

The

SEPTEMBER 1979

Good News

Your Children
— Future Gods
The Anticipation
Cannot Equal
the Realization
Qualifying to Rule
Building Strong
Friendships
Avoiding the Turnoff
A Special Approach
to Sex Education

'Neither Shall They Learn War Any More'

The Good News

SEPTEMBER 1979

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COVER: A forgotten helmet and rifle lie under their own monument of rusting barbed wire. In the world tomorrow, they will be only decaying relics of bygone times. Photo by Scott Ashley and Roland Rees.

Letters

Trip to Japan

We just read about your [Herbert Armstrong's] trip to Japan and were so proud of the way you, through faith, let God lead you in all you said. Thank you for your very strong "Personal" in the latest [June-July] *Good News*.

Don, Phyllis and Eva McPherson
Glendale, Ariz.

We are very happy over the success of your recent trip to Japan, and we know God was responsible for it and with you all the way. We are truly happy to be a part of the Work.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Williams Jr.
Yoakum, Tex.

Readying the Church

I just received my [June-July] *Good News* today. I must thank you, and thank God for His feeding of His flock, for the article on making ready the Church. This article was especially poignant in its meaning to me.

Tony McClendon
Albertville, Ala.

Many will be helped

Thank you [Dibar Apartian], and God bless you for writing that article in the 1979 June-July *Good News*, "The Good 'Old' Days."

I know that article [will] help a lot of people in God's Church.

Colene Young
Rockingham, N.C.

"The Armour of God"

I would like to comment on *The Good News*.

For such a small magazine, it sure can be chock-full of a lot of good spiritual articles such as the one by Mr. [Raymond] McNair on "Enlist in God's Army" and the miniarticle, "The Armour of God" by Mr. [Gerald] Waterhouse and all who are bringing this spiritual food to us.

Mrs. James Prince
Paducah, Ky.

Old Testament personalities

I have just received my May issue of *The Good News*. The article about Ruth is so good — and, I hope, one of many to come on Old Testament personalities.

Hazel E. Downing
Peabody, Mass.

PERSONAL

BY HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

No matter how joyful is your anticipation of the soon-coming world tomorrow in the Kingdom of God, your anticipation falls far short of the realization you will experience!

The Anticipation Cannot Equal the Realization

TODAY I SAT down in a comfortable lounge chair and allowed myself to reminisce for a few moments on my own past life.

It has been a RICH life, full of the joys of accomplishment and also full of opposition and bitter persecution.

My mind went back to age 18, then age 19, when I had a job just a few miles north of Biloxi, Miss., a new Feast site this year, then age 20 on to 23, then age 23 to 30 in Chicago, Ill., then in Oregon and Washington and finally, at age 34, my conversion and start in GOD'S WORK.

Looking forward to the Millennium

But then I was AROUSED from this thinking of the past to LOOK FORWARD into the upcoming FEAST OF TABERNACLES, and the wonderful Millennium on earth it pictures.

THINK OF THIS! A time when we who have God's Holy Spirit will be changed to immortal spirit beings — actually BORN sons of GOD. In fact we shall then BE *very God*, except God the Father will be supreme in authority, and Christ the Son, next under the Father, in supreme command over all of us.

But THINK OF IT! Marvelous as this human body is, it does have its aches and pains and discomforts. Then, composed wholly of SPIRIT, we shall suffer no physical pain, but experience continually supreme HAPPINESS and JOY!

We shall have supreme FAITH in the righteous power of Christ. There shall be NO SATAN around anymore! We shall be converting the unconverted mortals who live into that glorious Millennium, delighting in seeing them accept and EXPERIENCE complete repentance of sin and FAITH in Jesus Christ, discovering the glories of living GOD'S WAY of outflowing LOVE!

We shall be immune from accidents or injuries. We shall be exuberant in glowing perfect HEALTH and WELL-BEING! We shall be thrilling to rich accomplishments, looking back over great accomplishments and looking FORWARD to NEW projects and undertakings to make the world peaceful, happy, filled with joys and delights. There will never be a dull moment — always we shall be participating in making others happy and joyful IN PERFECT PEACE!

And now the 1979 Feast

In just about another month we shall attend the 1979 FEAST OF TABERNACLES, enjoying a foretaste of the glorious Millennium, with many hundreds of brethren of like faith and hopeful anticipation.

I believe this year's Feast will be the most wonderful and enjoyable since God's Church of our time began keeping this Festival at Belknap Springs, Ore. My wife and I had been keeping the seven annual Sabbath days for 14 years before that — the first seven years alone by ourselves, and the next seven with the parent church of the Church of God for our time and era.

We must remember, however, that just like when the people of God came together to worship Him in the days of JOB, Satan came also among them. I have to WARN YOU — Satan also is looking forward to this year's Feast, so he can come also to different Feast sites and try to cause us any trouble he can — but if we PRAY with our whole hearts for Christ's protection, He is more powerful than Satan and can restrain Satan from attacking us. So BE SURE YOU BEGIN PRAYING FOR THIS FESTIVAL RIGHT NOW — and keep it up until the Feast is over.

Begin now to pray for angels to accompany our thousands of members, most of whom will drive to the Feast site that they attend. Pray for God's protection over all our brethren.

I am hoping to have another new book describing this soon-coming wonderful WORLD TOMORROW ready as my free gift to every family ready for distribution at the Feast sites. We have been working on the new Festival handbook to be presented to every family. Many have been working long hours for a long time already to make this the most inspiring and joyous Festival of our lives so far.

Be sure to add your PRAYERS to their efforts — for God's special protection and His blessing, and we shall all return home with our spiritual batteries recharged to the FULL. REMEMBER, there may be a shortage of gas energy for cars, BUT THERE WILL BE NO SHORTAGE OF GOD'S SPIRITUAL RECHARGING! □

CHRIST NOW MOVES TO PUT GOD'S GOVERNMENT BACK ON THE TRACK

By Herbert W. Armstrong

There is only one place on earth where the government of God is administered — and even that has been sidetracked. Now Christ, the living Head of the Church, sets it back.

THE WORLD DOES NOT realize that the GOVERNMENT OF GOD once ruled over the earth. God's government does rule the UNIVERSE!

Angels inhabited this earth before MAN. AS RULER over the UNIVERSE, God set a throne on the earth and placed the super archangel Lucifer on that throne to administer GOD's government over the earth.

But Lucifer rebelled. He led his angels into rebellion — a third of all angels. Chaos, destruction came to the face of the earth. Lucifer became SATAN, His angels became demons.

In six days God RENEWED the face of the earth (Ps. 104:30). God set out to REPRODUCE HIMSELF THROUGH MAN!

On the sixth day of this recreation, God formed MAN of the dust of the ground, out of matter. The MAN, Adam, was composed of matter. But God formed him and his wife with human MINDS — capable of absorbing knowledge and of reasoning and making decisions.

God gave Adam the opportunity to SIT ON Lucifer's throne — IF Adam, fully instructed by God, would reject the ways of Satan and accept GOD's WAY — that of GOD'S LAW! But Adam rebelled against God and chose to go HIS OWN WAY — not realizing, perhaps, he and his human race would be led and swayed by Satan.

God's sentence on mankind

God pronounced sentence on the man and through him on MANKIND! Man was CUT OFF from access to God — all except the VERY FEW God would specially call for special service preparing for the KINGDOM OF GOD, to be ruled by the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, to be established after 6,000 years.

Some 4,000 years later, the SECOND Adam, Jesus Christ, came to earth, born of the human virgin Mary. He overcame Satan, chose the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, based on the LAW OF GOD. But He was not to take over the throne of the earth until the end of 6,000 years. He raised up His Church, with the GOVERNMENT OF GOD ruling IN THE CHURCH.

Satanic persecution drove the Church virtually underground, and the Gospel message proclaimed by Jesus Christ was suppressed and not proclaimed to the world for approximately 1,900 years.

Now we are near the end of the 6,000 years. Christ is soon to come and set up the KINGDOM OF GOD and rule all the earth once again with the GOVERNMENT OF GOD!

God's government in the Church

Forty-six years ago, God raised up Herbert W. Armstrong, opening his mind to GOD's TRUTH, using him as Christ's instrument in raising up the present era of the CHURCH OF GOD.

**Jesus Christ is coming
this second time TO HIS
TEMPLE. The CHURCH OF
GOD is to grow "unto an
holy TEMPLE in the Lord"
(Eph. 2:21) — the
TEMPLE to which Christ
shall come.**

Through Mr. Armstrong, Jesus Christ RESTORED THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD — not, of course, yet over the world, but over the Church — as the ONLY PLACE ON EARTH where the GOVERNMENT OF GOD is administered, preparing for the SOON-COMING OF CHRIST IN SUPREME POWER AND GLORY TO SET UP THE KINGDOM OF GOD OVER ALL THE EARTH!

Jesus Christ is coming this second time to HIS TEMPLE. The CHURCH OF GOD is to grow "unto an holy TEMPLE in the Lord" (Eph. 2:21) — the TEMPLE to which Christ shall come. Christ set GOD's GOVERNMENT in the Church.

But today the Church is composed of HUMANS, subject to human error — though humans chosen and led by CHRIST (as was David — a man after His own heart — who corrected his mistakes) will likewise correct errors when led to see them by Christ.

The present era of the Church of God started small — 19 newly converted members. The Work of God, however, GREW. Some mistakes were naturally made, but corrected when Christ revealed them.

Ambassador College was founded in 1947. After a few years a number of small local churches were growing up, ministered by ordained graduates of Ambassador College.

In those early days I used Raymond Cole, a pioneer student, as a "troubleshooter," to restore peace where frictions had developed. He set up an office at Big Sandy, Tex. I moved him to Pasadena. Soon he moved to Eugene, Ore. It was becoming extremely difficult for him to direct the growing ministry from there.

CAD set up in Pasadena

A CAD (Church Administration Department) was set up in Pasadena, with Roderick C. Meredith administering the department.

By about 1971 my son, Garner Ted Armstrong, had removed Mr. Meredith from that office, sent him to England as dean of the faculty and installed David Antion as director of the ministry. This was a mistake, but not then recognized. It became apparent by 1974 that David Antion had gone too far.

A conspiracy was growing among certain of the ministers to bolt the Church of God, or, they hoped, through David Antion and Albert Portune at headquarters, to simply TAKE OVER the Church of God. The conspiracy was thwarted. But Mr. Antion decided his LOYALTIES were with the ministers, not the apostle Christ had raised up and used in BUILDING the Church.

The ministerial revolt, however, resulted in some 35 ministers leaving the Church, and taking two or three thousand members with them.

Mr. Armstrong succeeded in persuading Mr. Antion to stay with the Church. A small few of the revolters formed what they called "The Associated Church of God," with headquarters in or near Washington, D.C. A few ministers took a portion of their local members with them, each forming his own little local church. However it all came to naught. GOD

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Your Children— FUTURE GODS?

Do young parents realize the supreme blessing — and responsibility — of having children? New knowledge is revealed in this article — even more important than a matter of life and death!

By Herbert W. Armstrong

THE REAL TRUTH ABOUT marriage and the FAMILY relationship has not been realized — even in God's Church!

To understand, you need to know all about the spirit in man and how it operates. You need to know precisely what is human nature. You need to know how SATAN operates — especially on children. You need to know in what manner God has set you — AND YOUR CHILDREN — apart from this world.

You need to know at what age Satan gets into your child's mind. You need to know whether your child has access to God — when Jesus said, "NO MAN CAN come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him" (John 6:44) — And God draws only the VERY FEW He is specially calling to a commission preparing for the KINGDOM OF GOD!

But if you — a husband and wife — are in God's Church, have you realized that places your children in a DIFFERENT CATEGORY WITH GOD?

God has just revealed exciting, IMPORTANT NEW KNOWLEDGE! It will take several articles to cover it and reveal this wonderful new knowledge to YOU! So have patience. After this present article remember, THERE IS MORE TO COME! Receive it EAGERLY, even as I have. Much of what follows in this and following articles has nev-

er before been known or taught in GOD'S CHURCH — or in any other!

While other people — not members of the true Body of Christ — and all other children are CUT OFF from access to God, YOUR CHILDREN — IF YOU ARE A TRULY CONVERTED MEMBER OF GOD'S CHURCH — can believe in Christ — are not cut off from God — and much of God's truth, even though as yet too young to be converted. But they are a SPECIAL TREASURE to God!

So READ CAREFULLY in this article — and in others to follow on this subject. REALIZE what a special sacred TREASURE your children are!

Catholics claim that if they can have a child from birth through its first six years, he will always be a Catholic. That is true in a large percentage of cases.

WHY?

First of all we need to realize how Satan injects his attitudes into children — and at what age.

Mankind cut off

When Jesus said, "NO MAN CAN come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him," He was merely emphasizing the fact that God CUT OFF ALL HUMANITY FROM HIM except the VERY FEW He would call for special duty preparing for the KINGDOM OF GOD.

Start at the beginning. Understand this NEW KNOWLEDGE *thoroughly!*

After the great archangel Lucifer

had turned a third of the angels into rebellion, and Lucifer himself had become SATAN, God embarked on HIS GREATEST UNDERTAKING! He began the process of REPRODUCING HIMSELF by creating MAN (and woman) out of dust from the ground! Man was first, as of then, made of MATTER — not spirit.

Now GOD is a Spirit, composed of spirit! God is immortal — has always existed — always will! Lucifer and angels were made of SPIRIT — therefore they are IMMORTAL — but on a lower plane than God. Yet, although God formed MAN of the dust of the ground — physical matter — God has given MAN a far greater potentiality than angels.

In MAN, God is reproducing HIMSELF!

Man has the potentiality of becoming GOD!

MAN shall, when his spiritual creation is completed, JUDGE ANGELS (I Cor. 6:3). Few indeed have ever really GRASPED the marvelous breathtaking potential of MAN! By the very fact that God, through man, is reproducing Himself, we know MAN, when his SPIRITUAL creation is completed, shall actually become GOD! Only, God the Father will always remain supreme in authority and command, and Christ second in command, above all else.

The first man — Adam

To understand this NEW knowledge we must go back to the begin-

ning. Man's physical creation began with Adam. Man's spiritual creation began with Christ — the "SECOND ADAM."

Look, for the moment, to man's PHYSICAL creation in ADAM and EVE. They were created suddenly, in the afternoon of the sixth creative day (Gen. 1:26) as whole and complete ADULT HUMANS! They were suddenly created with adult MINDS — as yet unfilled with knowledge.

They were suddenly created with minds capable of *receiving* knowledge — of reasoning, making decisions. So God began communicating to them KNOWLEDGE of His GOVERNMENT — His great MASTER PLAN for man's ultimate spiritual creation — the way of His spiritual law of outflowing LOVE.

God did not allow Satan to contact Adam and Eve in any way until God had revealed His basic knowledge to them. Then Satan turned Adam into rebellion against God through Adam's wife Eve. Eve was deceived — but Adam wasn't.

Let me here repeat once again the vitally important incident, when God said to Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:22-24), in effect (in today's language): "You have made the fateful decision for all mankind — you have rejected me as your GOD, as your LAWGIVER AND RULER, and as revealer of KNOWLEDGE!"

"You have *taken to yourself* the KNOWLEDGE of what is good and what is evil. Therefore I cut you and all humankind that shall spring from you OFF FROM ALL CONTACT with me for 6,000 years — EXCEPT the *VERY FEW* I shall specially call into my service, preparing for my Kingdom!"

That, in modern language, is the sentence God pronounced on HUMAN-KIND for 6,000 years!

HOW Satan has deceived

In Revelation 12:9 we read that ALL NATIONS have been deceived by Satan. God has called to Him a very few — for definite SERVICE preparing for His KINGDOM — yet MANKIND as a whole has been CUT OFF from all contact with God.

Those who have been specially called, up to our present time, have had TO OVERCOME SATAN, AND SATAN'S WORLD. When God calls EVERYBODY, during the Millennium

and the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11-12), those called in those latter periods of time will have no Satan to overcome — they will live in a world that is CHRIST'S world — not Satan's.

Now how about CHILDREN?

In the present evil world God calls only a VERY FEW adults into His service, to perform a definite SERVICE in preparation for the KINGDOM OF GOD. They must overcome not only Satan, but SATAN'S WORLD — he is the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4).

HOW does Satan keep his world brainwashed into his false beliefs and ways?

But when a young man
and a young woman —
perhaps in the early 20s
in age — fall in love —
IF they are both
converted, and they
marry, THEIR CHILDREN
COME UNDER A SPECIAL
CATEGORY NOT FULLY
REALIZED IN GOD'S
CHURCH BEFORE!

Satan begins his work of deception WITH LITTLE CHILDREN! Now let's see PRECISELY HOW!

There is a SPIRIT in every human being. This spirit is NOT part of the person — it is something *IN* each human, just as (for illustration) a human might swallow a marble. The marble is something *IN* the person, yet not PART of that person. This spirit in man is something that is *IN* him (or her) from birth throughout this life.

I have written much about this spirit in man. It imparts the power of intellect to the physical brain. Yet this spirit cannot see. The brain sees through the eyes, hears through the ears, etc.

When the ancient Cyrus, king of Persia, ruled the world, God wanted a colony of Jews to be sent from the land of Babylon back to Jerusalem to build the second temple. This was 70 years after Solomon's temple had been destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.

HOW DID GOD CAUSE CYRUS TO DO WHAT GOD WANTED? God did not speak to him direct. He did not speak to him as to prophets, by a dream or a vision. But God "STIRRED UP THE SPIRIT OF CYRUS" (Ezra 1:1). God is a Spirit. God therefore was able to stir up the spirit that was *IN* Cyrus, and thus cause him to issue the proclamation sending the colony back to Jerusalem.

Now Satan also is a SPIRIT being. And in like manner Satan is able to put thoughts, attitudes, impulses into human brains through the spirit that is in each human.

Satan does not wait until humans are mature. As soon as a human baby begins to use the reasoning process — in the very first year — Satan pumps into the child through the human spirit, attitudes of selfishness, competition and strife — the desire to GET — to have, to possess. By the time the average child is 15 or 16, in many cases Satan has gotten in his work. THAT IS WHY SUCH A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF ALL CRIMES ARE COMMITTED BY TEENAGERS!

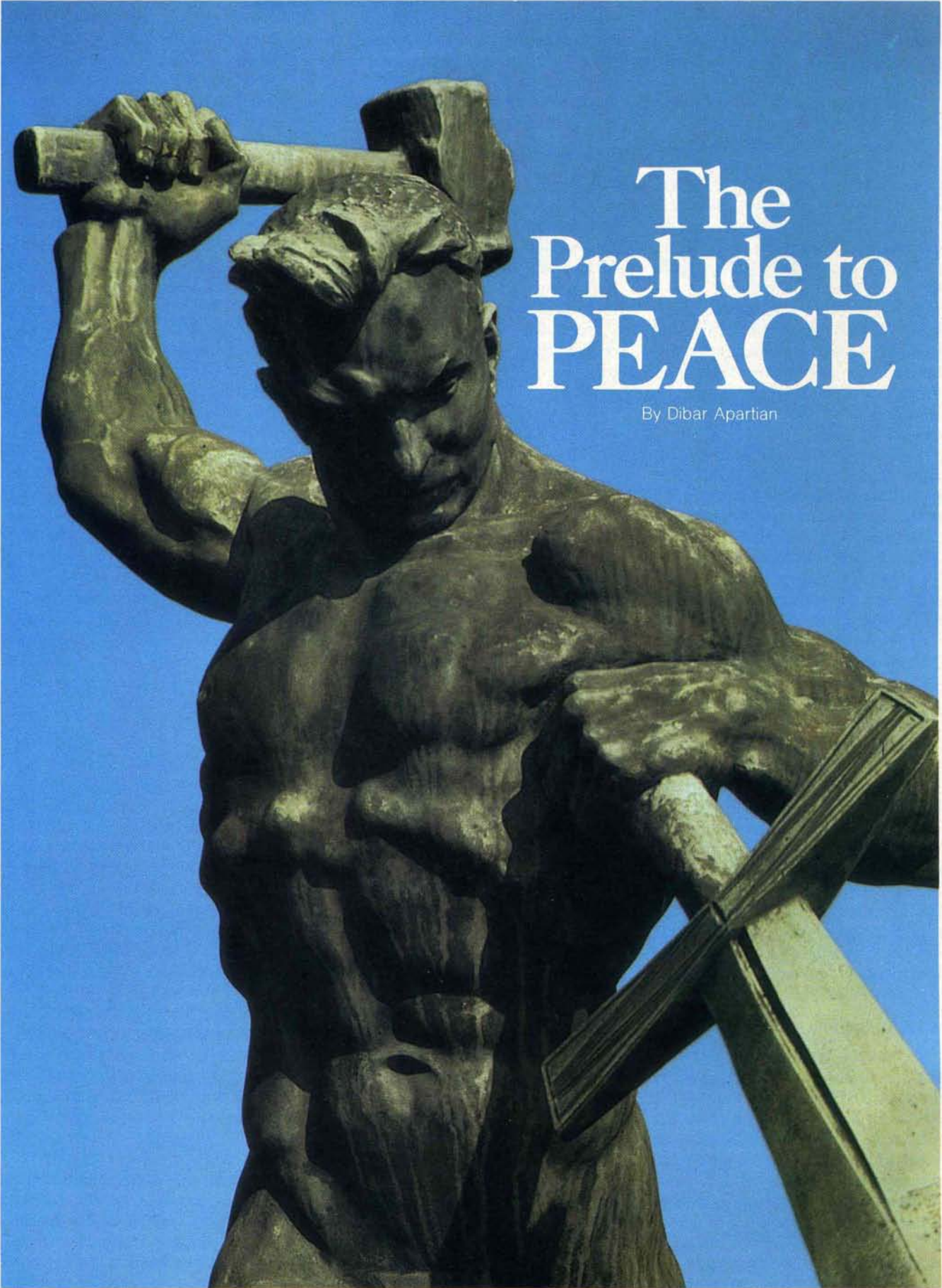
Obviously a little child, fully absorbing Satan's attitude of selfishness, resentment and strife, is not yet old enough to be called to special service by Almighty God the Father. God may call a few by 16 or 17 — but usually those whom GOD calls are more mature than that.

God first calls us to REPENTANCE. Then He calls us to FAITH in Christ. Those of us who have been called — truly called *and converted* — have had to *repent* of the ATTITUDE Satan had injected through the spirit in each of us. We have to turn FROM Satan's attitude to GOD's attitude of LOVE OUTFLOWING!

The CONVERTED young couple

But when a young man and a young woman — perhaps in the early 20s in age — fall in love — IF they are both converted, and they marry, THEIR CHILDREN COME UNDER A SPE-

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The Prelude to PEACE

By Dibar Apartian

Photo by Larry Dalton

Perhaps you are not aware of it, but according to statistics mankind has been involved in more than 13,500 wars since time began, an average of more than two wars for every year since God created the first couple.

Adolph Hitler defined peace as "an abnormal state between two wars"! Just since the day of his death, at the close of World War II, the world has had more than 50 new wars — including Vietnam, the war that took the lives of more American soldiers than any other.

No wonder God says "the way of peace they know not"!

Do wars bring peace?

Have you ever wondered why nations fight? Perhaps we should first ask why do *individuals* fight? Have fights ever solved — permanently and satisfactorily — any differences or brought any harmony or lasting peace? Never!

But it would be utterly unthinkable for a nation today to do away with its military budget and armament program — just as it would be unthinkable for any individual to renounce his natural belligerency.

Nevertheless, God promised our forefathers — the chosen people — He Himself would fight their battles: "And I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid" (Lev. 26:6).

In John 14, Christ said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you" (John 14:27, Revised Standard Version).

But how can Christ give us His peace when His very teachings — His Gospel — cause so much division between His Church and the world? If Christ really came to leave His peace with us, why did He "set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law"?

Is there a contradiction or mis-translation here? Of course there isn't. This peace is one of the fruits of the Spirit — the third mentioned in Galatians 5:22.

Necessary for salvation

If God's Spirit is in you, you are to bring forth this fruit of *peace*. It is absolutely necessary for salvation.

And one of the keys to obtaining this peace is your relationship to God. The closer you are to God, the greater your peace.

In God's Church, you have heard many sermons concerning the *love* of God. You know and you are convinced that *God is love* (1 John 4:8). But are you also convinced — totally convinced — that *God is peace*? It is only logical, without peace there can be no love.

Paul writes: "Mend your ways, heed my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and *peace* will be with you" (II Cor. 13:11).

Ask yourself this question. Is your mind in peace — *now*? Are you at

peace with God and with yourself? Do you live peacefully with your neighbor, whether or not he is in the Church? If need be, are you willing to make sacrifices to maintain peace?

Just like love, peace is an outgoing concern for someone else's rights and happiness. It is an expression of your sincere desire to better understand him — to better help him — without losing patience or feeling yourself superior.

Christ is the King of Peace. God's Kingdom is a kingdom of peace. And no matter how many good qualities you may have, you won't enter God's Kingdom unless you totally repent of

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How Do You Measure a Trillion Dollars?

The United States has spent more than \$1.5 trillion on war and its related accoutrements just since the end of World War II. The Russians have spent as much or more. Add this total to the billions of dollars being spent by other nations around the world for military preparedness and you have the cause of the world's present economic instability and its terminal poverty.

How much is a trillion dollars? Well, it's more than most people can imagine. Take, for example, the term *trillion*. Without glancing at the figures toward the end of this box, try guessing the number of zeros it takes after the numeral one to equal a trillion.* It is hard to comprehend the magnitude of that number, much less its significance. To help put it into perspective, we offer the following:

Suppose you were given a gift of \$1 trillion — to spend any way you please — provided that you exhaust your supply of money at the rate of \$1 million a day, beginning immediately. What would you do?

The first line of business would be to acquire an insatiable desire for goods and services. (In fact, with \$1 trillion you would be able to purchase every domestic product produced by every major manufacturer since America began.)

Next would come the hard part. You would need to plan to live almost 3,000 years. Because at the rate of \$1 million a day, you would spend your last million almost 27½ centuries later, sometime in the year A.D. 4719. That's how much a trillion dollars is!

Now what would be the result if all of the moneys previously expended on war were applied to peacetime activities, such as farming or the production of usable commodities, including clothing and shelter?

Using the conservative estimate of \$4 trillion spent on national defense by all nations since World War II, the figure would represent about \$1,000 for every man, woman and child on our planet. Families in India and other Third World countries live a lifetime without spending that much money.

Eliminating all defense spending would virtually erase poverty in the world. Had no military expenditures been made by nations since the post-war year of 1949, the world's realizable wealth (including housing, productive facilities, transportation, energy) would now be at least 50 percent greater. That's what real peace could mean to mankind. — By Dennis R. Robertson

*1,000,000,000,000

2 Great Lessons From the Feast of Tabernacles

By Richard Rice

For years, through Herbert W. Armstrong's guidance and leadership, this Philadelphia era of the Church of God has understood that God has given His Holy Days to teach us many wonderful lessons. This article will help you to better understand two special lessons to be gained by keeping the Feast of Tabernacles.

Those associated with God's Church understand that when Almighty God revealed and ordained His annual Holy Days, He was setting forth a master plan of the ages. God reveals through these festival periods how He will ultimately save mankind from utter chaos, misery and death.

One facet of God's Holy Day panorama shows there will be an age of 1,000 years in which men will live at peace and learn God's holy and righteous ways . . . a time in which the earth will blossom as the rose . . . a time when the earth will be as full of the knowledge of God as the seas are full of water (Isa. 11:9).

This great millennial period is pictured in the seven-day Feast of Tabernacles.

Commanded by God

As His people, we are commanded by God to attend the annual Feast of Tabernacles. God gave this command because He wants us all to live and experience the meaning of these days in His overall plan:

"Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the Lord" (Lev. 23:34).

Many benefits and lessons can be learned by keeping God's Feast days. By attending the Feast of Tabernacles each year we are once again refreshed in our realization and perspective of the coming Kingdom of God.

But, there are *two* great and special lessons to be gained from this Feast. Lessons that *all* mankind will

one day learn by keeping these days.

Learn to fear God

First we are to appear before God to learn to fear Him — to learn the lesson of obedience and the meaning of His wonderful government.

"And thou shalt eat before the Lord thy God [during His Feast days], in the place which He shall choose to place his name there . . . that thou mayest learn to fear the Lord thy God always" (Deut. 14:23).

The Bible tells us that all wisdom begins with the proper fear of God: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" (Prov. 1:7).

The fear of God is not terror or horror. It is an appropriate sense of awe, a supreme level of respect and worship.

As we learn more of God, get to know Him better through prayer, Bible study and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the fear of the Lord becomes tempered and balanced with love (I John 4:17-18).

Yet, the mind of man is such that often as babes, when we are just coming into a knowledge of God's truth, we may be primarily motivated by fear of the punishment God brings on those who don't keep His laws.

Nations will learn proper fear

God will have to use punishment and great power to subdue the nations of this world at the beginning of His Kingdom: "And out of his [Christ's] mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth

the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God" (Rev. 19:15).

God will use the rod of correction to teach nations His Way. Especially will this be true of the observance of His Holy Days, which teach the overall plan of salvation:

"And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of Hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

"And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the Lord will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles" (Zech. 14:16-19).

The nations will be taught to fear God in the world tomorrow. But this proper fear actually builds love and great peace. Notice how the nations will prosper and their lives will be blessed as they grow more and more into God's way:

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

"And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth

the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem" (Isa. 2:2-3).

And: "they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it. For all people will walk every one in the name of . . . the Lord our God for ever and ever" (Micah 4:4-5).

Godly fear leads to right conduct, which results in blessings and rejoicing.

Even Egypt, the archenemy of Israel for centuries, will come to know God and worship Him, and partake of the blessings that flow from God's hands:

"And the Lord shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the Lord in that day, and shall do sacrifice and oblation . . . Whom the Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance" (Isa. 19:21, 25).

The fear of God brings *good* results! Nations will learn to live in peace and harmony. There will be no more warfare, suffering and misery.

Learning to fear God today

As Christians today we also learn to fear God properly by observing His commandments and keeping His ways. Notice the example set for us by Jesus Christ:

"Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications . . . and was heard in that he feared; though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered" (Heb. 5:7-8).

During the Feast of Tabernacles we have a special opportunity to show ourselves obedient to the government of God. As God's Church has certain structure and order in its organization, so also the Feast operations have to be organized to run smoothly and efficiently.

Your example of obedience to the authority set in the Church (whether it is simply your willing cooperation with a traffic guide or a hotel monitor) shows how willingly you would follow God's government during the 1,000 years.

Your personal example can make a great deal of difference. Jesus said we are the light of the world. He said

we shouldn't hide that light, but rather let it shine so that the world will realize there is a great God and benign and powerful Spirit behind our actions.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and *glorify* your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16).

Every year come dozens of reports from various Feast sites of how the citizens of the areas are impressed at the order, neatness and obedience of our people.

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Your example is a living reality of the proper *fear of God* in action. During the Feast of Tabernacles you can practice a way of life that will be experienced by all people in the world tomorrow.

It's a life based on the fear of God — worship, awe, respect and reverence — and by your example of obedience many hundreds will also see that this life leads to blessings and rejoicing.

Learn to rejoice

The second grand purpose and lesson behind the Feast of Tabernacles is that mankind will learn to rejoice

in the Almighty Creator, the Provider of all blessings and good things.

"Also in the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when ye have gathered in the fruit of the land, ye shall keep a feast unto the Lord seven days . . . and ye shall rejoice before the Lord your God seven days" (Lev. 23:39, 40).

The Feast is a time of *commanded* rejoicing! And, for a great and wonderful purpose.

Just as the fear of God leads us into the proper understanding of God's way and motivates us to begin obeying, as we live God's way we begin to see how our obedience and fear of God *results* in blessing and rejoicing.

This is especially apparent during the Feast of Tabernacles. For a concentrated eight-day period we are able to live among God's people, apply God's principles to every phase of our fellowship together and drink in of the priceless truths of God's Word as expounded by Christ's ministers.

We are able to experience in our own lives the blessings that will be poured out upon all nations during the thousand-year reign of Christ.

The rejoicing at the Feast has deep and significant meaning. We can't afford to miss this deep lesson and realize that one day — soon — all mankind will experience the fantastic blessings we portray during the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day.

The special second tithe God commands us to save (Deut. 12:17) is to be spent on keeping His festivals. God says we are to take this tithe, come to the place He has chosen and *rejoice* before him (verse 18).

God further says: "And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after [earnestly desires], for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: and thou shalt eat there before the Lord thy God, and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household" (Deut. 14:26).

Our rejoicing should picture the deliverance, exuberance and spontaneous joy of a world given true freedom from fear, want and turmoil. It
(Continued on page 27)

Is it mortal or immortal? Is it in man or is it the man? Here are the answers direct from the Bible.

WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT

By Leroy Neff

When I was a child my parents told me that I had a soul. But when I asked where it was, no one could tell me.

If I had asked many other questions about the soul, I would probably have been told something like the following:

"The soul is not material, but is composed of spirit-like substance and is located somewhere in each person. It is immortal and will live forever. After death it will continue either in heaven or hell for all eternity. This immortal soul may have come into existence at the time of conception or the time of birth, or it may have existed eternally before birth."

You, too, may have heard something like this about the human soul. But, did you ever check in your Bible to see what Almighty God says about the soul?

The Hebrew *nephesh* (usually translated *soul*) appears more than 700 times in the Old Testament and an additional 100 times in the New Testament. The first place the word *soul* is found in the King James translation is in Genesis 2:7, which reads, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

Man becomes a soul

Notice that God formed *man* from the materials found in the ground, reshaping and reforming them into all the many complicated component parts of a human body. God constructed Adam in the same shape and form as He Himself was, but there was no life yet. The next thing God did was to breathe into the human body of Adam, and then he "*became a living soul.*"

It plainly says that *man is a soul*. It does not say that man was given a soul or that man had a soul.

Most people know little about what man is or what man's potential is, so such truths may be shocking.

Since Adam became a *living soul*, is it possible that the Bible might speak of *dead* souls? Is it even possible for a soul to die? Don't be too sure you know until we see more scriptures on this subject.

It should be obvious from the account in Genesis, chapter 2, that until God breathed into Adam the breath of life, *he was not yet a soul*. Clearly, that particular soul did not exist previously as an immortal entity.

Was Adam, who had become a *living soul*, destined to live forever as an immortal soul? Speaking to man about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, God said, "In the day that thou eatest thereof thou [the living soul — Adam] shalt surely die" (Gen. 2:17).

These simple straightforward statements by God, right at the beginning of the Bible, ought to clarify to us that man is a soul, and that this soul *will not live forever*.

Who has immortality?

Some may say that other texts will show that the soul is immortal. To find out one way or the other, let's check all the places in the Bible where the word *immortal* or *immortality* are used. We won't have to read many texts to cover this subject as these words are rarely used in the Scriptures.

I Timothy 1:17 shows that Jesus Christ is immortal, the King Eternal. There is no mention of any immortal soul. Then in I Timothy 6:16, we read that *only Christ has immortality*. That certainly eliminates the possibility of any other person or soul having immortality.

Paul tells us in II Timothy 1:10 that Christ has brought "life and im-

mortality to light through the gospel." Still nothing about any immortal soul. In I Corinthians 15:53, 54 we learn that we don't yet have immortality, but that we may become immortal at the time of the resurrection. Lastly, in Romans 2:7, we are exhorted to seek immortality, making it plain again that we do not yet have immortality.

None of these or any other scriptures show us that the soul is immortal. Genesis 2:7 and 2:17 still stand! Man is a soul and that soul can die!

The soul can be destroyed

This truth — that the soul can and does die — is stated throughout the Bible. Let's notice a few examples.

Ezekiel tells us twice (Ezek. 18:4, 20) that, "The soul that sinneth, *it [the soul] shall die.*" Psalms 40:14 and 63:9 tell us that the soul can be destroyed as Christ's own words in Matthew 10:28 affirms. Psalm 22:29 says that the soul can't be kept alive. Revelation 16:3 states that "every living *soul died* in the sea."

With such plain clear scriptures, how can anyone who claims to believe the Bible and say he gets his teachings from it believe in the immortality of the soul?

Translations vary

In the Old Testament, the word translated into the English word *soul* comes from the Hebrew word *nephesh*. In the New Testament, the word translated *soul* comes from the Greek word *psuche*. These words in Hebrew and Greek have essentially the same meaning.

What most people do not know is that the translators (of the King James and most other translations or versions) do not translate from one language to the other consistently into the same English word.

ABOUT THE SOUL

The Hebrew *nephesh* is translated nine times into the word *creature*. You will find a couple of examples in Genesis 1:21 and 1:24. In these texts you will read that whales and other creatures are also *souls*, since the word for creature is exactly the same in the original writings as the word *soul* of Genesis 2:7.

The same Hebrew word is translated into the word *life* in Genesis 1:20 and 1:30. Putting this all together we see that the word *nephesh* is used five times in Genesis 1 (twice in verse 20, once in verses 21, 24 and 30). Each of the five times the word *nephesh* (*soul*) is translated into a different word in this chapter, it refers to animals, not men.

Each of these five times occurs *before* the word *nephesh* or *soul* is used in reference to man. Isn't that amazing, especially in view of the common beliefs today regarding the immortal soul.

The word *nephesh* is also translated into the word *person* in Numbers 31:19. In this and three other places it shows that the person (*nephesh-soul*) *can be killed!*

It is even more surprising to see that *nephesh* is translated several times into the word *body*, and in some of these places reference is made to a *dead body* (*nephesh-soul*). See Leviticus 21:11, Numbers 6:6, 19:13 and Haggai 2:13 for examples.

Man is a soul

From all these scriptures it is clear that man is a living soul, not that he has an immortal soul.

The word *nephesh* relates to the idea of *possessing life* or of the *animated being*. This life can be animated, moving and active or it can die and then cease from living, no longer carrying on life functions.

Some people refer to the soul cor-

rectly as the *animal life*. However, some might be confused by this definition when it refers to man, who is not an animal.

In some modern translations, the word *life* is used occasionally instead of *soul*, and it is nearer to the meaning of the original than the word *soul*.

A deceived world

After looking up the scriptures where the word *nephesh* (Hebrew) and *psuche* (Greek) are used, we can plainly see the common belief in the immortality of the soul did not find its origin in the Bible.

This belief, however, is almost universal in the world's pagan religions. It has slightly different forms, but it appears as a sort of common denominator in all such religions. This pagan belief was injected into "Christianity" at a very early date.

With such common belief and teachings, it is only natural that we, too, took it for granted long before we ever looked into the Bible to see what the Creator God has to say on the subject.

God says that Satan has deceived the whole world (Rev. 12:9). He has deceived a lot of sincere people into thinking that the Bible teaches the immortality of the soul, when we have just seen it teaches the exact opposite.

Life after death

Since the soul can and does die, does this mean that there is no life possible after death? Not at all! Jesus said, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:28-29).

Every man, woman and child who has ever lived is in due time going to be brought back to life in a resurrection. Some will be given immortality — eternal life as a spirit being to be in God's Kingdom in a happy, full, abundant and productive life. Others will be given a chance to learn of God's way of life. And the incorrigibly wicked will be destroyed in the lake of fire (gehenna fire) that Christ talked about.

Paul also wrote of this in detail in I Corinthians 15: "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

"For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory" (verses 51-54).

Our great hope

If you want to understand more about the resurrection — the great hope of the Christian — write for our free articles: "If You Die Will You Live Again?" and "What Will You Be Like in the Resurrection?"

Truly, the truth is sometimes stranger than fiction. This truth, the truth about the soul, is one such example.

The truth about the resurrection offers a great hope in the future for God's people. It also promises great things for most of the rest of mankind who will yet learn about the Great God and His wonderful ways. □

Building Strong Friendships

Along with the Festival season come many opportunities to meet new friends and to renew old acquaintances. In this article you will not only learn how to strengthen these friendships, but how to build and develop all your relationships with others.

“You always hurt the one you love.” So goes the modern song, and so say the modern song writers. This line is accepted by most of us as a truism of human life.

Each of us has the power to love and hate, cherish and rebuff, like and dislike. Not only that, we are both these opposites to people important to us, and thus we can love and dislike the same loved one at different times.

Why are we so inclined? What factors are involved? What destroys human relationships, and what builds them?

Human relationships are delicate. People are fragile and need to be handled with TLC (tender loving care) to ensure the growth of friendships. The qualities that provide nutrition for the positive growth of good relationships are identifiable and, with understanding, can be successfully applied.

But before we look at the positive applications, let's examine what destroys good relationships, with the hope that we can avoid these attitudes.

Destructive factors

When writing to the Christians “scattered abroad” James wrote,

“From whence come wars and fightings among you?” He went on to explain that the cause was “lusts that war in your members” (Jas. 4:1).

Lust, greed, uncontrolled desire — these qualities tear apart the thin fabric of human connections. Lust separates friends and drives honesty out of that friendship. Rather than caring and sharing, lust sets up an atmosphere of getting. When taking advantage of others enters, the relationship dies.

James gives an answer to this lust that lies within. He tells us to look to God for our needs (verse 3) and resist Satan (verse 7) who is the author and prompter of lust.

Another destructive factor is distrust. Distrust cripples relationships by creating an atmosphere that strangles warmth, caring and concern. Distrust or suspicion of another stops closeness that is essential if two are to feel at one.

Romans 14 deals with this subject showing we are not to “judge another man's servant” (verse 4). But Paul goes on, if you wish to judge, judge whether or not you are causing your brother (or mate) to stumble by your critical attitude of him (verse 13).

Paul points out that the Kingdom of God is not in critical attitudes of

what your brother chooses, “but in righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit” (verse 17).

Avoid “sowing discord”

Perhaps the best way to destroy a relationship is by talebearing. Proverbs warns against this gross sin over and over again, stating that “sowing discord among brethren” is one of the seven abominations God hates (Prov. 6:16-19). Repeating gossip “separates very friends” (Prov. 17:9), and once accomplished the rebuilding of that friendship is nearly impossible, as “a brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city” (Prov. 18:19).

When I was a child, we sang a song to those who were trying to hurt us. “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me.” Not only is that wishful thinking, but it is biblically untrue. “Death and life are in the power of the tongue” (Prov. 18:21). Talebearing, gossip, unkind remarks, slander, all destroy relationships as well as lives.

Another attitude that destroys friendships is prejudice. Prejudice stops a relationship from forming at the very possible moment it could occur by creating feelings of superi-

ority. Jesus condemned this attitude and taught His disciples:

"But he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth" (Luke 22:26-27). To help His disciples and all of His people down through the ages to understand further, He established the foot-washing service explained in John 13.

Lust, distrust, talebearing and prejudice all work against a relationship. These negative attitudes strangle friendships and cripple the possibility of growth.

Now that we have reviewed the negative qualities to avoid, let's survey the positive factors that create the environment for healthy relationships.

Strengthening factors

Perhaps the best medicine for a relationship is the recognition of human need. When God made man, He created certain needs that He then went on to provide. Man needed food and water, which were plentiful in the Garden of Eden.

Beyond physical needs, God said in Genesis 2:18, "It is not good that the man should be alone." This need was fulfilled by the creation of woman, who was created to be one with Adam in marriage. As Christ Himself set the example, not everyone can marry, and while marriage may be the best fulfillment of this human need to not be alone, it can be satisfied through other companionships.

And people need to be needed. This mutual need is vital in any relationship. Without this two-way fulfillment in marriage, two being one is impossible. All parents know that children need their love and support, but happy is the parent who knows that he or she has reciprocal needs that are met by the child needing the parent. Recognizing our need for God is one of the most fundamental lessons of the Christian life. Obviously God wants us to learn to meet each other's needs and our own through service one to another.

For any relationship to grow, trust is essential. Trust is simply positive

expectation, as opposed to negative expectation. Positive expectation is "believing the best," "hoping all things," "thinking no evil," "rejoices not in iniquity."

These qualities are described in I Corinthians 13 where the Bible expounds 16 qualities of love. This positive approach is again explained in Philippians 4:8. "Whatsoever things are true . . . honest . . . just . . . pure . . . lovely . . . of good report . . . any virtue . . . any praise, think on these things."

In today's hard and cynical society, such approaches seem naive, simplistic. But can we allow our thinking to become hard and callous as the world's? No, even though seemingly simplistic, these are biblical principles.

Paul demonstrated this attitude of trust when he wrote Philemon and asked him to receive Onesimus as a brother. In verse 21, Paul said, "having confidence in thy obedience." That is positive expectation. That is trust. And that attitude produces growth in friendships, because it nurtures confidence, concern and thus good will.

All relationships need caring to survive. Caring is the ability to help the other grow. It is the antithesis of using the other person to satisfy your own needs. Perhaps it was best said by a 10-year-old boy who wrote a definition of a friend as "a fellow who knows all about you, but likes you anyway." Proverbs 17:17 says, "a friend loves at all times." Through thick and thin, good and bad, a friend is always there.

Caring is not possessing. Caring is loving concern and help with no thought of gain. Others are not objects to possess or own. Rather they are individuals to be respected as separate entities and cared for.

Compassion is essential

Along with caring, compassion is essential for good friendships to develop. Compassion is ascribed to Christ 14 times in the gospels. When Christ saw suffering, He experienced compassion. Compassion is the ability to feel the hurt the other is experiencing. It is the feeling of pain when others feel pain, and it is the feeling of joy when others feel happy (I Cor. 12:26).

Compassion comes from the Latin, and literally means "with feelings." To experience the feeling of others, to put yourself in their shoes, this is compassion.

Enormous comfort comes from being understood — the result of another's compassion and understanding. As humans we are often limited in our ability to help. But for those beyond human help — the terminally ill, the handicapped — we can always express compassion and in so doing give an enormous gift.

I knew a couple who lost a child in a tragic accident. One who had suffered the same loss sat silently by their side. No verbal communication occurred, but by the presence of one who had also experienced the same incredible pain, nonverbal language was spoken. Compassion flowed through the eyes, the body, the entire being of the visitor, and those grieving were comforted.

The final and most important quality necessary for the growth of human relationships is commitment. Commitment is the determination, the energy behind all successful relationships and is essential.

One of the best definitions of love I have ever read states, "love is an unconditional commitment to an imperfect person." Such love, whether it be husband-wife, parent-child or, in the spiritual sense, brother-brother, is based on commitment.

Once a commitment is made, the effort put forth doesn't seem like work. It comes willingly from within, not forced by duty or obligation. Love grows with commitment, and as love grows, so does the friendship or the relationship.

Grow in your relationships

We have examined the qualities that stifle human friendships, and we have seen the attitudes that enhance such relationships. As we learn to eliminate the negatives, and accentuate the positives, so we will grow in all our relationships.

And as we grow in these qualities — needing, trust, caring, compassion and commitment — we will fulfill the Christian goal: "For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink" (Matt. 25:35). — *By Steve Martin* □

It is a marvelous experience to become parents. But it is quite another matter to teach the children you gendered how you became their father and mother!

Why should the miracle of life be so awkward — *for parents* — to explain? It is, after all, not your children who are embarrassed. They are inquisitive and curious.

There is an answer to this needless dilemma. A special approach for the father and mother who recognize the need but have been embarrassed when attempting to explain the divine significance of love and sex in marriage and childbirth.

The foundation of knowledge

We accept the Bible as the foundation of *all* knowledge, so let's use it as the starting point for sex education in the home. Let God speak for you to your child — right out of the Bible. Let whatever embarrassment you feel in explaining your parental role in reproduction become His. After all, you are only quoting Him when you read the Bible to the child you occasioned to bring into the world.

Take your favorite modern translation. (Let us suppose that it is the Revised Standard Version.) You turn to Genesis 1, verse 11, and you let God say, "Let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth." That turns out to be a direct quote from the lips of the Creator God. No occasion to be embarrassed here.

But you want to comment on the divine utterance. Then let Moses

help you with his inspired comment: "The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good" (verse 12).

You have now been able to explain to your child that what he sees in the garden — plants and trees reproducing seed for the next generation — is good. Reproduction in plant life in which the flowers are sexual organs producing male pollen for the female ovary at the base of the flower is good — because God created it to be that way.

A special natural blessing

Now you let God speak again in verse 20: "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the firmament of the heavens."

Here are creatures having various levels of conscious awareness unlike plants and trees. God now gives to them a special blessing.

"God *blessed* them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth'" (verse 22). "And God saw that it was good," comments Moses in verse 21.

Did you catch the significance of this? It is a natural blessing for fish and sea mammals and birds to be able to sexually mate and reproduce. God *blessed* them with sexual reproductive experiences, which include, you might explain to a curious child, nudging of the female fish by the male, touching the external sexual organs of the female bird by the male and complete copulation among sea

mammals and certain fish and waterfowl.

God similarly blessed with reproductive capacity a host of insects and land mammals who consciously and instinctively share their bodies in reproduction. By this time your emotional fears should be fast disappearing when explaining reproduction of plants and pets to the children you brought into the world.

What about human beings?

"But what about us human beings?" your child might query.

Again we pick up the answer in Genesis 1. "God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion . . . over all the earth'" (verse 26). God made us to be in a special way like Him. The human capacity to think and to develop character lifts man as far above the animal realm as the animal world is above the plant realm.

Moses tells us how God designed the human being. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (verse 27). Fathers are male; mothers are female. "And God *blessed* them, and God *said to them*" — We will stop here to note an important distinction.

God made plant life to reproduce. God *blessed* a host of creatures in the animal world with the capacity to share their bodies with the opposite sex in reproduction. But here we find God not only creating human beings male and female, but blessing them *and talking to them* about that special blessing.

"And God said to them, 'Be fruitful

A Special Approach to Sex Education

Here's how to banish parental embarrassment and end forever the feeling of awkwardness when explaining the role of father and mother in reproduction.

By Herman L. Hoeh



and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it' " (verse 28). Because man is in God's image, God can enter into conversation with man. And the first matter He discussed with them both together involved sexual reproduction — "be fruitful and multiply." When finished with the physical creation on earth God pronounced it all "very good" (verse 31).

Origin of the family

Animals and birds and sea creatures mate and on occasion may pair for a season or for life. But they do not marry and share family life. Only man is endowed with this special relationship. This is easily explained by reading to children the account in Genesis 2.

"Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him' " (verse 18). So God formed woman "and brought her to the man. Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; and she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man' " (verses 22-23). God brought the woman to the man as a father brings his daughter as a bride to the groom in marriage.

Then God says (compare Gen. 2:24 with Matt. 19:4-5) as part of the first marriage ceremony, "Therefore a man leaves his *father* and his *mother* and cleaves to his wife, and *they become one flesh*."

These words of God should have been written as a direct quote, you can explain to your children. They reveal that a man and wife are meant to become father and mother and have children. The man is to cleave to his wife — to share his emotional and mental and spiritual life with her.

By now you are prepared to explain to your children the rest of this Genesis account. Together husband and wife are also to share their physical life — to "become one flesh" — join their separate bodies together through romantic love in sexual union.

God designed male and female anatomy, you can explain, so husband and wife can join their bodies together as one flesh. That is what God was instructing the first man and wife as he performed the first marriage.

God was not embarrassed. Neither should you be when reading these verses to your children. Furthermore, God inspired Moses to add the help-

ful comment (so you would not have to fumble around for words) found in verse 25, "And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed." It was their honeymoon and no other human beings were around to disturb them.

Later, of course, after sin entered, and with it the corrupting sense of guilt and shame and embarrassment, "the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins, and clothed them" (Gen. 3:21).

The answers are plain

It is a surprise to many, who have never closely examined these first three chapters of Genesis, how much God helps us to find answers to questions children — and adults, too — ask about sex and marriage and family. We are not left wondering how to respond. The answers are plain when read.

Of course, God expects that we add to this spiritual revelation additional knowledge as our children's minds mature. Thus, when a child first asks the meaning of Genesis 4:1 — "Now Adam *knew* Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain" — you can turn to the same verse in another translation that clarifies it — The New English Bible (NEB). *Knew* in this sense has a technical meaning pertaining to sex, you can explain. It is translated freely in the NEB:

"The man lay with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain." For the young child this translation would be answer enough. For the child in early primary years you will probably have to explain the meaning of "conceive" in simple terms. And for this you ought to acquaint yourself in advance with the primary book on this subject published by the Worldwide Church of God. Herbert W. Armstrong wrote it. It's titled *The Missing Dimension in Sex*.

Add to your knowledge

The Bible is the foundation of knowledge. Indeed many more chapters relate fundamental knowledge on homosexuality (Gen. 19), on premarital sex (II Sam. 13), on sexual responsibility before marriage (Gen. 39), on sexual love in marriage (Song of Songs by Solomon).

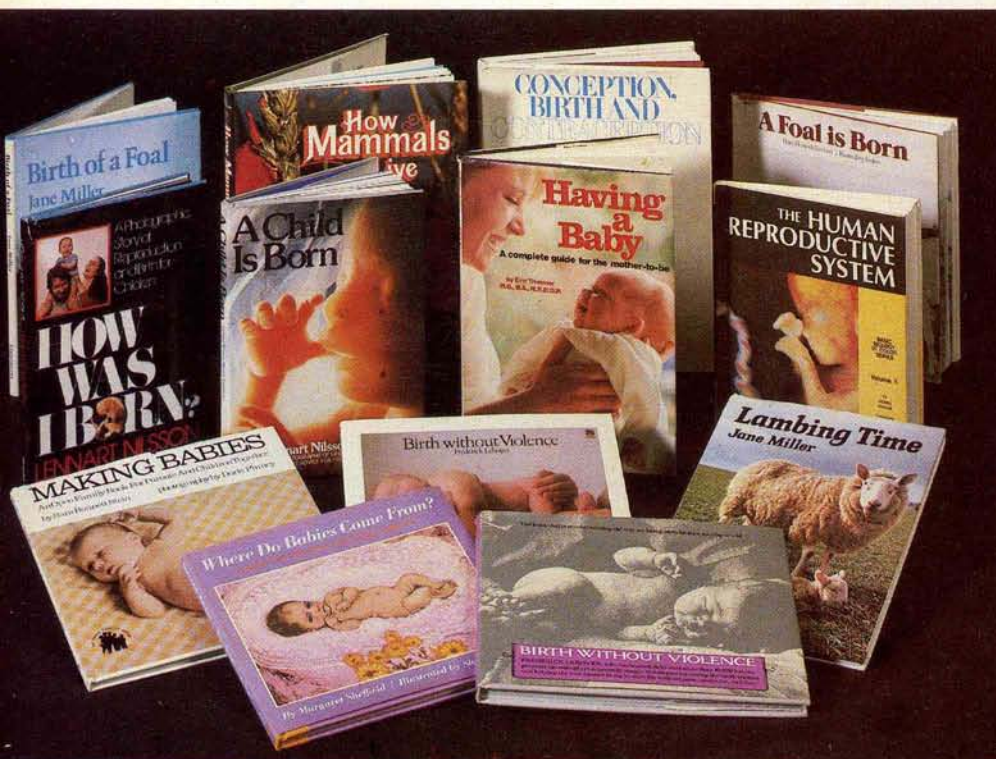


Photo by Warren Watson

HAVING A BABY is described beautifully in these books, especially designed and written for children at various age levels.

But these are only the broad principles. Mr. Armstrong saw 30 years ago the need for a special book incorporating an additional fund of knowledge on sex, marriage and the family. That is why *The Missing Dimension in Sex* was written. In an introductory statement the hope was expressed "that parents will recognize the urgency of placing this volume in the hands of their own adolescent children."

The need is as urgent today as it was 15 years ago when first written (1964). No other book more clearly expounds the sacred meaning of sex, its divine purposes and its God-ordained uses. Its five dignified graphics of sex anatomy provide a clear introduction to the written text.

Every husband- and wife-to-be should read it. And every father- and mother-to-be. And every young person approaching teenage should read and reread it. Material in it can be expounded by parents to young children, always bearing in mind that each year new material from the book becomes relevant to children as they mature.

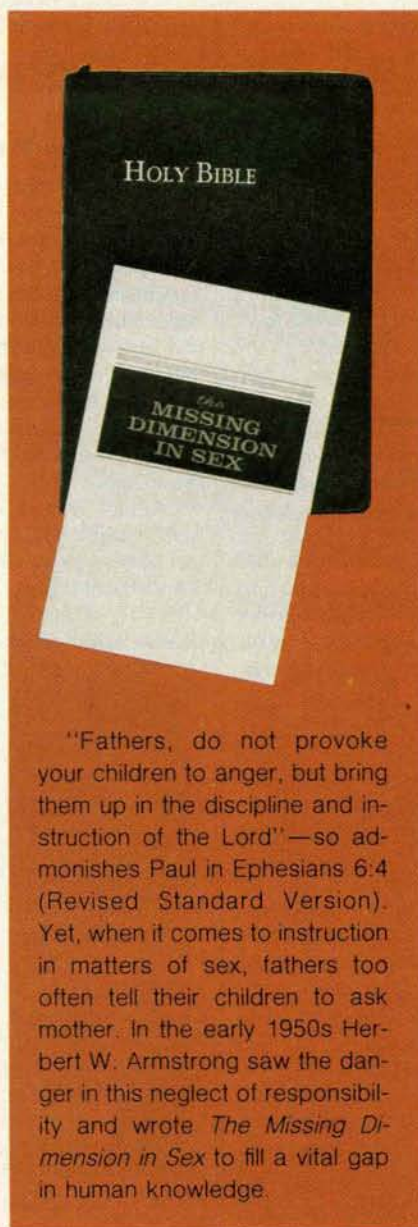
Keep one step ahead of your children at all times by having the answer before they have the question!

And natural childbirth, too

For half a century the teaching of the Church of God has been that natural childbirth is the normal way God ordained we bring children into the world (barring some accident, of course). And that women were designed to nurse children at their breasts. For three decades ours was nearly the only voice crying out this way of life.

Happily, within the last two decades many responsible men and women, professional and nonprofessional, have come to the same understanding. A number have written books on the subject. Some of the great photographers of this generation have contributed their skills to expanding our understanding of natural childbirth and breastfeeding.

In the remainder of this article, I will introduce those volumes that I have found graphically most helpful in explaining conception and birth. Some are designed for early years; some for teenagers. If even some of



"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord"—so admonishes Paul in Ephesians 6:4 (Revised Standard Version). Yet, when it comes to instruction in matters of sex, fathers too often tell their children to ask mother. In the early 1950s Herbert W. Armstrong saw the danger in this neglect of responsibility and wrote *The Missing Dimension in Sex* to fill a vital gap in human knowledge.

these books were in your personal library, you would find as a father and a mother your emotional and intellectual tasks in sex education in the home greatly aided.

I will describe these books in the order God presented the material in Genesis 1. With the creation of the animal world first, then man.

Four wonderful books for young children are available explicitly depicting the birth of a calf, the birth of foals and the birth of twin lambs. These books enable the parent to expound the subject of birth without the emotional stress that comes with identifying our roles in human reproduction and birth. The author's name appears first, then title and other pertinent facts.

Cole, Joanna: *A Calf Is Born*, William Morrow & Co., Inc., 105 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y., 10016, \$4.95.

Isenbart, Hans-Heinrich and Anders, Hanns-Jorg: *A Foal Is Born*, G.P. Putnam's Sons, 200 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y., 10016, \$5.95. (In Canada it is published by Longman Canada, Ltd., Toronto, Ont. It is also available in German under the title: *Ein Fohlen kommt zur Welt*, published by Reich Verlag.)

Miller, Jane: *Birth of a Foal*, J.B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, Pa., \$6.95.

Miller, Jane: *Lambing Time*, Methuen Inc., 777 Third Ave., New York, N.Y., 10017, \$6.95.

For the maturer child, there is a beautiful volume, in full color with more elaborate text, expounding instinct, hibernation, breeding behavior, maternal care. Sexual reproduction in animals is presented tastefully as one part of the whole web of life. (Only at the beginning is there a minor reference to evolution.)

Burton, Maurice: *How Mammals Live*, Elsevier Phaidon, \$12.95.

The most impressive photographic story of human reproduction and birth for maturer children is by the great Swedish photographer Lennart Nilsson. A thoughtfully written text accompanies superb color and black and white photos. You will see the fetus in the womb and a child being born. The text is especially helpful for fathers to expand the role of the male in reproduction.

Nilsson, Lennart: *How Was I Born?*, Delacorte Press/Seymour Lawrence, 1 Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, New York, N.Y., 10017, \$6.95.

Parents of young children should find the text and photos of the following volume helpful in explaining reproduction and birth. The text is designed to be read to children by parents who sometimes find themselves at a loss for words.

Stein, Sara Bonnett and Pinney, Doris: *Making Babies/An Open Family Book for Parents and Children Together*, Walker (Continued on page 26)

Good News on the Spanish Work

Two hundred eighty million persons on this earth speak Spanish. Another 138 million speak Portuguese. Added together that is just about 10 percent of the world's population.

Only one in 10 Spanish-speaking people live in Eu-

rope. Most live in Central and South America and Mexico. The United States has the fourth largest Spanish-speaking population in the world.

To reach these people with the Gospel is the responsibility and the challenge of the Spanish Work. □



Spanish Director Dickinson

The last thing Walt Dickinson ever expected to be was director of the Spanish Work. After all, he didn't even speak Spanish.

Mr. Dickinson is a minister in God's Church. He and his wife Joanne have five children, three daughters and two sons.

Ten years ago, he was president of his family's extensive jam, jelly and preserved fruit corporation. He sold the busi-

ness in 1969 and went to Ambassador College in Big Sandy, Tex.

But within six months his business experience was needed, and he was called to Pasadena to become executive assistant to Norman Smith, then head of the Television Department.

In 1973 he went to work as assistant to International Director Leslie McCullough. Among his other responsibilities, Mr. McCullough asked him to coordinate the activities of the Spanish Work.

First he had to learn Spanish, which was not easy for a man in his 50s. But he says the last four years have been the most exciting and challenging of his life.

His enthusiasm for the Spanish Work is contagious. "It is the most enthralling Work I have ever been connected with," he says. "Every day is an education." □

Reaching the Spanish-speaking World

In 1962, Herbert W. Armstrong commissioned the late Dr. Benjamin Rea to develop a Work in the Spanish language. Dr. Rea visited Spain, Mexico and South America and also began a Spanish broadcast called *El Mundo de Mañana*.

Progress was slow at first — by 1969 there were only 40 members. But today the Spanish Work is one of the fastest growing areas in the international Work. There are about 1,000 members, nine churches, 15 ministers and elders and 32 Bible studies.

Members attend regularly in 11 countries — under widely different circumstances. One congregation meets each Sabbath in the beautiful Ambassador College Recital Hall in Pasadena while another meets in a remote jungle village in the mountains of Peru.

At present, outside the United States, Mexico has the largest number of Spanish-speaking brethren. A church meets in Mexico City under the pastorate of Mexico City Office manager Thomas Turk. Another congregation meets in Guadalajara, where

Alfredo Mercado is pastor.

Robert Flores II lives in McAllen, just over the border in Texas, and travels through northeast Mexico to serve eight outlying Bible studies and to maintain contact with members and co-workers in this vast area.

Farther south in El Salvador, Herbert Cisneros pastors the congregation in San Salvador and travels constantly to four other nations in Central America. A church meets regularly in San Salvador. There are three outlying Bible studies in El Salvador. In Guatemala there are four Bible studies, and an additional one in Costa Rica.

Much progress has been made in the Work in recent years in South America. As early as 1968, Robert Flores Sr. traveled to Chile and Argentina to establish the first congregations on the continent.

After four years of delays, Pablo Gonzalez was given permission to enter Colombia with a work visa to pastor a church in Bogota, three other Bible studies in Colombia and three Bible studies in Venezuela.

There is now a church and an elder, Wilfredo Saenz, in Peru. Membership in this country has grown remarkably, and it may soon have the most members of any South American nation.

Some of the interest in South America has come from some

scattered Sardis era churches. In northern Uruguay, a group of 60 people has requested literature and visits. From a city in north-central Peru, we have received a request for visits from 180 people.

The pastor of a group in Ezeiza, Argentina, contacted the Work to ask for our help. This pastor and 20 others of his congregation are now baptized members, and the church of 75 meets regularly with Luis Chavez, minister in Argentina, for further instruction.

According to Spanish Regional Director Walt Dickinson, one difficulty such people initially have is finding something they need to repent of.

"After all," he said, "most have kept the Sabbath and the food laws and have kept some knowledge of the Holy Days. After additional conversations to determine exactly what they understood, we found they were keeping a second tithe to observe the Feast of Tabernacles, but they had never paid a first tithe. So the question 'why repent?' was answered, and they were able to correct the error."

Perhaps one of the remotest congregations in the world is in Huaraz, Peru. In this town, high up in the Andes, a group of about 50 Indians have shown great interest in the Church. Several have been baptized, and a group of 50 or more meet



together regularly. One problem is they don't speak Spanish, but an Indian dialect called Quechua, the language of the Incan empire.

Fortunately, the Peruvian elder, Mr. Saenz, is fluent in Quechua.

Three of the Caribbean countries are Spanish speaking — Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. Communist Cuba is off limits, but a church meets regularly in San Juan, Puerto Rico, under the pastorship of Stan Bass, Caribbean regional director. Mr. Bass has established a regular Bible study in the Dominican Republic.

Across the Atlantic, in the Spanish motherland, Spain, are about 20 members of the

Church. Fernando Barriga travels to Europe several times a year to counsel and visit with the brethren.

Lastly, but by no means least, for it has the fourth-largest Spanish-speaking population in the world, is the United States. A Spanish-speaking congregation meets each Sabbath in Pasadena. Mr. Flores Sr. is the pastor. At present, Pasadena has the only Spanish congregation in the United States, but Mr. Dickinson says there is potential for further congregations in areas such as Miami, Fla., New York and Chicago, Ill., where Mexican, Cuban, Puerto Rican and Central and South American populations are congregated. □

found the expression was 'upright' life — not quite the same thing at all."

The Spanish Work is experimenting with an idea that could provide a big boost to *La Pura Verdad's* circulation in the months ahead. Small holders filled with two-color postcards offering a subscription for *La Pura Verdad* have been placed in prominent places in some South American cities. Early results are encouraging. About 500 new subscriptions have been received from Argentina in the first month.

The Spanish Department

also publishes *El Comunicado*. This smaller publication is sent monthly to all members and co-workers. It carries the latest co-worker and member letters from Herbert W. Armstrong plus a digest of articles from *The Good News* and *The Worldwide News* translated into Spanish.

The cost of mailing *El Comunicado* is the same as sending a co-worker letter by itself. This little publication helps to keep Spanish-speaking members informed of the latest developments in God's Work. □

Se Habla Portuguese?

Many people don't realize that the citizens of the world's most populous "Spanish" country, Brazil, do not speak Spanish. Brazilians speak Portuguese.

To an English-speaking person Spanish and Portuguese may seem to be much the same, but they are two very different languages — about as different as Dutch and German.

The Portuguese-speaking world is also the Spanish Department's responsibility, and a special effort is made to reach them.

There are about 138 million in the world today who speak the language. Most are in Brazil (population 120 million), the remainder in Portugal, its colonies and ex-colonies.

At present the Work among Portuguese-speaking people is small — seven members in Brazil and seven in Portugal.

Fernando Barriga has visited Portugal several times to serve the few members and co-workers in that country. "We understand each other all right if we all speak slowly," he says.

"And most Portuguese can at least get the gist of written Spanish, so they are able to read *La Pura Verdad*. But eventually we need to think about having some literature in Portuguese." □

Spanish Broadcast Revived

The first voice of *El Mundo de Manana*, *The World Tomorrow* in Spanish, was Dr. Benjamin Rea, broadcasting from studios in Bricket Wood, England. After Dr. Rea's untimely death, Pablo Gonzalez took over the responsibility.

The difficulty experienced in obtaining good broadcasting time plus the relatively low response from the broadcast forced the Spanish Work to curtail *El Mundo de Manana* several years ago.

However, it is being revived on an experimental basis. A new opening and closing was added to 56 of the programs.

These programs will be made available in areas that are willing to give the Work free radio time. In some areas brethren have contacts that can help them obtain time on the stations.

"In the past the broadcast never produced the results we had hoped to achieve," said Walt Dickinson, Spanish regional director. "The response was very low. We want to see if the condition has changed today."

The first tapes have already been shipped to a station in Lima, Peru. There are also opportunities to air *El Mundo de Manana* in Honduras and El Salvador in the immediate future. —By John Halford □



A sample of the publications available in the Spanish language.

La Pura Verdad

La Pura Verdad, *The Plain Truth* in Spanish, began publication in 1968. Today's circulation stands at 150,000. The regular mailing list is 70,000, and the remainder is distributed on newsstands mainly in the United States.

The magazine is the fourth largest Spanish-language monthly magazine in the United States and is actually the largest circulation Spanish magazine west of the Mississippi River. In the Los Angeles, Calif., area alone are more than 100 newsstand distribution points.

La Pura Verdad resembles the English *Plain Truth* in

both format and content. Usually, one article each month is especially written for Spanish-speaking readers. The magazine is edited in Pasadena, but is printed and mailed from Cali, Colombia, saving the Work thousands of dollars each issue. Most articles are professionally translated and then checked thoroughly for accuracy.

"Sometimes translators have difficulty with some of the spiritual concepts," says Ralph Levy, managing editor of *La Pura Verdad*. "For instance, we recently received an article back exhorting people to live a 'vertical' life. On checking the original, we

sharing...

AVOIDING THE TURNOFF

"Whatever happened to . . . ?" "Oh, he's not with the Church anymore. He got turned off." Have you ever heard these or similar comments?

Have you had the urge to get together with an old friend in the Church, but you hesitated? You remembered that your friend has little to do with the Church and God's Work any longer.

There's a difference in outlook now. You do not feel comfortable together because you are not of the same spirit anymore. Your friend is turned off.

Why?

When I think about the people I have met in the Church over the past 24 years, many names and faces come to mind. A passing parade of diverse personalities with different temperaments, backgrounds and abilities. An amazing variety of fascinating individuals.

No longer involved

Sadly a part of them are no longer involved with the Church. They came and went. What happened? Some were on fire when they first came into the Church of God. How did they become turned off?

A few died on the vine and dropped by the wayside. But in too many cases, the turned-off ones became offended at what some other human being in the Church said or did, or by rumors about what someone said or did. Read that last sentence again.

The turnoff did not occur for doctrinal reasons. Instead, there was an offense, a stumbling caused by other people's shortcomings or supposed shortcomings. Doctrinal disagreement is used as an excuse, but the real reason is almost

always the same, the person was offended.

Why is it after a person allows himself to become upset with others the fundamental, solidly proved doctrines of God such as the Sabbath, the Holy Days, the keeping of the other Commandments, Church government, become *not* so fundamental and solid? It happens.

Revelation 3:11 warns to beware lest any *man* "take thy crown." Isn't that exactly what we do if we allow men to offend us and change our relationship with God and His revealed laws?

Love God's law

This pitfall can be avoided. David revealed the way in Psalm 119:165, "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them."

We have to love God's law to the extent that no offense, no misunderstanding, no rumor can ever approach the degree of our love. David said this is how to guarantee never being turned off from God's truth.

Jesus gave even more specific safeguards in John 14 and 15. And then He pointed out that "These things have I spoken unto you, *that ye should not be offended*" (John 16:1). It is important, then, to examine what these things are.

In verses 1 to 8 of chapter 15, each Christian is compared to a branch of the true Vine (Jesus). Each branch is required to bear fruit. Can you imagine one branch on a vine judging another branch, becoming offended and saying:

"Hey, I don't like the fruit being borne by that other branch over there. It doesn't look right to me. The gardener should have pruned that

branch long ago. He is not doing a very good job. I'm so offended by it all that I'm going to stop bearing fruit myself!"

Let God be the judge

The point is that we each must bear fruit in our own lives and let the Gardener (God) judge the other branches. Do you feel that one of the other branches has somehow wronged you? Forgive, and let God do the pruning. He says He will (verse 2).

The question is do we believe He is capable.

Faith is the key. Many of those who fall away do so because they no longer have faith that God is able to rule His Church, faith that He is able to place in authority those whom He chooses.

Faith. Authority. These are the critical words.

Actively bear fruit

Having faith that God is in charge, we should busy ourselves bearing fruit, showing mercy and forgiveness toward the faults of others. We ought to fill our lives actively bearing these fruits, keeping God's commandments (John 14:15, 21).

Doing good works (John 14:12). Loving one another (John 15:12, 17). Communing with God in prayer (John 14:13-14, 15:7). Allowing the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us (John 14:16-17). Making the truth known to the world even in the face of persecution (John 15:16-27).

Determine to never allow any human being to offend you and turn you off, to dampen your enthusiasm for the truth of God's Word, His laws and the Work He is doing. God lives. And He is in control.

Clayton Steep

MINI STUDY

Qualifying to Rule

The Good News, in conjunction with the Correspondence Course Department, presents brief monthly excursions into the study of the Bible, delving into topics relevant to the development and increased understanding of future members of the God Family. Bible study is one means by which Christians are renewed daily (II Cor. 4:16), so let's refresh ourselves with more of the precious truths of God's Word!

Instructions: The format of these ministudies is similar to that of the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. Look up and *read in your Bible* the scripture references given in answer to the questions. Comments following the questions elaborate on the scriptures just read. That's all there is to it! (These studies are based on the King James Version of the Bible, unless otherwise stated.)

Many are surprised to learn that the Bible says so much about *ruling* in the coming government of God on earth. Some doubt that they could ever rule over people, while others have no desire to rule at all. Perhaps you have thought: But I don't want to rule in the world tomorrow. I just want to *serve* God.

Jesus Christ was God incarnate — God made flesh. Before He became a human being He was the Creator of the universe and of mankind. At His return He will occupy the greatest position of authority under God the Father in His coming Kingdom.

Yet while Jesus was on earth, He became a *servant* to His fellowman (Luke 22:27; Matt. 20:27-28). And even now, exalted again at the right hand of the Father, Jesus continues to *serve* us as our High Priest and Advocate (Heb. 4:15-16), and as Head of His Church (Col. 1:18).

Let's understand exactly how and why service to God actually entails *rulership*.

1. What is one way a Spirit-begotten Christian expresses service to God? Matt. 25:31-40.

We serve God when we serve *our fellowman*. Christ said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto *me*" (verse 40).

This troubled world is filled with needy, sick and lonely people. *Hundreds of millions* in today's world would benefit from even basic instruction in how to improve the quality of their physical lives, including their basic nutrition and everyday hygiene. Above all, they need to know the *truth of God* — His purpose and plan for mankind, and how to assure their entry into God's Family. This whole world desperately needs to understand the Word of God!

As mentioned before, Christ came to *serve*, not to be served. The foot-washing ceremony, which He established and commanded to be observed, symbolizes this attitude of service. Christians should want to *imitate* Christ's example (I Pet. 2:21; John 13:12-17).

A deeply converted Christian will want to *help change this world* and help others to share in the blessings that come by living God's way of life. That is, in fact, what the return of Christ and the establishment of His Kingdom (government) on earth is all about! All Spirit-begotten Christians are, in reality, now *in training* for a significant role in administering that government of the wonderful world tomorrow under Christ's leadership.

2. What does the Bible say resurrected saints will be doing in the Kingdom of God during the Millennium? Rev. 3:21, 2:26, 5:10, 20:4-6.

We read of "thrones," "judgment" and "reigning." These scriptures clearly tell us that in the world tomorrow Christians will receive positions of rulership — opportunities to do *great good* in this world! All who are converted and overcoming now will become kings and priests, various administrators and administrative assistants in the world-ruling Kingdom of God.

3. In the course of living their physical lives, are God's children to be *learning* to rule and judge? I Cor. 6:1-3.

Born-again Christians will be able to carry great responsibility with Jesus Christ in the Kingdom of God because, while growing in spiritual character in this life, they have been learning to rightly apply the laws of God to many different situations.

The Bible reveals that the Christian life is one of overcoming, growing, preparing and develop-

MINI STUDY

ing for *service through rulership* in the world tomorrow!

4. By what great principle can a person of ordinary ability and humble opportunity in this life *qualify* to take on far greater responsibility in the Kingdom of God? Luke 16:10. (Notice also verses 11-12.) What will Christ say to those who have been faithful over the little that He entrusted to their care? Matt. 25:21. (Be sure to read verses 14 through 30 of this parable.)

We learn to rule by being *faithful* — conscientious — in whatever we do, putting into practice in our daily lives the principles and laws we learn from God's Word. Even the person who considers himself or herself as having only little ability and natural talent, *can qualify* to rule — *serve* — in God's Kingdom.

5. Notice further the parable of the talents in Matthew 25: In what way did the rich man (Christ) divide up his goods? Verse 15.

Notice that all the quantities were *not* equal. He gave responsibilities *according to each servant's natural ability*. The talent in the King James Version is actually a measure of weight, having a certain *value*. Similarly, not everyone has been given the same ability. God knows some have more education, some have greater innate aptitudes, more personality, or more physical strength than others.

But the important lesson Christ intends to teach us by this parable is that God expects us to *increase* our talents and abilities! God wants His Spirit-begotten children to *grow* — both in spiritual character and in their *inherent* abilities. He knows that in order for us to fulfill our purpose for living and being called into His ruling Family, we need to be using and developing our aptitudes, talents and abilities *now*!

We learn to rule and successfully carry responsibility for the good of ourselves and others in the world tomorrow by learning to better manage the affairs, responsibilities and powers in our control *today*, no matter how small they may presently be. Unfortunately though, all too often we overlook or fail to appreciate the opportunities to grow and develop right on the job and in the circumstances in which we find ourselves.

6. Does this parable reveal that each servant who is faithful "over a few things" — that is, over his or her limited "talents" and opportunities of this life — will be rewarded with "many things"? Verses 20-23. Isn't it clearly *rulership* that Christ promised? Verses 21, 23.

Comment: Notice how fair God is. In verses 21 and 23, even though each person was originally

given responsibility based on his natural abilities, both of the first two servants increased their responsibilities *100 percent*. Christ therefore puts both essentially on an *equal level* in rewarding them. The Bible here reveals the principle that God will judge and reward us according to *how well we do with what we have to do with*!

This human life is the training ground. We learn to rule by performing our responsibilities faithfully, by developing ourselves and by learning to *rule ourselves* — our appetites, emotions and even our thoughts — as we live the Christian way of life with the help of God's Holy Spirit. Thus it is by our *overcoming* and *growing* that we will attain an office of responsibility — an opportunity for greater service, for doing *much* more good than is humanly possible — once we are born into the ruling Family of God.

7. To whom has God promised rulership over the reunited nation of Israel? Ezek. 37:21-22, 24. What positions of rulership did Jesus promise to give each of His 12 apostles under David? Matt. 19:27-28. Has God alluded to others who will be in His Kingdom? Heb. 11:4-40.

Other overcomers have gone before us and are to be in God's Kingdom. Having lived and died in the faith, they have already qualified and will be rewarded with responsibilities in God's ruling Family, though God has not specifically revealed most of their positions to us in the Bible. But *every* individual will have a significant and rewarding job to do, for an entirely new civilization with diverse cultures, all in harmony with God's law, must be built on earth during the Millennium.

8. But will there really be enough opportunities to serve for *all* who have overcome down through the ages? John 14:1-3.

The phrase "my father's house" refers to the same house spoken of by Jesus when He drove the moneychangers and their animals out of the temple (Matt. 21:12-13).

By speaking of the temple having many "mansions" ("rooms" in the Revised Standard Version and other translations), Jesus illustrated the concept that there would be places for many assistants in the government of the Kingdom of God on earth, when Jerusalem will be the millennial world capital. "I will come [back to earth] again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am [headquartered in the temple of God on earth], there ye may be also" (John 14:3).

Christ assures us that there will be ample opportunities and challenging, interesting positions of responsibility for *all* who are born into God's *ruling Family*! — Prepared by Richard H. Sedliacik

PEACE

(Continued from page 7)

your belligerent tendencies and habits and seek peace — both with yourself and your fellowman.

The Sermon on the Mount

In what is known today as the Sermon on the Mount, Christ clearly showed us the way to live a peaceful life — how to have peace, how to procure and share it. He said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God” (Matt. 5:9).

Let’s examine three basic rules underlined in Jesus’ message that day that you — a peacemaker — should faithfully follow.

Many of God’s people still have difficulty in understanding this teaching of Christ. What did He really mean when He said: “Do not resist one who is evil. But if any one strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also” (Matt. 5:39)?

What are you supposed to do? Let people take advantage of you? Walk all over you? Should you let them hurt you in every possible way — or even kill you? What did Christ really mean when He told us not to “resist one who is evil”?

As a Christian, you certainly have the right to defend yourself, and you should. But it must be God’s way, not yours. You must use His spiritual tools, not carnal weapons. A bitter tongue, a sharp sword or strong fist is not the way to peace. You must use God’s weapons — the power of His Holy Spirit — by expressing *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness*.

Love your enemies

That’s why Christ said, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven” (verses 44-45).

Notice, once again, the essential requirement to be a *son* of God. You have to love your enemies and pray for them. This is how you can be a peacemaker — and a son of God.

To the carnal mind, this type of reasoning and behavior seems foolishness. But God’s ways and laws always seem foolish to the carnal mind. “If any one among you thinks that he

is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God” (I Cor. 3:18-19).

Your enemy — or for that matter, anyone who wants to hurt you — will be totally confused, disarmed and helpless when you do good to him, show love to him, never rendering evil for evil. He will have no effective means to fight back. He will have to quit in frustration.

The apostle Paul under God’s inspiration clearly explains this truth: “Repay no one evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all.

“Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God . . . if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head” (Rom. 12:17-20).

Judge not

The second basic principle or rule underlined in the Sermon on the Mount, which will strengthen your position as a peacemaker, is not to judge others.

Judging or condemning someone is not your prerogative. It is God’s. He alone knows all of the facts in every circumstance; He alone is *all* love. Therefore, He alone is able to judge — or condemn — with love.

To a certain degree, every one of us in God’s Church, even though converted, is still vain and self-righteous. We often see the speck in our brother’s eye and not the log in ours. That’s why Christ warned us: “Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get” (Matt. 7:1-2).

God hates gossip

Do you realize that one of the primary reasons, if not the main one, for gossiping is our eagerness to judge or condemn others? *God hates gossip*. He hates “a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and a man who sows discord among brothers” (Prov. 6:18-19).

A gossip is always a loser — never a winner. A peacemaker is al-

ways a winner — never a loser. “When a man’s ways please the Lord, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him” (Prov. 16:7).

If you can’t repeat openly, in someone’s presence — and without hurting him — what has been said about him, then don’t repeat it. Don’t even want to hear about it. Turn away from those who spread rumors. But carnally that is so hard to do, isn’t it?

Do you know the best way to stop gossiping? Here it is: “Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things” (Phil. 4:8).

If you are guilty of this sin that tragically divides brethren in the Church, you had better repent with all your heart. Get on your knees and ask God to forgive you. You were called to be a peacemaker, not a gossip — “gadding about from house to house,” dividing the brethren.

“Strive for peace with all men, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord” (Heb. 12:14).

“Do so to them”

The third basic principle is found in Matthew 7; a principle that in itself sums up *all* the laws governing man’s relationship with man.

“So whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them; for this is the law and the prophets” (Matt. 7:12). Peace is a two-way street. You can only find it when you procure it for others.

Do you really want people to treat you with kindness and respect? Then do likewise. Do you want them to be understanding toward you? Show understanding toward them. If you want them to love you — love them as you love yourself. To be patient with you? Then be patient with them. You couldn’t find any simpler or more effective law to insure peace.

In every instance *live* by the Golden Rule — faithfully! If you were the one at fault, would you like others to treat or talk to you in the manner you treated or talked to them? Make an honest effort to understand the problem and the circumstances. Look at

the positive side of things. Be kind and express love. This is unmistakably your best weapon to insure peace.

James wrote: "What causes wars, and what causes fightings among you? Is it not your passions that are at war in your members? You desire and do not have; so you kill. And you covet and cannot obtain; so you fight and wage war. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions" (Jas. 4:1-3).

How simply and beautifully stated. And how clear the solution! The carnal mind neither knows the way to peace, nor can it grasp it. But you do because you have *God's Spirit*. Let it guide you.

When you first came into the Church, you had learned that, as a Christian, you would be persecuted and would suffer. That was part of your contract with God. Accept then the challenge and live peacefully with your neighbor, regardless of what he might think of you or do to you.

"Blessed are you when men revile you," Christ said, "and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad . . . for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matt. 5:11-12).

Abraham's example

Have you ever considered the peaceful way Abram (who later became Abraham) settled the strife that arose between his herdsmen and Lot's? Their possessions of sheep, goats and cattle were so great that "the land could not support both of them" (Gen. 13:6).

Abram could easily have told Lot, his nephew: "You know, of course, that God has given me this country. You and your family are primarily blessed because of me. Therefore it's most natural and logical that I be the one to have the first choice. You'll take what's left."

Abram could have reasoned that way, but he didn't. He chose the peaceful way of settling the arguments between his herdsmen and those of Lot. He told Lot: "Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left

hand, then I will go to the right; or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left" (verse 9).

And what did Lot do? How did he reason? He "lifted up his eyes, and saw that the Jordan valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar . . . So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan valley" (verses 10-11).

The matter was settled. There was no longer strife between the two groups of herdsmen. No disagreement. No fights. Lot chose for himself what he thought to be the most fertile and beautiful land.

Now was Abram the loser? On the contrary. He prospered even more whereas Lot eventually lost the land he had chosen for himself.

The peaceful world tomorrow

The Gospel is the good news of the wonderful *world tomorrow* — a world of joy, happiness and *peace*. Christ came not only to reveal this message to us but also show us the way to enter the Kingdom — the peaceful way, without sword or weapons.

If you are a peacemaker today, you will be in the world tomorrow. But to be a peacemaker today, you must constantly fight against your carnal nature, and you must control your thoughts and bridle your tongue.

When the Roman soldiers arrested Christ, Simon Peter was all set to fight. He drew his sword and "struck the high priest's slave and cut off his right ear" (John 18:10).

But Christ ordered him to put his sword into its sheath. "All who take the sword will perish by the sword," He told him.

Your goal — your final destination as a peacemaker and a son of God — is the Kingdom, where there won't be any fighting. No need for swords, cannons or nuclear weapons.

You, as a peacemaker, will teach and encourage people from all over the world to "go up to the mountain of the Lord" that He may teach them His ways. You shall see Christ, the King of Peace, "with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth" (Isa. 11:4).

Imagine! If you are a peacemaker *now*, you will be with Christ in the world tomorrow, working with Him, ruling under Him! You will see nations "beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks" (Isa. 2:4).

Today, no nation is ready or willing to do this. Total disarmament has never occurred in human history. But in the world tomorrow, with your help under Christ, "nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

Do you grasp the depth of your calling? Can you picture yourself living in a world where people will *all* have one religion and be in *one* Church — the very Church you are in today? Can you visualize a world where people will faithfully study the Bible and live by its teachings — as you do today?

You will see "the restoration of all things," the change in nature, in people, even in the character of wild animals. Then you will remember the words you have read many times in your Bible, prophesying that some day, "The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them" (Isa. 11:6).

Be a peacemaker today

But remember. In order to be in the world tomorrow, you must be a peacemaker *today*. You must learn how to live in peace with your neighbor as well as how to have peace of mind. You must know and really feel that it is "good and pleasant . . . when brothers dwell in unity" (Ps. 133:1).

Successfully living in peace in this world today is a prelude to the great worldwide peace that all nations will experience in the world tomorrow.

That's why you should start now — in "the present evil age" — to live in peace and harmony with everyone, to be truly a peacemaker, whatever the circumstances.

If you honestly seek peace and pursue it, then "the peace of God, which passes all understanding" (Phil. 4:7) will keep your heart and your mind in Christ Jesus until His Kingdom comes. □

Just One More Thing

“Let’s see now. There was one other thing.”

That’s the way he put it. It was seven years ago, and I still remember it. I was standing over there at basketball practice in the Ambassador College gymnasium, and after an hour and a half we were ready to go home. We were tired, tired of listening, tired of working and ready to go. But he turned to us and said, “Let’s see now, there was one other thing.” It was funny the way he put it. It seemed as though he almost forgot to tell us. But by doing that he caught my interest.

One more thing

“There was one other thing,” he said, “poise.” Poise? Ballerinas have poise. I’m a big, tough basketball player. What do I need poise for?

At the time we were in a special practice between the juniors and the seniors of that year, preparing for the upper class game against Big Sandy (Tex.) during the middle break in classes. We had just gone through a grueling practice before the big game, scheduled for the next day. And finally, at the very end, he said there was one other thing.

Coach Jim Petty took about 20 seconds and talked about poise. That talk affected me more — in that 20 seconds — than the whole hour and a half before it. And the next day I played my all-time best game. And I did it trying something new, going through the whole hour with a disciplined mental attitude. Poise.

Poise is the ability to maintain your emotional, psychological and physical equilibrium under stress — to be in the clutch and stay cool.

Christians need poise

Christians need poise too. But I’ve seen us lose our poise at times. Sometimes we lose our ability to look at a trial with God’s Holy Spirit, to face it as a trial that has to be overcome.

The Bible talks about poise. It doesn’t use that word. But in Galatians 5, it mentions the fruits of God’s Holy Spirit. It says the fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and *poise*. Well, temperance includes poise anyway. It’s the ability to stay on balance. And that is a gift of God’s Holy Spirit.

When you get so emotionally involved that the control of your mind is no longer your reason, tempered by God’s Holy Spirit, but is instead the adrenalin in your system almost demanding you to lose your head and cry out in some temper outburst, then you are going to sin.

“Wherefore my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath. For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God” (Jas. 1:19-20). When you rely on your own human emotion you’re going to make a mistake. That’s why our coach said, “one more thing.” The game might get hard. You might get discouraged and let down. But don’t get excited and go berserk.

What has your attitude been during the recent trial God’s Church has gone through? If you’ve lost your poise during the receivership and allowed your emotions to rule your mind, then you’ve been exposed to Satan’s attitudes.

Help and encourage others

In II Corinthians 2:7, Paul talks about a man whom he had put out of the Church for committing fornication. “So that contrariwise you ought rather to forgive him and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow.”

He said I want you to go to this man and to comfort him, and I want you to make sure that his sorrow — his emotion — doesn’t get the best of

him. That he doesn’t lose control of himself by losing poise.

“Wherefore I beseech you that ye would confirm your love toward him. For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things. To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also; for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ; Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.”

One of the devices of Satan is to pick on you when you are vulnerable, when you are no longer acting out of a rational mind with God’s Spirit guiding you. But rather you’re acting out of the base, human emotions.

How do you react?

Not everyone loses their poise in the same way. Using our basketball example, let’s say you’re a player, and you see that you are 30 points behind with 5 minutes to go. You’re tempted to go down and take a shower, but you want to hang in there. So you stick it out.

Another player in the same situation might become totally disoriented and freeze up. He forgets the plays. When he’s supposed to dribble he shoots, and when he’s supposed to shoot he dribbles. His emotions are not under control.

On the other hand, there’s the fellow who believes he’s the answer to Kareem Abdul Jabbar, and he knows he alone can save the game. He starts foaming at the mouth, jumps out of bounds, throws the ball in to himself and goes leaping and hopping down the court like a cross between Daffy Duck and an ostrich. He fires the ball at the basket from 50 feet out and drinks the water for all five guys. That is not poise. It is unadulterated vanity.

Then there’s the guy who looks poised and confident when actually, he’s scared to death. He’s too afraid

to look at the scoreboard, fearing his team might be behind. He is avoiding stress, not maintaining his poise.

Hard to admit error

What happens when you lose your poise? Most of the time you want to place the blame somewhere else. It's hard to say, "Look, I made a mistake, I'll do better next time." The easy thing is to start spreading rumors and slandering your teammates or your brothers in God's Church.

When trials come upon the Church or upon us as individuals, we should go into an enforced calm, as one man put it recently. We should do as Paul exhorted in Philippians 1:27: "Let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that

whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel: And in nothing terrified by your adversaries."

If we are constantly poised, if we constantly have that peace of God spoken of in Philippians 4:7, then our attitude can be much like the apostle Paul's in II Corinthians 4:

"We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed" (II Cor. 4:8-9).

One other thing — poise

It was seven years ago that we had that basketball practice. And you

know the funny thing about it is, that I don't remember anything about the practice. And I don't remember anything at all about the game. I don't even remember if we won or lost. All I remember is what Coach Petty said. Because it had such a big impact on me.

I think it applies during this time of trial. He told us to have poise. We've heard various sermons, and we'll hear more about pulling all of the weapons of our warfare out that are mentioned in Galatians 5, and we should use them all. The fruits of the Spirit and our weapons are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, goodness, gentleness, faith and meekness. And there's one other thing, poise. — By Bernie Schnippert □

to Sex Education

(Continued from page 17)

er & Co., 720 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y., 10019, \$6.95.

Written for the English audience and available in the United States is a small candid volume, done in pastel colors.

Sheffield, Margaret: *Where Do Babies Come From?*, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York, N.Y., \$5.95. Originally published in Britain by Jonathan Cape Ltd., London.

Another British work for maturer children is Vol. IV in the series *Basic Biology in Color*. A dignified but explicitly photographed birth sequence is included.

Krieger, Morris: *The Human Reproductive System*, Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., 419 Park Ave. South, New York, N.Y., 10016, \$6.

An absolutely beautiful volume, also by Mr. Nilsson, expounds reproduction and natural childbirth in text and color photos for teenagers and the newly married:

Nilsson, Lennart: *A Child Is Born*, same address as Mr. Nilsson's other volume, \$11.95.

A thoroughly helpful volume in beautiful color, especially for the teenage girl and young mother-to-be, is a study in pregnancy and infant care.

Trimmer, Eric, M.B.: *Hav-*

ing a Baby, St. Martin's Press, Inc., 175 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y., 10010, \$7.95.

A new concept in natural childbirth has been pioneered by the French doctor, Frederick Leboyer. His book is designed to "revolutionize the way we bring our children into the world." It is for all age-groups including grandparents!

Leboyer, Frederick: *Birth Without Violence*, Fletcher & Son Ltd., Norwich, England, paperback \$5.95. Also in hardcover. The original work was first published in France under the title *Pour une Naissance Sans Violence* by Editions du Seuil, Paris.

The subject of contraception will inevitably arise when instructing teenagers. Only one volume has done graphic credit to the subject — though it does *not* mean we would approve every method recommended. The volume covers the entire spectrum — sexual anatomy, the role of the male in conception and contraception, pregnancy and birth — all in quality artwork.

Demarest, Robert J. and Sciarra, John J.: *Conception, Birth and Contraception*, McGraw-Hill Book Co., 330 W. 42nd St., New York, N.Y., 10036, \$8.95.

The one relatively expensive item I have chosen to include is for those who may have opportunity to teach groups of young people outside the home. It is a spectacular set of 79

35-mm. slides on embryonic and fetal development with text on tape.

Allen, John M.: *Biological Aspects of Sexuality/Module 3 — Human Development*, Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., 10 E. 53rd St., New York, N.Y., 10022, \$85. There are other modules in the sequence I have not chosen to include here.

I would like to conclude this list of significant works for sex education in the home with a change of pace — a story of two young people who shared high adventure, were morally above reproach, fell in love, married, had their first child by natural childbirth on Santa Catalina Island., Calif., and who are special friends of mine.

It is the life story of Robin and Patti Graham. He is the boy who sailed around the world alone from 1965 to 1970. It is an unforgettable story for younger readers that is a fulfillment of a true "Genesis marriage."

Graham, Robin Lee with Gill, Derek L.T.: *The Boy Who Sailed Around the World Alone*, Western Publishing Co., Racine, Wis., 54300, \$6.95.

This listing is not meant to be definitive. But from a photographic, artistic and textual point of view, this list will prove as helpful as any supportive items to assist young fathers and mothers in presenting their respective roles in the drama of human reproduction and birth. □

2 Great Lessons

(Continued from page 9)

should picture a world of fatness, goodness and peace.

That is indeed the meaning of the Feast.

"Seven days shalt thou keep a solemn feast unto the Lord thy God in the place which the Lord shall choose: because the Lord thy God shall bless thee in all thine increase, and in all the works of thine hands, therefore thou shalt surely rejoice" (Deut. 16:15).

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

God says: "And in this mountain shall the Lord of hosts make unto *all people* a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined" (Isa. 25:6).

Think of all the starving children around the world, the soldiers dying in agony in armed conflict. Think of misery, ignorance and death. Realize that in God's world — tomorrow — all of these things will be gone and in their place every good and wholesome thing.

God also promises that He will, in that day, take away the spiritual blindness now cast over all people so they can know the saving truth that you and I know. He promises ultimately to swallow up even our enemy, death, in victory and to truly wipe all tears from all eyes (verses 7-8).

In rejoicing, make every effort to get along harmoniously with fellow Church members. Share the bounty of your blessings with others who are new or with brethren who may not have as much. Invite them over for wine and cheeses. Take them out to dinner. Create a utopian atmosphere by being warm and courteous and fellowshiping with all. And don't forget the widows and orphans.

How to properly fear God and rejoice at the Feast

Although the Feast is a time of rejoicing for God's Church, its

main purpose is to give God's people a foretaste of how life will be lived in the world tomorrow.

In that age, all people will be living together in harmony and peace. They will be serving one another. They will live together in fellowship, talking of God, thinking of God and teaching their children about the wonderful God who has given them the bountiful blessings of the earth.

When you are at the Feast this year, remember the following principles that can help emphasize the spiritual meaning of those days:

1. Be in a serving attitude. There are many opportunities to serve at the Feast of Tabernacles. If it were not for the many hundreds who serve at each Festival site, doing myriads of jobs, we literally could not have a Feast.

Those who serve experience a foretaste of the world tomorrow in a special way. They return home full of love and joy knowing they gave of themselves to others.

2. Rejoice with your family. The Feast is a time for family orientation. Enjoy God's blessings with your children. Point out places of interest during the trip to the Feast, stop at places where the children can enjoy themselves.

Make the Feast special for them — and for your wife. Take her out to a fine meal, just the two of you, as a refreshing break in routine. Make the Feast a joy for your family.

3. Share the Feast with others. Help to give fellow members a bountiful Feast. Get into a sharing attitude. Think of things you can do to make others happy. Develop new friendships, smile and be the first to introduce yourself and shake hands. In all your social encounters, experience the joy of this Festival spirit.

4. Plan that *you* are going to be a proper example of God in all things (Matt. 5:16). Be clean and orderly in your accommodations. Expect to leave things cleaner and neater than you found them. Be a true light and example of obedience and mannerliness.

In restaurants and cafes be patient and pleasant. If food doesn't come just as you might have expected, be understanding. Put a smile on your face and a spirit of tolerance in your voice.

Think of every possible way you can be a witness and an example to all. Remember, what you do will be a living testimony that there is something more behind your actions than just human conduct:

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

5. Plan to increase your spiritual knowledge. The Word of God and the understanding of the Word of God is priceless. Without an understanding of the law and will of God expressed in His Word — the Bible — we are lost, blinded and helpless.

At the Feast each of us will have the precious opportunity to hear many messages from the Word of God. Plan ahead of time to listen carefully. Come to learn and expect to be changed and inspired by the messages. Attend every service. Be there on time, in your seat and receptive.

6. Above all, be sure not to neglect prayer while at the Feast. Remember that you are there to emphasize spiritual truth. Don't get caught up in a vacation attitude and forget to talk to God every day.

Ask God in your personal prayers to give inspiration and understanding to the ministry so their messages will be especially helpful to the Body of Christ and to yourself personally.

Come to the Feast asking God to *pour out* His Spirit powerfully.

Rejoice with meaning

These are lessons we can take home with us from the Feast.

Each time you are blessed to sit down to a sumptuous meal, remember and realize what you are picturing. The Feast is to be a time for rejoicing — but with meaning.

Our activities should portray that our whole lives are centered around the coming of the world tomorrow — God's glorious Kingdom.

Learn the two major lessons of the Feast: We are to come to eat and drink before the Eternal that we may learn to fear the Eternal always — and rejoice! □

BACK ON THE TRACK

(Continued from page 3)

was not IN this revolt. God was in His CHURCH, and in a few months God added to His Church more new members than the number who went out.

My son, Garner Ted, about this time began his own conspiracy to TAKE OVER the Church — and if his father did not oblige him by dying, to put Herbert W. Armstrong into retirement. Ted brought four or five men in from the field to work on a peer basis with Wayne Cole in supervision over the ministry.

After a period of time Mr. Cole managed to eliminate the others. Mr. Cole managed to set himself up as “the head” of the ministry.

When some of his personal aberrations became known, he was dispatched to Canada, and Garner Ted put Ron Dart in as “head” of the ministry. He was to a great extent a “yes-man” to Garner Ted, and Ted’s conspiracy to take over the Church — by cutting his father off from the ministry and by taking authority never delegated to him in two areas — policy setting and doctrine.

College accreditation pursued

Ted and others had lobbied aggressively to get the college accredited. I refused for some time, saying it would be impossible to achieve accreditation and keep it GOD’s college. Their persistence, assuring me we could achieve accreditation and still keep it God’s college, finally caused me to say, “Go ahead, then.”

Result? A number of Ph.D.s from various universities were brought into the college, and the Big Sandy student body moved to Pasadena. Bible truth was being rapidly watered down and permissiveness escalated. God Almighty and Jesus Christ were virtually thrown out of the college — and were rapidly being thrown out of the Church!

During these years from 1970 on, I was overseas a great deal of the time — even up to 300 out of the 365 days of the year. Garner Ted had threatened ministers, or those who knew what was going on, with being fired if they communicated to me what was being done.

There came to be a total lack of response from ministers when I repeated requests during 1975 and thereafter. I was being SHUT OUT of all authority in the Church Christ had used me in starting and building.

Ministers were crying for more and more watering down of truths Christ had put into His Church through His apostle. For example, a number of ministers either had never been really converted or had slipped so far from Christ by lack of prayer, that it was too embarrassing for them to anoint and pray for healing. They were demanding that healing be eliminated.

Jesus Christ is the
LIVING HEAD of the
Worldwide Church of
God and of the college
and the foundation. I
have prayed urgently and
repeatedly for His
guidance, and I know
that I have it.

Meanwhile, in these same years, a small group of self-professed “intellectuals” were busy preparing the STP (Systematic Theology Project).

I had repeatedly asked ministers or members to contact me personally on problems in the field — but my requests fell on deaf ears.

Mr. Dart was sent away by Ted to Texas on a sabbatical for further study at the University of Texas. Garner Ted then brought C. Wayne Cole back as “head of the ministry.” He was Ted’s tool, working with Dr. Robert Kuhn and the “intellectuals.” Ministers who should have been fired were left in. Mr. Cole always has worked to keep people “friendly” to him.

As the ancient prophet Eli was condemned and punished by God for allowing his sinning sons to remain in the priesthood, so ministers who should have been eliminated were

left in. Mr. Cole would offend no one. After Garner Ted was put out of the Church, Mr. Cole did all he could to keep disqualified ministers loyal to him personally, building power for himself.

A power bloc developed

What has happened, through the years? A power bloc has developed in the Work — a power bloc headed by these various “heads of the ministry” — of ministers who were NOT loyal to Christ or His apostle, but to the one using politics at Pasadena.

When the massive invasion by the state of California struck the Church on Jan. 3, Wayne Cole and David Antion called me on a telephone conference call — with both of them on the phone. They raised their voices to me, DEMANDING that I fire Stanley Rader and allow the attorney who brought this evil suit against us to select our defense attorney. This was the last straw. I immediately disfellowshipped both from the Church. It has developed also what I felt sure of — Wayne Cole was “IN” on this whole conspiracy to bring on the unconstitutional attack by the state of California. Only he kept his name out of it.

In the emergency, I set Roderick Meredith as head of the ministry until I could decide how to eliminate this POWER BLOC by having a man as “head of the ministry” — which is virtually the same as being head of the Church and the entire Work. Such an office simply does not belong in God’s Church.

Therefore I am ABOLISHING that office entirely. Christ’s apostle is the human head over the ministry and MUST NOT BE CUT OFF FROM THE MINISTERS! Mr. Meredith is being transferred back as dean of the faculty of Ambassador College.

Jesus Christ is the LIVING HEAD of the Worldwide Church of God and of the college and the foundation. I have prayed urgently and repeatedly for His guidance, and I know that I have it.

Jesus Christ has been moving swiftly the past year to SET HIS CHURCH BACK ON GOD’S TRACK! Christ’s second coming is near — and His Church is NOT yet ready. Christ is moving through His apostle to MAKE US READY! □

FUTURE GODS?

(Continued from page 5)

CIAL CATEGORY NOT FULLY REALIZED IN GOD'S CHURCH BEFORE!

We in the Church of God did not realize this because a particular passage of scripture was unclear to us until our in-depth research leading to a change in divorce and remarriage problems.

In I Corinthians 7 Paul first speaks to the unmarried (verses 8-9). Next he speaks to those already married (verses 10-11). Then he speaks "to the rest" (beginning verse 12). Here he is speaking to men or women in the Church married to unbelievers (those outside the Church). Then he says, verse 14, "For the unbelieving husband is sanctified [set apart in a special category] by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: *else were your children unclean.*"

The Moffatt translation here is "Otherwise, of course, your children would be unholy instead of being consecrated to God." This does not mean the children of a believer are converted or "saved" — but rather, that they are consecrated — that is SET APART as in a different category.

In other words, just as NO MAN CAN come to Christ except the Father specially draws him (John 6:44), once "drawn" by God through the Holy Spirit, the man MAY, if he is willing to repent and believe, be converted. In other words, once called by the Father, such person is no longer CUT OFF FROM GOD!

Now see how that applies to the children of converted parents. It does not mean they may be converted while still too young. It DOES mean they are NOT, like children of unconverted parents, CUT OFF from God. IT MEANS THAT THEY MAY BE TAUGHT ABOUT GOD BY THE BELIEVING PARENT.

Just as the converted adult is, as part of the BODY OF CHRIST, one of a SEPARATE AND PECULIAR PEOPLE (I Pet. 2:9). We live IN the world, but we are not of the world. We labor to carry Jesus' Gospel TO the world, yet our fellowship is with God and Christ and other brethren — NOT with the world.

HOW WONDERFUL!

A believing, converted parent places his or her children in a SPECIAL CATEGORY — apart from the world.

Let me make this CLEAR! The most widely believed ERROR in "Christianity" is that God is calling ALL to conversion, and Satan is trying to keep them "lost."

But Jesus said plainly, "NO MAN CAN come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him." At creation, God CUT ALL HUMANITY OFF from Him, except for the VERY FEW He would specially call. And those few are NOT called *just* for salvation. They are called for special

How precious is your child? Jesus picked up little children — infants — and said that "of such is the kingdom of God," and except we repent and become humble as a very small child, we shall not inherit the Kingdom of God.

service preparing for the KINGDOM OF God. That special service is the REASON why they are called now.

Those NOT called now WILL BE CALLED TO SALVATION, either in the Millennium — if they still then live or by being resurrected in the Great White Throne Judgment after the end of the Millennium.

Those called NOW — and for special duty preparing for the Kingdom — have SATAN to overcome. And *that's tough!* Those NOT called now WILL BE CALLED after Satan has been put away from humanity.

When Jesus said (John 6:44), "NO MAN CAN come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him," He meant that ALL OTHERS

simply CANNOT come to Christ as Savior, even if they wanted to — but all cases I have observed the uncalled DID NOT WANT to come to Christ — except the many who have been deceived by the false gospels of nearly all the sects of "Christianity." There is much *false* conversion.

Now look again at I Corinthians 7. For example, in this passage, in verse 16, regarding the unbelieving husband, sanctified by the converted wife, "For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband?" It is speaking of an unbelieving husband being "CONSECRATED" (set apart in a special category), whom the believing wife, by keeping the marriage intact, *may* save.

The same is true of your children. They are "consecrated," but that does NOT mean "saved." Yet it means they are in a special category where they MAY BE converted when sufficiently mature.

But WHAT A WONDERFUL TRUTH!

Your children are in a special (consecrated) category. You may TEACH THEM about Christ — about the things of the Bible. Their chances of being CONVERTED when sufficiently mature are MULTIPLIED!

Although Satan is going to influence your children, almost from birth, toward his selfish and rebellious attitude, YOU may counteract this by YOUR TEACHING YOUR CHILDREN THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD! And when sufficiently adult THEY WILL BE CALLED. None of this is true of children outside truly converted parents!

How precious is your child?

Jesus picked up little children — infants — and said that "of such is the kingdom of God," and except we repent and become humble as a very small child, we shall not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Brethren, God's Church is not showing even *half* the growth it should have from the oncoming generation of our members. This shows we have NEGLECTED the teaching of our children! When God has called YOU for special service in loyally backing the proclaiming of the Gospel to the world by God's Church, He intended that your *children* should also be called and enter into the Work of God's Church. □

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