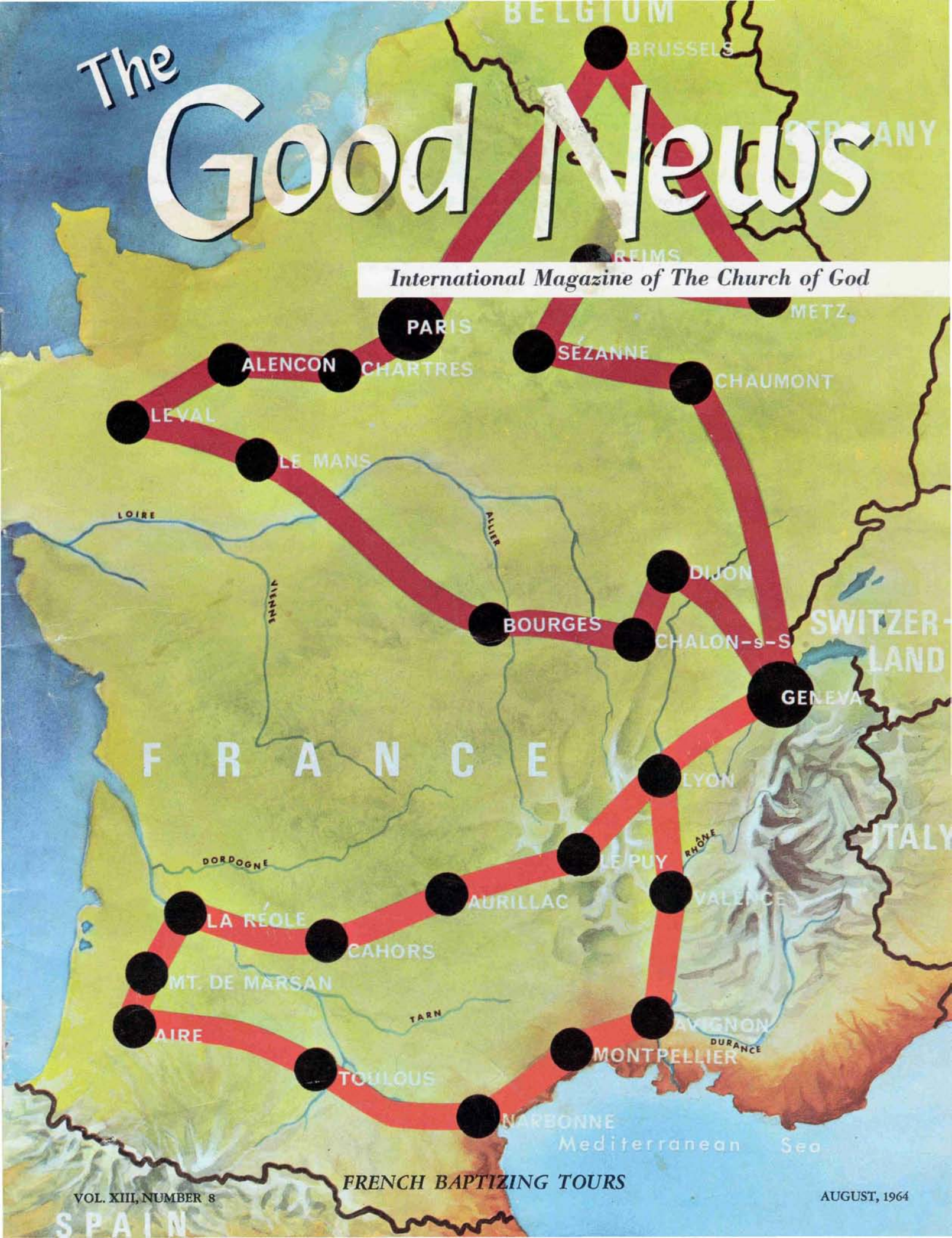


The

Good News

International Magazine of The Church of God



F R A N C E

FRENCH BAPTIZING TOURS

SPAIN



More About Our Cover...

This map of France shows the itinerary of the two French-baptizing tours taken this summer. The NORTHERN tour, conducted by Messrs. Apartian and Buzzard, lasted 3 weeks and covered such large cities as Dijon, Laval, Le Mans, Paris, Reims (where De Gaulle and Adenauer made history), Lille, Brussels and Metz.

The SOUTHERN tour, during which Mr. Wainwright accompanied Mr. Apartian, covered more picturesque regions, but was in a considerably warmer climate. Mileage-wise, the two tours were about equal—totaling 4,200 miles in all. However, the SOUTHERN tour lasted only 10 days, thus requiring many long hours of driving over the narrow and bumpy French roads. Some of the larger cities on this portion of the tour were: Lyon, Arles, Nîmes, and Toulouse which was the scene of Huguenot massacres in 1562 and 1572.

Be sure to read Mr. Apartian's article describing this tour in detail, beginning on the opposite page.

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What our READERS SAY...

Article Helps

"The Visiting Program article is really timely. It is a reminder to help us to keep our eyes on the goal. We never know when we may be visited, so we should always be ready with questions and problems. It made us realize that the ministers only observe us for a short time, but God can see and hear every move we make. We are not going to answer to the ministers, but to God. We do appreciate God's ministers, each and every one of them."

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. G., Illinois

Make-up Booklet

"I received the booklet 'Truth about Make-up.' I've never read anything like it. I've used lipstick for years and guess it was 'vanity.' I can say I never used it to seduce men. I have several interests in life, but men are not one of them. I'm a widow 69 and one-half years old (a little older than Jack Benny), but I don't have to use lipstick to hide my age."

Mrs. Mary K., Arkansas

• Have you other readers asked for this booklet yet?

Good Reputation

"This spring when we went to Gladewater for the Feast, we found we were running short of money. All we had was a \$238 check, so I went into a grocery store in Gladewater and purchased less than \$4 worth of groceries. Then I asked to cash the check, and they asked if I were from Gladewater. I replied no, I was from Wichita. Immediately I could see they would not cash the check, so I simply said we were down for the Church Festival. He responded by smiling and saying, 'We'll cash the check and no identification required.' I certainly was happily impressed by this."

Cliff W. D., Kansas

• Let's always keep it this way!

Congratulates Envoy Staff

"Words cannot express our joy at having received the 1964 ENVOY. It most certainly is a masterpiece! Having not yet had the opportunity to visit Ambassador College, this year-book fulfills its role in drawing one closer to God's College and the work

(Please continue on page 17)

The Good News

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ministering to its members
scattered abroad

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

Your New Brethren— IN FRANCE

A personal and moving article about this summer's baptizing tour in France.

by Dibar Apartian

How would you *feel* if one day you were to enter an old house in a small French village you had never heard of before—and suddenly, you were to discover on a table copies of *The PLAIN TRUTH*, *The Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course*, as well as many of our booklets in French?

How would you *feel* to meet a stranger in a foreign country, and find yourself able to freely converse about God's *Plan* on earth, His *Feast Days*, His *Sabbath*, His *Laws* and *Commandments*—and hear the stranger say with shining eyes and a happy smile: "Yes, I LOVE and understand God's Word. I want to live by it. . . .?"

This is just what happened to us many times this summer during our

baptizing tour in France. In old, dilapidated rooms or houses located in villages hardly big enough to even appear on the map, we met "brethren" *in the making* whose eyes God had opened to see the TRUTH.

A Typical Case

Let me relate to you just one example among many to illustrate the point. Mr. Anthony Buzzard, one of the key men in the French Department at Ambassador College in Pasadena, and I visited an elderly widow in a village in Brittany. She lived in a one-room apartment. Upon our arrival, she was busily working on the *Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course*.

"What lesson are you on?" I asked.

"The seventeenth," she answered

with a proud smile, and showed us the way she kept her notes; they were all neatly written and arranged in a binder she must have purchased at great sacrifice, as such items are luxuries in France.

"Do you *understand* all of these lessons well?" I asked again.

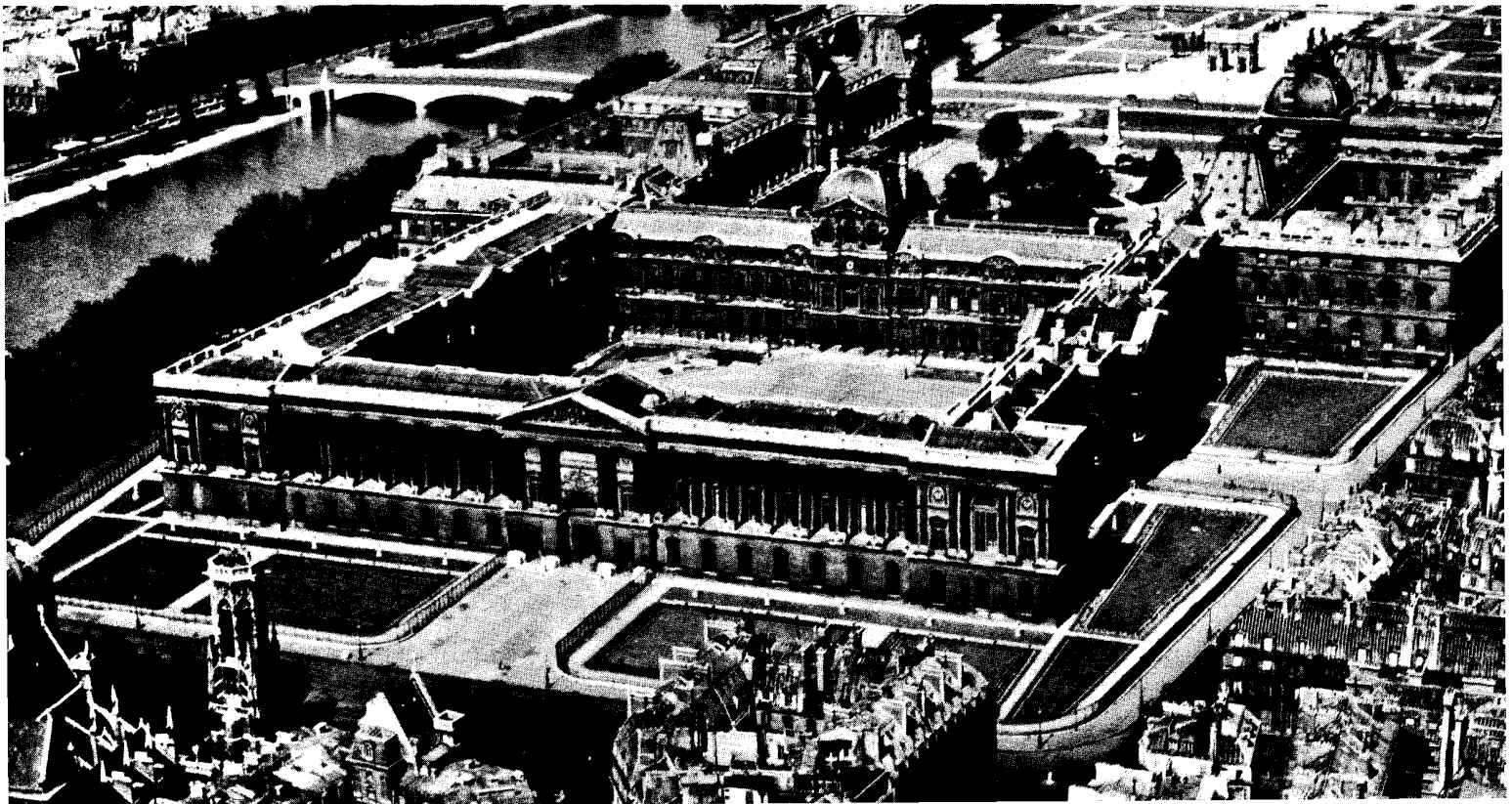
"Yes, sir," she replied without hesitation. "They are all so very clear. I had never read the Bible *until* I took your *Correspondence Course*. But now, God's Word has become my inseparable companion. I love to read and study it."

"How about our *early-morning* broadcasts? Do you listen to them regularly?"

"Yes, sir, *four times* a week," she answered. "I have set my alarm clock ten minutes earlier so that I won't miss

The Excellence of France is stored in the treasures of the Louvre, famous French museum in Paris. But the precious promises of God are being revealed to those who are in no way used to the Parisian society.

Air France Photo





French Tourist Office

This quiet village in Alsace, France, is typical of those visited by Mr. Apartian this summer. Note the pockmarks on the building (center) left from the gunfire of World War II—grim, daily reminders of reality!

one single word. I just don't know what I would do without those broadcasts."

And so, as we talked to her, it became obvious that this elderly widow, living on a modest old-age pension, was called by God to be part of Christ's BODY. She loved God's Word. She did hunger and thirst after righteousness.

Just What Type of People Are Your New Brethren?

Did you know that you now have TWELVE new brethren in France? These are people who are now praying for you and for God's WORK—twelve human beings who are hoping, like each and every one of us, to be one day born into God's Kingdom.

But just *who* are these brethren? *What* are they like? *What* do they do for a living? They are plain, ordinary people—laborers, office workers, housewives and widows—just like the rest of us, except that, for the most part, they live in *greater poverty than the poorest among us!* The European standard of living is much lower than ours in the U. S. A. Here, unfortunately, most Americans take too much for granted. The average American worker lives—comparatively speaking—like a millionaire does in Europe.

About the Tour

Our tour was divided into two parts—the northern and the southern trips, as we called them. The northern trip,

which lasted over three weeks, covered mainly the northern section of France, including all of Belgium. Mr. Anthony Buzzard, Assistant Professor at Ambassador College, accompanied me during this first portion of our baptizing tour.

Though the southern portion of the trip lasted only ten days, it covered a much larger territory as we literally had to travel from the *Swiss* border to the *Spanish* border. Mr. David Wainwright, a minister of God and Professor at Ambassador College in Saint Albans, England, accompanied me during these ten memorable days.

All in all, we traveled more than 4000 miles over the narrow and winding roads of France, where there is no speed limit—and hardly any traffic laws! We visited 77 persons of whom 43 had *specifically requested* baptism. The remaining 34 either wanted to *know us better* before making a final decision, or *thought*—as was the case with a number of them—that their former baptism was good and valid in *God's sight*. Some were truly shocked to learn that their baptism was nothing more than a simple dunking!

Adventists on the Move

We were amazed to find that at least *one-fourth* of all who had written in for a visit were *Adventists* or *EX-Adventists*.

Why was this? What made these people look for "another" religion? Why were they suddenly *dissatisfied* with Mrs. White's doctrines? In the first place, *how did they ever become Adventists?*

What we found was astonishing.

Most of these so-called Adventists were former Catholics who had discovered that their church was *not* teaching them the Truth. They didn't know, however, how to go about finding the Truth, or the *right Church*. It is precisely at this point that Adventists happened to come on the scene. Going from door to door to "save" and convert "lost souls," they acquainted these Catholics with a few passages of the Scriptures, pointing out to them *heresies* of the Roman Church.

Thus, by proving to them that the Catholic Church has *done away* with the SECOND Commandment and *changed*

the SABBATH from the *seventh day* of the week to the first, they gained the confidence and trust of these disillusioned Catholics. Consequently, the latter readily accepted the Adventists as the True Church Christ built; then allowed themselves to be baptized into Mrs. White's doctrines.

In one particular instance, we talked to a group of five ex-Catholics who had thus embraced Adventism. One of the men in the group, an elder in the Adventist Church, informed us that neither he nor his companions had been able to attend church for the past six months. "After listening to your broadcasts four times a week," he told us, "it is impossible to attend the Adventist Church—or, for that matter, any church."

During our conversation we learned that the Adventists in France allow their converts to *eat meat and drink wine*; after all, how would you ever convert a Frenchman if you forbade him to drink his wine! We further discovered that these newly converted Adventists were expected to go from house to house—*on Sabbath days*—before or after their assembly, to collect funds for their church!

"If we didn't get the amount we were told to collect, we had to make up the difference from our own pocket-book," one of the women in the group told us.

This was hard to believe.

"Didn't you know that you were *breaking God's law* by doing business on the Sabbath?" I asked.

Apparently, none of them had ever considered the matter from that point of view. Because their leaders had told them to do so, they had done it unquestioningly.

"It wasn't until we heard your broadcasts that we began checking up on what we were taught," the Adventist elder said. "But ever since, we have neither collected any more funds nor attended church."

We remained with them for seven hours, answering all their questions from the Bible. Incidentally, by the time I returned to my hotel room, that night, I had practically lost my voice. But it was worth it!

Here is an excerpt from the letter

they wrote me a few days later: "We know now where God's Church is and where His true ministers are. For the first time in our lives, we feel happy and relieved of a big burden. We all turned in our resignations to the Adventist Church; I also returned my credentials to them. No doubt, we will suffer persecution, but we hope and pray that by next year, when you return, you will find us ready to receive the true baptism"—(The letter was signed by the EX-Adventist minister).

The Fourth Commandment

Here, in the United States, we still enjoy *religious freedom* and do not always realize what it really means to live in a country where such freedom is NOT granted—at least *not in practice*.

Over 97 per cent of the French are Catholics. Consequently, the country's laws, customs and traditions, as well as its legal holidays, are based upon the teachings of the Catholic Church—NOT upon the Bible.

Sunday is THEIR lord's day—and the French keep it holy *their own way*. Shops, offices and nearly all the factories are closed on that day. However, restaurants and places of entertainment do remain open, because they "add" to the people's enjoyment; one is supposed to "keep" Sunday holy by enjoying oneself in the *WORLDLY way*.

Thus God's true Sabbath is profaned *week after week* by nearly everyone and every business in France. Humanly speaking, it is next to impossible to find a job which does not *require* working on God's Sabbath.

The *Mark of the Beast* is already doing its damage in Europe, and the keeping of the *FOURTH Commandment* is confronting people with many problems and difficulties. We could have baptized three times as many people if their faith had been strong enough to quit working on the Sabbath and to rely on God to protect their jobs.

"God will not forsake anyone who observes His laws," I kept assuring them, but doubts are as *poisonous* as drugs. "I have had my job for nearly twenty years, but I would be fired on the spot if I asked my employer for the Sabbath off," said a truck driver

who had written in for baptism. Yet, he seemed to have a *good understanding* of the Bible! He *KNEW* quite well that he had to *obey God* rather than men.

But he would NOT *trust* God!

"What can I do?" he added. "Where can I find another job that will not require working on the Sabbath. Our community is 100 per cent Catholic—and, as it is, we are already hated because we have quit attending church. *What will become* of my family if I am out of work?"

This is the type of argument and human reasoning we heard nearly everywhere. No, people don't seem to realize that—although it is *impossible* for them to keep the Sabbath by their own power—CHRIST in them *can and will* do so. Is it so hard to understand that *all things* are possible with God, and that He has promised to always bless us if we *OBEY* His laws?

The Case of a Father With Nine Children

A factory worker, living in a suburb of Paris, had written in requesting baptism. As we entered his small flat which was almost bare except for a few pieces of old and dilapidated furniture, we found with him two of his friends who also listen to the broadcast.

This man had nine children. He had

Even tho France has nuclear weapons, and considers herself a "Great Power"—she still does not have adequate plumbing! Eight million Frenchmen still draw their water from wells, as they did in 1000 A.D.

French Tourist Office



come out of the Catholic Church after hearing *Le MONDE A VENIR* for the past two years. He told us that he was *willing to do what was right in God's sight*. "My wife is against my conversion," he stated. "She is still a professing Catholic and won't hear of any other religion."

One of his two friends, a bachelor in his twenties, was also in an excellent attitude, but the other, an older man, was non-committal. When we finished answering all of their questions, and explaining what baptism *actually meant*, the father of the nine children was first to speak.

"Yes, I understand it very well," he said. "I don't know *why* God is calling me, but I am willing to answer His call. I do want to be baptized and live by His Word."

"But you can't be baptized," I answered. "You are still breaking God's laws by working on the Sabbath. You know that you have to come *out of your sins* before you can be baptized."

He hesitated for a few moments. "Don't you think," he asked pensively, "that God will understand *my* case? I have no profession, no education, no savings. If I quit working even for a few days, my children will starve. I once told my employer that I wanted the Sabbath off. 'You can have your Jewish Sabbath,' he told me, 'But you can also pack up and go.'"

At this moment his wife was looking at me with imploring eyes, hoping and praying perhaps that I would give him an affirmative answer. She wanted me to say: "Why, of course, *your* case is *different*. . . . You have a very good reason to break God's laws. . . . God is love—He will understand. . . ."

In all probability, this is the answer any minister of this world's churches would have given. But we, as true *ministers of God*, have to teach that there can be NO compromise with God's law, which is *holy, just and good* (Rom. 7:12). It is because God is love that He will not put up with our reasonings which *lead to death*.

"Let's turn to Exodus 20, and read it carefully to know what God commands about the Sabbath," I told the man and his wife. God says: "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days

shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it."

They all remained silent. Of course the man had read these verses many times before; he might have even known them by heart.

"Is there any exception here made for fathers who have nine children and who might lose their jobs if they insisted on having the Sabbath off?" I asked.

He *got* the point. He had known it all along, but wanted someone to *assure* him that God would NOT forsake him. "Yes, you are quite right," he said, "I will have a talk with my employer next week, and tell him that I won't be working on the Sabbath any more."

"Why wait until next week?" I asked. "How about this coming Sabbath? Will you work?"

"Of course not," he answered, "I'll skip work without telling him anything. You see, my children are scheduled to leave next Monday for their summer camp. My employer provides for this as part of workmen's compensation. But if I talked to him before Monday, he will fire me, and my children will be deprived of their summer vacation."

Once again, his wife was looking at me imploringly. Surely, this was the *least* anyone could do. The loving God *would* understand such a thing! Besides, what was wrong with it? The man wasn't going to work on the Sabbath, was he?

"Is that *honest*?" I said. "Isn't that cheating your employer? You must trust God ALL THE WAY. If it be His will that your children go to this summer camp, nothing, *absolutely nothing*, will prevent them from going."

He understood again. He knew quite well that we can't keep one of God's

commandments by breaking another one; we can't lie to do something good. I read to him the first ten verses of Romans 3.

A broad smile covered his face. "Yes, sir, that's right; the BIBLE IS ALWAYS RIGHT," he stated with assurance. "I will be honest. I will talk to my employer the first thing in the morning. Will you please baptize me now?"

Shortly after, he and his friend (*not* the non-committal one who had yet much to learn and much to repent of) were baptized in one of the tributaries of the River Seine.

Did He Lose His Job?

"But *what happened* to him?" you may ask. "What happened to this father of nine children? Did he lose his job? Did his children get to go to summer camp?"

Here is an excerpt from the letter I received a few days later from his young friend who was baptized with him.

"The day after you baptized us, we went to talk to our employer. Imagine! For the first time, he was kind and understanding. He listened attentively to what we had to say. He promised he would look around to find two jobs in the factory which would not require work on the Sabbath. Unfortunately, he could find but one, which was given to Mr. Gaveaux (the father of the nine children).

"As for me, after eight years of steady employment, I suddenly find myself without work. But I am not afraid: God is my real Employer and He will provide for me.

"Mr. Gaveaux's children left last Monday for their summer camp; they are now enjoying their vacation. Thank you for all your help. Please pray for us that we may always follow the right path!"

You May Meet Them Some Day!

As you see, brethren, some of these people God is calling in foreign countries have much more to give up than most of us who live in the U. S. A.

(Please continue on page 17)

WHEN Should You Be Anointed?

What is YOUR responsibility in asking to be anointed? What extremes should you avoid? How sick should you be before you ask? These—and many more—everyday questions are answered in this article.

by David Jon Hill

HAVE you ever wondered just how sick you should be before you call on the Elders for anointing and prayer to be healed? Have you ever thought you wouldn't "bother" your Elder because he was "too busy"?

How can you *know* when you should call on God to be forgiven of your physical sins and be healed? If you wonder whether you should ask, how can you *have faith* in asking? And what if an Elder *refuses to anoint you* after you have asked—should you go to another for anointing?

You need to understand the answers to these basic questions. You want to do what is right—it is basically a matter of balance and wisdom, a matter of knowing when and for what to apply the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

What Is Healing?

Healing is one of the great benefits from God. "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and *forget not* all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who *healeth all thy diseases*" (Ps. 103:2-3).

Healing is also an office which God holds—an office He has mercifully exercised for thousands of years. "... for I am the LORD that *healeth thee*" (Ex. 15:26). And this office belongs EXCLUSIVELY TO GOD. "See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I HEAL: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand" (Deut. 32:39).

The fakes and charlatans of history who have pretended to heal—who have

arrogated to themselves this office which belongs solely to the Creator—the priests and the lord of flies, and the staff entwined with snakes have been singled out for the vengeance of God and have been classified among the greatest of abominations. Our God is a jealous God and He jealously guards this office. "Heal me, O Lord, and I *shall be healed*; save me, and I *shall be saved*: for thou art my praise" (Jer. 17:14). God is the ONLY One who can provide TRUE HEALING—just as God is the *only* One who can provide *true salvation*.

God's true healing is not to be construed as a natural process of mending. It is an outright removal of the affliction—a direct miracle. While it is true that sometimes God heals a person over a period of time, nonetheless it is a direct intervention of God and not a natural, bodily, healing process.

Healing is the forgiveness of sin! "When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, *thy sins be forgiven thee*" (Mark 2:5). Jesus, the Son of God, who came to bear our every sin in His body as a sacrifice for us—Jesus who was so *willing* to bear our sins (Mark 1:41), made it very plain that the healing of our physical bodies involves the direct forgiveness of sins! "But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth TO FORGIVE SINS" (Mark 2:10).

Although the healing of our bodies has a purely physical effect—even though it is a present and temporary thing (because no matter how many

times you are healed you must eventually die), this forgiveness of sin (which is spiritual) which has a direct and tangible physical effect leads us to see how our Loving God can also forgive our spiritual sins and grant us eternal spiritual health and life!

But the application of that forgiveness of sin is spiritual—it is *supernatural*. Nearly 2000 years ago the man, Jesus Christ, who had lived a perfect life, was beaten, punished and wounded and then immediately put to death on the stake. But that man was resurrected—the first-born Son of God—as a spirit being, of the God family, who sits at His Father's right hand now and still offers the sacrifice of His broken body to be applied for the forgiveness of our sins. Centuries have passed. There is no way other than through our Spiritual, Loving God that this sacrifice that Christ made so long ago could possibly apply to us today. Besides, there is no way within the limits of our physical understanding in which the suffering of one human being can erase the suffering of another. It is beyond natural, physical understanding—it is spiritual.

Healing Important to God's Church

Healing was always an integral part of the ministry of Jesus Christ—Matthew 4:23; Luke 9:11. It was an integral part of the ministry of the early church—Acts 4:7-12, 16-17; 10:38-43. It is a sign of the true ministry of Jesus Christ—Mark 16:15-20.

Although the Church of God today

certainly does not make any *show* of this benefit of healing—nonetheless, thousands are healed each year! Many are anointed and healed each day in the local church areas. Also, scores of letters come in each week from people who have been healed after using an anointed cloth sent to them from Headquarters.

I want to quote some of these thankful comments—these comments are never solicited, but they do show that our Merciful and Loving God-Healer is ACTIVE in performing this office today! Also, I want to show you that when it is necessary for you to request an anointed handkerchief rather than be anointed directly by one of God's ministers that it is *every bit as effectual*. Some have requested to be anointed personally and when they were asked if they had been anointed before for the particular illness they would state that they had not, that they had *only* received an anointed cloth! This is one facet of being anointed that you need to understand with proper balance.

The *oil* that a minister uses in anointing has no power to heal. There is no healing power resident within the *hands* of the physical individual who does the anointing—the healing power is not in the particular selection of the *audible syllables* of the words chosen for the prayer—nor is there any healing power within the *threads* of the anointed cloth.

God is the Healer! And He heals through the power of His Holy Spirit and by the direct application of the punishment that Jesus Christ suffered.

Extremes to Avoid

The two extremes regarding the use of an anointed cloth which must be avoided are: 1) Some refer to the anointed cloth as a "healing cloth." This is not true. The reason that Mr. Armstrong in his letter that goes with the anointed cloth requests that you burn the cloth after you have used it, is so that you will NOT IN ANY WAY *venerate the cloth!* The only reason we send a cloth at all is because of the Biblical example of the Apostle Paul. 2) The other extreme is that some feel the cloth is *not good enough*—that they must have the minister anoint

them directly, personally. This is not true either. The use of a cloth depends upon your inaccessibility to a minister at the time of your illness. Sometimes a minister has to send an anointed cloth even in a local area because he cannot be in many places at once.

If you are sent an anointed cloth, do not feel that you are being slighted, and on the other hand, do not venerate the cloth. Let's notice what God says about this means that He has honored for the healing of our bodies in Acts 19:11-12—and then read some of the comments from people who have been healed of various diseases by God through this means today! "And God wrought SPECIAL MIRACLES by the hands of Paul: so that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them." Note that this is called a special miracle—that God in a sense has to go out of the way because of extenuating circumstances to apply the sacrifice of Christ in these cases.

Some Thankful Comments

"I thank God that my cataracts are gone. A year ago I was in the hospital to have them removed. They were going to take the right eye first and ten days later the left eye. But every morning when they were ready to operate I would be sick and they couldn't do so. They told me to go home for a month and I had you pray for my cataracts to be removed. Later the doctors checked and said my cataracts were gone, which surprised them beyond words. They told me cataracts just don't go without an operation. One doctor said a greater power was dealing with my eyes" (Woman from Detroit, Michigan).

"My husband and I just recently escaped miraculously from a terrible fire which destroyed our trailer home. Had it not been for God's intervention we would have lost our lives. My husband is in the hospital with his back, left arm and left shin quite badly burned. We sent to Mr. McNair and Mr. Quillen for prayer cloths and my husband is healing twice as fast as the doctor expected him to" (Woman from Utah).

"You prayed for my son and sent me

a prayer cloth. He couldn't walk by himself, but when we prayed he got up and walked for the first time in three months. He had been sick nearly 10 years" (Woman from Cross Plains, Texas).

"I thank God that the cancer in my ear has gone. The doctor who wanted to cut it out looked at my ear a few days ago and wanted to know what I had done to it. So I told him that I had changed doctors. He wanted to know who my doctor was, so I pointed upwards and told him that He was up there, but I don't think he believed me. But the proof is there for the world to see. Thank God the man who healed by the sea of Galilee heals today" (Man from Florida).

Not Just a Doctrine

The healing of our physical bodies is not just a doctrine of the Church of God—it is an actual, physical, real benefit and blessing. It is the way to health when we are sick. Don't be guilty along with some who have said, "My church doesn't allow me to go to doctors!" This church—the Church of God—DOES *allow you to go to doctors*—just as God *allows* you to go to doctors!

Don't blame the Church for your not going to doctors—it must be your own personal, real, faithful conviction that you as one individual are going to trust your Living Creator God to forgive your sins and heal your body! YOU YOURSELF as an individual before God—and apart from "the Church" must choose in faith to put your life in God's hands, not coerced or forced in any way but free as an individual to pursue *your* faith! You must realize that whether you live or whether you die—because death is always a possibility as long as we are physical—you belong to Jesus Christ, you are the Lord's! (Rom. 14:8).

You can go to doctors for your healing *if you want to*—the Church of God *advises you* that this is NOT the way to be healed. *It is just not within the power of another human being TO FORGIVE YOUR SIN AND HEAL YOUR BODY!* But this must be YOUR OWN PERSONAL DECISION—a matter of *your* exercising the faith of Jesus Christ—

not just something you feel you have to do because you belong to the Church and this is one of the doctrines of the Church.

An exact understanding of how this facet of the Truth should affect our lives has been a problem with God's people historically. "For he who eats and drinks *without a proper sense of the Body*, eats and drinks to his own condemnation. That is why many of you are ill and infirm, and a number even dead" (I Cor. 11:29-30, Moffatt Translation).

We partake of the Passover every year. We take the symbol of broken, unleavened bread to represent the broken, sinless body of Jesus Christ sacrificed for our physical sins—sacrificed for our physical healing. Each year as we take this symbol we should be *fully assured in OUR OWN MINDS as to its meaning and significance*. We should trust completely in God for our physical healing as we trust in Him for our spiritual salvation. We should fully understand the meaning of the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ!

Christ's Sacrifice for You

You need to understand what you are asking for when you ask to be anointed—so that you do not regard it lightly. You are asking for the pain and punishment, the beating that Jesus Christ suffered at the hands of Roman soldiers the night before His death to be applied for *YOUR physical sins*. "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by *whose stripes ye were healed*" (I Pet. 2:24).. "But he was *wounded* for OUR transgressions, he was *bruised* for OUR iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and *with his stripes we are healed*" (Isa. 53:5).

Basically from the waist up, the body of Jesus Christ was torn to shreds. Great chunks of flesh hung down in red ribbons of raw meat. In some places the white bones of the rib-cage could even be seen (read Ps. 22:16-17). As the metal pieces tied to the ends of leather thongs lashed around His body they whipped by His face

and tore at His lips and nose and cheeks leaving His face in such a state that He was no longer recognizable—"As many were astounded at thee; his visage [face] was so marred more than any man, and his form [whole body] more than the sons of men" (Isa. 52:14).

Let's note just briefly so we will realize fully what we're asking for when we are anointed, the description given in the *Encyclopedia Britannica* under the article, "Cross and Crucifixion," in volume 7, page 505 of the 11th edition: "The criminal [being crucified] was first of all usually stripped naked and bound to an upright stake and so cruelly scourged with an implement formed of strips of leather having pieces of iron or some other hard material at the ends that not merely was the *flesh often stripped from the bones*, but even the *entrails partly protruded* and the *anatomy of the body disclosed*. In this pitiable state he was re clothed, and if able to do so, was made to drag the stake to the place of execution where he was either fastened to it or impaled upon it and left to die."

This gives you *some* idea of what Jesus Christ went through that night for YOU! It was only because He was in excellent physical condition that He was even able to walk after receiving such a beating. *These* are the stripes by which YOU are healed! *These* are the stripes you ask to be applied to the bared back of Christ in YOUR *stead* when you ask to be anointed.

But You MUST Ask!

Once we begin to recognize the awesomeness of the sacrifice we're asking to be applied, we tend to go to the other extreme and suffer through our illnesses considering ourselves righteous because we're not asking to have the sacrifice of Christ applied to us.

But it is not a matter of *choice* once we are converted. It is only a matter of deciding *when* to call for this sacrifice. It is a DIRECT COMMAND—"Is any sick among you? *let him call for the elders of the church*; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith *shall save the sick*, and THE

LORD SHALL RAISE HIM UP; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him" (Jas. 5:14-15). The expression "let him call" is not a suggestion, it is in the command form. The Goodspeed Translation makes it a little clearer "If anyone is sick, he SHOULD CALL in the elders of the church and have them pray over him . . ." (Jas. 5:14).

Some reason that they do not *deserve* this sacrifice. *This is absolutely true!* Neither do we deserve the sacrifice of the *life* of Jesus Christ to pay for our sins that we might inherit eternal life. Yet we are commanded to repent and be baptized—which means we MUST CLAIM *the death of Jesus Christ to be applied in our stead!*

Once that death has been claimed you no longer belong to yourself. You are purchased—paid for completely with a price beyond your conception. You are no longer responsible for just yourself—an individual apart. You are a member of the very Body of Jesus Christ. "What? know ye not that YOUR *body* is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" (I Cor. 6:19).

You are no longer free to selfishly do with your body as you wish to do. You are now responsible to see to it that you are in health, strength and vigor to use even that human, bodily energy which you have, in the service of the whole Body of Jesus Christ—the Church!

"For ye are bought with a price: therefore *glorify God in your BODY*" (I Cor. 6:20). You glorify God by allowing Him to live His life in you. You repent of your sins, both spiritual and physical, and ask for the sacrifice of Christ to pay for both. Then you USE your cleansed body and mind to serve Him one-hundred per cent!

Some Pitfalls to Avoid!

I heard some say that they did not "bother the minister" unless they were *very* seriously ill. That they just prayed for themselves. These individuals felt that James 5:13 instructed this. "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray." But that is not what this verse says. The word "afflicted" does not refer in

this case to *physical* ailments, but to mental problems and trials. Again, it is better in the Goodspeed Translation—"If any one of you is in trouble, he should pray."

There are a number of instructions in the end of James 5. You have to be careful about where one instruction leaves off and another begins. The specific instruction of what to do when you are sick does not begin until Verse 14. You will notice that Verse 13 also tells you what to do if you are merry or happy!

Another common error that is honestly made, is to ask for anointing when you feel a cold or something else "coming on." If you feel something coming on, then you are not *yet* sick. What you need to do is immediately analyze your life to see what is causing this feeling of imminent sickness. Anointing is not a rabbit's foot—not a just-in-case, hocus-pocus—not an abracadabra or an "open sesame"—and as we have seen above, it should be applied only when it *must* be applied.

You must avoid using anointing carelessly. You should never be anointed *just in case you* MIGHT catch something. If some sickness is "going around" you need to be *aware* of it. Take every precaution you can so that you will not come down with it in the first place. If this fails and you do become *sick*, THEN is when you should ask for anointing.

This leads us to the next common error regarding anointing. This error has a tendency to crop up more often in those who have been in the Church longer, and those who have been reared in the Church. The error is to begin to consider anointing as a *mere ritual*. These individuals have been anointed before many times for many things, and rather than facing each situation of the application of the sacrifice of Christ in its individual seriousness it becomes a mere formalistic matter of conforming to Church doctrine and established habit. *Don't let this happen to YOU!*

Another pitfall to avoid—and we shouldn't even have to mention this one—is *planning ahead of time* to use the sacrifice of Christ! Taking that sacrifice for granted, and thinking

about it in a very careless and light vein, some individuals *anticipate* needing it—deliberately getting themselves sick, *knowingly* losing sleep, *knowingly* eating the wrong foods, *knowingly* getting in danger of bodily injury! Don't EVER plan on using the sacrifice of Christ in this way!

Another common error is being anointed as a *last resort*! Many seem to be trying to copy the pitiful example of the woman in Mark 5:25-26: "And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood *twelve years*, and had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse."

As you read on in this account you realize that Jesus Christ had compassion on the woman and healed her outright of this illness from which she had sought relief from every quarter for twelve years! But remember, this was the first time she had had opportunity to approach the One who made the sacrifice that makes healing possible! Don't *you* make the same mistake this *unconverted* woman made, and try everything else before you ask for anointing.

This leads automatically to two other common errors, which blend together. They are: 1) Using all the home remedies and old wives' tales that you have heard of and collected through your history. And, 2) immediately after you have been anointed, and the "ritual" has been accomplished, to ask what *physical* thing you can now do—as if we should *prescribe* something for you.

Here again it's a matter of balance. There are certain physical things that we can do for ourselves. You have heard Mr. Armstrong say many times that he advises people regarding the common-sense laws of physical health to help the individual find out what physical laws he is breaking so that he will *cease* breaking them. But this is IN NO WAY, SHAPE OR FORM *going to heal you of your illness*. And it is NOT in any way to be construed as a prescription of any sort. Any advice that is offered by your minister regarding such things as fasting or the beneficial values of certain foods should certainly

be regarded seriously by you. But do not make the TERRIBLE MISTAKE of getting your eyes *on the physical* and OFF *the sacrifice of Jesus Christ!*

Only that sacrifice of Jesus Christ can heal you. Its application is a spiritual thing that you cannot see. If you get your eyes and mind off Jesus, and on some physical thing—even if *that thing be right*—then you are missing the point of healing entirely! Read Mr. Ted Armstrong's article beginning on page three of the June issue of *The GOOD NEWS* regarding our knowledge of health laws as a sign of the True Church. Learn the balance which is taught in that article and live it in your life!

How to Tell When You Are "Sick"

There is *no absolute formula* which can apply—there is no special pulse-beat or exact degree of temperature at which you become "sick." However, there is a good general rule of thumb that can be applied to this question so that you can know when you should ask to be anointed. The word "sick" used in James 5:14 is from a Greek word which *Strong's Concordance* defines as "to be feeble in any way."

Since we are to serve God in *everything* we do—in the employment that we have, in the church activities, in the household duties of the wife—and even in the normal routine of children's work, play and study—then this rule of thumb can apply. If you (or your child) are rendered unable to carry out your normal, daily routine that life as a Christian requires of you, then you should consider yourself sick.

If you as a housewife cut your finger while preparing the family meal, you would probably just cleanse it, bandage it and continue with your daily routine. If there arose complications, however—say the cut were to become infected—so that your whole hand might be rendered useless, then you would be "sick." You would not be able to do the job that God called you to do. Now you must ask God to *intervene*, to *forgive* your carelessness, to *forgive*

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THINK POSITIVELY GOD'S WAY

Is autosuggestion God's way? Should Christians use positive thinking? This article answers these questions.

by Dennis G. Luker

IS AUTOSUGGESTION God's way of positive thinking? I have before me a book entitled, *Self-Mastery Through Conscious Autosuggestion*. The author offers this as a way of positive thinking: "Every morning before getting up and every evening as soon as you are in bed, shut your eyes, and repeat twenty times in succession, moving your lips, and counting mechanically on a long string with twenty knots, the following phrase: 'Day by day, in every way, I am getting better and better.' Do not think of anything particular, as the words 'in every way' apply to everything."

You may have heard this type of thinking called "bootstrapism"—trying to pull yourself up by your own boot straps—in other words, trying to improve and overcome *with your own power*.

The author goes on to make these statements: "... autosuggestion ... may be defined as *the implanting of an idea in oneself by oneself* ... autosuggestion is nothing but *hypnotism* as I see it ... THE WILL MUST NOT BE BROUGHT INTO PLAY IN PRACTICING AUTOSUGGESTION." The author labels autosuggestion for what it is—*self-hypnotism!* Notice that the *will* must not be used. It is suppressed!

Satanic Teaching!

When a person does not exercise will power—when he does not resist evil—he is opening himself to demon influence (Jas. 4:7). Autosuggestion, then falls into the category of divination, witchcraft, and those who deal with familiar spirits—demons!

Notice what God says about those

who practice such things: "There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer [one who deals with magic]. For *all that do these things are an ABOMINATION unto the LORD* ..." (Deut. 18:10-12).

God is against autosuggestion! Satan has deceived many people into thinking autosuggestion is a harmless method of improving self, when in reality, it teaches the suppression of one's will, and when practiced to its full extent, opens a person's mind for a demon (or demons) to enter. This can happen when God's Holy Spirit is *not USED* to help us exercise will power, resist evil, and build character. The world is full of weak-willed, demon-influenced and possessed people who have believed and practiced such methods as autosuggestion.

Why Are We Negative?

Human nature is normally hostile toward God (Rom. 8:7). God the Father sent His Son to this earth to set the example of how we should live and think. We are to follow that example (I Pet. 2:21). Jesus Christ came to this earth to show us that it is *possible to OVERCOME* this human nature and be saved—be changed to immortal spirit beings and inherit God's nature (I Cor. 15:50-53). Battling against and overcoming our human nature is God's way for us to build character—Godly character.

God is creating sons after His own

kind! Creating character takes time and free moral agency. We are not robots. We have human minds with the God-given ability to *choose* which way we shall go. There is a right way and there is a wrong way to live and think. God made human beings subject to vanity (Rom. 8:20). A carnal, unconverted mind is motivated by vanity. Human vanity is selfish, and selfishness is **NEGATIVE**. It causes a person to be puffed up or vain about himself. Lucifer, who was one of the highest of the angelic beings, created perfect, became vain (puffed up) about his beauty and brightness (Ezek. 28:17). He rebelled against God and became Satan the Devil. Lucifer was a spirit being (not flesh and blood) and he had vanity. Human vanity is the same—rebellious and sinful.

There is a law of the flesh, a downward pull, that leads a person to do what he *thinks* is right (Rom. 7:23; Prov. 14:12). In other words, God has put within our fleshly members a natural tendency to sin. Read what the works (or habits) of the flesh are in Galatians 5:19-21. When God calls us and opens our minds to understand His truth (John 17:17—the Bible), He then expects us to fight against the lusts of our flesh and crush out vanity. In this process of resisting sin (the breaking of God's Commandments—I John 3:4), battling daily against the lusts of our flesh, *Godly character is created*. With the help of God's Spirit, received after baptism, the very nature and mind of God is being created within us (Gal. 5:22-23).

What does all this have to do with positive thinking? This process of

building character is also a process of positive thinking, GOD'S WAY, a process of bringing into captivity *every thought* to the obedience of Christ (II Cor. 10:4-5)! This is a terrific fight! A fight to control your mind—to rule yourself and not let your carnal mind rule you!

Positive Thinking— GOD'S WAY

As usual Satan has a counterfeit for God's Truth. God does teach that we should be positive-thinking Christians, having faith and courage, *looking to Him* at all times. Notice Colossians 3:2: "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." A better rendering, as the marginal reference shows, is, "SET YOUR MIND on things above. . . ." God says you must SET YOUR MIND. You must exercise *will power* to do this. God has made us free moral agents, not robots, and we must *choose* and then set our minds (our wills) to do something (Deut. 30:19).

Remember Satan's way is to repeat—"Day by day, in every way, I am getting better and better"—until you *convince yourself you ARE*. What is the fallacy in this? God says the big "I" must die! "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. . . Mortify [put to death] therefore your members [lusts of the flesh] which are upon the earth. . ." (Col. 3:3, 5). A true Christian has been buried in the waters of baptism. *Self* has symbolically been buried and a new man comes up to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:3-6.)

What it boils down to is this. In order to think positively God's way, a person *must be converted*. What is true conversion? It is being deeply broken up and repentant, sincerely sorrowful about your sins and coming to see that your natural, physical, carnal mind is selfish and wicked!

Notice how vile Jesus Christ said the human mind really is: "And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart [or mind] of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

all these evil things come from within, and defile the man" (Mark 7:20-23). We have ALL been guilty of thinking and dwelling on these filthy things!

Our human mind is *desperately* wicked (Jer. 17:9)! Once we *realize* this and *repent* of what we are—and we are basically what we think—this evil mind can be changed. Then we can begin to think cleanly, properly, righteously. We can begin to *think positively* GOD'S WAY.

The proper procedure to attain positive thinking God's way is given in Acts 2:38—" . . . Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Once you have received the Holy Spirit of God by the laying on of hands (Acts 8:17-18), you can put Romans 12:1-2 (read these verses in your Bible now) into practice in your life: ". . . be ye transformed [changed] by the *renewing of your mind*, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

The Bible you have before you reveals the will of God. It is God's revelation to man. It tells us the way to live *and think!* Now let us notice the example of three men who knew *how* to think positively God's way.

King David's Example

David was a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22). This means that David pleased God in the way he lived and thought. When David sinned, he *really* REPENTED AND CHANGED (Ps. 51)!

His worship, obedience and service pleased God. David's attitude toward God is the attitude God wants us to have. Notice David's attitude toward life and the trials he encountered. He was a *positive thinker*—God's way: "I have set the LORD *always* before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall *not be moved*" (Ps. 16:8). Grasp the feeling and emotion David must have put into that statement—" . . . I shall NOT be moved!"

David had CONFIDENCE IN GOD, *not in himself*.

"The Lord is my *rock*, and my *fortress*, and my *deliverer*; my *God*,

my *strength*, in whom I will trust; my *buckler*, and the *horn* of my *salvation*, and my *high tower* . . . It is GOD that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect" (Ps. 18:2, 32). David looked to God for everything including physical strength and protection. He prayed often and meditated on God's laws continually (Ps. 55:17; 1:2). This is THE WAY David thought positively—THE WAY he overcame discouragement! He kept his mind on his purpose in life, on his goal—on God!

Many of God's people get discouraged when God *keeps His promise* to them and gives trials and tests to *help* them grow—to *help* them build character—to *help* them become God! Here is the proper positive attitude—"Many are the afflictions of the righteous: *but* the LORD *delivereth* him out of them all" (Ps. 34:19).

This is a promise from God that you can stake your life on! You WILL have afflictions but if you will *trust God* and *obey Him*, He will deliver you! With that promise from the infallible Word of the Almighty God, there is no room for discouragement—which is lack of faith in God! There is only room for *positive thinking*—GOD'S WAY, which is exercising faith in God!

David asked himself this question—"Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? *hope thou in God* . . ." (Ps. 42:5, 11; 43:5). God is asking us that same question—why are you discouraged and depressed? There is no reason to be. Set your mind on God and *hope in Him*, as David did. Let's follow his example of positive thinking.

The Apostle Paul's Example

Paul suffered more trials and tests than most of us ever will. (Read II Cor. 11:23-28.) But look at the attitude this deeply converted man maintained through all of them, ". . . I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things [physical things], and do count them but *dung*, that I may win Christ" (Phil. 3:8).

Paul was willing to suffer *anything* to be in the Kingdom of God—"For I reckon that the sufferings of this

present time are not *worthy to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:18). Yet some have not only compared their sufferings with the Kingdom of God, but some have gone astray. They have LEFT THE FAITH—*given up the Kingdom of God* because they weren't willing to repent, look to God for strength, and overcome!

We need the positive attitude of the Apostle Paul—"And we *know* that *all things* work together for *good* to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28)! If you understand the plain Truth of God, that you can now become His very own Spirit-begotten son and some day His Spirit-BORN son, you are one of the called. And, if you love God (keep His Commandments), then you have God's promise that everything that happens to you will work out for your good!

Why doubt the inspired Word of God? BE POSITIVE. Step out on faith and take God at His Word!

Here's how Paul did it—"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but *Christ liveth in me*: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live *by the faith of the Son of God*, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20). Paul was crucified with Christ—buried symbolically in a watery grave—baptized for the remission of his sins (Rom. 6:3-6). He came up out of the water a new man, had hands laid on him, received the Spirit of God and then Jesus Christ lived in Paul, guided, helped, inspired him through the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul was then able to live a different, positive, obedient life by the faith of Jesus Christ in him. Jesus Christ does not change (Mal. 3:6). He is the same today as he was when He lived in Paul (Heb. 13:8). He will live in you in the same way He did in the Apostle Paul if you will yield to Him!

You can have the same positive attitude as the Apostle Paul and say, "I can do all things *through Christ* which strengtheneth me" (Phil. 4:13).

Jesus Christ—Our Example

God Himself came to this earth as a man. That man was Jesus Christ.

He was human flesh and blood as we are. He had human nature. He was tempted with human carnal thoughts, yet he did not sin. "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in *all points* tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:15).

Jesus Christ had the same battle you and I are having now against the downward pull of human nature, yet He did not sin even one time! Imagine the terrific battle He fought with Himself! How was He able to do it? Hebrews 5:7 gives the answer—"Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with *strong crying* and tears unto him [God the Father] that was able to save him from death. . . ." The answer is that Jesus Christ got His strength from God the Father, THE SOURCE OF ALL POWER!

Jesus Christ *could* have failed in His

purpose of becoming our Saviour and qualifying to rule over this earth. He *could* have sinned—but He DIDN'T! He got down on His knees and shed tears, praying so fervently and earnestly that blood vessels burst—. . . and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood" (Luke 22:44)! He set His mind on God the Father and prayed with His whole being!

This is positive thinking—God's way! Jesus Christ said, "I can of mine own self do nothing. . ." (John 5:30). Jesus Christ is our ultimate example. He thought positively by setting His mind on God the Father and asking Him for strength when He needed it. Then He said, ". . . not my will, but thine, be done" (Luke 22:42), and He made Himself obey His Father, who is also our Heavenly Father!

Let's think positively—God's way! Let's follow Jesus Christ's example!

The Bible Answers Your Questions

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

"Should we strive to be kings in God's Kingdom? David was a man after God's own heart and he only wanted to be a *humble doorkeeper*, didn't he?"

Many people have misunderstood what David meant in Psalm 84:10 simply because they have not read this verse carefully.

Notice it. David says, "For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather *be a doorkeeper* in the house of my God, THAN to dwell in the tents of wickedness."

In the modern English of the Moffatt Translation, we read, "Better a single day within thy courts *than a thousand outside!* I would RATHER sit at the threshold of God's house *than to live inside the tents of worldly men!*"

David saw the CONTRAST!

He didn't say he wanted to be only a doorkeeper. But he did say that he could see that it was *far better* to be the lowest servant IN God's Kingdom,

than to be great OUTSIDE of God's Kingdom and continue to live in the wickedness of this world.

Do you suppose that God will allow *anyone* to receive the gift of eternal life in His Kingdom if such a person would RATHER LIVE IN THE WORLD? *Of course not!*

David could see the goal God has set before all of us. He realized *how valuable* life in God's Kingdom is compared to the hopelessness of this frustrated evil world.

Verses Two and Three of Psalm 84 show how deeply David FELT the desire to have eternal life. It was the goal that dominated his whole life—it consumed his thoughts. David was not ashamed to admit that his *innermost longing* was to be born into God's Kingdom. He had no desire to continue in this present evil world.

David was *humble!*

He was not deceived into thinking that God will grant eternal life to anyone who puts forth *minimum effort* to qualify for a *minimum responsibility*—

that of a doorkeeper. In Psalm 63:8 David says, "My soul followeth HARD AFTER thee..." He was *striving hard*—exerting maximum effort to achieve God's Kingdom. He knew, "If the *righteous scarcely be saved*, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

Because of David's *whole-hearted attitude* God promised him a place of HIGH AUTHORITY in the World Tomorrow. "And I the Eternal will be their God, and my servant David a PRINCE among them; I the Eternal have spoken it" (Ezek. 34:24.) David will be a *prince* in the Kingdom of God, not merely a *doorkeeper*!

God promises Christians today the opportunity of *rulership* in His Kingdom. In Revelation 3:11, Jesus warns: "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man *take thy crown*." A crown denotes a position of rulership! But God will not give that crown to us if we can't see the *contrast* as David did. If we are not willing to forsake this evil world and turn whole-heartedly to God—*striving with all of our energies for His Kingdom*—we may lose out on eternal life *altogether*!

"What should a Christian do when invited out to a relative's home for dinner and unclean meat is served?"

This is a problem which must be faced by virtually all of those who wish to obey God. God's Word clearly shows that we should *not* eat unclean meats (Lev. 11, Deut. 14). Meats such as pork or shrimp are simply not fit for human consumption—they are guaranteed to wreck human health, weaken the body and open the door for myriads of ailments.

Therefore, what should a Christian do when eating a meal in a friend's home? Jesus Christ declared, "Let your LIGHT so shine before men, that they may see your *good works*, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16). For a Christian to go ahead and *eat* the unclean meats would be to HIDE his light—such action would *not* be a "good work." His light would not be shining—it would be OUT!

On the other hand, we should not go to the *other extreme*. It would be

rude and very uncivil to imperiously tell the host or hostess, "Don't you know that pork is not fit for food? The Bible tells us not to eat it!" Such a statement shows a great lack of manners, wisdom, and tact! Such an approach would very likely cause offense, hurt the feelings of the host, or even stir up animosity and anger.

If a Christian has been invited out for dinner, he should let his friend (or relative) *know ahead of time* whenever possible that he does not eat certain meats. Of course, he should simply state this fact in a polite, friendly, diplomatic, "by the way," manner in order not to cause offense or give the impression of being a religious fanatic. Remember, a warning or statement in advance will save much possible embarrassment later, at the dinner table!

Once in a while, of course, a person may find himself already at a neighbor's home for dinner—with a huge pork roast sitting on the table! The crisis has come! How should *this* situation be handled?

Again, tact and wisdom are necessary. The best way to face this situation is to first of all BE VERY FRIENDLY—smiling and courteous. Then, it would often be best to sit down to the meal, converse in a normal manner, take the *clean* foods which are offered, and quietly, without ostentation or any great display *avoid* taking any of the unclean meat. Just pass it up with a friendly "Thank you, but I have found that pork is bad for my health," or "No, thank you." In many cases, that would be *all* you would need to remark.

If the host is particularly interested, and asks why you do not eat pork (or whatever unclean meat is offered), it would be all right to explain a little further—depending upon the friendliness and attitude of the host. It may be all right to explain that you have found God's Word says pork should not be eaten, and therefore you have stopped eating it. A smiling, friendly approach will help to ease any "awkwardness" or alleviate any "coldness" which could conceivably arise.

Remember to let your light SHINE! Obey God—but be friendly as you do

so! Do not compromise the Truth of God—yet, on the other hand, do *not* make a "bad" impression by being rude or offensive. Ask God for wisdom and His divine guidance in these delicate situations, and He will give it to you!

"Does Luke 14:26 really mean that we must HATE others in order to be able to love Christ—and be Christ's disciple?"

Absolutely not!

The Bible teaches honor and obedience to parents (Ex. 20:12). Ephesians 5:22-23 commands us to LOVE OUR MATES, if we are married. The Bible tells us over and over—LOVE your neighbor (Matt. 22:39).

Yet how can this apparent contradiction be explained?

Matthew 10:37 gives the *same account* in DIFFERENT WORDS. Here we find the *true meaning*! "He that loveth father or mother MORE THAN ME is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter *more than me* is not worthy of me."

Now the meaning is clear.

Christ is speaking in COMPARATIVE TERMS! He is saying that we are to love our Creator MORE than any physical thing or person.

First, we are to love God with all our heart and mind—and then to love others!

The New Testament was inspired and written in Greek. The Greek word for "hate" is *miseo* and can also be translated "*love less*." You can check this in *Strong's Concordance*, No. 3404. This is the correct rendering of the word. This scripture should be more clearly translated, "If any man come to me, and *love not less* his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple."

In Acts 5:29 we are told that, "We ought to obey God rather than men." That means if our love toward friends, family, neighbors—or *even ourselves*—contradicts God's laws—we must love HIM first.

Obedience to Him OVERSHADOWS ALL ELSE; even if this entails giving up your own family and friends—or even *your OWN* life!

Simonites Establish *UNIVERSAL* Church

Elevating his personal teachings above the Bible, and preaching a "no-works" doctrine of salvation, Simon Magus soon had a universal, popular following. Deified by the Romans, he was buried on Vatican Hill. Read how it happened in this article.

by Ernest L. Martin

SIMON Magus, just like his Samaritan forefathers, deliberately blended together the teachings of Babylon with Biblical phrases.

One of his main intentions was to appropriate a Christian vocabulary to the Babylonian ceremonial system. In other words, he kept on with his heathenism, but now called his system "Christian" in origin.

To legitimately introduce paganism into the church he had to *explain away* many passages in the Old Testament which forbade idolatry and contact with the abominations of the heathen. This he quite cleverly did. His primary method of explaining the Old Testament was to *allegorize* its teachings.

Magus Degrades the Bible

If this wasn't sufficient to explain it away, he would repudiate it as being of *less* value than the present will of God which was supposedly being revealed to him. In fact, he got to the place of doing away altogether with the Old Testament by teaching that its doctrines were meant to enslave people and that its *commandments were too grievous to bear*. "Irenaeus states that Simon taught, that the Jewish prophecies [the Old Testament] were inspired by the creator angels; therefore, those who had hope in him and Helen **NEED NOT ATTEND TO THEM, BUT FREELY DO AS THEY WOULD**; for that men should be saved according to his grace, and not by any intrinsic quality of their own, but by the accident of these being ordered by these

creator angels WHO HAD MERELY WISHED TO ENSLAVE THOSE WHO HEARD THEM" (*Dict. of Christian Biography*, vol. 4, p. 683).

How diabolical!

The *Dict. of Religion and Ethics* had this to say about this cardinal doctrine of SIMON PATER. "Simon taught that the precepts of the law and the prophets were inspired by angels [lesser beings] in the desire to reduce men to slavery, but those who believed in him and Helen, since they were delivered from the sinister tyranny of the law, *were free to act as they would*. For men are saved by grace and not by good works. The antinomianism of the Simonians issued in *LIBERTINE* conduct and *A COMPROMISE WITH HEATHENISM*" (vol. 11, p. 518).

Let's go on. "But he [Simon] promised that the world should be dissolved, and that those who were his own should be redeemed. And accordingly, *HIS PRIESTS*, Irenaeus tells us [yes, Simon established a priesthood], led lascivious lives, used magic and incantations, made philtres, *HAD FAMILIAR SPIRITS* by whose aid they were able to trouble with dreams those whom they would. *They had IMAGES of Simon and Helen, in the forms respectively of JUPITER and MINERVA*" (*Dict. of Christian Biography*, vol. 4, p. 683).

Simon Honored as Jupiter

People who had demonistic powers as Simon were honoured as gods in the first century—even sacrifices were offered to them. Does this seem unlikely?

Then read Acts 14:11-13. After seeing the great miracles that Paul and Barnabas had done through the Holy Spirit, Luke says: "When the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men. And they called Barnabas, *Jupiter*; and Paul, *Mercury*." Then the priest of Jupiter came out to offer them sacrifice.

Paul and Barnabas "rent their clothes" at such action. What would SIMON MAGUS have done? Or rather, what did Simon Magus do? He let the Roman Senate with the approval of the Emperor Claudius deify him as a god and erect a statue to him. And, the people who followed SIMON called him **JUPITER**—at the same time calling themselves Christians. The statue that must have been dedicated to Simon was in the likeness of the chief god of the pagan world—the god that desolated the Holy Place in God's temple—Jupiter Capitolinus.

The Hebrews honoured and regarded the number seven as recorded in God's law—that is, kept the seventh day, the seven holy days, etc.—but Simon and his followers made a distinct change and honoured the number eight instead (i.e. the eighth day—which becomes the first day of the week). See *Ante-Nicean Fathers*, vol. 7, p. 379.

The Death of Simon Magus

The records regarding Simon's death vary widely. Many of the stories try to incorporate some fiction from the Greek and Egyptian myths to enhance the

reader's interest in this fascinating character. But the earliest records say that he was *buried in Rome* after a long period of great honour and deification.

It is not clearly known where Simon Magus alias Simon Pater or Simon Jupiter was buried. But this much is known. The place of burial for ALL prophets and holy men of the Romans was in the *sacred cemetery on Vatican Hill*. This much is certain.

Notice what Werner Keller in his *The Bible as History* says about the so-called burial of the Catholics' Peter (Before reading Keller's statement, let us remember that he is a thoroughgoing Catholic and firmly, himself, believed that the *Apostle Peter* was buried in Rome. However, the Bible shows nothing of the kind. Now, let's read Keller's comment—the official comment of the Roman Catholic Church):

"On the night of his death on the cross Peter's followers *BURIED* his body. As in the case of Jesus on the hill of Calvary it was wrapped in linen and secretly taken to a PAGAN BURIAL-GROUND on the Via Cornelia, behind the stone structure of the arena. This PAGAN CEMETERY lay on a knoll called VATICANUS: the Latin word 'vatis' means a 'prophet' or 'SOOTHSAYER'. In days gone by there had been an Etruscan oracle on this spot" (p. 368).

What an admission!

Keller ought to have better sense to know that *this Peter buried in this cemetery, of all places, could NOT be the Apostle Peter*. In the first place, Peter was a Jew, and they had to be buried in their own cemeteries. And even if by a happen-chance a Jew could be buried in a Roman cemetery, it is most unlikely that a Jew—especially one who attacked the Roman religion as the *Apostle Peter* did—would ever have been allowed into *the most holy of pagan cemeteries!* This cemetery was reserved for prophets, soothsayers and the great ones of pagan Rome. It would be as sensible to say that Hitler could find a place of burial in Westminster Abbey. And too, can you imagine TRUE Christians searching out a PAGAN CEMETERY—the *chief one*—in which to bury the *chief Christian Apostle, the inveterate enemy of PAGANISM?*

This place, of all places, could not be the place of the *Apostle Peter's* burial—even if he had been in Rome. But, there is really no better place for the burial of SIMON MAGUS. He had been, and was being, honoured as a god—not only by the people of Rome, but even by the Emperor and the Senate.

Yes, Keller and his Catholic friends have undoubtedly found a SIMON, but not the *Apostle Peter*.

Catholic Church Accepts SIMON MAGUS' Teachings

We have the record of history which tells us that Simon's teaching spread like wildfire—especially in Rome where he was honoured as a god. In fact, after going there he made that city his headquarters. But let us recall that the followers of Simon *called themselves* TRUE Christians.

Simon steadfastly adhered to this. In fact, it finally became the desired name for his followers to use. The names Simonians and Samaritans began to die out in the 2nd century A.D. Justin tells us that some were still going by the parent name in his day (152 A.D.). But by the time of Origen (220 A.D.), he states that there were hardly 30 people in the world which went by the parent name. Yet Eusebius, who lived about 100 years later, said they were indeed still numerous *all over the world*.

The fact is, they were divorcing themselves from the use of the name SIMON or Samaritans because by the 4th century their names were beginning to have an odious connotation to them. Nonetheless the Simonians were very much around—this time with the *name* of "Christian." And we have the exact testimony of Eusebius himself (325 A.D.) that these people were flocking into the Catholic Church.

Notice what Eusebius says, after stating that Simon Magus in the days of the Apostles received baptism and feigned Christian belief: "And what is more surprising, the same thing is DONE EVEN TO THIS DAY by those who follow HIS most impure heresy. For they, after the manner of their forefather, SLIPPING INTO THE CHURCH, like a pestilential and leprous disease

GREATLY AFFLICT THOSE [a great number of people] into whom they are able to infuse the deadly and terrible poison concealed in themselves" (*Ecccl. Hist.*, II, ch. I, sect. 12).

This is amazing testimony, for Eusebius is telling us that these people were now "Christians" and that they were corrupting the entire church as a pestilential disease which hits the whole body. Eusebius later maintains that the chief troublemakers were being expelled from the Catholic Church. But how could they expell all of them? Almost the whole church by this time was affected.

It is not to be supposed that all of the early heretical sects were *direct* branches of the Simon Magus religion. By the end of the first century there were at least 50 minor sects. The Simon Magus group represented several of these sects, but not all of them. The truth is, the Simonians, whose headquarters were at Rome, finally *absorbed* ALL these minor sects by the fifth century.

Simonism IS Catholicism

It is also true that even some of the Catholics (in Eusebius' time) were unwilling to go all the way and accept the SIMON MAGUS doctrines of IMAGES, PICTURES, INCANTATIONS, etc., but within another hundred years, history shows the bars were let down completely.

But in Eusebius' day, he even balked at their bringing outright images into the churches and worshipping them. Notice what he finally says of these "Christians" of SIMON: "Simon was the author of all heresy. From his *time down to the present* those who have followed his heresy have FEIGNED the sober philosophy of the Christians, which is celebrated among all on account of its purity of life. *But they nevertheless have embraced again the superstitions of idols*, which they seemed [ostentatiously] to have renounced; and they fall down before pictures and images of Simon himself and of the above-mentioned Helena who was with him [that is, the images of JUPITER and MINERVA—the Catholics do exactly this today]; and they venture to worship them with incense

and sacrifices and libations" (*Ecc. Hist.*, II, 13, 6).

What clear and revealing statements!

Eusebius is not talking about what he considers distinct heretics *outside* the Catholic Church. He is talking about the MAJOR group IN THAT CHURCH which was continually adding more and more on a large scale. He attributes these evils to the "Christians" who followed SIMON MAGUS. They were so active in his day INSIDE THE CHURCH as to give him grave concern.

But what happened?

Did the few Catholic leaders of the 4th century who abhorred outright IDOLATRY manage to persuade the masses to give it up and turn away from the SIMONIANS (now called Christians) who were the cause of it all?

The answer from history is NO!

The Simonian "Christians" won out. Imagery, idolatry and paganism became the Universal Church *just as planned* in the very beginning by SIMON MAGUS—or by the Devil who possessed him.

Can we now understand why God, through Luke, devotes a whole section of Acts to warn us of this man's origin. He was NEVER a part of the Church of God—NEVER!! But he, and his followers—from clear history—have succeeded in bringing in their UNIVERSAL religion—a pagan blend, called "Christian"!

French Brethren

(Continued from page 6)

Their life is harder, and their decisions often much more difficult. They *need* our prayers—constantly. They are our *brethren in Christ!*

Human nature is the same all over the world. We all have too much of it; that's why we have to ask God daily to help us *overcome* our downward pulls, to *resist* temptations whether they be our own or Satan's. Like Paul, we must cry out daily saying: "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" (Rom. 7:24.)

But like Paul, we must also know the answer: JESUS CHRIST!

Perhaps, some day you will meet these

twelve new brethren somewhere in the wilderness where the Church will be taken for three and one-half years prior to Christ's second coming. Perhaps some day you will meet this factory worker, the father of nine children, who was ready and willing to *give up all he had* to OBEY GOD. Perhaps you will even shake hands with him and the other brethren, and say: "Yes, some time ago, I read about you in *The GOOD NEWS*. I have prayed for you! . . ."

Next month Mr. Apartian will tell of his and Mr. McCullough's experiences in the West Indies—EDITOR.

Readers Say . . .

(Continued from page 2)

being done. Congratulations on a job well done!"

Mr. and Mrs. Al J., California

Good Lesson in Faith

"We had never paid tithes to anyone before, but after hearing you speak we finally sent in our first tithe. It wasn't much, but it was what we had on hand at the time. We are hay haulers, which is strictly seasonal. We have always managed to get along. The very next day a brand new battery burnt up in our car. We had two flat tires. A few days later a good friend turned against us. Then our truck blew its piston connecting rod and inserts. Our helper quit. The Mrs. had to drive, leaving our four children to fend for themselves. Our new helper got hurt and had to quit. I had always heard you get paid 10-fold for what you do. We sent you \$15, and delays and repairs came to (you guessed it) \$150. We were feeling pretty sorry for ourselves when I read the book of Job. Who are we to gripe? The truck is running again, so look for our check once again. I pray that this time it will be accepted by the Almighty as a free and wonderful tithe and not an obligation."

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil W. D., California

"Through your magazine, I feel positive when I say I have found

what I could not find during my ministry in the Methodist church of South Africa. This is a personal testimony Mr. Armstrong. I am an African, 27 years of age, and served in the Methodist Church as a minister from 1958 to 1962."

J.B.D.M. from Bechuanaland

• *God is changing lives in far-away places!*

"Long before I was a baptized member of the Church of God I decided to send small offerings to Mr. Armstrong. Immediately after I started I received an increase in salary. Still continuing to send offerings about 8 months later I received another raise. Then Mr. Waterhouse came to South Africa and we started attending Sabbath services. I now started to give tithes. This was December last year, and I was very surprised to receive another increase for the month of June, the third increase since I started giving money to God's work. I may add that the firm I am working for is not famous for giving increases in salary. I now know it pays to obey the instructions of Almighty God."

J.E.S. (Member), Transvaal, Republic of South Africa

• *Tithing pays in Africa too.*

Simon Magus Recognized

"Your article, 'Where did the Twelve Apostles Go' by Herman L. Hoeh, is unearthing just those galaxies 'we' Catholics were not allowed to tamper with. This truth has been laid hidden since man began to be enslaved by masquerading so-called 'Christian Religions.' Indeed Simon Peter, the True Apostle and the other Simon Peter, 'the Magus,' chief of the pagan Babylonian Samaritan mysteries, conflict in men's minds and this alone may take centuries to be realized and accepted by those who have been duped by Catholicism. My interest having been captured by this article, which has been a tremendous blow to imported religious bigots here, I wish to prove more dexterous by having with me the booklet, 'United States and British Commonwealth in Proph-

ecy,' sent to me immediately. 'This article has cost me my breakfast.'

Man from West Cameroon

Tithing Problem

"Since I stopped my last tithe going to you I found a lot of trouble in making ends meet. I found my money did not go as far as when I paid God His tenth part out of it first. I am beginning to see that it pays to tithe to God no matter what your trials are. So I am going to take God as my partner from now onwards and tithe to Him."

George H. H., Irish Republic

Young English Tither

"I enclose a crossed postal order for 13/6.d which is my tithe. As I have told you before, I am only 15 and do not get a lot of money, but tithe my pocket-money. As the amount is only a shilling or less each week, it is not worth sending a weekly postal order so I wait until the money has mounted up to a sum worth sending. It is not much but I am sure that it helps your organization."

M. K. R., Essex, England

Some Comment from Canada

"I read in the last (June) GOOD NEWS that some members don't welcome the visiting program. It would really be wonderful to have someone come for a visit. I'd have a lot of questions, as I'm so alone here."

Woman, Parkhill, Ontario

"We were very glad to be able to attend the Bible Study in Saskatoon. We hope that there will be more in the near future. It's wonderful to know the truth, but we yearn for fellowship with other Church members." Couple, Nut Mountain, Saskatchewan

"We have just had the privilege of attending the first Sabbath service in the Toronto area, conducted by Mr. Raymond C. Cole. We are indeed blessed to be getting a Church here in August, even though we will have to drive 150 miles each Sabbath to attend."

Members from Bath, Ontario

"Blessings upon blessings! A Sabbath service was held by Mr. Cole at Norland, Ontario two weeks ago. Last Sabbath he held a small service and chose those who are to be charged with various responsibilities. On August 22, 1964 Mr. Cole and Mr. Antion will officially commence weekly services! We are 'all organized and raring to go!'"

Member from Kingston, Ontario

"My brother and I have saved up some money by selling calves we raised. We would like to put it to work in the Church. My brother is eight years old and I am ten. We were going to use it for our education after we get out of high school, but we want to loan it to the Church till we need it."

Member's sons, Battleford,
Saskatchewan

"We would like to write a few words to let you know how much we enjoy to go to the Bible Study in Saskatoon July 5. Certainly it was a real blessing to us to be with God's ministers. We really enjoy to meet them in North Battleford. We still feel overjoyed happy to meet many brethren for the first time, it really give us a real love to each and every one. Many eye opening lessons we learned that we didn't know before. The words from our own lips cannot express the thankfulness we have towards our Creator. I myself enjoy my health now that God grant me through the prayer of faith from his minister (Mr. Wilson) which layed his hands on me July 4th for arthritis. I thank God for it. I stand firmly in James 5:14, 15. We can only pray and hope we have another Bible Study in the nearest future."

Lady from Mullingar, Saskatchewan

"Probably by now Mr. Wilson and Mr. Miller are back at their regular duties in Vancouver, B. C. However, at this time I want to express the great joy and pleasure of being able to meet with other members of God's Church, at Moonomin, Sask. for Bible Study, and to counsel with God's

ministers. Something I have been looking and hoping for for some eleven years. This is just beginning, I pray that God will soon establish so that we may have regular Sabbath services in this area. I hope to meet many more at the fall Feast."

Man from Oakshela, Saskatchewan

Good Witness

"The past 2 years I taught in a school where a family of your followers were in my district. They were a very fine family and we worked together as a parents-teacher team for the good of the children. The children were the best-mannered and showed the highest respect for their teacher of any children in my room. The family of whom I speak live their religion and I was blessed to have them for friends."

Mrs. Virginia I. K., Kansas

Healing

"We also would like to tell you of the most miraculous disappearance of a growth of some sort that my wife had on her wrist. It was about an inch in height and had taken around a year coming to this size. A neighbor of ours had one like it that had taken quite an operation to remove. Around two weeks after receiving the anointed cloth, it is almost completely gone. It is certainly an experience to watch such an ugly growth just simply disappear."

Members from Falkland, B.C.

Children Tithe

"\$1.88 of the enclosed tithes are tithes that our 3 sons, ages 8, 7, 6 saved out of their allowances. This tithing on their part was their own idea, and I must say they are most generous as they sometimes set aside for God's work anywhere up to 40 per cent of their allowances. Would it be at all possible for you to send them some sort of personal acknowledgment?"

Mr. and Mrs. N. E., Minnesota

• *Be sure you are teaching YOUR children this vital and practical law.*
(Please continue on page 22)

Why Watch *WORLD EVENTS*?

Are you aware of how the changing scene of world events concerns YOUR future?

by William F. Dankenbring

WE LIVE in horrifyingly paradoxical times! Under the threatening shadow of the mushroom cloud, thousands of people lose their sanity—while other thousands serenely ignore the threat and go about their everyday business, unconcerned about world events.

It has almost become a cliché to say that we live in a world walking a tight-rope on the brink of nuclear annihilation. Great juggernaut atomic powers are poised at each other's throats, bristling with atomic and hydrogen weapons, *and yet*—never have people been so crazed for entertainment, for pleasure—never has the sporting goods business enjoyed such booming demands! Never have people been so UNCONCERNED!

It doesn't make sense! *It is a PARADOX!*

What Is Your Attitude?

Does it really matter? What should our attitude be toward critical world events? Why should we, God's people, be concerned about them?

How do YOU react when you hear the latest news bulletins?

Are you watching world events, keeping abreast of world affairs?

Brethren, it is time many of us snapped out of the complacent rut into which we have allowed ourselves to drift! Now is *not* the time for sleepy and drowsy living! GOD is going to hold us RESPONSIBLE for knowing what is occurring in the world.

The reason most people pay no attention to world affairs is because they feel it does not concern them. They think the world is going on as usual and everything is normal. If wars flare up, politicians are paid to handle such matters—it is *their* business!

People ignore the world situation, also, because they feel so utterly un-

able to cope with the problems. The reason that they could not do anything to change matters anyway!—that prophecy is going to march on regardless of whether they watch or not!

Is *your* attitude like that?

If it is, then *you* are not facing reality and you will NOT qualify to escape the day of doom prophesied in God's Word!

World Events DO Concern YOU!

God says, "*WATCH!*" Understanding how important it is for God's people to be on the alert and vigilant, Jesus Christ declared, "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted *worthy to escape* all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:36).

Those words were spoken to the disciples—but they were spoken for the benefit of ALL GOD'S PEOPLE! They apply to each individual among us today! Jesus warned, "*WATCH ye therefore*: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrow, or in the morning: lest coming suddenly he find you SLEEPING. And what I say unto you *I say unto all, WATCH!*" (Mark 13:35-37).

Unless we of God's Church are zealously watching—and praying—we will not be ready when Christ returns! Unless we are keenly watching the prophecies of God's Word coming to pass, with each drought, each earthquake, each disease epidemic, each outburst of warfare, in some remote part of the globe—unless we are seeing and NOTICING these signs of Jesus' second coming and are taking warning from them, the rush of events will take us by surprise and some day, *too late*, we may wake up *stunned* to find that we

MISSED OUT because we were sleeping!

A Warning to True Christians

Jesus explained in the Mount Olivet prophecy, "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, AND KNEW NOT until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. . . WATCH therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. . . *Therefore be ye also READY*: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh" (Matt. 24:37-44).

When the Flood came on the world, humanity was caught fast asleep. And so it is today! People are oblivious to the frightening, dizzying portents of our times! They ignore the world threat, becoming wrapped up in their own little lives, and plunge onward toward destruction!

Today, scientific marvels are taken for granted. The automobile, the steam engine, the airplane, when first invented, caused people to shudder and proclaim the "end of the world." But today we have become *calloused* to such things. NOTHING could make us turn our heads or blink with wonder! Everything—rockets, missiles, Mach 3 supersonic bombers, nuclear explosions, space satellites, laser rays, poisonous gases and toxic chemicals—*everything* is taken in stride, without so much as bated breath! The reality of the arms race is cast aside, ignored and relegated to the limbo of forgotten things. *Our age might aptly be designated the "AGE OF APATHY!"*

But, although the world at large is sleeping during these nightmarish

times, brethren, WE *in God's Church* HAVE NO EXCUSE! *We have been WARNED!* Jesus declared in Mark 13, "Take heed lest any man deceive you" (Verse 5); "But take heed to yourselves" (Verse 9); "But take ye HEED: behold, I have foretold you all things" (Verse 23); "Take ye heed, WATCH AND PRAY: for ye know not when the time is" (Verse 33).

Do you take that warning seriously?

The Apostle Paul also warned, speaking of our day today, "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as TRAVAIL upon a woman with child; and they shall NOT escape. *But ye, brethren,* are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not SLEEP, as do others; but let us WATCH and be SOBER" (I Thess. 5: 3-6). Yes, that is a warning for our day, today!

Prophesied to Happen

When nations cry, "Peace, Peace," when the world proclaims, "Peace is here," "Peace in our time," and similar slogans, when statesmen shout the glad tidings of disarmament, unity, non-aggression—*then will be the time of GREATEST PERIL* in the history of this planet! Then will be the hour of maximum DANGER! *Then* is when "sudden destruction" will strike, quickly, craftily, cunningly, powerfully—*overwhelmingly!* THEN is the moment WORLD WAR III will erupt in frenzied chaos and madness!

God's Word prophesies it! For years God's ministers have shouted the warning about these things! But can your mind conceive of what it will really be like?

When the newspapers banner-line, "PEACE," the ominous clouds of World War III will be scudding across the horizon and preparing for the deluge. Guided missiles will hurtle out of the heavens and plummet toward America's heart! Rockets armed with H-bombs will flash out of the sky! Bomb-laden supersonic bombers will streak in at treetop level to deposit their loads on unsuspecting cities! Blinding flashes

will occur simultaneously on America's greatest cities—New York, Seattle, San Francisco, Dallas, Kansas City—perhaps your home town!

An Unprecedented Time

Think of it!

In the wake of the blitz, America's leading cities will suddenly be left incinerated relics—twisted mounds of indecipherable ruins, charred rubble and ashes. Gaping craters will yawn where once renowned cities stood. Huge, miles-high fire storms will race through the hulks of have-been cities, whipping up winds of hurricane velocity, destroying everything within their vicinity.

Such a scene will simply defy description!

America—and Great Britain and Canada—will be left in a shambles. Can your mind's eye see it?

Unimaginable!

But these things are going to happen!

Awe-struck, shell-shocked Americans—the few who will survive the attack—will wander aimlessly, groping for relief and searching for shelter, but finding only suffering, agony and heartache. The maimed, the blinded—people staring out of blackened faces with vacant expressionless eyes—crippled, gaunt and haggard refugees—they will have been shocked into complete insensibility!

Stunned! Bewildered! Uncomprehending masses of humanity—with smashed homes, pulverized cities—some of these will be people you have known!

Such a scene sounds incredible, but it is PROPHESED!

Then—after the holocaust has struck—the aftermath will produce disease, STARVATION, radiation-poisoning and death!

Huge, deadly clouds of lethal radioactive sodium and cobalt will sweep across the nation. Even those people who escape physical injury will find they cannot escape radiation sickness and fall-out!

And millions more will die a lingering death.

Everywhere the eye falls the gaze will be greeted by—the bleakness of

desolation... lifeless ruins... a barren landscape!

It Is Real

Brethren, such a scene will be REALITY in the not-too-distant future. It is not a macabre story of gruesome make-believe. *It is going to happen!*—in your very lifetime!

Can you begin to see the urgency of WATCHING WORLD EVENTS, and praying diligently? Can you see the need to be alert, vigilant and on top of world news?

Are you heeding Jesus' warning? Are you observing prophecy being fulfilled daily around the world? Are you keeping abreast of the revival of Europe and the growth of the Common Market? Are you aware of the continuing toboggan slide of the morals in modern-day Israel—juvenile delinquency, premarital sex, rising crime rate, murder, divorce, scandal, rape, riot!

Are YOU Concerned?

Some will read this article, and will sink right back into the rut they were in before reading it! Brethren, some of you will nod in agreement—think "Well, that's interesting"—and then promptly fall back into the normal routine of your personal lives.

Don't let that happen to YOU!

Can you begin to see HOW tremendously important the onward march of world events is, to you?

Your spiritual GROWTH is at stake!

Many of God's own people, TODAY, in the midst of this pulsating, gyrating age, are becoming increasingly LETHARGIC, lazy, and oblivious to world happenings! Many brethren are lagging in spiritual growth and flagging in zeal for God's Work!

Why?

Because they are UNAWARE of the overwhelming importance of world affairs to their personal lives!

Not fully grasping the urgency of the world situation—ignoring the tempo of our times—being totally preoccupied with their own petty lives and being wrapped up in their day-to-day routine, some of God's people—PERHAPS, YOU!—are going the way of all flesh—strolling arm in arm with the vast majority of people today who "don't

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give a hang" about the world situation or prophecy being fulfilled! And because of this sleepy, apathy-filled attitude, some of *you* are going to BE *SWEPT straight into the horror of the Great Tribulation which is so soon coming!*

Such a thought should appall you—and should slap across your face with stunning, smarting forcefulness! Such a thought should *WAKE YOU UP* and instill real drive, motivation, and zeal within you. It should make you *CRY OUT* to God to inspire you, fill you with an awareness of the *URGENCY* of our times. You need more of God's Holy Spirit so you can *prepare* for Christ's coming, overcome your carnal human nature and be accounted worthy to *ESCAPE* the prophesied time of travail!

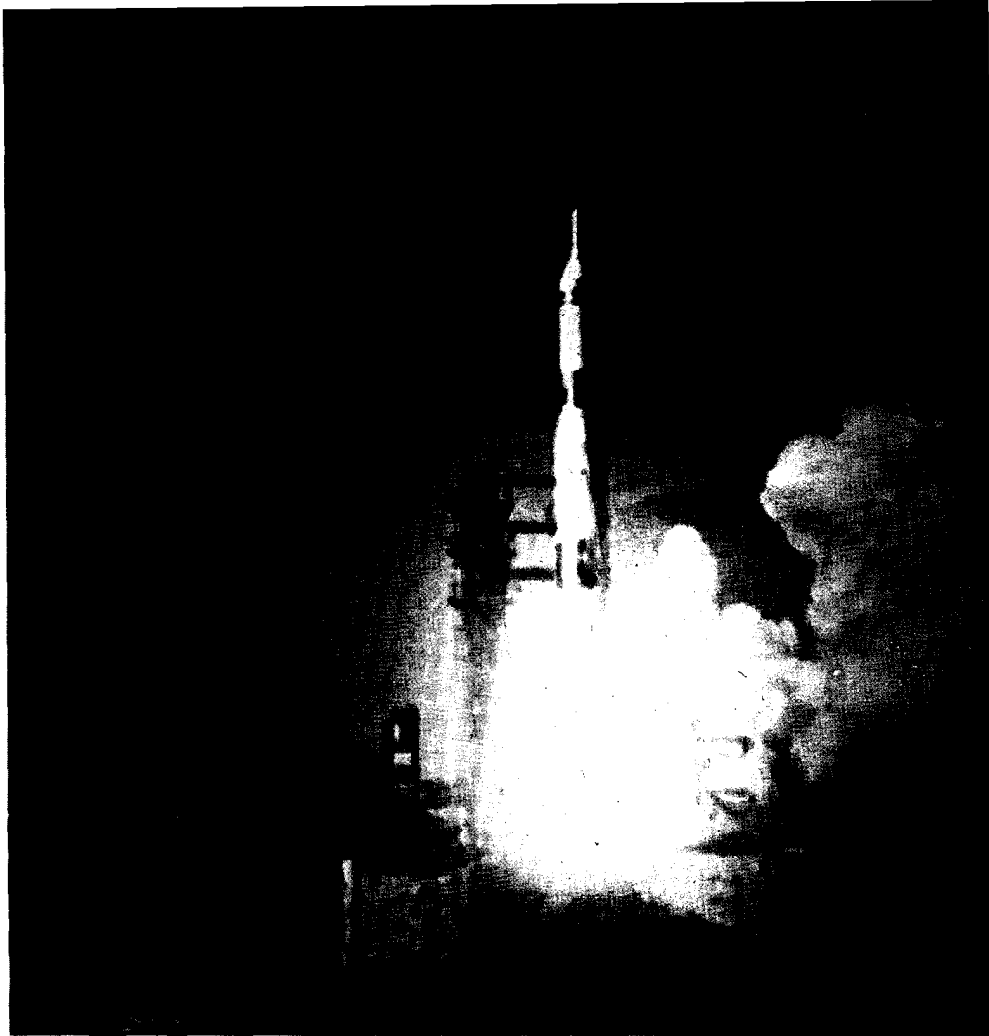
Watching world events is vitally important. If a person is ignorant of what is going on around him, how can he be *SPURRED* into action? What can *convince* him that he must drive, push, and put a prod upon himself? The truth is, such a person's horizon is *limited to himself*, his daily routine, his immediate surroundings, and the seemingly "permanent present"—he is *SELFISH!* *Nothing* can snap him out of his humdrum lethargy—except the stinging severity of the Tribulation itself!

You CAN Change!

Do YOU see the *BIG PICTURE*? Do you comprehend the *need* of watching world affairs and observing *PROPHECY* being fulfilled? Can you look into the future a few years from now, visualize what is *GOING TO HAPPEN*, *RIGHT HERE*, and *begin to change YOUR life*?

Watching prophecy being fulfilled will put more vitality and meaning into your prayers for God's Work. Seeing this present world tottering on the brink of destruction will add significance to your Bible study. Observing the onward rush of prophecy will cause you to *fear* to slack up in prayer, Bible study, striving to overcome your personal faults and idiosyncrasies.

Jesus Christ—our coming King and Saviour—declared, "Let the fig tree teach you a parable. As soon as its branches turn soft and put out leaves,



Wolfe Photo

This symbol of man's modern achievements should remind us every time we see it, of how desperately close we are to the fulfillment of the frightening prophecies of Matthew 24!

you know summer is at hand; so, whenever you *SEE all this happen*, you may be *SURE* that He is at hand, *AT THE VERY DOOR!* (Matt. 24:32-33, Moffatt Translation).

NOW is the time to PREPARE! Not tomorrow, not when you *feel* more like it, but *TODAY!*

Not Too Late

Now is the time to *draw closer to GOD* and *study your Bible* as you never have before! Now is the time to be a zealous servant of Jesus Christ *PREPARING* for your Lord's coming. Now is the time to put your heart and soul and every effort into the final *COMMISSION* Christ gave His Body, His Church—the commission of thundering the good news of the Kingdom of God as a warning and as a *witness* to the hell-bent nations upon the earth!

This world is headed for *COSMOCIDE!* It is already too late to turn back the clock or try to halt the maddening rush toward national oblivion!

But it is *not too late* for YOU to

beware of the lethargic, complacent attitude which grips the world—the ostrich-like attitude of most people—and to *begin WATCHING world events* so that you can be accounted worthy to escape these calamities! It is not yet too late for *you*, if you realize the *URGENCY* of the situation!

The Apostle Paul warned, "Knowing the time, that now *it is high time to AWAKE OUT OF SLEEP*: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light" (Rom. 13:11-12).

Now it is HIGH TIME! It is not possible to take these warnings too earnestly! We in God's Church *need* to keep abreast of current world events. Prophecy is rapidly being fulfilled throughout the world!

Are YOU watching world events?

Remember—lest YOU be suddenly ensnared in the evil day, Jesus Christ *commanded*, "WATCH!"

WHEN to be Anointed—

(Continued from page 10)

your sins, to *cleanse* you and make you *whole* and *well* and *strong* so that you can serve Him with that strength and health.

Or you might wake up in the morning with a headache that would bother you, but that may go away as soon as you eat breakfast, or exercise a little in the work you do. This could not be construed as being "sick." However, if that headache persisted to the extent that it impaired your ability to do the job you've been given to do—to the extent where it distracted you and perhaps *endangered* you or others if your job requires you to be physically alert—then you are *sick* and should be anointed!

Understand Responsibility

But what if you should ask to be anointed after having considered these points and the minister were to *refuse*?

This situation of calling on the elders to be anointed presents an excellent example of how we can understand authority and responsibility in God's Church. The first responsibility is **YOURS!** You must seriously stop and consider what you are asking God for, realizing at the same time that if you *really are sick* you **MUST ASK**—it is *your* responsibility to decide *when* to ask. As soon as you have performed this responsibility it becomes the responsibility of the elder whom you have asked.

Realizing more fully than you do the awesome responsibility of applying the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the elder must now make his decision based on the knowledge that you bring to him about the physical situation, and his knowledge of God's Word. *It is no longer YOUR responsibility.* Since he is God's representative and serves you in the name of Jesus Christ, you should not consider it a rebuke or in any way be offended, if an elder refuses to anoint you or your child. In all probability, unless there are unusual, extenuating circumstances—he will *explain* to you *why* he is not anointing you.

It would be good to mention here an express command from Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong that all of us elders have received regarding the anointing of children. In anointing, as you know, the minister must lay his hands on the head of the individual. Little children are not used to this—and their first reaction is to rebel! You should make it your duty as a parent to explain this to your child even before he becomes sick—to get him used to having hands on his head—to teach him ultimate respect for his elders in general and the ministry in particular. Mr. Armstrong's instruction to us was that we are to refuse to anoint a rebellious and unruly child. That we are to request the parent to bring the child under control so that all things can be done decently and in order—especially with such a *serious* request before the very throne of God in heaven!

Finally, when the elder in prayer, in the name of Jesus Christ, calls on God the Father in heaven and by the anointing with oil as a symbol of God's

Holy Spirit, it becomes God's responsibility! The elder, laying his hands upon the head of the individual to set him apart, puts the responsibility for your healing in God's very hands! Now it is up to Him to decide *whether* He will apply the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. It is up to Him to decide *when* He will apply that sacrifice—and *how!*

You just be sure that *you* perform *your* responsibility! The elder *will* perform his responsibility and God *will* perform His!

Ask in Faith

When you have applied the principles in this article you will be able to have absolute faith—the faith of Jesus Christ—that you **WILL BE HEALED!**

When you *do* call on God for that sacrifice of His Son's broken body—and when that sacrifice is applied, and you are healed—be *sure* that you **USE** that health and strength that you get by a divine miracle from a Merciful and Loving God, **TO SERVE HIM AND HIM ONLY!**

What Our Readers Say . . .

(Continued from page 18)

Appreciates Church

"Last Sabbath I attended my first true Christian service in my life. After a half year of waiting I was informed of a Church in New York where true Christians assemble. It was an experience that is indescribable. I felt like I were listening to the original apostles delivering a sermon. I was trembling when I heard about this Church over the phone from Mr. Turner."

Steven M., New York

A Real Light

"People where I work poke fun at a fellow worker and call him a Jew. His good-natured acceptance of their taunts started me wondering and questioning him as to his belief. When he learned that I was more than just idly interested he began to talk and gave me some of your booklets. He is a Member of your Church and the first to admit that he has a lot to learn. He is living his life the way you are teaching it should be lived. I give him the

credit for getting me interested in the Bible. My family is involved here also. I do not even know how to pray, but I will learn."

Thomas H., Texas

• *Could the same be said of YOU?*

Wants Information on Healing

"A man was telling me his wife was under the care of a doctor and they did not think she would live. He said she wrote to you for prayer and now she is healed. She is doing all her housework and washing. I have ulcers and my daughter has been to nine doctors. I do not think they know what is the matter with her. I would like some information on healing."

Mrs. R., West Virginia

• *Here's another reason every dollar counts in getting God's Truth to this Truth-starved world.*

Sends in Savings

"I write this letter hoping that you

will not find it amusing. When I finish this letter I'm going to the bank and withdraw my entire savings. I know of the great need for the work that is done at Ambassador College. My money can do nothing by itself, but it takes rain by drops to fill a bucket. I'm not going to say, when I first heard the program, I was impressed because I wasn't. I listened out of curiosity to hear, as I put it, 'What know-it-all Garner Ted Armstrong has to say.' A few times I even got angry at what he said because it wasn't the way I had heard it all my life. Then I began to pray to God that He would direct me in the right way. And now you know the way that God directed me. That is why I send all I have, hoping that someone, somewhere may get a chance to hear the program, and that God may open their minds to understand."

Mrs. A., (Co-worker) New York

• *If you have nothing to send to help when the next Co-worker letter comes, remember to PRAY FERVENTLY that God will cause others like this woman to send in what THEY have.*

The Blind SEE

"Could you send me your next 4 lessons all at the same time? I could then study them and inform you when I am ready for the next test. I am blind (6 per cent vision) and use powerful telescopic lenses in order to read. Even then I often require the additional help of a magnifying glass to read the smaller print. I have no iris or lenses in my eyes and have had several major eye operations. Nevertheless, I look up all the scriptures and write them out as you request the students to do. I average 2 to 3 hours daily on your course, but naturally cannot cover as much ground as a well-sighted person. My wife and her family are quite antagonistic to my interest in your work, but now I am free to study your course and feel that one lesson every month or two is too slow progress. I would much rather set my own pace and sincerely hope that you will consider my request."

Marly S., Canada

• *Don't let it be said of the rest of us that we don't have time to do all*

the reading required to keep up with God's Work!

Happy Over New Church

"I want to tell you how thrilled I am over the new church soon to open in Asheville. I was baptized last Pentecost. I have been attending the Greensboro church. It is over 200 miles and with 3 small children all under 4 it was really an ordeal getting there. Although I wanted to hear the sermons very much, I spent most of my time quieting the children. They were always tired and cranky by the time we traveled such a long distance. So you can imagine what a blessing it is to me for I only live about 20 miles from Asheville. God has really lightened my load."

Mrs. D., North Carolina

• *Keep that first love—it's a refreshing and wonderful gift that brings eternal reward.*

Ambassador Light

"Monday evening, 1 June, I was returning from 'Exercise Desert Strike,' conducted on the Mojave Desert. I have been a subscriber of *The PLAIN TRUTH* for some time, and I tithe one-tenth of my monthly paycheck to the work of the Radio Church of God. Finding I had a few hours in Los Angeles before my scheduled flight to Kansas City, I decided to visit Ambassador College and see exactly where the tithes and offerings were being utilized. I must say that I was very impressed. I noticed the administration building, so I walked to the door finding that it was closed. A Janitor was busy cleaning, immediately he noticed my inquisitive stare, stopped his work, unlocked the door and asked if there was anything he could do for me. In most places of business an individual is snobbed after working hours, and an attitude of disinterest is displayed. I can say I was honestly amazed with the friendliness and the cordialness displayed. I also purchased 'The ENVOY,' which I found to be an extremely interesting publication. Many of my friends have looked at my copy of 'The ENVOY' and they too, have given the highest and most favorable compliments

that any school could hope to receive. Ambassador College has imprinted a most favorable impression upon the minds of a few and this includes myself."

Charles A., Kansas

• *If you ever come by the College—be sure to ask for a tour. And if you can't come by, be SURE to get your personal ENVOY.*

Too Many Blessings

"Help! Please send me a booklet on how to stand up under God's torrential downpour of blessings. Here we are in our third tithe year. We have moved 100 miles closer to Church, have sold our older home, now live in a beautiful newer home, have a good newer model car, a good, steady (with all Holy Days off) job and am about ready to drown in all the blessings, and opportunities. We aren't even half way through our third tithe year yet. What can happen next?"

Gene W., California

An Interesting Meeting

"Yesterday I met with Mr. Joseph standing in the junction of three roads, waiting for transportation. He had a paper in his hand and was reading. I can remember of meeting him many times around this area, but never had a conversation before. So I introduced myself to him and I asked him if he is having a study. He replied, 'No, not a study, but a reading of a selection of world news from Ambassador College News Bureau in America.' He also introduced me to one of your magazines and he spoke very highly about it. I asked him the price and he told me it is *free*. I was so surprised. Then a truck came with a load of bananas and our conversation was interrupted. I will be very thankful to receive this magazine."

Mr. H., British West Indies

• *Mr. Leo Joseph is our Representative in St. Lucia, B.W.I.*

Learns Tithing Lesson

"About a year ago I started to tithe regularly for the first time to God, through your broadcasts. Previous to this I had been in business for myself,

but this was a financial failure. It kept getting worse each year. Finally I was forced to try to sell. I couldn't even sell, not even at a great loss. Finally after having abandoned my property for almost two years, I started to tithe as a result of reading your article on tithing. Almost immediately my living conditions began to change. Even my family life greatly improved as a result of listening to your son's broadcasts and reading many of your articles. To make a long story short, I finally ended up with buyers wanting my property, and was able to sell at a good price. I know this was a direct result of my tithing, small as it was. I am enclosing my tithe of this sale, and am sure that it will be used wisely in this Work of God."

Man from Canada

God's Church Grows—Everywhere

"I am so happy and very thankful for God's graces in making possible my Baptism last May 20, 1964 in Cebu City. It was conducted by your representative Mr. Pedro S. Ortiguero. I cannot describe my joy when I met for the first time personally an elder from God's TRUE CHURCH. I was doubly happy and thankful for my wife's decision in her repentance and belief and joining me in water baptism.

"Incidentally, I am deeply grateful that God has healed my son, Marvin, from a serious illness, dysentery, thru your prayers and the anointed cloth that you have sent us. My son is well now, and without any help from a human doctor! I have truly witnessed God's way of healing. God surely moves in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform."

Mr. J. L. B., Philippines

Member Shocked

"In reading Mr. Garner Ted's article, on The Visiting Program, in the May GOOD NEWS, I was as alarmed at the contents of his article as he had been upon reading the reports of the visiting program which prompted him to write the article. I am among the scattered brethren. I am a Negro in Georgia with approximately 500 miles between me and the church at Mobile, Alabama.

Since baptism I am visited by God's minister only yearly at the baptizing tour season by Mr. Jackson. When I see him and his assistant my door swings wide open on hinges of welcome! The visits are so rare and special and pass so rapidly I never get the chance to delve into half my problems! God speed the day when this thing reverses from those 'window-peepers' to those who are praying daily for God's servants' visits at a more frequent pace than annual."

R. C., Georgia

Familiarity breeds contempt—we all need to repent whenever we take for granted the blessings God makes available to us through the Bible studies, Sabbath services and visiting programs.

Answered Prayer

"On the way home from Springfield last Sabbath, we discussed our chance of being able to attend the Fall Festival at Big Sandy in September, and my husband remarked 'This year it will certainly require a miracle.' We took the problem to God. Monday we received a check for \$159.82—the balance due on the farm we sold at a loss in 1958. No one can ever tell me God doesn't hear and answer prayers! We are delighted to send the enclosed check as a special 'Thank you' gift for His Work."

Mrs. C. U., Missouri

"The big trouble is that there just aren't enough hours in the day for all the things I am trying to do. I am operating a house trailer sales lot in this city, presently without a salesman since it is so hard to find an honest conscientious one, secondly we bought a half section ranch in the country so that we could live a natural healthy life, grow our own foods and meat as much as possible, drink good clean pure water and breathe pure air that isn't all fouled up with poisonous impurities. Coupled with this we have a fine healthy family of nine children that take a lot of time for love, instruction and discipline. My wife and I are so grateful for the endless blessings we have received that you might say we walk in gratitude and fear that we might offend our Father who has

blessed us far beyond our deserving. Actually it was a realization of this tremendous debt that I owe the Lord for continuous blessings, despite a sinful life, that made me change my way of living and thinking. When I look back to my childhood, my parents, good neighbors, always enough of the basic requirements despite my wastrel ways, then a fine little wife and as the years went by, nine wonderful children, and still no punishments from the Lord, how can one feel anything but love and gratitude and eternal indebtedness?

"Our children have all been nursed, loved, and spanked when necessary, taught to really understand why we are here and what we can go on to if we will fear and love God and keep His commandments. My wife has always given the children an education from the Bible as soon as they were able to listen to Bible stories. We know now that what we learned as children has not all been right, however realizing the truth now it is not difficult to place the truth in our children's minds. It is a wonderful reward to see our fifteen-year-old daughter fearlessly proclaiming her faith in God. There aren't too many like her these days are there?"

Man from Edmonton, Alberta

"I have a confession to make. Here it is. I have never before in my life paid tithes to any religious organization. The year that I've been receiving *The PLAIN TRUTH* I felt that I should pay tithes. I had been unemployed 7 months. Then I got a job. For just about 2 months I was so far behind that I kept saying that I'd pay tithes out of the next week's check.

"So then it happened. I got my left leg broken 2 inches above the ankle and just below the knee. The doctor says it will be 26 weeks before I can go back to work. I had one week's pay coming when the accident occurred. Here are my tithes. I think that was punishment for not paying my tithes, don't you?"

Mr. W. E. B.

• *Maybe not direct punishment—but God had certainly removed His protection!*