in the area are *most enthusiastic*—and although the church is starting small, with around 40 in attendance—prospects for growth are good in the future.

On the first Sabbath after the Feast, a new Church of God was established in the San Francisco-Oakland area in Central California.

Mr. Ronald Kelly, the Pastor of this new church and the Sacramento Church of God, writes: "The Oakland Church of God is off to a **VERY FINE START!** Our first Sabbath found nearly 150 attending—almost all will be regularly there. So the nucleus of a *very large* church is centered. We have a very nice, well-lighted hall, but it looks like we will outgrow it within one year—if growth is substantial as it has been up to this time.

"The church in Sacramento *seemed* rather small after growing to 300 every week and then having half of it taken away—but it is still a nice-sized congregation of about 145 and should be-

gin to grow slowly but steadily.

"The prospect of growth is *very high* here in Northern California. At the present time I have about 40 letters of people who are not coming to church at all—these are in the Oakland area. We have about 20 prospective letters for the Sacramento area. So by Passover time, there should be a solid increase in both churches."

Now, brethren, I'm happy to report that on the same Sabbath, October 7, on which the Oakland church began, the **LARGEST** new congregation ever to begin holding services in God's Church met at the new Kansas City Church of God. There were 270 people in attendance!

Actually, there were *over 100* children, but this is still a very large group with which to begin a local church of those whom *God* is really calling! Your author was privileged to be there to give the main sermon on opening day: "What God's Church Should Be Like." Mr. Bryce Clark, Pastor of the new church in Kansas City and of the church in Springfield, gave the sermonette and asked Mr. Dale Hampton—visiting pastor from Portland, Oregon—to lead the singing.

Great *enthusiasm* and *joy* was expressed by all the brethren there, and most of them plan to attend *every Sabbath*. So Kansas City should be a large and growing church in the future—and by strange "coincidence (?)" just as the church began, our broadcast time for "The **WORLD TOMORROW**" was moved back from 10:05 to 8:15 p.m. every night, a *much better time!* This, too, will really help **BUILD** the church in that area! So let us **REJOICE** for what God is doing in Kansas City—and around the world.

Then the following Sabbath, October 14, a new church began in Phoenix, Arizona! Mr. Jon Hill—to be Pastor of this church—reports that there were 88 brethren in attendance for this first service. More are expected to attend when they are fully informed of the services. These brethren, too, were **REJOICING** over the wonderful opportunity that they will now have to get *regular spiritual meat* from one of God's ministers. Mr. Hill will have his hands full teaching classes in Pasadena through the week and then *flying* to Phoenix each weekend to preach and visit before returning home. Be sure to **PRAY** for this new church—and for Mr. Hill's *safety* and *guidance* on these weekend trips.

Also, on October 14, I was privileged to drive up to Bakersfield and join Mr. Al Dennis, local elder, in raising up the



This picture was received in time for this issue but details of the Feast in the Philippines will appear next issue. We are overjoyed to report that 563 from six provinces attended—the **third largest group**—larger even than in Great Britain!

Church of God in Bakersfield! Because there is no local broadcast in the area and reception is not good from some of the distant stations, we had only expected 25 or 30 to be in attendance. But we were happily surprised when 64 showed up for services! There were 43 adults and 21 children—the nucleus of a *very fine church!* I plan to act as pastor in this area for the time being—with Mr. Dennis as associate pastor and doing the visiting and counseling through the week in the area.

Let us **REJOICE** in all these new churches, brethren, and **PRAY** that they may be guided in the right way—that they may have open hearts and minds—and a true sense of *appreciation* for this opportunity which hundreds of you scattered brethren still do not have!

A Nation-wide Visiting Tour

And now, in addition to these five new local churches, we are happy to announce a nation-wide Visiting Tour now being conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Carl McNair. As we will explain later, Mr. McNair is now an ordained minister and is joined on *this trip*—contrary to last summer when he was with mere "male members" from Ambassador College—by his charming new wife, the former Miss Dorothy Ochs, originally from the Milwaukee church before coming to Ambassador.

Mr. and Mrs. McNair are planning to *visit* and *counsel* with all of you scattered brethren they can possibly meet who are outside of the areas reached by the local churches. They will answer questions, conduct Bible studies, anoint the sick, and give every spiritual help possible to all of you brethren who are not privileged to attend a local church. They are now touring the southeastern part of the United States—the *only* major area of the U.S. where we now

have no local church as yet.

This is a ministry Mr. Armstrong has long *wanted very much* to institute, but the need for establishing more and more local churches—with the constant lack of qualified men—has made such a tour impossible for many years. Now we are able to have this tour underway, and we hope and pray that *additional* tours may be sent into the field in the future as God makes possible. Your earnest **PRAYERS** to Almighty God for the guidance and protection of Mr. and Mrs. McNair on this tour—and for making possible *additional* tours is urgently requested at this time.

May God **BLESS** you scattered brethren as you seek His will and do it! We certainly hope that these tours will be of great help to you—and would appreciate your comments, suggestions and prayers in this regard.

More Ministers Ordained

Perhaps this is leaving the "best" to the last, but it is certainly a pleasure to announce that more servants of God have been ordained into the full-time service of Jesus Christ!

Just before the Feast, at the Pasadena headquarters church, three *local elders* were ordained by Mr. Armstrong and the evangelists present. They are: Mr. Bill Glover, of the Letter Answering Department and Visiting Program, Mr. Sidney Hegvold, who is now local elder in the Los Angeles church, and brother of Mr. Selmer Hegvold, and Mr. Wilbur Berg, who is assisting Mr. Leroy Neff in handling the draft problems of our young men in the church and other serious problems which require wise counsel and discreet handling from a servant of God at headquarters.

After these three men were ordained, Mr. Armstrong asked Mr. Carl McNair
(Please continue on page 16)

IS JUDAISM *the Law of Moses?*

This eleventh installment brings us to time of Jesus—and explains how the Jews attempted to justify their human traditions.

by Ernest Martin

WE CONTINUE with the story of the Pharasaic doctrines. Their teachings represent by far the major part of Judaism and its beliefs in Jesus' day. The other sects were of much less prominence during the time of Christ, and after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. the other sects virtually disappear from Judaism. The most important denomination to study is Pharisaism—the heart and core of Judaism.

We found in previous chapters that the Jews originally used Scripture to interpret Scripture. This was and *is* the only method to use for a proper understanding of God's Word. We today are told to use this very method if we are to understand the true doctrines of God. See Isaiah 28:9, 10.

With the introduction of the so-called traditional laws of the elders by the Pharisees, a *new* method of teaching had to be used in order to teach these new laws. The Scripture could no longer be used to teach the new traditional laws for there was no indication of them in the Word of God. The Jews therefore adopted what has become known as the *Mishnah-form*.

The Mishnah-Form of Teaching

The word *Mishnah*, in Hebrew, means literally "second!" The Mishnah-form of interpretation means "the second-form." The true Scriptural form was to the Jews the "first-form" or the one used by Moses and the prophets. But all of the traditional laws of the Pharisees were accepted by appealing to the new Mishnah-form. When the Mishnah-form was used, it was not necessary to appeal to Scripture for proof; the authority of the teacher or teachers who issued new commandments independent of Scripture was assumed sufficient to consider them to be the Word of God.

Mishnah-Form of Interpretation Used Sparingly—At First!

The first use of the Mishnah-form by the Pharisees was in their acceptance of the so-called traditional laws—the customs inherited from Hellenism. The Pharisaic leaders were forced to recognize these new customs as proper religious practices, for they knew the people would not give them up.

The Pharisees did not first invent the Mishnah-form and then use it to teach the traditional laws. Just the opposite occurred. The acceptance of the new customs from Hellenism, without any Scripture proof, brought the Pharisees to realize they were teaching *in a new form not previously used*. The Pharisees recognized that they had begun to use a new method of teaching by accepting the traditional laws without Scripture proof.

"Finding no convincing proofs for such laws in the Bible, they taught them independently of scriptural proof i.e. in the Mishnah-form" (Lauterbach, *Rabbinic Essays*, p. 229).

Though all the Pharisees agreed that the traditional laws had to be accepted, many of them were reluctant about perpetuating the new form of teaching. Many of the early Pharisees thought that the use of the Mishnah-form was proper in admitting the traditional laws into the religious requirements of the Jews, but they did not want to see its indiscriminate use in the future. It was obvious that the use of this new form could bring about multitudes of new traditions—all of them without Scripture proof.

The inevitable happened!

Instead of the Mishnah-form being discarded after the traditional laws had been brought to the place of divine law, its use was increased. You will remember that Joseph ben Joezer, called "the Permitter," issued three new laws which were completely devoid of Scripture proof. These three laws were enacted by using the Mishnah-form! His laws were the first ones to be enacted after the traditional law became a part of Pharisaic belief.

Lauterbach tells us that many of the Pharisees did not appear overly enthusiastic when Joseph ben Joezer introduced his teaching in the new Mishnah-form. "When he [Joseph ben Joezer] used new methods of interpretation for the first time, his colleagues hesitated to follow him..." (*Rabbinic Essays*, p. 228).

The Pharisees knew full well that it was wrong to use the so-called Mishnah-form for making laws. Even though they had all accepted the customs of the heathen, by using this form, some of them balked at making further

laws without any Scripture backing at all. However, this reluctance did not last long! The very fact that the Pharisees considered themselves as having the spirit of prophecy—having the power to teach the current will of God, gave them incentive to further utilize this new teaching occasionally, especially since they had the precedent of Joseph ben Joezer. Thus, after the time of Joseph ben Joezer, we find the Mishnah-form being used more and more as time progressed.

These subsequent teachings of the Pharisees were termed "traditions of the elders."

By the time of Christ, the Pharisees had developed the Mishnah-form so extensively that they were teaching for doctrines hundreds of commandments of men without the slightest backing of Scripture (Mark 7:7).

"They insisted that their decisions must be accepted as authoritative..." (*Rabbinic Essays* p. 235).

If anyone would oppose them, such as the Sadducees or other groups, when the Pharisees taught their laws independently of Scripture proof, the Pharisees would haughtily maintain that they did not need the Scripture to back them up. They felt they could teach in the Mishnah-form any time they pleased and needed no Scripture proofs for their teachings.

It is difficult to believe that men who claimed to be the servants of God would resort to such deductions. But the Pharisees did!

And today there are many church denominations claiming to be Christian which do THE VERY SAME THING. There are millions of people, calling themselves Christian, who feel they do not have to keep the Words of the Bible, but rather must obey the words of their religious leaders who teach many doctrines completely contrary to the Bible.

There are millions of people in the world today who are no better than the Pharisees. Many church denominations today use the same Mishnah-form of interpretation (not using the Scripture for their doctrines), just like the Pharisees did before and during the days of Christ. Christ condemned the Pharisees for teaching as true doctrines the com-

mandments of men (Mark 7:7). The Jews *then*—as many *now*—knowingly taught their new laws and commandments “on the authority of their own reason and conscience, and not by seeking their authority in the written text [the Bible]” (*ibid.*, p. 70).

If we are the children of God, we had better be obeying *every* word of God as Christ commanded (Matt. 4:4).

The Pharisees had their chance to follow the Scriptures before they accepted the customs of the people that had been inherited from Hellenism. But to please the populace as a whole, they adopted the new customs and rejected the Word of God which commanded them not to do such things (Jer. 10:1-4). The Word of God was rejected, and in its place was instituted the religion of Judaism.

Lauterbach tells us why the Pharisees had to practically abandon the older method of teaching that was used by Ezra, Nehemiah and the Sopherim—termed the Midrash-form. Notice what he says:

“The exclusive use of the Midrash-form threatened to endanger the authority and teachings of the Pharisees. These apprehensions caused the Pharisaic teachers to make more extensive use of the Mishnah-form and in some cases even to prefer the same to the Midrash-form. For to give all the halakic teachings [new laws] of the Pharisees in the Midrash-form as based on Scripture would have exposed these teachings to the attack of the Sadducees” (*ibid.*, p. 231).

In other words, the Sadducees, who were mainly priests and maintained that all teaching should be dependent upon Scripture, could easily counter the Pharisees as long as they taught in the Midrash-form of trying to appeal to Scripture. So, the Pharisees taught in the Mishnah-form which did not have to rely upon the Scripture for support.

Pharisees Used Scripture at Times

The Pharisees would, at times, it is true, make reference to certain scriptures that might seemingly give support to their independent teachings. In doing so, the Pharisees became notorious for their methods of forcing the Scripture to teach what they wanted it to teach.

When they endeavored to use the Scripture, the Pharisees would, in almost every case, have to stretch the plain meaning in order to make it mean something entirely different from the actual meaning. Using this forced method of appealing to Scripture opened them up to further attacks by their

opponents, and it is not surprising that appealing to the Scripture became unpopular with the Pharisees.

“If the Pharisees arrived at a certain decision by means of a new interpretation, the Sadducees could always dispute that decision by refuting the scriptural proof offered for it. *It was possible* for them to argue that the Pharisaic interpretation was unwarranted and that the scriptural passage *did not mean what the Pharisees tried to read into it*...*The Pharisees were well aware that some of their interpretations were rather forced, and that their opponent's arguments against these interpretations were sound*” (*ibid.*, p. 232).

This method of reading into the Scripture what it clearly did not teach was a method of interpretation inherited from Hellenism during the period of the religious anarchy.

In a book published by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, entitled *Hellenism in Jewish Palestine*, by Dr. Saul Lieberman, new, startling information confirms this. Dr. Lieberman states that the Greek Law Colleges taught their students the art of twisting the law according to the required aim and purpose (*ibid.*, p. 63). During the religious anarchy, many Jews attended these schools. The Greeks took great pride in being able to make a law teach what in reality it did not teach. The Pharisees used this same method!

“*They [the Jews] would certainly not hesitate to borrow from them [the Greeks] methods and systems which they could convert into a mechanism for the clarification and definition of THEIR OWN TEACHINGS*” (*ibid.*, p. 64). Lieberman informs us that “*rabbinic literature abounds in such artificial and forced interpretations*” (*ibid.*, p. 63).

He cites an example from the Talmud that illustrates how forced interpretations of the Scriptures were used. An example is recorded in *Sanhedrin 17a*. It states that one prominent Rabbi insisted that no individual could be admitted to the Sanhedrin *unless he was able to prove from the Scripture that reptiles were clean*. Of course, the Scripture plainly states that all reptiles are unclean (Lev. 11:41-42).

The reason that such fallacious interpretations were required of the Rabbis was to see if members of the Sanhedrin were skilled enough in the Law, so they could, if necessary, twist the plain meaning of the Law to meet any requirement of a particular case.

Another Rabbi, using the same illustration, thought that a man was not qualified to sit in the Sanhedrin unless he could give a hundred arguments for

declaring a reptile clean or unclean. The Rabbis reasoned that a person who could accomplish such a task was qualified to sit in judgment over others, because, if necessary, adequate grounds for acquittal could be given in any case (*ibid.*, p. 63).

This deceptive skill enabled them also to *effectively* give false grounds for *condemning the innocent*, as they did in the case of Jesus Christ!

Pharisees Admit They Left the Teaching of Moses

The Pharisees were well aware that they were leaving the religious teachings delivered by Moses and the Prophets. Records are found in the Jewish Talmud which register many statements of the early pre-Christian Pharisees. Notice that their own words are a witness to the fact that they were well aware that they were leaving the ways of Moses.

In a book of the Talmud called *Temurah*, in section 15b, we have the statement of one eminent Pharisee. It reads as follows: “All the teachers who arose in Israel from the days of Moses until the death of [last days of] Joseph ben Joezer *studied the Torah as Moses did, but AFTERWARDS they did NOT study the Torah as Moses did.*”

The statement could hardly be plainer. This is a clear admission that the Pharisees, beginning with the days of Joseph ben Joezer *did not study and teach after the manner of Moses*. The Pharisees, from this time (160 B.C.) stopped teaching the Word of God as had Moses!

The Pharisees *knew* they were departing from the truth. They *knew* that they were enacting new commandments which had not the slightest hint of authority in the Law of Moses! Pharisaic Judaism, with its innumerable man-made commandments, was never the religion of Moses! Judaism represents a departure from the religion of Moses, and the Pharisees themselves candidly admit it.

Let us notice another example from the Talmud.

Another statement, in Yebamoth 72b, concerns one Eleazar, the son of Pedat, who happened to use a Scripture text to refute the personal opinion of his opponent, another Pharisee, on a particular question. The opponent, endeavoring to repudiate the son of Pedat in front of the other Pharisees, answered with these words: “I see that the son of Pedat *studies in the manner of Moses.*”

Notice the plain implication here! If a person used the Scripture to prove or

to disprove a particular point of doctrine, he was contemptuously accused of teaching *in the manner of Moses*—as Moses did!

The Pharisees were fully conscious of the seriousness of the actions they were taking. They actually knew better! But they went ahead with their designs to teach without any Scriptural support.

"The teachers who introduced the conception of the Unwritten Torah [the traditional laws] . . . were quite aware of the extreme gravity of the step they were taking" (Herford, *Talmud and Apocrypha*, p. 113).

No wonder Christ rebuked the Pharisees so strongly. "But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in." (Matt. 23:13)

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves." (Matt. 23:15)

Pharisees Enact Multitudes of Commandments Without Scripture Support

By the time of Christ, the Pharisees had made new commandments numbering into the thousands. They dealt with every phase of religious life among the Jews. Christ said that these *commandments of men* were so burdensome that they were extremely difficult to bear, and in fact, many of them were impossible of fulfillment (Matt. 23:4). (We will see what some of these man-made commandments were, in later installments.)

To show you how multitudinous they were, we need only turn to the Jewish Talmud. The English translation of the Talmud, which contains the major part of the independent teachings of the Pharisees, is a huge work numbering 34 volumes.

Some of the laws recorded in the Talmud were enacted after the time of Christ, but the majority were in existence during New Testament times. Even the Judaism of modern times is based upon these Pharisaic laws. The modern orthodox section of Judaism adheres almost completely to these laws recorded in the Talmud.

Later Judaism

The Rabbis, one- to four-hundred years after Christ, did not dare discuss the origin of the traditional laws nor how the Pharisees came to teach without using the Scripture. These later

Rabbis knew quite well where the traditional laws had come from, but they did not want the lay people to know that these laws, which had been falsely taught to the lay people as coming from Moses, were not originally from Moses at all. It would have been disastrous to Judaism to teach that the traditional laws were really not from Moses and that the commandments of the Pharisees were nothing more than the commandments of men, because *the whole foundation of Judaism* rested on these falacious laws.

Thus, among the 34 volumes of the English translation of the Talmud wherein are recorded these traditional laws, there is no mention whatever of how these traditional laws came to be accepted.

"The history of the development of the Mishnah-form *reflects unfavorably upon the traditional character* of the Pharisaic teachings. *This is the reason*

for the talmudic silence about the origin of the Mishnah-form" (Lauterbach, *Rabbinic Essays*, p. 248).

From this, we should have no difficulty in understanding why thousands of Jews were brought to the truth of Christianity in the First Century. They were told the truth about the laws of the Pharisees by the true ministers of Christ. Once the Jews came to a knowledge of the truth in this matter, many of them abandoned the commandments of men for the truth of God. This is one of the main reasons the Pharisees, and the later Jews, had such an abhorrence for Christianity. The acceptance of Christianity meant the rejection of the teachings of the Pharisees in Judaism, and a return to God and His commandments.

In the next installment we will see how the Pharisees thought to ANNUL some of the laws of God, when it suited their purpose.

What is YOUR Obligation?

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Many parents simply WOULD NOT take care of their children—didn't know where their children were, or what they were doing.

Many *did not* arrive at the Feast on time—others traveled too far on the Sabbath!

Many *did not* attend services—even after driving hundreds of miles to the Feast, they remained in their booths, trailers or tents, or at their cars, talking, or whiling away precious time.

Some said they came for their "vacation!" They weren't *about* to get embroiled in all that WORK, they said—they had come to REST!

What if ALL HAD SAID THE SAME THING? Obviously, God would SPEW US OUT OF HIS MOUTH! Thanks be to His glorious name there *were* many industrious, unselfish, willing workers who SERVED so some others who *did not want* to serve could have their "vacation!"

Many DID NOT take notes—so they could *study* these precious truths among themselves, in their own families at a later time.

WHY, brethren? WHY are some of you people, claiming to be the very men and women of God, REBELLIOUS TOWARD AUTHORITY! Why do some BALK at any direction? Why are so many STIFF-NECKED toward local Pastors, Deacons, servers, traffic directors, and ushers?

BECAUSE SOME ARE YET CAR-NAL — THEY ARE REBELLIOUS,

STIFF-NECKED, UNCONVERTED!

If this means YOU—then it is time to HEED!

"*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; PROVE your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobrates?*" (II Cor. 13:5).

But God is leading His servants more and more to realize these harmful attitudes must be weeded out!

Look at a huge "mechanical brain." A great computer. Here is indeed an electronic marvel. The machine is to *perform a certain task*.

But a small, tiny tube becomes defective. It cannot perform its task, it is *disorganized*, operating *sporadically*.

Will the operator of the machine simply allow the machine to operate at less than ONE PER CENT efficiency, because of one small tube? Certainly not!

No—he would replace that defective, uncooperative tube IMMEDIATELY!

He would get a NEW one, or else *repair that one*, so the machine could operate smoothly, orderly, efficiently!

You may have an eight-cylinder automobile. But if only ONE cylinder is not functioning, your car is thrown completely out of harmony. It sputters and smokes, running on about 1/3 power, at less speed, and much greater gasoline consumption. What do you do? Just LEAVE IT THAT WAY?

Of course not! You change it—or you get it repaired!

It is the *same* in GOD'S ORGANIZATION!

We have a vitally important JOB to do. It entails our Church attendance, our faithful tithing, our attendance at annual Festivals.

It means we are REQUIRED, OBLIGATED, to *cooperate*, to *obey*. When God's own ORDAINED APOSTLE calls upon you to send in for meal tickets, THEN DO IT!

When a traffic director says "Go *this way*," then DO it! When an announcement says DO NOT drive your cars from the camp area to services—then DO NOT DO IT!

When an announcement comes asking for volunteer help, then HELP!

When Mr. Armstrong asks you to send in your second tithe in advance, to insure proper registration, then SEND it!

The Apostle Paul said the PROOF of real Christianity is OBEDIENCE!

"For to this end also did I write, that I might know the *proof* of you, *whether ye be obedient in all things!*" (II Cor. 2:9)

Yes, brethren, *if* you really ARE a member of God's own Church—YOU HAVE STERN OBLIGATIONS!

God issues orders! He gives commands! God EXPECTS ABSOLUTE, UNQUESTIONING OBEDIENCE!

Is that unreasonable? Is it not the very ESSENCE of your Bible?

In the book of Genesis, God "COMMANDED the man, saying..." (Gen. 2:16), and in the book of Revelation, He inspired John to write, "Blessed are they that DO HIS COMMANDMENTS..." (Rev. 22:14).

Abraham is the father of the faithful because he OBEYED God unquestioningly! (Gen. 26:5)

Our Awesome Responsibility

Brethren, listen!

In *every* worldly government, every society, every club, lodge, group, every church, every university, *every group of men*, GROWTH was always synonymous with DECAY!

Getting *bigger* meant getting more LAX, *lessening* controls, government, real principles, basic truths.

Nations grow fat and lazy, lacking purpose and drive. Churches get big and unwieldy, and resort to HUMAN government!

WE CANNOT—and WE WILL NOT let this happen in the very Church of God!

The BIGGER we grow, the *better organized*, the *more systematized*, the more simplified, the more streamlined

and EFFICIENT we must become!

We must become more OBEDIENT! More RESPONSIVE! We must have that *utter spontaneity*, that quickness to help, to obey, to follow directions that comes from a truly converted, humble mind!

We must LOVE one another, and RESPECT offices God is using, no mat-

ter how slight or small they may seem to be! God says they are important!

We have the AWESOME responsibility of UNITEDLY, with ORDER and ORGANIZATION — performing God's own commission to His people in this age—and *we have got to get it done!* It is REQUIRED of us! *Will we do it?*

Nearly 11,000 Attend Festival

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to come forward. Mr. McNair had just graduated last June and had led *two* nation-wide baptizing tours for a total of 14 weeks up till just before the Feast of Tabernacles when he returned to Pasadena to be married. Mr. McNair was then ordained as a full *preaching elder* in God's Church. Following a brief wedding trip on the way to the Feast of Tabernacles in Gladewater, Mr. and Mrs. McNair are now taking the nation-wide Visiting Tour described above.

Then, to nobody's surprise who has seen the "fruits," Mr. Armstrong called for Mr. Albert J. Portune to come forward. Mr. Portune was already ordained as a preaching elder. Mr. Armstrong announced that because of his outstanding ability, service, wisdom and dedication, Mr. Portune was being raised to the rank of *pastor* in God's Church as described in Ephesians 4. Mr. Portune is an example of a successful businessman in his middle 30's who gave up his business, came to Ambassador College and dedicated his life and talents *full-time* to the service of Jesus Christ and His work. These talents have been put to a *real use* and Mr. Portune is

now reaching Bible and speech classes at Ambassador College, writing for The PLAIN TRUTH and GOOD NEWS, and assisting Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong in handling many of the executive duties in God's work, world-wide.

Let us be THANKFUL, brethren, that God has blessed us, His people, in giving us this wonderful recent Feast of Tabernacles, and blessing His people with these *five new churches*, and in adding to His ministry as we have just seen. But let us remember that this is just the BEGINNING! We have *many* years left to go—although they will speed by altogether too fast. In order to carry out the commission that has been given to us by Jesus Christ, we need far MORE churches, far MORE dedicated, consecrated, trained ministers, and we need to see countless more THOUSANDS of lives being changed to fulfill the jobs ahead as kings and priests in the soon-coming government of Jesus Christ on this earth!

Let's be about our Father's business with ZEAL! Let's put NOTHING ahead of this calling which God has privileged so few of us in this age to grasp, to comprehend, to experience!

Letters to the Editor

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ready to give up. I've seen plain, clear Bible scripture distorted, twisted and made into something that wasn't there, until I had arrived at the point where I thought it was impossible to find anyone else that believed the Bible and was really following the true laws. The first lesson of your course came and I knew I'd found what I've been looking for. The PLAIN TRUTH came yesterday. I love it. So please don't forget me, for I'll be waiting very impatiently for them."

Woman from Empire, Nevada

Confidence Exacts Attention

"I tuned in on one of your stations while feeling lost and lonely in my

small mining camp 7,050 feet above sea level. My spirits were as low as the great valleys below. I heard a voice coming over the air talking about the truth. It flashed through my mind, 'What does he know about the truth, when the world knows so little?' I was going to try for another station because the last thing I felt like was to listen to some stupid speech. But the man's voice was so clear, and he seemed so confident in what he was trying to put over, I decided to listen and hear what he had to say. When he got about halfway through, I was all ears, and when he finished, my first magazine was on its way."

Man from Lydenburg, Transvaal,
South Africa