JANUARY 1975

WHAT'S AHEAD IN 75?

PLAIN TRUIT

a magazine of understanding



SIBERIAN SUMMIT
Limit to Nuclear Arms?



This is a unique organization, and none other is like it in the world.

Our activities include administration of the Worldwide Church of God, Ambassador College, other publications, books and booklets and my own personal activities as an ambassador without portfolio for world peace. Or as an official of one country expresses it, "a builder of iron bridges for peace between nations."

In our vernacular we customarily speak of all these activities together as "the Work." I have felt that some co-workers with us in one or more phases of the Work having observed our use of the term might be a little confused as to just what we mean by "the Work." Therefore, I have just sent out a personal letter to such coworkers and the many thousands of members of the Worldwide Church of God all over the world explaining the meaning to us of "the Work." And it now appears to me that most of this same letter might prove an interesting and eye-opening subject for my personal talk with our readers in this issue of the Plain Truth. The letter follows:

November 18, 1974 Dear Inner Family of Co-Workers with Christ:

Again I'm winging my way, almost eight miles above the Pacific Ocean, toward Tokyo. Yesterday, President Ford and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger were flying the presidential plane over approximately the same route. They are in Tokyo today, and I am due to arrive there today, mid-afternoon.

It seems Secretary Kissinger and I are very frequently crossing paths — especially in the Middle East between Cairo and Tel Aviv. Ours are the only two planes, so far as I know, that ever fly from Cairo to Tel Aviv, or from Tel Aviv to Cairo. And now our schedules meet again today at Tokyo. It seems a little significant that, to the best of my knowledge, our two planes are the only private aircraft that are permitted to land at Tokyo airport.

Personal from the thing

JUST WHAT IS THE WORK?

However, from there the President and Secretary Kissinger fly on to Seoul, South Korea, and from there to the Soviet Union, while I am en route, after Tokyo, for a return public appearance at Manila, the Philippines.

November 19, Honolulu: Just as we were somewhere close to the International Dateline, about two hours after refueling at Cold Bay, Alaska, we were forced to turn back. We had been flying through strong headwinds all the way, but west of Cold Bay they gradually increased to an almost unbelievable nearly 250 miles per hour. Our airspeed of 550 miles per hour was cut in half. There was danger we might not make it to a refueling airstrip in northern Japan. We returned to Cold Bay, arriving on that snow covered landing strip just after sunset, refueled and flew on to Honolulu, Hawaii. It was a long flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu. Our pilots are unable to get air clearance to fly on to Manila until tomorrow. So I have a day for writing in Honolulu. This slight setback will not stop the Work, however. We still will arrive in Manila in time for an important meeting.

An incident like this is typical of our experience of the past 41 years in God's Work. Occasionally there has been a slight setback. But always the Work plunges on forward after that, in a more powerful thrust than ever, for this is the Work of the living God and the most important activity on earth — not only of today, but in the last 1900 years!

That's a strong statement I know, but it is what *you*, as co-workers with Christ and with me, are engaged in and sacrificing and praying for. And I think it's time we come to a more clear and concise understanding of just what this great Work is!

When we speak of "the WORK," just what do we mean?

What comes to your mind when you hear or read of "the Work"? Do you think of it as the mission of "saving souls"? Or, perhaps, something I and/or Garner Ted Armstrong are doing, but in which you are not involved or especially concerned? Does it mean, to you, the broadcast or telecast of the World Tomorrow, or the Garner Ted Armstrong program? Does it mean the Plain Truth? Or Ambassador College? Or a combination of some of these?

To grasp clearly just what this Work is, and why it is the most important activity on earth, we need to begin at the beginning. Why was it started? What was its PURPOSE? Just WHAT is it seeking to accomplish? Who started it? When? How?

More than 41 years ago the living Christ called and chose me as his instrument in *reviving* and carrying out his GREAT COMMISSION in this END time.

But that was not the real beginning of God's Work. Jesus Christ, himself, came to earth and *person*-



ally began this Work 1947 years ago, in A.D. 27. This beginning God the Father has given Jesus, individually, to do.

How did it start?

The prophet Malachi prophesied that God would send a human messenger to prepare the way before Christ's coming to earth. But this prophecy describes *two* appearances of Christ on earth — the second of which, more than 1900 years after his first coming, is now imminent!

The prophecy reveals Christ's first coming, as himself a messenger, bringing a MESSAGE from God the Father. He came at that time as "the Messenger of the covenant." And that "Covenant Message" was his gospel. The word "gospel" means good news!

Jesus' proclaiming — or announcing — that good news was the beginning of the Work!

Was that IMPORTANT? You may be sure that God the Father who sent Jesus with that tremendous message from heaven, viewed it as IMPORTANT! You may rest assured that Jesus, who brought it, thought its announcement was important.

John the Baptist was the human messenger who prepared the way before Christ's first coming. Jesus' MESSAGE was the wonderful news of the coming kingdom of God. Read about it in Mark 1:1: "The BEGIN-NING of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." That is the beginning of the Work of God.

Continuing from this — verse two of Mark one — the ministry of John the Baptist is briefly related — the messenger preparing the way before Christ at his first coming. Verses 2-13 describe John's ministry, Jesus being baptized by John, and Jesus' temptation by Satan, in which he QUALIFIED to be the king of the future kingdom of God.

Then verses 14-15: "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."

Jesus' announcement of the kingdom of God was the START OF THE WORK.

Jesus called and chose his disciples. The word "disciple" means a student — one learning. For 3½ years Jesus taught them about the coming kingdom of God. Also he continued proclaiming — announcing — teaching about the kingdom of God.

Then Jesus gave his disciples (who became the original apostles) the GREAT COMMISSION — the commission of "the WORK." "Go ye," he

MR. AND MRS. HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG (left) produced "The World Tomorrow" radio program and the Plain Truth magazine from a small, one-room office in the Hampton Building (center) on the southwest corner of Sixth and Willamette in Eugene, Oregon. At first, the Plain Truth mailing list was kept in cardboard cartons which served as filing cabinets, and Mrs. Armstrong addressed each Plain Truth magazine in longhand. Before leaving Eugene in 1947, the circulation approached 100,000. Volunteers handled the daily mail (right).

said, "into all the world, and preach the gospel..." (Mark 16:15 — emphasis mine). The commission was worldwide.

The apostles, after receiving God's Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2), went forth announcing the wonderful news. But they needed help. It was going to be a bigger job than a mere twelve men could accomplish. They needed the inspired and inspirational backing of the church.

Jesus had said, "I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18). On the day of Pentecost — the annual festival God had ordained, called the "Feast of Firstfruits," picturing the small *first* "spring harvest" of this present time between Christ's first and second coming — only 120 be-





lievers resulted from Christ's 3½ years proclaiming his gospel. Christ began his Church by sending the Holy Spirit into the 120. His Church started VERY SMALL, but Christ added to his Church "and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41). "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (verse 47).

But beginning A.D. 33, the persecution set in. Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8:9-23), head of the Babylonian Mystery religion in Samaria, appropriating the NAME of Christ, began calling his Babylonian Mystery religion "Christianity," and started circulating a counterfeit gospel.

By A.D. 58, Paul wrote to the Churches at Galatia: "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ *unto another gospel*" (Gal. 1:6).

At that time a different gospel was proclaimed to the world. Before the end of the first century "the Work" had stopped. The true gospel of the kingdom of God was thereafter taught secretly, but not proclaimed to the world for 18½ centuries.

Our Time Today

Malachi, however, foretold that a human "messenger" would prepare the way before the coming of Christ. But, beginning with verse 2 of Malachi 3, he foretells also *Christ's second coming, now imminent.* He is now soon coming to *set up* the kingdom of God, to restore the government of God on earth, and to rule all nations.

The human messenger preparing the way before his *first* appearing on earth was John the Baptist. But beginning with verse 2, the prophecy speaks of Christ's second coming, yet future but now imminent.

Notice: "But who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he appeareth? For he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver..." (Malachi 3:2-3).

All this is referring to activities of Christ at his second coming — now imminent. None of this refers to anything Jesus did when here before.

Continue, verse 5: "And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress [defraud] the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn

aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the Lord of hosts."

All this refers to Christ's second coming in our time! So when the prophet foretold the human messenger, preparing the way before Christ's coming, he referred to John the Baptist (see Mark 1:1-3) only typically as a forerunner or type of one to prepare the way before Christ's second coming!

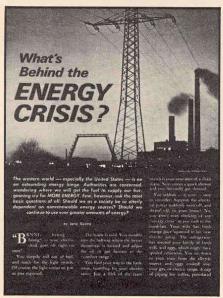
This leads directly to Jesus' great prophecy in Matthew 24. It refers to REVIVING the great commission — the *true* gospel message of the coming kingdom of God. Christ's second coming is to restore the government of God and establish the kingdom of God on earth! And the way is indeed even now being prepared before Christ's return to rule.

That, co-workers and brethren, is what the living Christ is doing right now through me, through Garner Ted, and through His co-workers and church which stands loyally behind us in this tremendous age-end commission!

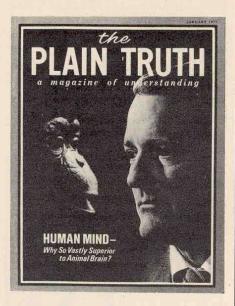
It's time we allowed the living God to open our eyes to the awesome commission he has committed to us. It's the most important Work given any human beings in the past 1900 (Continued on page 30)







As Ambassador College pursued accreditation, several scientists and scholars were added to the staff. During 1972, some of them began contributing the results of their research, in layman's language, for the readership of the *Plain Truth*:



In our new format we will continue to call upon the expertise of the Ambassador College faculty. You will be reading articles by professors, executives and ministers. We will also publish reports from our correspondents and regional editors scattered around the world on every continent.

The new sixteen-page tabloid will feature at least three major sections: News, Commentary (and features), and Religion. Editors in each of the three sections will select shorter, more hard-hitting articles attuned to the incredibly fast flow of news and views which characterizes this age of future shock.

This forty-year heritage is the launching pad from which the new *Plain Truth* will be launched. It is a noble heritage, one which we hope to extend to as many people as we can for as many years as this crisis-ridden world can survive.

To our faithful readers and to those who have freely contributed their dollars to this cause, we say THANK YOU for your loyalty and enthusiastic support. Keep it up — because we will!

FEBRUARY 1934

The Plain Truth Magazine Is Born

Editor's Note: The following material is composed of excerpts taken from volume I of The Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong regarding the birth of the first Plain Truth magazine in 1934 and the first professionally printed edition in 1938.

THE TIME came for finally realizing the dream I had cherished since 1927 — the publication of a magazine to be called *The Plain Truth*. Back in 1927 I had made up an entire "dummy" of this proposed magazine. I had even written articles for it. I even had a professional letter artist design a front cover idea in 1927 — and I had tried designing one myself. But we had never had the "wherewithal" to start publishing a magazine.

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

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

Necessity is the mother of invention. If we could not afford to publish a high-quality, professional-appearing magazine, I would simply convert the mimeographed "Bulle-

tin" I had been issuing for our scattered church brethren in the Willamette Valley into *The Plain Truth*.

My idea for this magazine from the start had been to publish a magazine, not for church members, but for the general public — the unconverted and unchurched — an evangelistic-type publication to bring the world God's TRUTH — making it PLAIN!

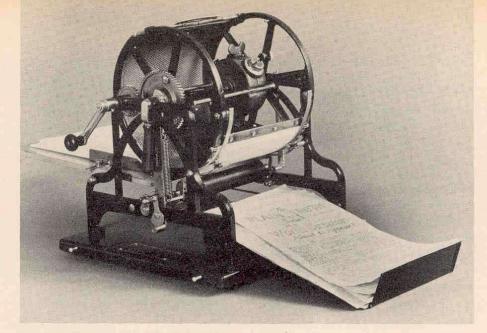
I began with the first broadcast, that first Sunday in 1934, inviting listeners to write for a new magazine, *The Plain Truth*.

At the same time I began work on producing Volume I, Number 1 of this magazine of my dreams. I did not even have a "scope" for handlettering the headlines. I was still living with the Fishers on their farm seven miles west of Eugene - my wife and children still at the Hall Street house in Salem. I had to hold the mimeograph stencils up against a window and try to cut the headlines with my right hand while I tried to hold the stencil without slipping against the window pane with my left. The headlines were a little shaky. That first issue of The Plain Truth was a pretty amateurish, homemade looking sort of thing. Probably no one but myself would have dignified it by calling it a "magazine."

But finally *The Plain Truth*, homemade at Fishers' farm on a borrowed mimeograph, made its humble bow to the world February 1, 1934. I have no record of the exact "press run" of that first edition, but it was in the neighborhood of 250 copies.

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

It was some time later, in 1934, that a few special offerings made it possible for us to purchase a very old, used, outdated Neostyle. It was predecessor to the mimeograph. It



THE FIRST Plain Truth was "printed" on a used \$10 neostyle, ancestor of the mimeograph.

was entirely hand operated. The sheets of paper had to be fed into it one at a time by hand. There was nothing automatic about it. It cost \$10. We had also finally been able, before the first issue of *The Plain Truth*, to raise enough money to purchase a secondhand typewriter for \$10.

January 1, 1938, we finally were enabled to bring *The Plain Truth* back to life! It was the first issue in two and a half years!

But it still had to be a hand-produced mimeographed "magazine." A letter sent out with it said: "We cannot, yet, afford to have it printed. So we mimeographed it ourselves. This work has been done mostly by Helen Starkey, Mrs. Armstrong, and myself, with a few of our good friends coming to the office for volunteer work the past few days, to help with the folding, addressing, stamping, etc." Mrs. Starkey was still working daily without salary.

A bulletin sent to local Oregon members, dated January 1938, announced *The Plain Truth* mailing list was now 1,050.

It had outgrown Mrs. Armstrong and me. It was becoming too large to mimeograph. In February 1938, we were forced to reduce *The Plain Truth* down to 3 pages — its smallest size ever. There were two sheets of

paper, and the back page was devoted to a letter!

At this time I learned that we could have the March number printed at a local printing plant on cheap paper, 8 pages, for \$30 more than the cost of mimeographing. But we didn't have the \$30!

So the March and April numbers were still mimeographed.

March 19, 1938, I sent out a letter showing that the expenses of the work (including our family living) had risen to \$300 per month. But we were running behind on part of the family living. Legal action was being instituted to foreclose and take from us our small home. In some manner I do not now remember, this trouble was met, and we managed to keep the home. But this only added to the harassing discouragements in the struggle to keep the work going.

Finally, after more than four years on the air, we managed to produce the first really printed *Plain Truth*.

So, even if it had to start with about 250 copies done by hand on a mimeograph, it started! Like the grain of mustard seed, it began, very possibly the smallest of magazines. But it has grown into a top-quality, full-color, international magazine whose circulation reached 3,200,000 in June 1973.



(Continued from page 3)

years. And *nobody else* is doing it! The full, *awesome* responsibility of it is on our shoulders, whom God has SPECIALLY called *now!*

THAT'S the reason why you and I have been specially called *now* – *before* the time when God shall set his hand to SAVE THE WHOLE WORLD.

Jesus' Startling Prophecy

So notice this amazing prophecy of Jesus in Matthew 24:

The disciples had come to Jesus privately on the Mount of Olives. "Tell us," they asked, "when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the [present] world" (Matthew 24:3)?

Before giving them the sign by which we should know when his second coming is imminent, Jesus first warned them: "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I [Jesus] am the Christ; and shall deceive many." In other words, many would claim to be Christ's ministers, proclaiming that Jesus was the Christ. Many today are preaching Christ to the world! Actually they preach a DIFFERENT Christ and a DIFFERENT "gospel" that denies the kingdom of God and is deceiving the many. They have preached about the messenger, while denying his MESSAGE!

The tragedy of it all is that such ministers probably are entirely sincere — they believe they are right — but the Bible clearly affirms that the WHOLE WORLD is today DECEIVED. A deceived person does not know he is deceived.

But, said Jesus (verse 14): "... this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and *then* shall the end [of this world] come."

I have showed you how, in A.D. 58, the Galatians were accepting "another gospel" — perverting the true gospel of Christ (Gal. 1:6-7).

II Corinthians 11:14 and 13-15 show these false preachers were proclaiming, at Corinth, a different Jesus, a different spirit, a different gospel — and that they were ministers of Christ. Their organized opposition and persecution stopped the proclaiming of the gospel of the kingdom to the world.

The true gospel of the kingdom of God was NOT proclaimed to the world after the first century.

If Christ's gospel OF THE KING-DOM had been proclaimed through the years, the proclaiming of it NOW would *not be the sign* of Jesus' imminent coming!

Proclaiming the gospel IN ALL THE WORLD to be a witness "unto all nations" Is preparing the way before the second coming!

And THAT IS "the Work" for now in our day!

And, consider this: the very fact that Jesus gave his sign of his second coming — the proclaiming of his gospel of the Kingdom just before he returns to set up that kingdom — shows that "the Work" was to be revived AT THIS PRECISE TIME.

"Into All the World"

So, as stated before, more than 41 years ago the living Christ called and chose me as his instrument in reviving "the Work" — carrying out the great commission in this END TIME — just before the END of this present evil world!

The reviving of "the Work" actually *started* in 1927 when Christ called me, brought me to repentance and faith, and upon baptism, gave me the gift of his holy spirit.

The personal *living* Word of God taught his original apostles between A.D. 27 and 31. So, in like manner, he taught me through the *written* Word of God, beginning in A.D. 1927. As the original apostles were sent out to proclaim Christ's gospel in A.D. 31, I was ordained and sent

to proclaim the same gospel in A.D. 1931.

It was through me that, in August 1933, Christ raised up the parent church of this present "Philadelphia era" (Rev. 3:7-13) in Eugene, Oregon, U.S.A.; and on January 7, 1934, the gospel of the kingdom started going out over radio; on February 1, 1934, the *Plain Truth* began publication.

"The Work" was once again, after 18½ centuries, UNDER WAY! The proclaiming of the kingdom of God is "the Work." By whatever means — whether in person, or by radio, or by television, or in print.

But the broadcast, whether by radio or by TV, of itself is NOT "the Work." It is an instrumentality used in "the Work." The Plain Truth, in itself, is NOT "the Work." It is another instrumentality used in "the Work."

Ambassador College is not "the Work." It is an instrumentality used in "the Work" to train personnel for positions in "the Work." The announcing of the good news of the coming kingdom of God by whatever means or media is "the Work."

We are commissioned to take the message "into all the world."

The Small Beginning

But I could not go to ALL THE WORLD alone, or at the beginning. Just as the original apostles needed help and the inspirational backing of the church, so did I. The parent church of this era started with some 19 members, but God ADDED to the church those he was *specially* calling for this great commission. The Church grew, as "the Work" grew into many thousands, as it is today.

We are ALL specially called out of sin, as it were, BEFORE the time when God sets out to CONVERT THE WORLD, for the purpose of supporting and backing up "the Work" with our fervent, prevailing PRAYERS, our tithes and special offerings, our influence, encouragement and backing in whatever way.

And God has given us "the WORK" to do as the VERY MEANS BY

WHICH we may grow spiritually, so we may enter his kingdom at Christ's coming.

Through the years, I, with those added for their part in "the WORK" continued to announce the wonderful news of the coming kingdom of God and all that that message embodied. Never have we sought to get—but always to give the good news of God's truth.

But I could not go to ALL THE WORLD at the beginning. Like the things God does with and through human agents, it had to start small — the smallest! But like the grain of mustard seed, it grew and grew and GREW! The United States provides many wonderful opportunities that are not available in poorer countries. Here I was able to start at the "grass roots" — reaching the "common people."

In most foreign countries, the government controls all media reaching the masses. Radio time cannot be bought, nor can television time

"The Work" could never have even STARTED in any other country. Only in America, where the common people contribute enough money. Only in America, where the government allows such funds to be expended to give the true gospel to other countries.

We tried after 19 years' growth to reach other countries by radio. We bought mostly a "pig in a poke." We simply were not getting Christ's message into those countries.

After 40 years God has performed an astounding, tremendous miracle! He has opened unheard of doors. He has given me astonishing FAVOR, with the top HEADS OF STATE, of nation after nation after nation AROUND THE WORLD — yes, in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Central and South America!

This is being followed up by "testimonial dinners" sponsored by high-ranking cabinet members or others high in the governments of nations — and with the blessing of the king, president, prime minister, or chief of state. Such top-ranking

officials are responsible for the spiritual and moral welfare of their country.

This is then followed by a public appearance campaign. High government officials assume the responsibility of getting out thousands of highest and upper class people — the top substantial people of the country.

These leading officials have come to look on me (because of the favor God has providentially given me in their eyes) as a "builder of bridges for peace between nations," and as "an ambassador without portfolio for world peace."

This Work is the new and latest phase of "the Work."

The announcement *is* being given

— "in all the world, for a witness unto all nations!"

All of this is an example of how the living Christ actually and literally guides and himself directs this Work. It cannot be, and IS NOT, a static Work on a constant unchanging routine. It sometimes requires CHANGE, new ideas, ways, and methods.

This new dimension, now getting the message into the great mass-population, Gentile countries, is something that could not have been done even seven to ten years ago. Even if Christ had opened these doors, we did not yet have the facilities and the resources to follow through on it then. It's amazing how RIGHT TIMING has played such an important part in God's Work—and proof he directed the TIMING!

This is the Work of God — the Work the living Christ is carrying out through you co-workers, Garner Ted, and myself. He is giving me long life — renewing my youth, as in Isaiah 40:29-31.

In the mind of God, this is the MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITY ON EARTH! It is his activity — the Work he is doing through us.

What a transcendent commission, what an awesome, transcendent commission this is!

Right now the living Christ is

about to return to earth. He is coming to raise the dead in Christ.

He is coming to have Satan, who has deceived ALL NATIONS, bound and thrown into a "bottomless pit."

He is coming in all the supreme POWER and GLORY of the very creator God! He is coming as *King of kings*, already crowned, to RULE ALL NATIONS!

He is coming to restore the government of almighty God to earth! He is coming to establish the kingdom of God on the earth.

He is coming to bring world peace!
He is coming to end all poverty, ignorance, sickness and disease, filth and squalor, ugliness. He is coming to end all crime, all war, to solve all this world's evils — to bring universal prosperity, happiness, and joy!

Is that important?

He called me as his instrument to announce all that in advance!

He raised up my son Garner Ted to help me and take over the chief executive administration of "the Work," now grown big and worldwide.

He called many others, to be trained in Ambassador College, for important phases of this most important Work on earth!

He called each of you to stand staunchly and loyally behind me and Garner Ted, as human leaders, with earnest and fervent PRAYERS. With such tithes and offerings as he has made possible. With such inspiration as you can give.

And he has called you to help in all that — to be an overcomer, growing in grace and truth, so that you may be given ETERNAL LIFE — so you may sit with Christ on HIS throne — so he can give you power over the nations, to rule under Christ during the thousand years, while we, with him, bring SALVATION and eternal life to the whole world.

If you seek the true values — the things WORTHWHILE — what else can be as important as your part in that?

That is "the Work."

Yes, what an awesome Work to be PRIVILEGED to have part in. \Box