

The Good News

International Magazine of The Church of God



THE PLAIN TRUTH—FIRST COLOR COVER

VOLUME XIV NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY, 1965



More About Our Cover...

Our print shop men are looking at the first color cover of *The PLAIN TRUTH* ever printed—and it was done in our own shop! For a complete history of how the publishing part of God's Work began, and how we have come to the point to be able to fulfill the commission to "publish" the Gospel, read the story beginning on page 5.

Ambassador College Photo

What our READERS SAY...

Old Good News

"As my wife and I were reading through some past issues of *The GOOD NEWS*, we read the article written by Mr. J. E. Portune, *The Miracle of Radio*. This is a very impressive article, as it clearly shows how the Eternal God is fulfilling Biblical prophecy. Also, it adds further proof of the Bible. After reading through the story of radio, I studied the pictures and graph. Then the word 'radio' seemed to stand out to me. The thought that the very word radio somehow contained a message in itself flashed into my mind. Then as clearly as if it had been written on paper, I could see that it could very well proclaim this message, 'REJOICE! A Door Is Open!' When I think of these many prophecies being fulfilled before our eyes, it thrills me to know that the Eternal has seen fit to include us in His endtime work."

Gabe A., Missouri

Comments on "God Speaks Out..."

"I can't tell you how much I enjoyed *GOD SPEAKS OUT on 'The New Morality.'* I only wish I'd had it to read 17 years ago. Maybe if I had, my husband wouldn't be living with another woman today. However, I've been living according to God's commandments for over 5 years now, and my husband said this was just the last straw. He has been running around with women for 12 years. I found this out 5 years ago and was desperate.

Why does it take a tragedy to make so many of us seek God?"

Jane D.V., Maryland

"I am writing to let you know what I think of your new book, *GOD SPEAKS OUT on 'The New Morality.'* I won't use all the fancy, worn-out adjectives, I'll simply say it is the most beautiful book I've ever seen. This book must be read slowly and a little bit at a time to get the full and significant meaning. Like an excellent meal, it must be 'eaten' a little at a time and 'chewed' slowly to 'digest.' Like a good wine, it must be sipped slowly to be fully enjoyed. This book is truly a work of God."

Calford A. A., Michigan

A Good Light

"The Bible says, 'ye shall know them by their fruits,' and I have been observing a member of your church. He stands up for everything he believes in and can answer my questions without hesitation. Through him, *The WORLD TOMORROW*, your literature, and the Bible, I'm beginning to see the Truth."

David K. B., Indiana

Annual Receipt

"Could you please send us an annual receipt for the tithes and offerings? The government has checked our contributions for the past 2 years on our income tax returns. They probably are

(Please continue on page 22)

The Good News

International magazine of
THE CHURCH OF GOD
*ministering to its members
scattered abroad*

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

Do you have

FAITH in the Face of DEATH?

Does God always heal? If the faithful are anointed, are they assured of healing? What if death follows? Can you reconcile an anointing in faith and a subsequent death? HOW can you have faith in healing if you might die?

by Clint C. Zimmerman

DEATH STALKS God's congregation. Some people die after being anointed. When death strikes, consternation often runs through the Church because some don't understand that death may follow even though people are *anointed in full faith*.

God wants us to have absolute, unwavering, all-abiding faith in healing. He miraculously heals thousands of the faithful every year, so we can know He is Yahweh-Ropheka—The God That Heals! Even so, death can come! How can this be?

Has it troubled you?

God provides a reasonable, scriptural answer.

Let's investigate.

Healing in the Church

Jesus Christ healed one person after another. He intervened, and the sick and afflicted were raised up in full, vibrant health and life. He restored them and made living really worthwhile.

Jesus conferred this power on His Apostles and they continued—*after His death*—to heal in this same miraculous way. Throngs of people were raised up whole and sound because of the divine intervention of God. Those who asked in faith *were healed!*

The ministry of God has the very same power today. Thousands of hale, hearty, robust people are living witnesses to this dramatic fact. God continues to work miraculously in His

Church today just as He did centuries ago. You can have faith God will heal you!

But You May Die!

Nonetheless remember, "it is appointed unto men once to die" (Heb. 9:27). Jesus Christ died and was buried! John the Baptist had his head chopped off (Mark 6:27). He is dead! The Apostle James was killed (Acts 12:1-2). He too, is DEAD!

God could have immediately healed each one of these men—but *He didn't!*

He could have stuck the heads of John and James back on their bodies. But He didn't! John, the last of the original Apostles, eventually died—apparently of natural causes. He too is dead! *Buried!* His body is only dust today.

First God tells us He will heal all our diseases and then He says everyone must die. Is God playing a game? Can we explain this?

Certainly!

God's Way!

The fact is, God has always worked in this way. The life of one of God's greatest prophets thoroughly demonstrates this. Elisha was God-chosen and appointed to succeed to Elijah's office. He had a *double portion* of SPIRITUAL POWER. His life was crammed chock-full of an astounding series of miracles. He evidenced continually to the boundless, infinite *POWER OF GOD!*

Those miracles undeniably attested

that Yahweh is the Eternal God who heals!

Elisha had the right to use God's power. *And he did!*

He *healed* the death-laden waters of a spring (II Kings 2:19-22). Next he *curled* a mob of sneering delinquents—forty-two of them were ripped and torn by bears.

Time and again he forecast the political and military future of his own country and its enemies (II Kings 3:11-27; 6:8-23, 32-33; 7:1-8:15; 9:1-10:28; etc).

Generously, miraculously, he gave a bankrupt widow enough oil to fill every available container she could borrow—so her sons would not be sold as slaves (II Kings 4:1-7).

He fed, filled, and sated a hundred men with only a meager supply of food (II Kings 4:42-44). He made iron float (II Kings 6:1-7).

He was instrumental in Naaman's being *healed* of dreadful leprosy (II Kings 5:1-9). More than this, he *RESTORED TO LIFE* a youth already *dead!!* Elisha *knew, understood, experienced, used* the HEALING POWER of God. He had unabashed, utterly complete, out-and-out faith in God the Healer.

Yes, *CERTAINLY*, Elisha *knew that God heals!*

His faith was so overwhelming that, finally, after his own death, a man hastily cast into his sepulcher was at once *raised up*—RESURRECTED—when the dead man's body touched Elisha's decaying bones.

Nonetheless, at the end of his life,

Elisha—one of God's most powerful and faithful prophets—fell sick. And, get this now, *he died of that sickness* and was buried (II Kings 13:14, 20). God intends that every natural man finally die! But this does not mean that the faithful finally run out of faith. Neither does it mean God runs out of healing power. Positively, it does *not* mean God forgets to heal.

It *does mean* we must understand that patience is a factor in working out God's plan.

PATIENCE!

When we look back into the life of the father of the faithful, we find that Abraham had to wait 25 long, long, long years for the answer to God's promise concerning Isaac. Abraham was seventy-five years old when he was called to go into the land of promise (Gen. 12:1-4). He waited patiently—*faithfully*—for the son through whom his family would grow *great*—as numerous as the sand by the sea. But until that first son came there could be no beginning of the great nation which had been promised. That son, Isaac, wasn't born until Abraham was one hundred years old (Gen. 21:5).

During those 25 years Abraham demonstrated his faith. His faith grew and grew. It was fortified through the years. His faith was built! And finally the fruit of that faith was the beginning of the whole nation of Israel.

The patriarchs' lives are continual reminders that time is involved in the working of real faith. If we look forward into Genesis 25:20-26 we find that Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah. He prayed to God asking that his barren wife deliver a son to him but it took 20 years to get the answer—20 long, long years. You see, he was sixty years old before the twins. Esau and Jacob, were finally born.

More Historical Evidence

Shortly after Israel escaped from the land of sin God revealed Himself as the Healer (Ex. 15:26). He healed those people—of that, there is no doubt. There is no room to question this—His Word stands fast and secure and

completely explains the situation. Nonetheless, these people who had God as their Healer, *all died* in the next forty years! Joshua and Caleb lived a little longer but they also finally *died*—and they had proved their faith in Him by being willing to go up against the giants in the promised land.

We can review these historical events and readily agree that time was a necessary factor in the establishment of the faith of the patriarchs. We can also believe—even if not so easily—that it may be needful for our faith to be tried for a time so that we may be perfected. Yet, we are apt to have great difficulty in being faithful if the waiting runs off into the time of death. But be assured that the faith of God transcends even the mighty strength of death. The faith of God overcomes, conquers, nullifies death—the ghastly, haunting, enemy of all mankind. Faith gives *life* to those who are truly faithful.

God's Point of View

We must take our minds off the immediate, physical, what-we-want solution! We have to look at it from God's point of view.

Notice Lazarus' illness and death (John 11:1-45). Grasp the significance of this startling chain of events. Lazarus was so sick that his sisters feared for his life. They knew who could heal him—they had complete faith that Christ *would heal* him (John 11:21-22). But Christ did not immediately respond to their plea. He allowed Lazarus to die!

Lazarus wasn't forgotten. Rather, Christ made the astoundingly impressive point that it is the RESURRECTION which is of *paramount importance*.

Lazarus was only raised to resume his transient physical life but this gave LIVING PROOF that—even as this particular healing subdued death temporarily—it is God's purpose and plan to triumph decisively over ALL DISEASE AND DEATH (John 11:26). We must clearly realize this!

Spiritual Children

All of the things that happen during this life are for the purpose of de-

veloping sons of God—*spiritual children*. Even death enters into the Plan of God in order that it too may have its part in the perfection of God's children. So far as He is concerned, it is *the Kingdom—His family*—which is *important!* No matter the time involved, no matter the tests that ensue, no matter how lengthy the trials may be, it is the *production of living spiritual children that overshadows all other considerations*. God is building His Kingdom—His family—and expects us to keep it as our primary goal.

We need to look beyond mere physical life. Look beyond just the taking of a few more breaths. Look into the *reality of SPIRITUAL, IMMORTAL LIFE*.

Physical man simply wasn't made to live forever. We need to get this fact firmly established in our minds. God told David that an average man's life-span would be about seventy years (Ps. 90:10). God did not intend that mortal, physical man live forever. Such a concept is completely outside of God's Purpose. God does not want physical Sons—*He wants SPIRITUAL Sons!!*

A Proper Attitude

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had the kind of attitude that you and I ought to have. We should not be overcareful about sustaining our physical lives. We should not be greatly concerned about simply living a little longer. Rather, we should meet life and its problems in the attitude of overcoming so that finally we will be spirit. We should simply make up our minds that we are not going to serve any other god or worship any other being or system knowing that *if* our God wants us to live a little longer He will see to it that we do. He will deliver us from all of our trials if only we trust Him completely (Dan. 3:16-18). These three young Jewish lads knew that physical death was not the end. They had hope in the resurrection which was promised by their God. We too can have faith that there will be a resurrection TO LIFE. We too can have the hope that we will be in that resurrection HEALED

(Please continue on page 17)

The Gospel MUST Be Published!

by David Jon Hill

VOLUME I Number 1 of *The PLAIN TRUTH* made its humble bow a month after *The WORLD TOMORROW* was first broadcast. Less than 200 copies were distributed—all had to be addressed by hand, by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert W. Armstrong. The "printing facilities" were not only inadequate, they were NONEXISTENT! The original articles

had to be typed by Mr. Armstrong on a borrowed typewriter, then he had to... but let him tell it in his own words in excerpts from his *Autobiography*:

(From *The PLAIN TRUTH*, August, 1960, page 11—)

"Immediately the idea came of realizing, at last, the dream I had cherished since 1927—the publication of a magazine, to be called *The PLAIN TRUTH*. Back in 1927 I had made up an entire 'dummy' of this proposed magazine. I had even written articles for it. I had, while my family went hungry to pay for it, even had a professional letter artist design a front cover idea in 1927—and I had tried designing one myself. But we had never the 'where-withal' to start publishing a magazine.

"This ambition to publish *The PLAIN TRUTH* was the natural outgrowth of earlier business experience. Much of my 20 years of advertising experience had been spent in the class magazine field.

"Now, at last, I realized that this magazine was a 'must' as a follow-up for the radio broadcast. Yet we were no more able, financially, than we had been in 1927.

At the heart of the commission Christ gave His Church is the command to PUBLISH THE GOSPEL! (Mark 13:10.) Ambassador College Press is the present-day, million-dollar instrument being used to fulfill that command.

This giant Press grew from the smallest possible printing facility—a used, ten-dollar Neostyle, the grandfather of the mimeograph. Yet this present printing plant is not complete—the near future will see it more than *double* in size!

In addition, separate printing facilities have been set up worldwide—the sun never sets on Ambassador College Press! The Press at Bricket Wood in England; and the Press at North Sydney in Australia are *right now* more than doubling their capacity. And an infant facility has been set up on campus in Texas!

Read in this article, the history of this part of God's Work—and a glimpse into its future. Also a complete picture story showing how an article gets from the author's typewriter into final printed form.

"Necessity is the mother of invention. If we could not afford to publish a high-quality, professional-appearing magazine, I would simply convert the mimeographed 'BULLETIN' I had been issuing for our scattered church brethren in the Willamette Valley into *The PLAIN TRUTH*."

The Birth of *The PLAIN TRUTH*

(From *The PLAIN TRUTH*, June, 1961, page 21—)

"The first issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH* came out February 1, 1934. At that time I was editor, researcher, typist, compositor (I cut stencils on a typewriter), publisher, business manager, circulation manager—and errand boy and window washer and janitor. Mrs. Armstrong was assistant researcher, adviser, printer (she ground out copies by hand on an old secondhand Neostyle, ancestor of the mimeograph), mailing room staff (she kept a handwritten mailing list, addressed all copies by hand). That was the entire staff. That was the *birth* of *The PLAIN TRUTH*! We could not afford even the usual quality of mimeograph paper."

(From *The PLAIN TRUTH*, February, 1962, page 16—)

"For the first issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH*, I borrowed an old typewriter from a neighbor out in the country. I had no mimeograph, so I arranged with the mimeograph sales office in Eugene to come into their office and borrow the use of theirs.

"The sole cost of 'publishing' that first issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH*—Volume I, Number 1,

February, 1934—was the cost of the few stencils, and the 600 sheets of mimeograph paper used to print about 150 copies, plus the postage I would have to buy later after radio listeners wrote in requesting the 'magazine.' I imagine the whole thing cost perhaps about \$5, and that Mr. Elmer Fisher, in whose home I was staying, paid the \$5, though I do not remember those details.

"I had no 'scope' or stylus, with which to letter in the headlines. How well I remember holding those stencils up against the windowpane at that farmhouse of Mr. and Mrs. Fisher, with Mr. Fisher helping me hold it, while with a pencil pinch-hitting for a stylus, I worked in the headlines for the articles by shaky freehand work!!

"And so it was, that *after 7 years*, the conception that had come to mind back in 1927 of publishing *The PLAIN TRUTH* became a REALITY!

"It was a crude, home-produced mimeographed 'magazine,' which perhaps no one else would have dignified by the word 'magazine'—but, to me, it was the realization of a dream of SEVEN YEARS!"

(From *The PLAIN TRUTH* August, 1960—)



COMING ARTICLES

- Future issues of The PLAIN TRUTH will contain articles on the following subjects:
- "Will the Times of the Gentiles End in 1934? Does the Bible set the date?"
- "WHO Is the Beast of Revelation. What is the MARK OF THE BEAST?"
- "The NEXT WORLD WAR in Bible Prophecy."
- "Does EASTER Really Commemorate the Resurrection of Christ?"
- "Do Departed Mothers in Heaven Hear the Shrieks of their Lost Children in Hell?"
- "EVOLUTION . . . Science, or Folklore?"
- "Modern Education at the Crossroads."
- "What is Sin?" You will be surprised how few really KNOW!
- "What Will Happen During the Thousand Year Reign with Christ? Will he be in heaven, or on earth?"
- "Is the PENTECOST Experience repeated Today?"
- The PLAIN TRUTH will be fearless and bold without mincing words!

The front page of the first PLAIN TRUTH shows its humble beginning—it was nine pages long, the tenth page was blank, on 8½ x 14 inch paper, the same size as the present Co-Worker Letters. Notice the first Editorial stating briefly the purpose of The PLAIN TRUTH—and the forerunner of the Question Box, below: the first question answered was, "Where did Cain get his wife?" Above: the coming articles promised have since become booklets, given to hundreds of thousands who requested them.

EDITORIAL

In these anxious days of stress, turmoil and strife; of revolution and economic collapse; of war and fear of war; of confusion before a bewildering onslaught of creeds, dogmas, fables and false teachings, The PLAIN TRUTH makes its humble and modest appearance.

The PLAIN TRUTH comes with a definite mission. It comes in a sincere effort to help lead those who honestly are hungering and thirsting after righteousness out of this modern confusion of tongues, and into the TRUTH as it is in Christ Jesus.

The Master said, "Ye shall know the TRUTH, and the TRUTH shall make you FREE." And, praying to the Father in heaven, Jesus said, "THY WORD is Truth."

The real TRUTH is simple and plain, not hard and difficult. Jesus said "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes."

ret p... of the most High," safely abiding, thru the woes and judgments to come, "under the shadow of the Almighty." (Psalm 91:1,9,10).

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

Write in your questions. We will answer, in this column, all suitable questions which can be answered briefly.

QUESTION: "Where did Cain get his wife?"

ANSWER: This old question seems to have worried so many folks. The answer is in Gen. 5:4. "And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat some children." Cain...

"The headlines were a little shaky. The first issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH* was a pretty amateurish, homemade-looking sort of thing. Probably no one but myself would have dignified it by calling it a 'magazine.'

"No publication could have had a more humble, or a smaller start. But it was a start. It grew. It was improved, as scanty funds permitted. It took years before we were able to have it printed on a printing press. But through the years it has been instrumental in making drastic *changes* in thousands of lives!

"It was about November 1, 1933, that a few special offerings made it possible for us to purchase a very old, used, outdated Neostyle. It was predecessor to the mimeograph. It was entirely hand-operated. The sheets of paper had to be fed into it one at a time by hand. There was *nothing* automatic about it. It cost \$10. We had also finally been able, before the first issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH*, to raise enough money to purchase a secondhand typewriter for \$10.

"And so finally *The PLAIN TRUTH*, homemade at Fishers' farm on the Neostyle, but containing priceless plain TRUTH, made its humble bow to the world February 1, 1934. I have no record of the exact 'press run' of that first edition, but it was in the neighborhood of 175 or 200 copies. I think we still have one copy somewhere in some old files."

(From *The PLAIN TRUTH* November 1961, page 8—)

"But when the old antiquated Neostyle finally was wearing out—about to lie down and cease functioning because of old age—and we were still obliged to crank out *The PLAIN TRUTH* by hand on this piece of primitive mechanism, then a new mimeograph became an absolute *need*—or else *The PLAIN TRUTH* had to cease publication, and die a natural death along with the Neostyle.

"So it was, that on February 4, 1939—five years after the first issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH*, a letter to our few Co-Workers said, 'I will have to tell you that we are VERY SERIOUSLY IN NEED of a new mimeograph machine. The present one is about worn-out, and we are producing this issue of *The PLAIN*

TRUTH under difficulties. I can get a very good used mimeograph, almost new, one capable of turning out the large amount of work that is necessary in this office, and that will last for several years, for \$65. There is not one cent available for the mimeograph, unless some of our friends can send in a special and additional offering just for this purpose.'

"By April 5, 1939, a letter to Co-Workers found in an old file says: 'At last, after many unavoidable delays, we are sending you *The PLAIN TRUTH*. This issue goes to about one thousand NEW READERS. It is still mimeographed, because we have not enough funds to print it, as we did two issues last year. It is a tremendous task, and nearly all the work is done by Mrs. Armstrong, our daughter Beverly who is office secretary, and myself.'

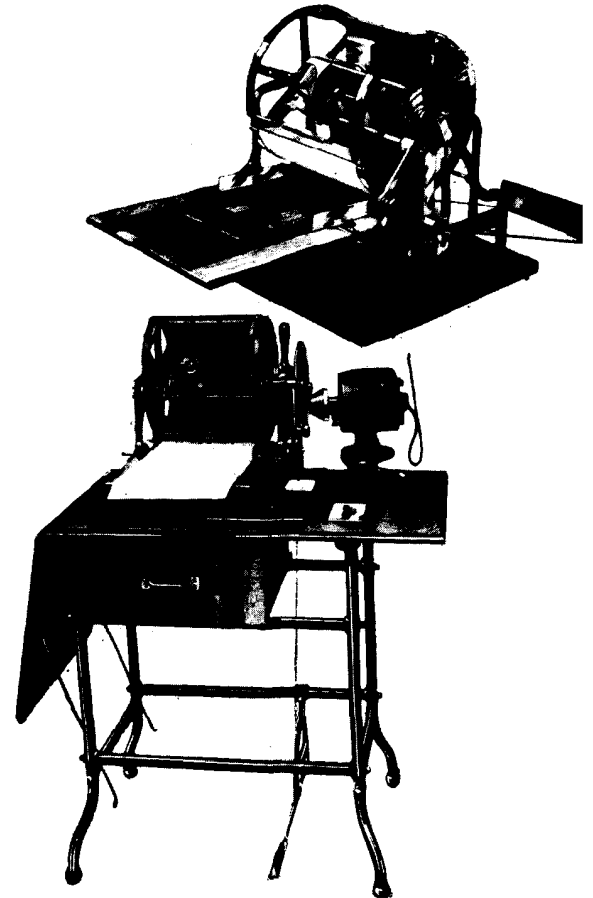
"In spite of inside office, lack of light or ventilation, lack of desks, filing cabinets and office equipment, the Work was GROWING! *The PLAIN TRUTH* circulation was growing. We were not able to get it out every month. There were seven issues in 1938. The June number was only the third during 1939. It was issued as often as there was enough money for paper, ink and postage. Yet already this little mimeographed 'magazine' was being read by a few *thousand* people—and a hundred thousand or more were hearing the very Gospel Christ Himself preached, every week—besides almost continuous evangelistic campaigns reaching hundreds." (From *The PLAIN TRUTH* December, 1961, page 21—)

"*The PLAIN TRUTH* issue for August-September, 1940, was *printed!* This was the first printed number since the May-June, 1938, number. It was shown reproduced in the 38th installment, September, 1961 issue. Except for the two crudely printed issues of 1938, *The PLAIN TRUTH* had been mimeographed ever since it started, in February, 1934.

"But at last, with this August-September, 1940, number *The PLAIN TRUTH* graduated permanently from the hand-made mimeographed class! Along with the other phases of the Work, *The PLAIN TRUTH* was growing up!

"It 'grew up' only to a most humble

start as a *printed magazine*, however. This issue, and the few to follow, were printed on a very low-cost yellow paper we had used for years for the mimeographed editions. It was only 8 pages. And it was issued only bi-monthly. On page 4, under the masthead box, appeared this notice: 'This is the first issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH* since May. There was no June or July number this year. For the immediate future we hope



Here is a photo of an old Neostyle, just like the one Mr. Armstrong used to produce the first *PLAIN TRUTH*'s on—today it is a museum piece—we hope to have one on campus in Pasadena soon, courtesy of the A. B. Dick Company which manufactured it.

to be able, the Lord willing, to publish one number each two months. Later we hope to be able to send you an issue every month, and to enlarge *The PLAIN TRUTH* to 16 pages, just double the present size. Constant improvement is our goal.'"

Constant Improvement—The History of God's Work!

The printing history of *The PLAIN TRUTH* shows the trials and difficulties Mr. Armstrong and the Work of God have gone through over the years—but

it also shows the determined and continued improvement that marks God's Work everywhere.

It wasn't until the combined issue of the January-February, 1949, PLAIN TRUTH that the magazine went to 16 pages. April, 1956, saw the next step forward to 24 pages, and the addition of a cover picture with a border—but still all in one color. The *second* color was added soon, with the February, 1957, issue.

The next step was to eight additional pages, bringing the total to 32 by February of 1959. From this brief resumé you can see how tremendously the magazine has grown in the very few remaining years since then. We too often take this, and others of the services God's Work provides for us, for granted. But I can guarantee you Mr. Armstrong doesn't take *any* of these blessings for granted. Having struggled through those early years, fighting every step of the way against opposition on every side, from people and from lack of funds, he has been deeply grateful for every advance God has granted.

But being grateful has not made Mr. Armstrong complacent, satisfied or thinking that we have need of nothing more in the way of improvements! More about future plans later—plans that will stagger your imagination, but now back to the history.

June, 1961, brought another eight-page section, making *The PLAIN TRUTH* a total of 40 pages—and the circulation was up from the original 150 to *three-hundred-thousand!* Another jump in pages was made in February, 1962. Each year of the sixties has brought a major step forward—and of course the magazine has come out regularly each month for many years now.

A heavy, glossy paper cover was added January, 1963, and with it the addition of four extra pages. At last it was beginning to take the shape originally designed for it by Mr. Armstrong way back in 1927.

The year 1964 brought a unique step forward in the printing of *The PLAIN TRUTH*—Ambassador College Press began to print it in August of that year. A new type of printing process was inaugurated that year—*printing by*

faith! *The PLAIN TRUTH* has always been *produced* by faith, but the August, 1964, issue was the first *printed* by faith! Remember, Mr. Armstrong began it on an old Neostyle, grandfather of the mimeograph—so the first issues were NEOSTYLED *by faith!*

Color at Last!

(From *The PLAIN TRUTH* "Personal from the Editor," February, 1965—)

"This month we present *A NEW COVER* appearing for the first time *IN FULL COLOR!* This is only a fore-runner to the use of *full color* throughout the entire magazine.

"To this end, two additional large units have been ordered for our new big magazine press. Delivery and installation is expected in a few weeks. This will almost double the size of this giant press, printing the complete four colors simultaneously on the one operation. Actually, this means complete *full color*—since all the colors of the rainbow are derived from the four basic colors of black, red, yellow and blue. One might include white, but since the paper is white, there is no need to use white ink. Green is simply a blending of blue and yellow; purple, a blending of blue and red; orange, a blending of red and yellow—and by blending colors together, all shades of every color are achieved.

"We now plan to have the BIGGEST advance ever made in *The PLAIN TRUTH* ready for you one year from now—with the 32nd anniversary number. We think it will surprise and amaze you! We shall be working toward this next BIG step in improvement all during the coming year."

Other Printing

The PLAIN TRUTH is not the only literature the Work has printed—and it is not the *last* of the printed literature to be done by Ambassador College Press. Many *millions* of booklets, reprint articles, Correspondence Courses, GOOD NEWS magazines, Co-Worker letters, college newspapers (*The PORTFOLIO*, for three colleges), all foreign literature, letterheads, thank-you letters, forms, etc. nearly without end.

(From *The PLAIN TRUTH* August,

1964, "Personal from the Editor"—)

"For more than twenty years we have operated our own printing department. But until now, it has never been large enough to print *The PLAIN TRUTH*—even when this magazine was a small 8-page paper . . .

"Many years ago, while our Headquarters were still located at Eugene, Oregon, our own printing department had its infantile beginning. Like every other phase of this great Work of God, it started about as small as such a department could start.

"My son-in-law, James Gott, had been working in the lumber industry in and around Eugene. He had encountered a severe accident in his left hand, which required a considerable operation of plastic surgery. While he was recuperating, information about the Davidson duplicator press was brought to my attention. [This was 1946.]

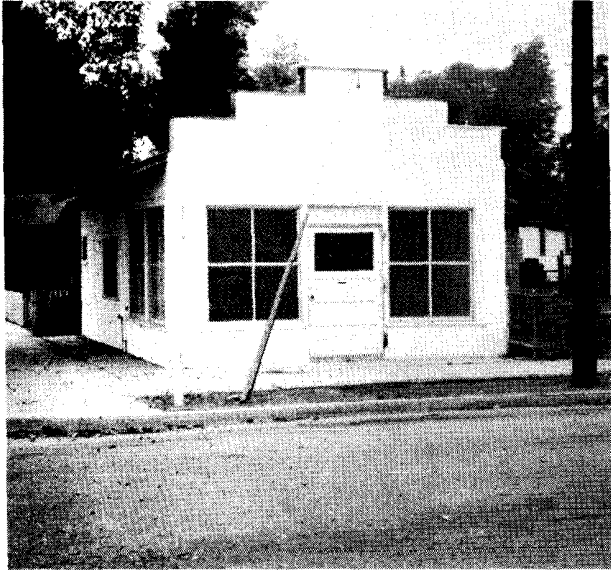
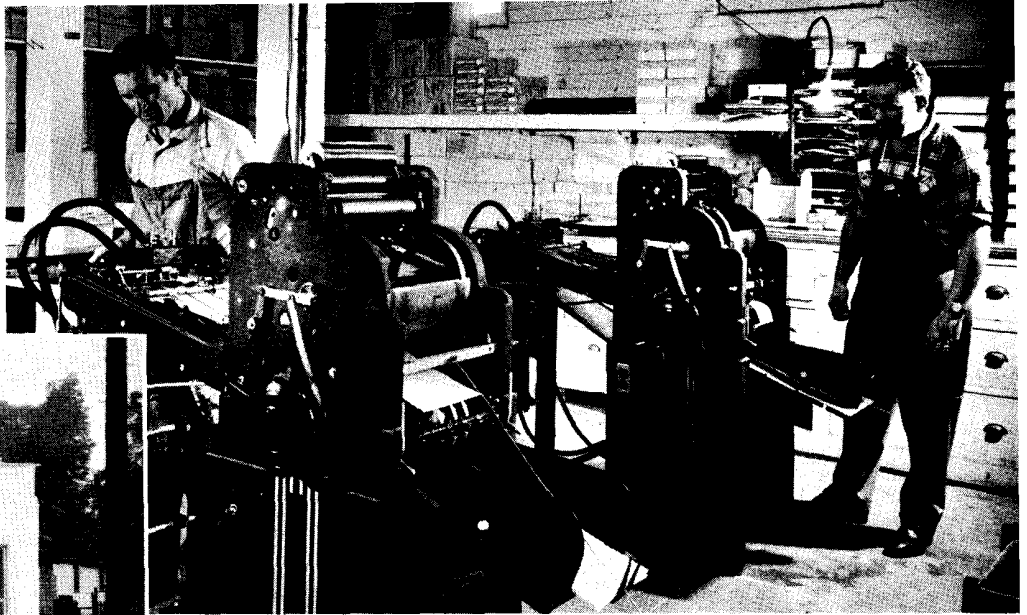
"This small but modern press printed by the offset method. I learned from the Davidson Portland office that they had facilities for training inexperienced men in the operation of this equipment. None of us—most of all, Jimmy himself—wanted to see him return to the hazardous and sporadic employment in the lumber industry. I suggested the idea of starting a printing department of our own, with Jimmy running it. We would print booklets, letterheads and envelopes—but of course, not *The PLAIN TRUTH*.

"He became immediately enthusiastic with anticipation. It was quite a hurdle for us to purchase that little press, with sufficient photographic and plate-making equipment to produce the plates. But the financing was arranged. Jimmy took the schooling, and a Davidson representative helped get the equipment installed in the basement of the IOOF Building in Eugene, where we rented offices on the third floor.

"Later, we moved our printing office to another building with larger space, as the department began to grow. When we moved the headquarters to Pasadena for the opening of Ambassador College, in 1947, we had two of these Davidson presses, and an old-fashioned second-hand paper cutter. By this time there

February, 1965

RIGHT: This is the print shop as it looked when it was first established in Pasadena. Mr. Gott (right) was assisted by Mr. Herman Olsen in those days, and two duplicators was all we had. This area is presently being used as the Administration Building...the desk of the Managing Editor of *The GOOD NEWS* is located where Mr. Gott is standing. BELOW: one of the buildings formerly used as part of Ambassador College Press.



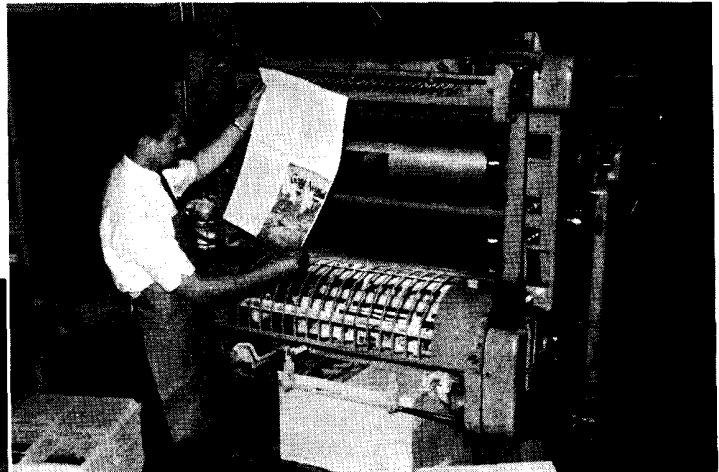
was an assistant, and our department employed two men full-time.

"Gradually the department grew. Virtually all of our booklets have been produced by this department through the years.

"One of the reasons for moving from Eugene, Oregon, to Pasadena was the fact we had outgrown the printing facilities available in commercial print shops in Eugene for printing *The PLAIN TRUTH*. Arrangements were made for having our magazine printed by the largest printing establishment on the west coast—Pacific Press

Inc. in Los Angeles. They also print the west coast editions of *LIFE*, *TIME*, and *Newsweek*, besides *Sunset* magazine and many other large-order accounts.

"Actually, the Pacific Press corporation had not yet acquired this giant plant when it first began printing *The PLAIN TRUTH*. They have printed it for us ever since—every issue up to this present edition. There is a measure of sincere regret between men of their staff and our own, on our leaving them with this issue. It has been a long and mutually pleasant business relationship. But of course we are thrilled and overjoyed to be able, after all these years, to have a printing plant of major size of our own, and

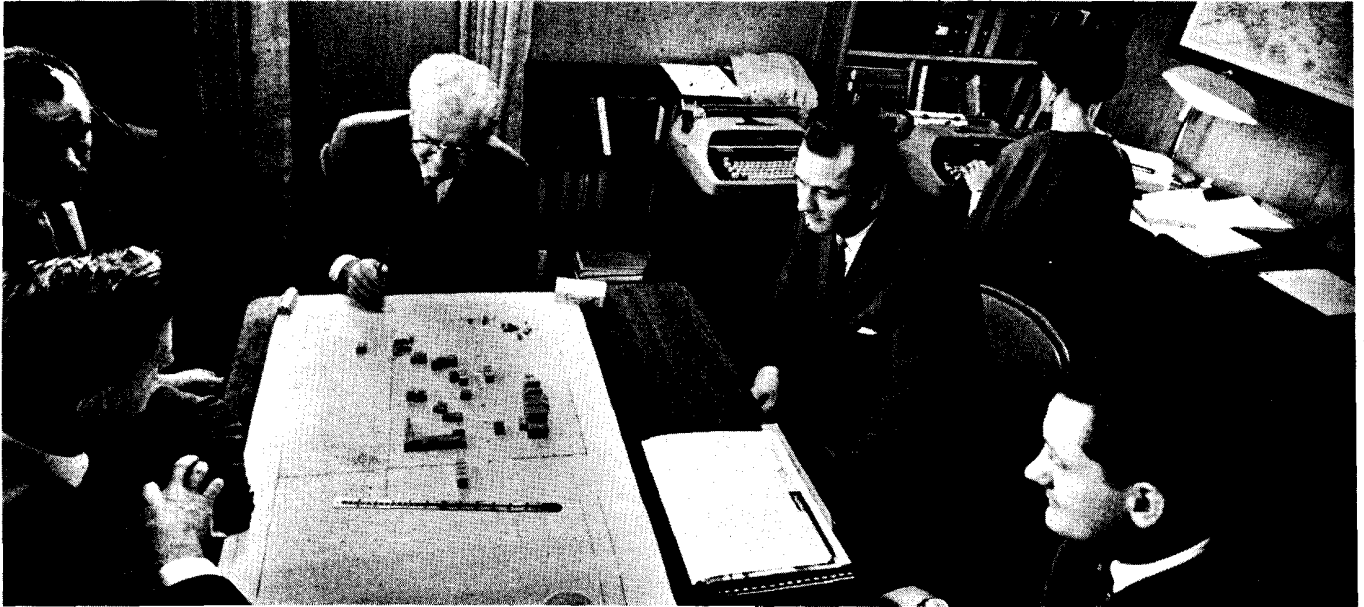


ABOVE: Mr. Schoon checks the first picture cover of *The GOOD NEWS*, run in our own shop. LEFT: The entire print shop as of June, 1964, just before we began to print *The PLAIN TRUTH*.



to be able to do our own printing of a magazine that has grown to the size and scope of *The PLAIN TRUTH*, now running over a half million copies!

"In 1957 we acquired an almost new two-story furniture warehouse as an addition to our rapidly expanding college campus. This was remodeled and modernized into our home for the Ambassador College Press. The printing de-



partment moved into the rear portion of the ground floor. At that time two larger Miehle presses were added, and a new paper cutter—besides new folding machines and other equipment.

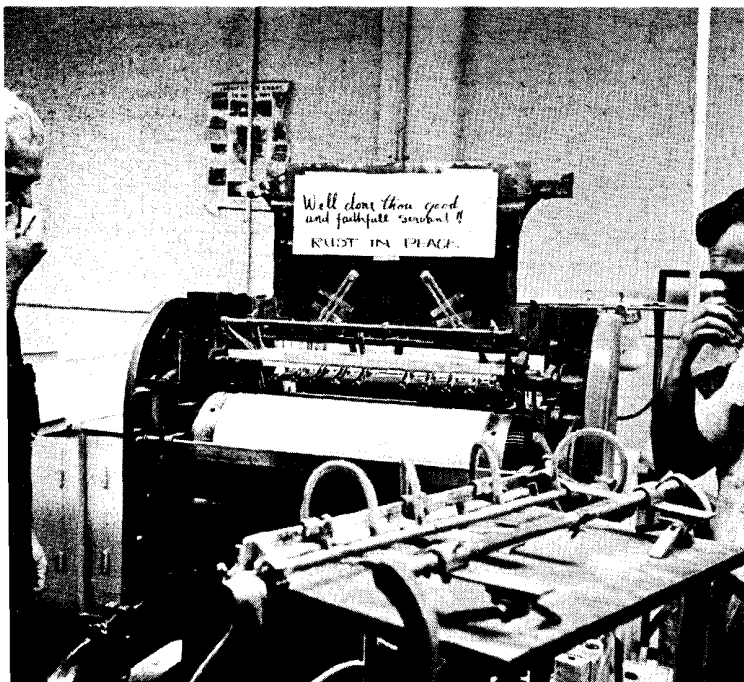
“Soon that space was outgrown. The offset department was then moved into a smaller building across the street. Then the printing department was forced, later, to lease an entire store building some two blocks off the campus, and two still larger presses were installed, in addition to an Intertype typesetting machine, and other equipment.

“That didn’t hold the department

long, either. As the demand for booklets multiplied, the printing department grew and grew. It became the largest printing plant (not including the newspaper) in Pasadena. But soon that large space was overcrowded—and there was not sufficient space for paper storage. It now became evident that we needed to take advantage of the savings made possible by buying paper in carload lots.

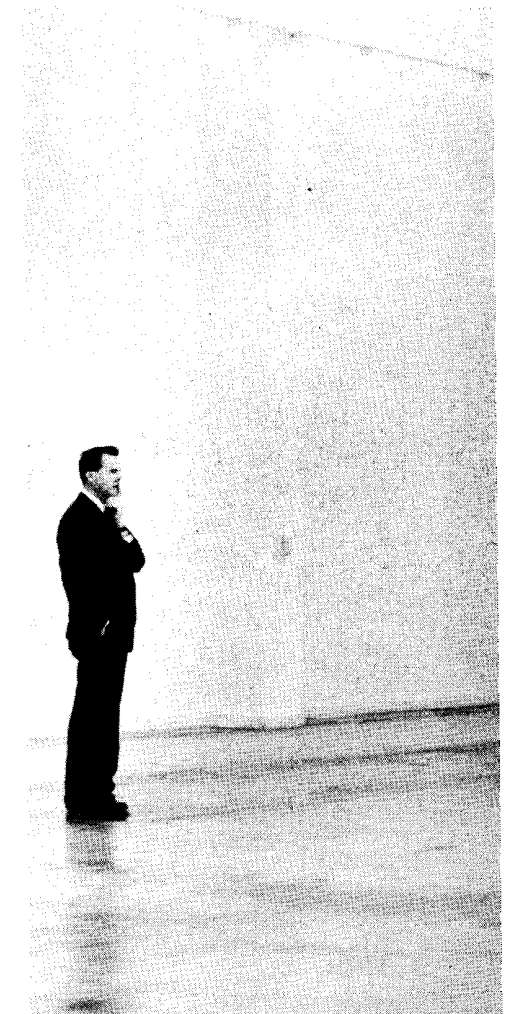
“Finally we had opportunity to purchase the plant and buildings of the Crown City Lumber Company, across the street from the original Press building. This meant a sizable expansion of

Before any of the new machinery could be moved in, a complete plan of where each piece would go had to be laid out. Here, in the office that used to be the print shop (in the present Administration Building), Mr. Hill and Mr. Gott (left) go over the plans with Mr. Sefcak (Bindery), Mr. Merk (Composing Room) and Mr. Schoon (Camera).



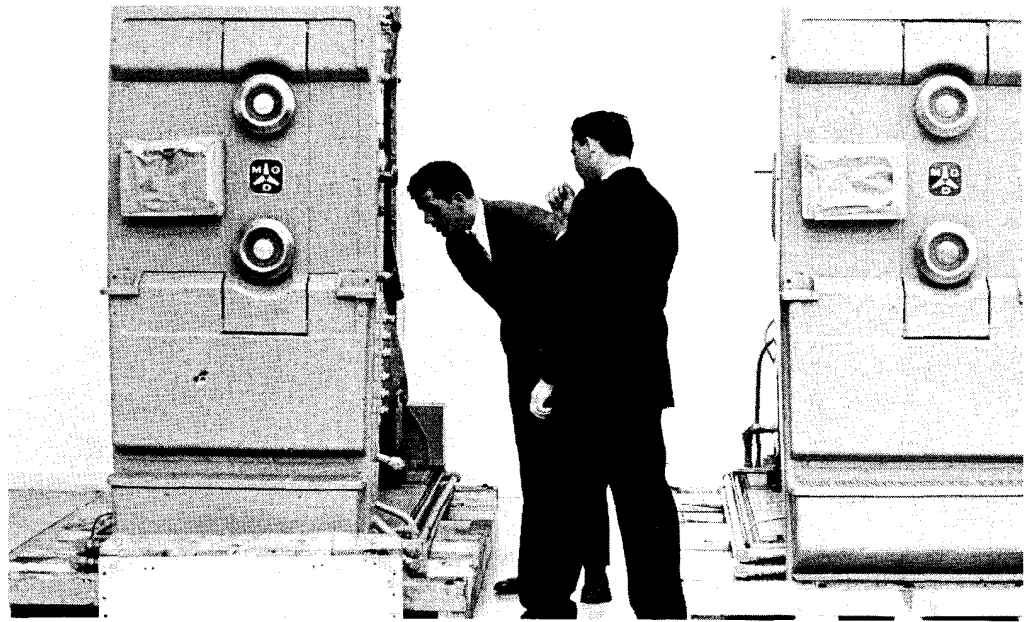
Some of the old machinery had to be turned in on the new—here two of the employees ham it up with a humorous sign on one of the presses we let go.

Mr. Tom Justus, present Plant Manager, and an Elder in the Church of God, surveys an empty plant with one unit of the big web press to be installed... what do you suppose he's thinking?



the college campus. It was a rather sizable financial transaction also, and many felt we should not undertake it. However, I foresaw its need, and so we purchased this property—I believe it was in late 1962 or early 1963. Within a few months it became evident to us all that this had been a most wise acquisition.

"The larger of the three main buildings acquired from the lumber company was entirely remodeled, and has been converted into our new major-size printing plant. The large pressroom is twice the size of the store building we had leased. Besides this there is considerable space for offices, photographic darkrooms, typesetting department—many other facilities. One of the former large lumber sheds provides adequate space for storage of huge rolls of paper. The Union Pacific freight tracks run alongside, so that paper in carload lots is unloaded directly from the freight cars.



Mr. Justus shows Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong how the new web press is going to work, before it is even assembled. You can almost see the question on his face—"Is it really going to work?"

"Soon to be erected is a two-story addition to this building to accommodate many of the offices and facilities of this now large printing department.

"In the main pressroom we now have a new large two-color press, for printing the covers of *The PLAIN TRUTH*, besides a still larger rotary magazine press—quite similar to metropolitan newspaper presses.

"The printing department of The Ambassador College Press now employs a good-sized staff of employees.

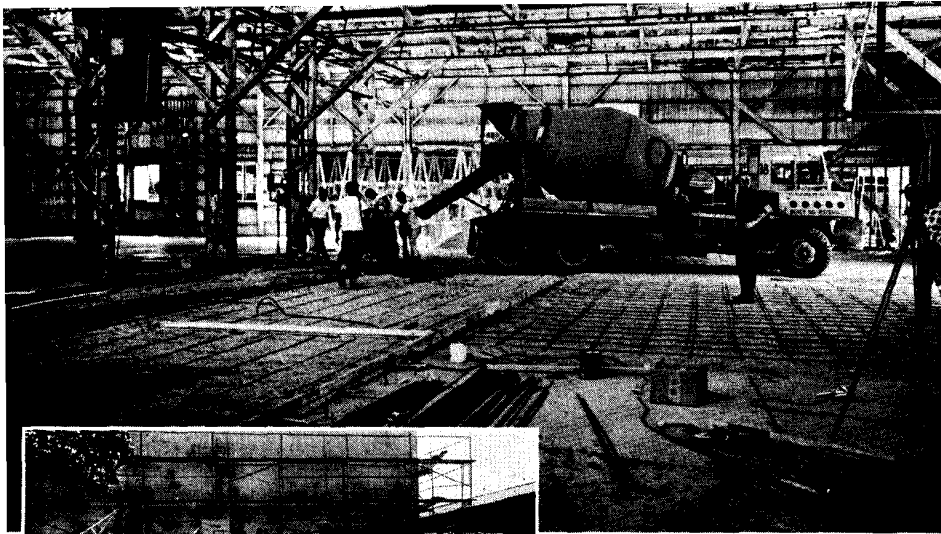
"I am sure that all readers who visit the Ambassador College campus in Pasadena will be enjoyably surprised when they see this fine new million-dollar printing plant. Now that I have mentioned that million-dollar figure, let me hasten to say that, much as we regret severing the pleasant relationship with the Pacific Press people, we anticipate with real enjoyment the *saving* of ten thousand dollars or more *every month* made possible by this new facility. At last *The PLAIN TRUTH* has attained to the size where it is less costly to print it ourselves than to have it printed outside.

"We confidently expect to make continued improvements in *The PLAIN TRUTH* as the months and years roll by. *Watch for them!*"

Production Record Pictures Growth

The first year we still have records for—and they are by no means com-





You can get some idea of the size of the new press building from the men and this truck laying cement for a new floor—as you can see we began with a very raw structure, an old lumber shed. LEFT INSERT: Here you see the same building from the outside with one of the new pieces of equipment being delivered even before the building is finished.

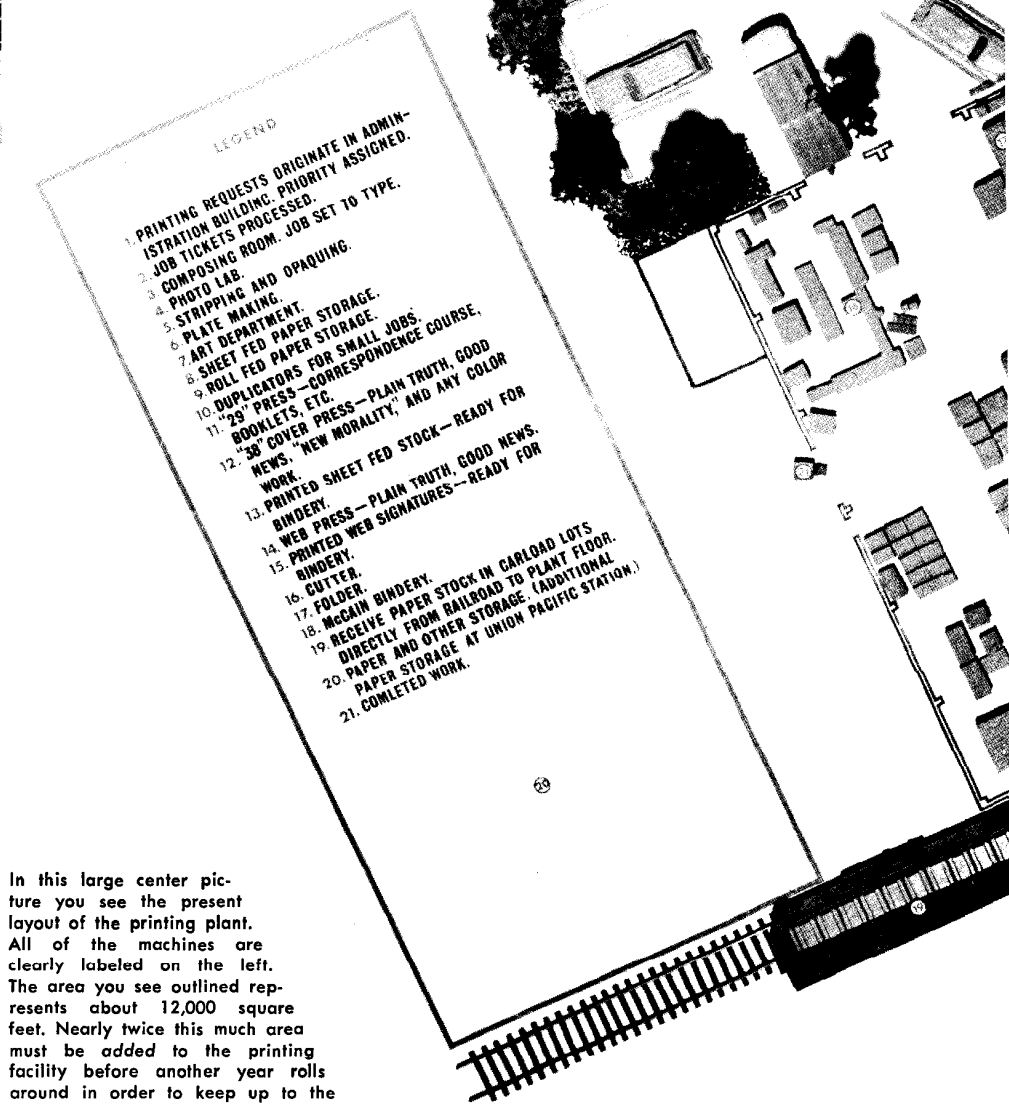


plete—is 1952. Until then, and even for some years after that, it was a matter of feast or famine as far as jobs for the print shop were concerned—when something was needed, it was needed *badly* and FAST! It is much the same today, except for the fact that the famine of need has been removed—it's *all* feast, and FAST! At any rate, the record for 1952 shows that 20,000 booklets were printed. All of the other myriad jobs done by the shop were not recorded, but this booklet record gives a good index of growing production.

1953 showed 55,000 copies of nine booklets (we didn't have many even written to that time) printed. 1954 production jumped to 150,650. By '57 the number had grown to 248,000. 1960 was a big year, even out of proportion in growth, with a whopping 1,222,000! We didn't pass the million-booklet mark again until 1963, when we printed 1,048,400.

The total number of *pieces* (complete magazines, booklets, reprints, etc.) printed in 1964 was 8,453,063! Over one thousand separate jobs passed through the shop.

Growth keynotes God's Work around the world. Thirty percent a year has come to be taken for granted. While this is the overall growth of the *entire* Work—and is especially connected with the necessary increase of incoming monies—different departments at different times increase out of proportion



In this large center picture you see the present layout of the printing plant. All of the machines are clearly labeled on the left. The area you see outlined represents about 12,000 square feet. Nearly twice this much area must be added to the printing facility before another year rolls around in order to keep up to the demand.

in reaction to the press of necessity.

This is what has happened to Ambassador College Press—especially in this last year.

Many factors govern an unprecedented one-year growth in production.

For a little over a year we have been *cutting* an unnecessarily large inventory of booklets, reprints and Correspondence Courses. Over this period of time inventory has been cut by well over *one million pieces!* After a minimum

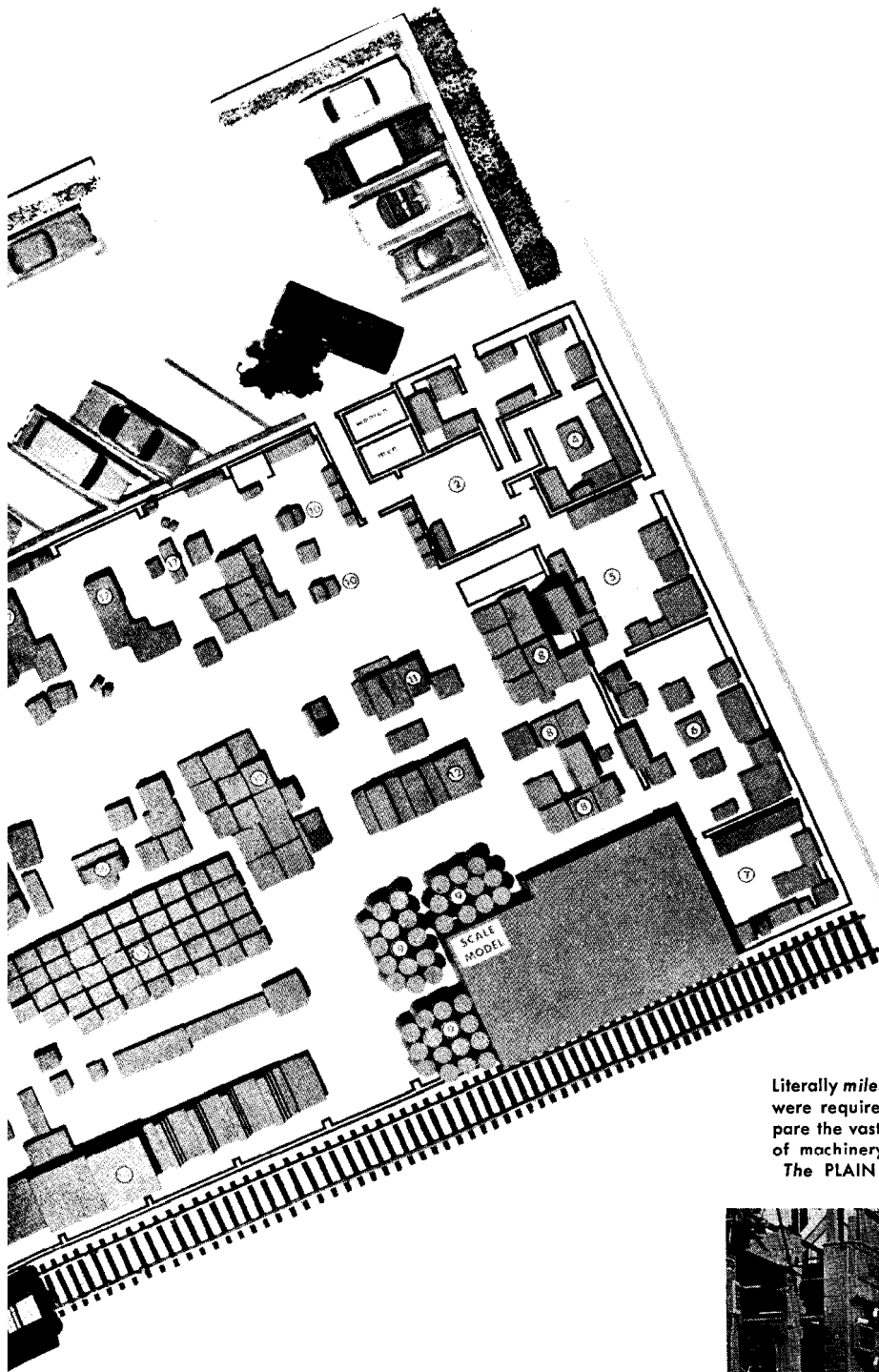
**Full-sized BOOK—
a Precedent!**

Now the historic—and unique-to-date—addition of the *first full-fledged BOOK—GOD SPEAKS OUT on "The New Morality"*—demands more growth.

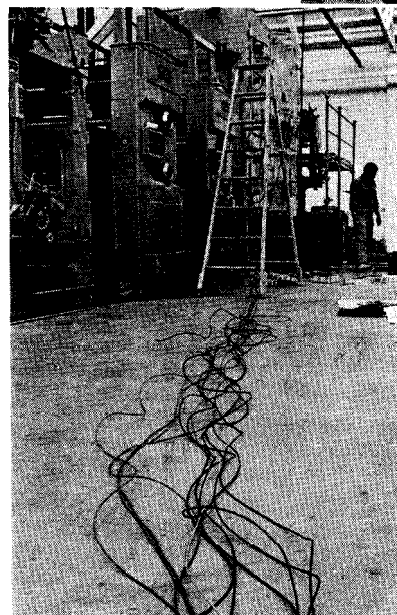
Here are the actual production figures for this last year. Last year at this time we were producing about 200,000 pieces of literature per month—presently the monthly figure runs just under *one million!* This represents an increase in production in one year of over **FOUR HUNDRED PERCENT!**

In order to make this leap of production increase, it was necessary in the same period of time to make an embarrassing increase of employees—in an extremely austere year—of 100%; increasing from 15 to 30 full-time employees. Fortunately the payroll increase did not quite keep pace—it was *only 70%*.

Also, in order to make this increase of production possible, an equally gigantic outlay of capital was necessary for the remodeling of the Crown City Lumber building and for the investment in new machinery. This tab came to nearly \$200,000. However, unbeliev-



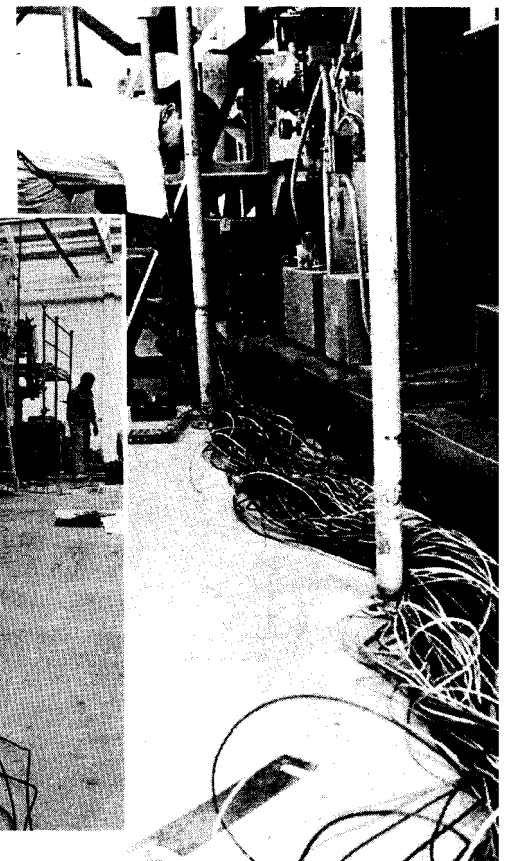
Literally miles of wires were required to prepare the vast complex of machinery to print **The PLAIN TRUTH.**



inventory was reached, there was a necessary increase in monthly production to keep even, rather than continuing to decrease the inventory.

The gigantic addition of *The PLAIN TRUTH* made an automatic *one hundred percent* increase in production of the total number of pieces each month.

New and much larger booklets such as *The Ten Commandments*, *The Autobiography* and the first booklets in full color—*Truth About Make-up* and *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?*—have forced additional increased production.



able as it may sound, nearly *three-fourths* of this has been recouped in savings accrued by our printing of *The PLAIN TRUTH and GOD SPEAKS OUT on "The New Morality"*—as opposed to having these printed outside.

This phenomenal growth cannot be expected to continue. But now that the initial outlay for the plant has been made, every additional piece of literature we print as a result of any future growth will represent a thirty-to-fifty percent savings over what we would have to pay for having it printed out! The greater the increase the more we save!

This type of savings will allow us to

continue to make such fine offers as this new book, and never break our precedent of offering *everything* FREE!

NEXT MONTH

In the March GOOD NEWS we will explain some of the history of printing, how its development was retarded for more than a millennium, until the need arose for it to be an instrument in God's Work! Also to show you pictorially how an article is produced, from the author's typewriter to the finished copy you hold in your hand.

(To be continued)

The Bible Answers Your Questions

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

Why was Canaan so horribly cursed because Ham happened to see his father, Noah, unclothed? What was so evil about seeing "the nakedness" of his father?

There was *more* than just "looking" involved in this tragic circumstance! Notice Genesis 9:24: "And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son HAD *DONE* UNTO HIM!"

There was an *illicit sexual act* committed here. Noah was very drunken and did not realize what was occurring. In such a stupor, *someone* took advantage of Noah—and committed an act of sodomy with him.

It *appears* as though HAM were the one responsible. But the truth is HE WAS NOT! When we learn what Ham actually did—and WHO was really responsible for the act of sodomy—any problems with these verses clear up.

Notice again, Genesis 9:24: "And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what *HIS YOUNGER SON* had done unto him." Ham *was not* Noah's younger son! He was his *middle* son. See Genesis 10:1. So whoever this was in Verse 24, it clearly *was not* Ham.

Ham merely looked on or "saw the

nakedness" of Noah (Gen. 9:22). He did not DO anything to his father. Notice, he *immediately told* his brothers and they covered him.

The difficulty is purely *grammatical*.

First, let us notice Exodus 34:28. In this scripture we have a similar grammatical difficulty. It reads: "And he [Moses] was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And *he wrote* upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments."

Now, from the context it appears as though the "he wrote" refers to *Moses*! But from Deuteronomy 10:4 it is quite clear that *GOD WROTE* the Ten Commandments mentioned in Exodus 34:28.

In other words, it is unclear as to whom the "he wrote" refers! This is the same problem we face in Genesis 9:24. Armed with this information, we can now solve the problem in Genesis.

We read, picking up the account in Verse 22: "And Ham, the father of *Canaan*, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without... And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his [that is, HAM'S] *younger son* had *DONE* unto him. And he said, Cursed be *Canaan*..."

First, notice how *Canaan* is mentioned twice in the account. The pronoun "his" properly refers to *Ham's*, not Noah's, *son*.

But can we *prove from Scripture* that Canaan was really the "younger son" of Ham. The answer is found in Genesis 10:6: "And the sons of Ham; Cush, and Mizraim, and Phut, AND *CANAAN*."

So Canaan was not punished for what Ham did. He was punished for *his own sin*!

"I'm confused about Luke 22:36. If Christians are not to fight, why did Christ tell those who had no sword to go and buy one?"

The answer to this problem is found in Luke 22:37. "And he was numbered with the transgressors" (Isa. 53:12). The Fenton Translation has this as "*Ranked among outlaws*."

In order for this prophecy to be fulfilled, it was necessary for Christ to be taken into custody *as an ordinary thief* and be treated as an ordinary criminal—even though He Himself was *not* a transgressor (Luke 22:52). This is exactly what happened even to Christ. He was put to death as a common criminal (Mark 15:27-28).

But how do the "two swords" make Christ appear as a criminal? Luke 22:38 says, "And he said unto them, *It is enough*." Commentators assume that Christ's words, "It is enough," mean that He wished to terminate the subject under discussion *since two swords would not begin to provide the protection needed!*—and in so saying approved of the use of force.

The *two swords* were not for *protection* but were only to give the Pharisees an excuse to consider Christ a criminal. The swords were enough to spread the report that He and His disciples were armed. Judas probably told this story when he betrayed Christ. Therefore, His captors came out with *swords and staves* (Luke 22:52).

Christ NEVER INTENDED for the swords to be used. In fact, He FORBADE them to use the swords even in self-defense. Notice! When the mob laid hold on Him, the disciples asked Him: "Lord, shall we smite with the

(Please continue on page 18)

Why Some Tithepayers DO NOT PROSPER

Are you having difficulty with your finances—if so, why? What other laws besides the tithing laws are necessary to follow for financial success? Read this article and find out!

by Richard Rice

"I'M HAVING a terrible time making ends meet," admitted the head of a Church family as he counseled with a minister.

"I don't understand why," he said. "I've been in God's Church for eleven years. I have faithfully paid all my tithes. I have sent in my monthly Building pledge. I've never missed a Holy Day offering. I haven't robbed God of a single thing that was rightfully His. Why then, am I suffering the most humiliating and distressing financial hardship of my life?"

In a discouraged tone he continued, "Because I haven't been able to find a steady job, I don't have enough money to properly feed and clothe my family. I can't even make a down payment on a used car."

With a furrowed brow and a forlorn look, the man then queried, "What am I doing wrong? Why doesn't God prosper me? Hasn't He promised to bless the tithepayer? Aren't God's people supposed to abound with greater material blessings as they continue to obey His tithing laws?"

No Isolated Case

The above example is not fictional, nor is it an isolated case. Dozens of similar, true-to-life, down-to-earth situations constantly come to the attention of God's ministers.

Far too many of God's people—faithful tithepayers—are just barely getting by. At the end of a month they have practically nothing left over to start a savings or to build up an emergency reserve.

Some have been unable to pay their

monthly bills. A few have even had their furniture and appliances repossessed because of the inability to keep pace with the rising cost of living and make monthly payments.

Why should so many be facing financial disaster when God has avowed to bless and prosper the tithepayer? Why aren't all of God's people becoming more prosperous each year, if the law of tithing really works?

More Than Tithing Is Required

Don't misunderstand! Tithing pays big dividends! There is an invisible law in tithing that insures monetary increase when one unbegrudgingly gives God His tenth.

What many of God's people don't seem to realize is that they are under obligation to obey *other* laws equally as important to success as the law of tithing. You should know by now what these inexorable laws are—if you have been attending weekly Sabbath services, seriously reading and studying *The PLAIN TRUTH* and *The GOOD NEWS*, listening regularly to the broadcast, and eagerly studying the Bible.

But knowledge is of no value unless it is acted upon. You must obey *all* these laws if you expect to continue receiving the marvelous blessings which God's gigantic storehouse provides. If *you* are not receiving God's blessings, then *you* are not doing all God requires.

What God Requires

The Apostle Paul revealed why some do not prosper. He said, ". . . we

commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies" (II Thes. 3:10-11). The Apostle Paul warned Timothy, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel" (I Tim. 5:8).

Your Bible plainly states that a father who will not work and provide for his own home is worse than an infidel. Even though such a man is satisfied to barely eke out an existence, *tithing alone* will not make him prosperous.

Some people in God's Church are poor because they will not WORK HARD ENOUGH to keep a job when they do get one. A member of God's Church should be willing to work harder than anyone else on the job. He must be willing to make money for his employer. Any man who is too lazy cannot help but reap shame and poverty and defeat after defeat.

Must Exercise Self-control

Suppose that another man in God's Church is generous with his tithes and offerings—even sends in more than his budget would allow. But he doesn't take care of his *health*. He consistently eats too much starchy and greasy food and too much candy, ice cream, and cake. This man knows he has never learned to *exercise will-power*. So he eats too much. Eats the wrong kinds of food. Doesn't exercise. Doesn't get enough sleep. Then he

wonders why he finds himself bedridden with such ailments as high blood pressure, stomach trouble, a liver disorder, or a host of other infirmities.

Tithepaying will not save from financial disaster a man who cannot hold a job because he has ruined his health by over-indulgence!

Do you suppose God would somehow annul the penalty exacted from breaking His *health* laws just because this man was faithful in *tithing*?

No!

God wouldn't be true to His own laws if He did that. Clearly manifested in this example is the fact that *tithing* ALONE cannot guarantee financial prosperity as long as other immutable laws are transgressed.

Must Manage Well

Suppose a man makes a good salary but is a poor *manager* of money and literally "blows" his earnings on anything and everything his lustful eyes desire. God will not prosper the man who squanders so much of his monthly salary on things he doesn't need that he hasn't enough left to meet his monthly bills!

While such a poor manager may pay his tithes, how long can he hope to avoid financial disaster when he spends more every month than he has coming in? Should he expect God to emancipate him from every crisis, remove every hardship, and protect him from bankruptcy—when he foolishly squanders his salary? No!

Can you realize, brethren, that for God to deliver a man from every plight—when that man makes no attempt to correct his mistakes—is to condone the sin? *God does not condone sin!* If God would shower great rewards on a man who *mismanages* his salary, He would only further encourage foolish spending and allow him to destroy his character.

How plain! We can't succeed unless we give to God, in the form of tithes and offerings, what is His. *But* we must obey not only this *one law*—we must obey ALL OTHER LAWS. WE MUST OBEY ALL THE SEVEN LAWS OF SUCCESS.

Key to Success

God leaves no doubt. More than just tithing is required for an abundant life. He specifically states in Joshua 1:8 *another* key governing success. God says, "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest *observe to do according to all* that is written therein: *for THEN thou shalt make thy way PROSPEROUS*, and then thou shalt have *good success.*"

Did you notice that emphatically stressed complete acceptance of and total obedience to *all* His laws? He did not say "pay your tithes" and then you will find your prosperity and have good success. He plainly said, "observe to do according to *all.*"

This doesn't mean you must be PERFECT to prosper, but it does mean you must be STRIVING for that goal of perfection and not be *knowingly* delinquent in *any* aspect of Christian living.

The Great Lawgiver designed dozens of spiritual laws and principles to govern success. Obedience to one law by itself cannot produce success. Water is essential to good health, but water alone cannot sustain it—one must also eat, sleep, and exercise. In like fashion, tithing is *one* of many laws which make for progress and prosperity, but tithing *by itself* does not make one prosperous if he is disobeying *other* laws of financial success.

The answer to the man who came to the minister and couldn't understand why his tithing wasn't getting results is simple. Even though he was paying his tithes, he was ignoring other spiritual laws of God. His poor management, his rebellion in carrying out instruction, his refusal to improve his general talents and establish a trade, his lack of enthusiasm—all contributed to his downfall.

His obedience to the law of tithing could not revoke the penalty that disobedience to these other existing laws claimed.

Israel Promised Blessings

In Deuteronomy 28, the Eternal unreservedly promised great and stupen-

dous blessings to Israel if she would *obey all His Commandments*. "And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do *all HIS COMMANDMENTS* . . . all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee . . . Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store. Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out . . . And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the Lord; and they shall be afraid of thee. And the Lord shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers to give thee. The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand . . . IF that thou hearken unto the commandments of the Lord thy God, which I command thee this day, to *observe* and to *DO* them: and thou shalt *not go aside from ANY* of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them" (Verses 1-14).

God promised TWENTY-ONE incredible blessings for obedience. What magnificent rewards obedience to God's law brings! But mark well the fact that the Eternal stipulates obedience to ALL His Laws. And besides natural rewards, God Himself will also supernaturally add even more blessings, if one humbly submits and obeys.

A Dire Warning to Israel

The Bible irrefutably proves that obedience guarantees success. But with equal certainty the Bible guarantees that disobedience brings failure. God promises disaster will strike down all heedless souls who with impunity break His Laws. God warns, "But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God,

to observe to do *all* his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee" (read them in Deut. 28:16-46).

God warns that these curses will surely come swiftly upon the disobedient. No true, long-lasting prosperity can be found in rebellion—only curses.

If Israel is to be saved from captivity, and enjoy national prosperity, we as a nation must come to surrender fully to our Maker and obey all His Laws.

ARE YOU Hiding YOUR Sins?

Are *you* failing to prosper because you are hiding *your* sins? Solomon in his great wisdom was well aware of the grave consequence of trying to cover one's sins. In Proverbs 28:13 he warned: "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

A plain, simple answer as to why some fail to prosper: self-deception—refusing to evaluate one's personal life according to the holy precepts of God, refusing to see what one is really doing wrong, and justifying one's actions by placing the blame on God.

The man mentioned in the first of this article was guilty of this very thing. In his tone was an underlying accusation *against God*. After all, he was obeying the "big" law that promised material increase. Why then, after all these weeks, months, and even years of tithing, wasn't God prospering him? The answer is obvious. He would not honestly open his mind to examine himself, to look at himself as God saw him. The man was hiding his sins—through self-deception.

But Don't Sinners Prosper?

But don't *new* listeners prosper when they start tithing, you may wonder. Why are they blessed in giving a tenth when they don't obey all of God's laws? Indeed, they prosper. Dozens of letters are sent to Headquarters from new people telling how they put Malachi 3:8-10 to the test and were greatly rewarded. [Read some of them in the *What Our Readers Say* column, beginning on page 2.]

But you must realize, brethren, that

tithing may be the *only* major point of Truth *these* people understand. As they act on it, God showers down the blessings. And through this physical means, they see that there are material advantages in obeying God. It awakens them to the reality of God. But as they grow in grace and knowledge and acquire additional truth, God expects more of them. If they reject new truth and refuse to obey it, the blessings derived from tithing will diminish.

Brethren, God commands, "*Become ye perfect.*" Obey new truth *as* it is revealed to you.

Seek the Kingdom First

What is your main interest in life? Is it to gain material wealth, riches, treasures? To have mammon in great supply in order to satisfy your carnal

cravings and desires? Is *this* WHY you are tithing? It shouldn't be!

Make your main goal to serve the Living God with all your might, to please Him no matter what the stakes might be, to seek His Kingdom above every physical goal.

If you set your heart on things above and conscientiously try with your entire being to obey all of God's laws, then He WILL provide your daily needs and WILL also add luxuries in abundance.

Do you really want to prosper? Then "... seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Mat. 6:33).

[Read last month's article on *A Balanced BUDGET From the Bible.*]

Faith in the Face of Death

(Continued from page 4)

of all our infirmities, diseases, and afflictions.

Faith in Spite of Death

Remember David had an infant son who was very ill (II Sam. 12:15). David prayed to God with all fervency. For seven days he lay on the ground fasting and beseeching God to heal his child. David had an all-abiding faith that the child would live. His relationship with God was very intimate. He had *personal*, direct *communication* with the God who heals! He knew God as few men have known the Eternal. Nonetheless, David's son died!

He fasted, he wept, he prayed, as long as there was breath in the child, as long as the child was alive. When the child died he did not lose faith. He didn't throw up his hands in despair, wail, moan or condemn God. But that's what his servants would have done—that's what most people would do. David *knew* his prayer was going to be answered. His vision of the future became more acute. He looked down through time to the resurrection and expected to see that dead child *completely healed!* He did not lose faith. He did not give up on God. He did not become distraught. But rather, once the problem had been disposed of

to God's satisfaction, he simply left the whole matter in God's hands.

All of the heroes in the Bible have died. The really great men about which the Bible speaks—those who walked and talked and ate with the Logos—are dead. They "knew the score," however. They knew what the ultimate reward is going to be. They knew where life came from and they knew who had control over it. They were intimately associated with the God who is The Healer. But they didn't become all wrapped up in mere physical existence—vaporous, temporal life—every last one of them—Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, and all of the other faithful who are listed in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews—looked forward to a *better* RESURRECTION.

They Kept the Real Goal in Mind!

The mere fact that they had to suffer physical discomfort for a while, the fact that they had to meet the vicissitudes of life with faith did not deter them. They were not concerned when they were cast off or cast out. They were not hampered when they found themselves ill or facing a sword of the tyrant. They simply relied on God.

They were content with the way in

which God dealt with them. They were assured that ultimately God would provide them with the perfect solution. They believed God even as they moved into the very jaws of death. Death and the grave did not dissuade them from their established faith.

They *died* in faith! They were willing to die! They knew that mere physical death does not limit God. They knew that God planned for men to die.

Reflect for a moment. Do you lose faith in God if He does not heal you immediately? Of course you don't. Well then, must He heal you in twenty minutes? twenty days? twenty weeks? twenty years? Of course not! The answer is always the same if you are faithful. If you know God and trust Him implicitly you'll wait on Him.

You see, God made time. He is superior to it. God made physical life and He is superior to that, too. A thousand years is as a day to our God. And so if He chooses to wait until the resurrection—for your benefit—for your healing, why fret, nag, whine, weep, why lose faith? If we lose faith we deny God and are in the process of losing our salvation.

Physical Healing Only the Beginning

God is the God who heals but physical healing is only a first step in His Plan. It is spiritual healing which is really important.

Christ died—remember that! And He is our example. We need not fear death when we have a Saviour that has shown us we can come out of death into immortal life. Christ rose from the dead *completely healed*. He was healed forever from the cuts, bruises, contusions and mutilations which had wrecked His physical body. We can be assured that we too will be healed when we arise in the resurrection. Christ has provided for this greater healing.

It is far easier for God to provide us with the simple physical gifts which we want and need. It is easy for Him to give us food, clothing, air, water, physical life! It's easier to provide us with these things than with spiritual healing and life. Each of us recalls that Psalms

103:3-4 gives us the promise of physical healing. But let's look at that scripture a little closer. You see, He does promise to forgive all of our sins. He promises to heal all of our diseases. But in the very next verse He also promises to redeem our lives from destruction. He is referring to the resurrection, *eternal life*, complete spiritual healing and **ENDOWMENT WITH SPIRITUAL LIFE!**

Abraham trusted the Eternal for everything. God provided him with all of the physical blessings which made him a happy, prosperous, and completely successful man. Abraham understood that he could trust Him with something which was dearer to him than his own personal life. He trusted God with the life *and the death* of his only son—that promised son, the seed from which was to spring the nation promised by the Eternal God.

Because he trusted this God—had faith in Him—he was willing to kill Isaac. He was willing to turn Isaac into a lifeless lump of flesh because God gave him the directions. You see, we must do more than just believe there is

a God—we must submit to His authority. We must admit that He has a Plan that is worthwhile. We must look to the end of the matter. If we hesitate, veer, stay inactive, then we prove that we don't really believe. Have faith that God will heal you no matter what.

But understand further that faith to be healed of physical infirmities is *only the very first step toward absolute faith*. It requires much more faith to believe—*really believe*—THAT THE DEAD WILL COME TO LIFE, THAT THE DEAD WILL BE HEALED. Each one of us has to be willing to enter death in faith *knowing* that our healing is assured. And so when you hear about someone in the Church who has died don't be in despair or dismay. Don't wonder whether God is still powerful. Don't wonder about the faith of the individual who has died. Don't wonder—*just have faith*. For faith will provide the solution. Faith raises the very dead. Faith provides for healing—COMPLETE HEALING, ABSOLUTE HEALING, THE HEALING OF DEATH ITSELF.

And a Christian may have to die to prove his faith in that!

The Bible Answers Your Questions

(Continued from page 14)

sword?" And immediately, impetuous Peter "smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear" (Luke 22:49-50; John 18:10-11). Jesus exclaimed: "Suffer ye thus far" [or better translated, '*no more of that*'] and at that instant *restored* the man's ear completely.

Christ then taught a great lesson for men of all times. He said: "PUT UP AGAIN thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword" (Mat. 26:52).

In Romans 2:11, we read: "There is no respect of persons with God." Romans 9:13 says that God loved Jacob and hated Esau. Wasn't God being a respecter of persons?

God loves the righteous man, but He hates the *ways* of the wicked. The wicked are an abomination in His sight (Prov. 15:9). Esau was a *wicked* man!

We read in Genesis 26:34-35 how Esau brought grief to his parents by marrying two Canaanite women. He had done this in disobedience and disrespect toward his parents.

In Genesis 25, we read the account of Esau selling his birthright. Esau treated it with contempt. He did not consider its importance as Verse 34 shows: "Esau despised his birthright." He sold it to Jacob for a bowl of lentils to satisfy his gnawing hunger.

This is indicative of the *character* of Esau. In Hebrews 12:16, Esau is called a *profane* person. He was rejected of God. He could not receive the inheritance because he was UNWILLING TO CHANGE! As Verse 17 brings out, Esau "found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears." His was *not* a truly repentant sorrow!

"Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but (Please continue on page 21)

The LAODICEAN Attitude

Are you going to drift into the Laodicean Church? Will you be among those spued from Christ's mouth? Here's what you can do about it NOW—to be sure you do not meet this tragic end!

by David L. Antion

ONE OF God's names would shock you! That name has an important connection with the Laodicean Church era and YOUR LIFE! That name, which is a part of God's character, should also be a part of your character. This character trait has great influence on your life. It affects your prayer, Bible study, work at your job, housecleaning, sewing—in short, *your whole life*. It makes the difference between real spiritual growth in God's Church and slipping back from love, true spirituality, and interest in God's Work.

Strange Name

Many have been perplexed by this name of God. To them it seemed strange indeed. Read it in Exodus 34:14. "For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, *whose name is Jealous*, is a jealous God."

Why "Jealous"? Why should this be one of God's traits? Isn't jealousy a sin?

We need to understand the full meaning of this Hebrew word translated "Jealous" in order to understand why it is God's name. This word is "qana." It means "to be or make jealous or ZEALOUS" (*Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*). This same word in the Old Testament can be translated either way—jealous or zealous. And everywhere in the Old Testament that you see the words "zealous" or "jealous," they are translated from this same Hebrew word.

Actually, then, God is a God filled with ZEAL. He is a Zealous (or Jealous) God for His people, His relationship with the Israelites and their

obedience to Him. Notice Isaiah 59:17, "For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was *clad with ZEAL* as a cloke." This is speaking figuratively of God's character and the ZEAL which is a part of it. But here again the Hebrew word is "qana"—which can be translated "jealousy" or "zeal."

Jesus' Character

What was Jesus like? Did He have this character trait? Notice: "And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: and when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; and said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise" (John 2:13-16).

But now notice the next verse which explains *why* Christ acted in this heated manner of zeal and "jealousy." "And his disciples remembered that it was written, The *zeal* of thine house hath eaten me up." Here is how the *Amplified New Testament* renders Verse 17: "And his disciples remembered that it was written [in the Holy Scriptures], The Zeal—the fervor of love—for your house will eat me up. I will be consumed with jealousy for the honor of your house." Today we say, "It burned me up."

Now notice the connection! The

Greek word for "zeal" is "zelos." It means literally: "hot, heat, zeal, jealousy, envy, and fervent." This also bears out and connects with the statement made in Deuteronomy 4:24, "For the LORD thy God is a *consuming fire*, even a JEALOUS [zealous] God."

So we see that the words "zealous" and "jealous" are alternate translations of both their Greek and Hebrew root words.

Notice how this word is used in the New Testament. "For I am *jealous* [or zealous—Greek "zelos"] over you with godly jealousy [or zeal]: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ" (II Cor. 11:2).

In Acts 18:25 we read of a very zealous individual named Apollos. "He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and *burning with spiritual zeal*, he spoke and taught diligently and accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he was acquainted only with the baptism of John" (*Amplified New Testament*). The King James Version says, "fervent in the spirit." Again, the word "fervent" means zealous, jealous or burning. It is that same Greek word—"zelos."

Jealous or Zealous?

If the Greek word "zelos" can be translated either *jealous* or *zealous*, what is the difference? Doesn't the Bible say that envy and jealousy are sin?

Yes, there *is* a difference. That difference depends on the *attitude*—the motivation behind this fervent, heated way of doing things. In today's world

you will find *heated* competition based on the motive of jealousy and envy. Actions motivated by jealousy are motivated by self desire. Wanting for the self in competition with others. The Bible plainly labels this as SIN! "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish" (Jas. 3:14-15).

The Greek word for *envying* is "zelos"! Again it is translated "envying" in I Corinthians 3:3: "For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you *envying*, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" This quality of "zelos" used out of WRONG MOTIVATION AND WRONG ATTITUDE IS a SIN!

But this quality of "zelos" or "qana" can be put to a right and godly use. The Bible speaks of "godly jealousy." Notice where the right type of *zeal*, done out of love for God and His commandments, is commendable.

When Israel was coming into the land of promise they came into contact with the Moabites. They committed whoredom with the daughters of Moab (Num. 25:1). And they began to take up with the worship of the Moabites' false gods which brought the anger of God against Israel. And because of this transgression many of the Israelites had to be slain (Verses 3-5).

Then one of the children of Israel came and brought to his people a Midianitish woman. He did it defiantly right in the sight of Moses and all the congregation as they were mourning the death of so many slain because of this very sin. Boldly walking in front of them he determined that no one was going to stop him from having his "fun" and if he wanted to marry a Moabite wife and pollute the nation of Israel with her false gods he would do so.

Everyone was so shocked at the bold defiance of this man that no one did a thing. No one except Phinehas! And when he saw it, "he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand; and he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man

of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel" (Verses 7-8).

The zeal and fervency of Phinehas spurred him to action in service to God. Already there were *twenty-four thousand* who died because of this terrible sin Israel was falling into. And Phinehas was not about to sit by and watch more Israelites have to die because one man wanted his own selfish, carnal and sinful way.

What did God say about this act of Phinehas? "Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, *while he was ZEALOUS for my sake* among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my *jealousy*" (Verse 11). Again note that the Hebrew word "qana" is used for both "zealous" and "jealousy." Phinehas looked at that abominable situation the same way God did. He hated that sinful, carnal and filthy action which would mean more suffering for Israel by cutting them off from the true and LIVING GOD. As a result he was given the covenant of an everlasting priesthood "because he was *zealous* for his God" (Verse 13).

What About You?

Do you have the *zeal* to overcome sin? Do you hate the sins you see in yourself that are going to bring misery, trouble and suffering and maybe death to you, your family or perhaps other church members? When you have sinful thoughts cross your mind, are you ZEALOUS to kill those thoughts (Col. 3:5)? Are you filled with *zeal* to kill the "old man" with his lazy pleasure-seeking ways—who would rather watch television than study, read the comic strips than pray, and spend time in long conversations on the phone than serve others?

Do you have a ZEAL for God? Do you make a zealous effort to attend church? Bible study? Are you zealous with your assignment in Spokesman's Club—whatever it may be?

Many times we may wonder why we are not getting the answers to our prayers as we should. Some say, "Well, I pray every day right on schedule."

But let's ask, "How?" How do you pray? And what kind of prayer really gets the answers from God? "The effectual *fervent* prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (Jas. 5:16, last part). The word "fervent" means zealous. The Greek is "zelos." We must be ZEALOUS in whatever we do. Haphazard, lazy, lethargic prayers will not receive answers from God!

God says, "*Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might*; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest" (Eccl. 9:10). Today in this society this admonition from God is almost totally violated in every walk of life. And especially in the matter of religion.

Coming home from church a family was discussing the services. The father said, "I didn't think the sermon had any punch or color to it today." His wife said, "Yes, and the choir sounded awful too."

Never has there been an age that has so encouraged lethargy and a lackadaisical attitude. On the popular program, CANDID CAMERA, the staff was shocked at the lethargy and careLESS attitude of the average person today. In one particular scene the Candid Camera staff excavated a green on a popular golf course. Then they placed a man underground (with air piped to him) so that he could put his hand up thru the hole in the green. When people would finish the final stroke for that hole by putting the ball in, his hand would suddenly pop out of the ground and hand them back their ball.

Some people were startled for a second. But most NEVER GAVE IT ANOTHER THOUGHT. No one asked how the stunt was done. And even after they were told it was a Candid Camera stunt, *no one* asked how they had a live hand come up from the hole. Most people anymore seem to go around in a *tranquilized* state.

This is manifest when American planes are attacked and soldiers killed in Vietnam and the average American just cannot get ANGRY or stirred up. God wants us to be stirred up. He says, "Be ye ANGRY, and sin not." God does

(Please continue on page 23)

Bible Questions

(Continued from page 18)

the sorrow of the world worketh death" (II Cor. 7:10). Esau never *really* repented. His attitude remained foul. As a man thinks so is he! God *bated* Esau's rotten and evil attitude!

But what about Jacob? Jacob had sinned. He had lied directly to his father, not once, but twice, in stealing Esau's blessing by trickery (Gen. 27:19, 24). But unlike Esau, he was *willing to change*.

Jacob was obedient. He obeyed his parents when commanded not to marry a Canaanite (Gen. 28:6-7). In Genesis 28:20-21, Jacob vowed to obey God. He repented and was willing to obey God's Commandments. We read in Psalm 119:172 that "all thy commandments are righteousness." In God's sight, Jacob was a righteous man. As a result of this righteousness, Jacob will be in God's Kingdom (Luke 13:28).

But Esau was unrighteous in God's sight. He was not keeping God's Commandments and *refused to repent* of his unrighteous ways. Esau's wickedness was an abomination in God's eyes.

God is no respecter of persons. God says, ". . . to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and TREMBLETH AT MY WORD" (Isa. 66:2). God looks to and respects those who fear to disobey His Commandments.

In I Samuel 15:3, God commanded Saul to "go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass." Why did God have to deal so harshly with these people?

God says: "All that do unrighteously, are an *abomination* unto the Lord thy God. Remember what AMALEK did unto thee [Israel] by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt; how he met thee by the way, and *smote* the hindmost of thee, *even all that were feeble behind thee*, when thou wast *faint and weary*; and he feared NOT God" (Deut. 25:16-18).

Notice how *harsh* and *unfair* the AMALEKITES were.

First, they waited until their enemy was so weak that it could barely stand up. Even then they *attacked from behind*, killing the laggards one by one. This is illustrative of the depraved character of the Amalekites.

But why did God slay ALL of them? Surely there must have been some that were righteous. If so, why didn't God spare them?

Let's take another example — of Sodom and Gomorrah! Notice how God dealt with these people.

"Wilt thou also *destroy the righteous with the wicked?*" asked Abraham of God concerning Sodom. "Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein? That be *far from thee* to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

"And the Lord said, If I find in Sodom *fifty righteous* within the city, *I will SPARE all the place for their sakes* . . . Peradventure *ten* [righteous] shall be found there," asked Abraham. "And he [God] said, *I will not destroy it for TEN'S sake*" (Gen. 8:23-26, 32).

The same principle applies to the Amalekites! God may have spared the Amalekites if there had been even TEN among them that were righteous. But there wasn't one innocent person among them! THE WHOLE SOCIETY WAS DEGENERATE!

But understand God's Plan!

Are these people lost forever?

No—absolutely NOT!

They will be *resurrected* to mortal flesh and given a chance to live under God's Government (Rev. 20:12). If they then repent of their evil acts and obey God they will be given eternal life as members of His Family. God put these people out of their misery! All the while realizing that He would *resurrect* them, and give them their first *real chance* for salvation.

How merciful (Ps. 103:1-18) is God!

Many passages in the Psalms tell us we should "bless God." What does this mean? How can a man bless God?

Almighty God rules the universe supreme! He owns *everything* which exists! Yet, YOU can bless God and bring Him pleasure, delight and joy!

Here is HOW!

If we examine the CONTEXT of the passages which instruct us to bless God, we find exactly what this term means. Notice Psalms 34:1: "I will bless the Lord at all times: his *PRAISE* shall continually be in my mouth."

To bless God, therefore means to *PRAISE HIM!*

But why do we praise God? Just because He tells us to? No! The true wholehearted praise God desires is the praise of *sincere* thankfulness and appreciation for all the blessings He first gives us! "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits" (Ps. 103:2). God *deserves* the praise of every creature!

"I will extol thee, my God, O king; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever. Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever. *Great is the Lord, and greatly to be PRAISED*; and his greatness is unsearchable" (Ps. 145:13). The awesomeness and greatness of God is WORTHY of continual praise.

Psalm 96 shows us that God is also blessed in SONG and WORSHIP, and by declaring His salvation to all the world. Psalm 100:4 shows that we bless God by coming before Him in worship, praise, and thanksgiving. In this way we acknowledge God as our Master, Ruler and Heavenly Father.

This *attitude* of REVERENCE, FEAR and RESPECT for God and the laws He has given carries right over into our daily lives as we become living sacrifices for Him (Rom. 12:1). God wants us to be living Christian witnesses of the true way of abundant Christian living to others around us (Mat. 5:16). In this way we influence others and bear fruit—which glorifies God (John 15:8).

There is great JOY in heaven over every sinner who, seeing the GOOD EX-

AMPLE of true Christians, repents and begins on the way to salvation and membership in God's own personal family (Luke 15:10).

God created humankind on this earth for an awesome and wonderful PURPOSE—to ultimately become His sons (Rev. 21:7)! The greatest BLESSING you can give God is to FULFILL YOUR PURPOSE IN LIFE—yield to God, overcome, qualify for salvation—BECOME A SON OF GOD!

Readers Say . . .

(Continued from page 2)

astonished to see our major deductions switch from doctor and hospital bills to contributions to the Radio Church of God."

Robert E. S., Maryland

• *Annual receipts are only sent on request—so if you need yours, let us know.*

Modern Oil Miracle

"On October 27 I went out to check our fuel tank for the furnace. I knew it must be getting low as we hadn't put any in since May. The tank was completely empty, even below the empty mark, but the furnace was still running. This was just incredible! So I kept check on that tank and it kept running for almost two weeks after I first checked it, till Friday morning on November 6. Then it finally sputtered out and I had to call the fuel man. Last winter we ran out of fuel about three times before the gauge ever got down that far. So I know it must have been one of God's miracles."

Mrs. Carol B., Ohio

• *Read II Kings, Chapter Four.*

Family Relations

"My husband has forwarded me your book, 'The Plain Truth About Child Rearing.' I wish it had been used as a text 15 years ago at the University of Michigan graduate school in place of the text employed then. Because of a tragic chain of events which has separated my husband and me, I am faced with the most important responsibility of raising six children alone. I realize that the basic environment God

designed for the home is missing. Please send a copy of 'Divorce and Remarriage' and 'How to Have a Happy Marriage' to us both. We have both been at fault but we feel a reconciliation is possible, with God's help. Thank you! Because of your devotion there may still be time for us to wake up."

Mrs. D., Alabama

• *It looks like you already have.*

Le MONDE A VENIR Listeners

"After having read 'How to Put an End to Your Financial Worries,' I took God into partnership, and as you said, I put Him to the test. Guess what happened? We suddenly got two people for boarding (bed and breakfast) for five days. For years we had had no one. I was wondering how God could possibly bless us because we are old and often very feeble and tired. Anyway, this is a beginning."

A French woman from
Sussex, England

Envoy

"The ENVOY arrived last week and am enjoying every page of it. Nowhere else can we get such a fine book for so nominal a sum. There is so much to be thankful for when we see God's work in hands of dedicated men and women and the long hours of hard work that is put into it. Thank you for letting me share with you, through the pages of the ENVOY, the happiness found at Ambassador College, U. S. and U. K., the privilege of viewing the grounds and the activities that are carried out at the headquarters where God's work is being directed."

Woman from Toronto, Ontario

To Teach or Not To Teach

"The sooner I can get all this necessary information, the sooner I can continue instructing my husband. He is currently irritated, but at least he's sincerely interested and accepts each new truth when I am able to present it to him in print, viz., in an attractive booklet! Ridiculous? Of course! However, that's the way his mind works."

Mrs. Kerry W., Texas

• *Better to live the right example—instead of doing so much "instructing."*

"Our eldest son when in kindergarten heard the teacher say something about old St. Nick and he spoke up, 'You're a liar! There is no Santa Claus!'"

"She flunked him and he had to go to kindergarten two times."

Mr. G. E.

• *Looks like the teachers have decided he'll believe in lies—or else!*

Building Fund

"I am sending this free-will offering for the Building Program. I sold a chair this morning out of my house for \$6.00 and am sending it to you. My elder daughter was so upset over me 2 years ago that she decided to study the Bible and went to the library and read all the histories of the different people and nations she could, so she could prove to me that I was in the wrong. She took *The PLAIN TRUTH*, Bible Study Course—everything—and you know the answer. She is to be baptized very soon."

Mrs. Betty L. E., Texas

Sabbath-keeper

"I still have my job even though I refused to work Friday nights and Saturdays during the day. Next week we return to the night shift which will only give me four days a week. I do not understand my being kept on except I firmly believe God intervened in my behalf. In spite of some short weeks I'm in the best shape ever financially."

Wilbur W., Michigan

Eyewitness Warning

"Sabbath morning, January 16, 1965, a KC Tanker took off from the Boeing landing, flew almost over my house, but soon developed trouble with fuel spewing out the fuselage. It proceeded about 3 or 4 miles more, then plummeted to earth right into the midst of a residential area. It exploded, throwing jet fuel over many houses. Twenty-three civilians were burned to death along with 7 crewmen aboard the plane. The people of the city rushed out to see the excitement and actually hampered the fire trucks, ambulances, workers, and even members of stricken

families who were away from the homes.

"It shows the stark reality of what the future holds when God starts pouring out His destruction on man. Instead of people showing mercy and being willing to help, they stared at the fate of the unfortunate, not caring whether the needy were given immediate aid. The whole affair just made us sick. What a demonstration of utter stupidity in the actions of these mad, sick and depraved minds who seek excitement of that kind.

"A few years back I used to be in Civilian Defense. We were given instructions that in case of a bomb attack all defense workers would immediately jump into action to steer people out of the area just as fast as possible, and if any disobeyed, shoot to kill. I thought of that yesterday. Some of those people who rebelled at the commands of the police to stay clear yesterday would certainly be asking for death themselves had this been a real bomb attack. It all shows very clearly the utter futility of man ever saving himself when the bombs come. It made clear to me the vital necessity of being under God's protection in the terrible times ahead."

Member, Kansas

Tithe of the Tithes

"Here is my tithe for this week; I only wish I could give more to the greatest Work in the world today. It seems the more I give the more I receive in return, for the Lord is faithful in His Word. I wish I could personally take a hand in serving God like you are doing. You may count yourselves the most fortunate people in the world for being able to work in the very Work of God."

David J. V., Michigan

• *The rest of us need to remember to send our "tithe of the tithe" in for 1965, so the Feast facilities will be ready for us this fall.*

Minnesota Summer Camp

"I was so happy to hear about the summer camp here in Minnesota that I doubled my Property Fund donation."

R. B., Minnesota

Sick of Truth

"For goodness sake, will you please STOP sending me your TRUTH magazine. I am just sick and tired of reading such silly nonsense. You are just like the devil reciting the Bible. May I advise you, and I am sure that God will appreciate it more, if the money spent on writing such dirty things against our Holy, Apostolic, Mother Church, that not even the Communists dare to, will be spent in providing something good for the hungry people. While I sincerely pray for your conversion, I wish you a happy and HOLY CHRISTMAS."

Catholic priest, Priory in Malta

• *A merry Semiramas and a Happy Nimrod to you!*

Offerings Too

"God certainly does keep His promises. For quite a long time I had been going deeper and deeper in debt, because I was just saving my second tithes and sending only my first to you. Then I decided that, regardless of what happened, I must send some offerings, all of which is required to be a profitable servant. I am now almost completely out of debt and am hoping to be married in about 5 more months. God does bless the tither."

Richard A. B., Texas

• *Remember Malachi 3:8 says "tithes AND OFFERINGS"—and we live by EVERY word of God!*

THE LAODICEAN ATTITUDE

(Continued from page 20)

not want Christians to fall into this tranquilized state of existence. He says, "Never lag in zeal and in earnest endeavor; be aglow and burning with the Spirit, serving the Lord" (Rom. 12:11, *Amplified New Testament*). The King James says, "... fervent in spirit." It means zealous, burning, hot with energy and zeal for God's service.

Do you remember what David said when it was time to attend God's Church? "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD" (Ps. 122:1). He had a zealous attitude toward God. He loved to serve God and do His will. He was so filled with zeal and service and gratitude toward God that he would dance before God even in the sight of other people. He was not *ashamed* of his ZEAL for God Almighty!

Laodicean Attitude

What does God's name have to do with the Laodicean attitude? How can you tell if you are a Laodicean or close to that attitude? What *characterizes* the Laodicean Church attitude?

Christ pleads with us to hear His Word to all the churches (Rev. 3:6). So notice what He says to the church of the Laodiceans. "These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou

were cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth" (Rev. 3:14-16).

The "cold" refers to unconverted, but the Laodiceans are not UNconverted. They are members of God's Church. They keep God's commandments (Rev. 12:17). But they are not "hot." But just what does it mean by "hot"?

Actually, the root word for "hot" comes from the Greek word "zeo." It means "to be hot, be fervid, earnest." This word is a verb. Its noun is "zealos" which means "zealous, fervent, HOT!"

In plain language then, the trouble with the Laodiceans is that they *are not zealous!* They are lukewarm! "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked" (Rev. 3:17). These people think they are doing enough. They are complacent. They feel they have studied the Bible enough. They think that if they spend a half hour on their knees that they have really done a service to God. But even worse, they say they "have need of nothing."

Have you ever heard people criticize God's Work today? Many will put it this way: "Why do we need more pages in *The PLAIN TRUTH*? I think we

have enough. And why do we want to build more buildings for Ambassador College? Don't we have enough? Anyhow, what do we need with a *third* Ambassador College—we have enough, we don't need any more." "WE HAVE NEED OF NOTHING."—Brethren, *this type of attitude is a typical LAODICEAN attitude!!*

A Laodicean THINKS he needs nothing else. He THINKS he is rich (spiritually as well as physically). He doesn't realize that he has lost his spiritual zeal—that he is not HOT and burning with zeal to accomplish God's Work in this endtime. Also, that he is not hot or zealous to overcome his own carnal nature and to serve his brethren.

This is what Jesus Christ says to Laodiceans: "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: *BE ZEALOUS* [be enthusiastic and in earnest and burning with zeal (*Amplified New Testament*)] THEREFORE, AND REPENT!!" (Verse 19).

God wants the Laodiceans to recapture that spark of fire and to let it BURN in service to Him. He wants them to have the attitude of Jesus Christ when He saw the money changers in the temple. He wants them to have the attitude of Phinehas when he saw the Israelite defiantly bring the Moabitess into the camp. He wants them to have the attitude of David who was glad when it was time to go to God's house for worship. God wants Laodiceans to have the attitude of Apollus who was FERVENT in carrying out God's Work. He wants them to have the attitude of Paul who was willing to go through all kinds of hardships because of his "godly jealousy" or zeal for God's Churches (II Cor. 11).

Do you have it??

How Not to Know

There is a way to keep yourself from knowing that you are actually falling into the Laodicean attitude. Actually, the Laodiceans don't really know that they are Laodiceans—that is, that they are lukewarm and have lost their zeal for God. But why don't they know? This involves a fundamental principle of God's Word which is violated.

Let's suppose you have three basins in front of you. The one on the extreme right is filled with almost scalding hot water. The one in the middle has lukewarm water. And the one on the left contains ice-cold water. If you were to dip your left hand first into the ice-cold water and then back into the lukewarm water—the lukewarm water would feel *hot*. Now, if at the same time, you dip your right hand into the scalding hot water for just a second and then dip it also into the lukewarm water, the lukewarm water would feel cool or cold.

Actually, if you were to depend upon a comparison between the lukewarm and the cold water for the needed knowledge as to how hot the lukewarm water was, you would be completely deceived. For in comparison with the ice-cold water the lukewarm would feel hot. You would not know that it was actually lukewarm. It would indeed SEEM to be hot.

How hot are you? If you violate this important principle of the Bible, you won't be able to tell. God warns us not to open ourselves up for this deception when He gives this principle: "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or *compare* ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they *measuring* themselves by themselves, and *COMPARING THEMSELVES AMONG THEMSELVES, ARE NOT WISE*" (II Cor. 10:12).

I should say not! For the violation of this principle enables Satan the devil to get the upper hand. It leaves you wide open for the Laodicean attitude.

For instance: If you, as a truly converted Christian, were to compare yourself to the worldly people around you in prayer, you would seem to be on fire for God. Most people don't pray at all. And most so-called "religious" people pray five minutes a week. Well, look how much more zealous you *appear* if you pray fifteen or twenty minutes some days.

Average churchgoers give less than \$1.00 per week. You certainly *would look* zealous, hot and fervent if you paid a straight ten percent of your income.

Yes, and many brethren compare themselves with one another. "Well," they say, "old Joe Smith doesn't know any more about the Bible than I do." To them this statement means that they are all right—they are zealous. They don't know that they are "miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked!"

If you begin to *compare* yourself with others, you are taking the first and biggest step toward the Laodicean attitude. You will DECEIVE YOURSELF into thinking that you are all right, in need of nothing, that you are doing as much as "anyone else."

And it will surely follow that those who lose their zeal will become jealous. Instead of serving zealously in the church, they will begin to slander, impute motives and envy those who are really zealous. How about you? Does someone else's *zeal* make you *jealous*?

The True Standard

There is a true standard by which you can actually measure and which will tell you just where you stand. JESUS CHRIST is that Standard! WE *must* measure ourselves with Him to see how much we are growing. We must compare ourselves with Him in order to know our spiritual temperature.

God's true ministers in His True Church constantly exhort you to measure yourself with Christ. He gave the ministry for these purposes: "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." And for how long? "TILL we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, UNTO THE MEASURE OF THE STATURE OF THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST" (Eph. 4:12-13).

Christ is the Standard of measurement! It is by Him that we must test our zeal. It is next to Him—His perfect life that we must judge whether or not "we are in need of nothing."

Indeed, we are foolish to compare ourselves with ourselves and measure ourselves by ourselves. Let's measure ourselves with Jesus Christ! And then, "BE ZEALOUS THEREFORE, AND REPENT!"