

the
PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

JULY 1977



PORNOGRAPHY
IS NO "VICTIMLESS CRIME"!



A LITTLE
EXERCISE
COULD MEAN A LIFETIME OF HEALTH!



WAS THE
RESURRECTION
A HOAX?



WARNING!
TOBACCO
IS HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH

used to think that romance was something that thrilled and propelled up to cloud nine only youths from their late teens to their late twenties. Surely no person past fifty could ever experience the wonderful, anticipatory, exotic happiness of real LOVE!

I have learned better.

Let me here quote a portion from the beginning of what I wrote in both our ministerial *Bulletin*, read by our ministers all over the earth, and in *The Worldwide News*, read by about 98 percent of the members of the Worldwide Church of God besides many other nonmember subscribers:

"Brethren, my heart is filled to overflowing with gratitude and love to you for the overwhelming response of congratulations for my marriage of three weeks ago today, here in our new 'away-from-home home' in Tucson, Arizona.

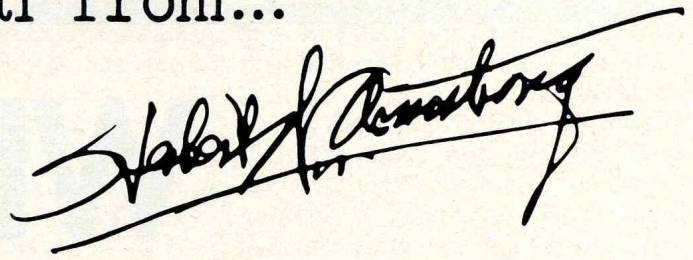
"The cards and letters consist of not only congratulations, but show rejoicing in your own hearts and your deep love for me, and now express that same respect and love for my lovely new bride, Ramona.

"I spent one whole day until I was tired, mentally and physically, and 'eye tired' wading through whole boxes of hundreds upon hundreds of congratulatory cards and letters. It was one of the greatest demonstrations of your love, concern, loyalty and affection for your Pastor General and God's apostle that I have ever experienced.

"And I shall never be able to thank God enough for selecting her and sending her to me and causing the very real and deep love that has grown in each of us for the other. God knew the help I needed by my side to accomplish His Work for the remainder of my life—for both of our lives—and He certainly chose and sent to me the loveliest and the most lovable of the lovely.

"In a sense this has been our honeymoon in our own new home together, yet it has been one of the BUSIEST and HARDEST-WORKING three weeks of my life. The one room that is already completely furnished in our new home is my study—my office. I have been hard at work at the typewriter and on the telephone with many of our top

Personal from...



Comments Inspired by My Own Recent Marriage—After Ten Years a Widower

people at the offices in Pasadena and in other telephone conversations from other points in the world. By no means have I been out of contact—but in constant daily contact—with the Work."

Our great Creator IS LOVE. He is the giver of true LOVE. And can we receive a greater gift—in this life, I mean? Of course, the gift of eternal life filled with divine love and joy and peace and happiness forever and ever is the greatest.

I was married when I was in the youthful age of romance—25. I had left off church attendance at 18. I was not religious, nor, for that matter, irreligious. I was full of ambition for success with the full SELF-confident bloom of youth. I had dated many girls, most of them from what I considered fine families, old families—the best. I liked them all, but was in love with none—until that certain one came along. Splendid, charming, cultured as they all were, she was different—superior—and this time it was LOVE—not at first sight, but it blossomed rapidly after our first meeting, which was January 1, 1917.

Of course, I was on that wonderful cloud nine. We were married on July 31 of that year. That happy marriage lasted *fifty years*, lacking 3½ months to the day.

Sure, the first flushes of romance changed gradually into a less exciting but deeper and deeper love and trust and loyalty. We fought life's battles together, and enjoyed its successes together. God used her in my conversion at age 35—in spurring me to an intensive, in-depth, night-and-day study of the Bible that led to opening its meaning for me, giving me UNDERSTANDING, and the GIFT, through the presence of God's Holy Spirit, of ETERNAL LIFE to come at the resurrection. She was cofounder with me of the "Philadelphia era" (Rev. 3:7-13) of the Church of God, founded in A.D. 31 by Jesus Christ. She was cofounder of *The Plain Truth*. She worked with me in starting the radio broadcast and throughout its rapid worldwide growth. She was cofounder of Ambassador College. We did everything together. We were a TEAM. Our marriage lasted until death parted us, May 15, 1967.

Then came ten LONELY YEARS, but a worldwide Work had been built, and I had to keep driving on—alone and lonely.

I learned God meant what He said when He said: "It is not good that the man should be alone."

"Dad," said my son Garner Ted
(Continued on page 42)

by Herbert W. Armstrong

What Is Uppermost in God's Mind?

**What is most important—above all else—in the
mind of God right now?**

Does it make any difference to YOU what is IMPORTANT to God—what is important *to Him* above all else in your life? It should! For what is MOST IMPORTANT to Him IN YOUR LIFE will decide your happiness or unhappiness from here on; your success or failure in the remainder of your life—and far more—*where* and in *what state* you are going to spend your ETERNITY. For there is a life after death.

One passage in the New Testa-

ment spells it out for you. This same passage summarizes the WHOLE GOSPEL—or even, broadly, the ENTIRE BIBLE. I could preach every sermon for the rest of my life—each one different—using this one passage as my text.

It is found in Acts 3:19-21: a proclamation by the apostle Peter to a huge crowd gathered at the Temple after he had healed the cripple, well-known as being lame from birth.

“REPENT ye therefore,” he admonished, “and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: whom the heavens must receive *until the times of RESTITUTION of all things*, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.”

Now let's UNDERSTAND! Without a real UNDERSTANDING of this passage by the inspired apostle Peter, you cannot understand the PURPOSE of life: WHY you are on earth, WHY mankind was put here, what life is all about, what is man's fantastic, incredible potential.

When Peter said to his listeners, first, “REPENT,” he meant CHANGE—ABOUT-FACE from the way they had been living. There are just TWO principal or general WAYS or attitudes of life. One is the way of this world, which for brevity I call “GET.” The other is God's way, “GIVE.” Satan's way is “GET”—that is, vanity, lust and greed, jealousy and envy, competition, strife, violence and war, resentment against others, resentment and rebellion against any authority over one.

Peter meant they first must turn FROM that way—that ATTITUDE of SELF-centeredness—to GOD's way of “GIVE,” or LOVE, which is love first toward GOD with yielded OBEDIENCE, and then LOVE toward man, which is *outgoing* CONCERN for the good and welfare of fellow humans.

Satan's way is that of SIN. God's way is that of the BASIC LAW of His GOVERNMENT—the way of LOVE. And LOVE—divine love from God as His gift through His Holy Spirit—is

the fulfilling of God's law, obedience to His government.

Jesus Christ came in the likeness of HUMAN FLESH. Though also divine, He was tempted in all points as we are and yet He had power to RESIST SIN; resist Satan's WAY of "GET." For man, the PENALTY of sin is DEATH. All have sinned—except Christ who, though our divine Maker, was made flesh subject to death—so that He was able by giving His life to pay the penalty for the sins of all humanity who choose to turn from and repent of sin, turn to God's way, BELIEVE Christ, and thus be CHANGED—CONVERTED—their sins blotted out by Christ's death.

Notice that Peter did NOT say their sins would be blotted out immediately upon this repentance. Belief alone in the atoning DEATH of Christ does not completely change or convert one. Their sins had CUT THEM OFF from contact with God, who alone had ETERNAL LIFE to give or impart to them. But belief in the death of Christ, following repentance, would REESTABLISH their CONTACT WITH GOD, who alone has eternal life and final CONVERSION TO GIVE.

So we humans are not finally SAVED by the BLOOD of Christ; we are restored to contact with God, who has eternal life to GIVE. But WHEN does He give it? Not immediately at the time of repentance and the decision to CHANGE from Satan's "GET" way of sin to God's way of "LOVE," but "when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and HE SHALL SEND JESUS CHRIST"—that is, at Christ's second coming as King of kings to rule the world.

But where is Jesus Christ NOW? At the right hand of God, on God's (His Father's) throne in heaven.

But WHEN will God send Jesus Christ as King? The heavens have received Him, where He now is on His Father's throne as our High Priest, interceding for us *until*—let me repeat, UNTIL—the times of restitution of all things (Acts 3:21).

Did you ever look up the meaning of "RESTITUTION"? It means RESTORING something that had previously existed, then was taken away, then finally RESTORED once

again. In Acts 3:21, "restitution" refers to the government of God!

Now let me go back just a little. I said the BLOOD of Christ—His DEATH for us—does NOT finally SAVE us; rather it RESTORES our contact with God the Father, who has eternal life to give.

Notice quickly and briefly in Romans 5:8: "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood..." NOTICE! Not

"And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: whom the heavens must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."

"SAVED" by His blood. The word "justified" means our *past* sins have been forgiven because Christ paid the penalty in our stead. Our past SINS cut us off from God. Christ's DEATH (in our stead, as our Maker) did *not* bestow upon us the GIFT of eternal life and final complete salvation, which only the Father has to give; rather, it RESTORES our CONTACT with the Father, from whom our sins had cut us off.

Continuing in Romans: "Much more then, being now JUSTIFIED by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him"—that is, through CHRIST. But HOW? "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the DEATH of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we SHALL BE [notice: "SHALL BE" in the FUTURE] saved by *his* life."

Notice it! Justified ONLY by His blood, BUT SAVED by His LIFE—by the resurrection!

Now WHEN is the resurrection? At the time of Christ's COMING—at "the times of restitution of all things." "All things" means (as translated by

Moffatt in Hebrews 1) THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE.

What was once here, and taken away? The government of God. Most people do not know that angels inhabited this earth before the first humans. When God first created the earth, the ANGELS shouted for joy (Job 38:4-7). This earth was their "ESTATE," but they did not keep it (Jude 6). The angels on earth SINNED (II Peter 2:4). Their king over the earth was the super archangel LUCIFER (Isa. 14:12-15). He was PERFECT from his CREATION *until* iniquity (lawlessness—breaking the law of God's government, in which he ruled) was found in him (Ezek. 28:15). This REBELLION of the ANGELS removed the government of God from the earth.

Lucifer's name was changed to Satan. He still rules this world (Eph. 2:2; II Cor. 4:4). When Christ returns to rule, Satan will be REMOVED (Rev. 20:1-3). The government of God will be restored!

That restoration of God's government is the one great PURPOSE uppermost in God's mind.

Jesus had to qualify to replace Satan as ruler, and RESTORE the government of God by overcoming Satan (Matt. 4:1-11). If WE also qualify by overcoming Satan, we shall sit WITH CHRIST on HIS throne, as He now sits on His Father's throne (Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21-22).

Next to restoring the government of God on earth, the most important thing on God's mind at the minute is the great commission He has committed to me and this Church as my helpers in announcing the restoring of God's government in the Kingdom of God in this very present generation, at Christ's coming. FOR THAT PURPOSE He raised up this Church of God through me. Is it important to *you*? □

RECOMMENDED READING

Read the story of a unique group of people—the Worldwide Church of God. It's a Church with a purpose, a mission that's being actively fulfilled on a world scale. It's a Church that is having a profound, positive impact on thousands of lives. Request the booklet, *This Is the Worldwide Church of God*. For your free copy, write to the address of our office nearest you (see inside front cover).

Part 1

THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT HEALING

Is the day of miracles past? Does the living God heal sickness and disease today upon believing prayer? Or was healing performed only by Christ and the original apostles? Did God raise up medical science for our day? What about modern faith healers and public healing services?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

You live in a world that relies primarily on medical doctors to treat illness. Most professing Christians today say: "God raised up medical science for our day. Jesus healed to prove He was the Messiah. But the day of miracles is now past." Some think God heals through self-professed faith healers, and attend public healing shows. Some believe in healing by one of the forms of "mental science"—the power of mind over matter. Others say: "Well, I think God *can* heal—IF it's His will. But how can we know whether it's His will?"

Yes, people say!

But what does GOD say?

Does he reveal whether He still heals, *why* He heals, *how* He heals, *whether* and *when* it is His will? For the answers we go to the Bible.

Christ's Ministry Was Dual

Let's begin at the beginning. Actually, there are *two* beginnings, so far as the subject of healing is concerned—one in the New Testament,

with Christ; the other in the Old Testament, with the people of ancient Israel. We shall begin with the ministry of Jesus. Later, many readers will be surprised to learn how much is recorded on the subject throughout the Old Testament.

More than nineteen hundred years ago—in A.D. 27-31—Jesus Christ appeared on earth as a messenger bearing history's most important message from God to mankind. His mission was prophesied in Malachi, chapter 3, verse 1. That message actually was a stupendous NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT. The news was the most transcendent GOOD NEWS! It was the GOSPEL (which means "good news") of Jesus Christ.

But Jesus' ministry was a *dual* ministry. And a miraculous ministry.

Jesus came also healing the sick by the divine POWER of God. It was not the power of human mind over matter. Few realize the extent to which healing and casting out demons were an integral part of Jesus'

ministry. Later, the apostles proclaimed His same message and healed the sick.

What Happened to the Gospel and to Healing

It comes as an astounding shock to learn that long before the end of the first century, the proclamation of Christ's gospel to the world and the ministry of physical healing ceased!

But WHY?

Christ's gospel was the glorious messianic announcement of the coming world-ruling KINGDOM OF GOD. It was the announcement of the wonderful WORLD TOMORROW! It was *not* a message of *doom!*—except for the doom of this world's evils, sufferings and unhappiness. It was a joyous announcement of coming world peace, universal happiness, and well-being! But the leaders of the people in Judea misunderstood and resented both that good NEWS, and Jesus' MIRACLES.

Jesus' miracles were public—but they weren't healing shows. He sim-

ply healed the sick wherever He came to them or they came to Him. But of course the miracles attracted enormous crowds. Many began to believe on Him. This alarmed the chief priests and the ruling Pharisees. It stirred them to violent persecution. They totally misunderstood Jesus' message! His news announcement was that of the yet-to-come Kingdom of God, not—as they supposed—of the overthrow of the Roman government of their day.

The Romans, then ruling the Western world, avoided most of the details of government administration in Judea by causing the Jews to rule themselves at the lower levels. The Pharisaic rulers loved their position of authority. They viewed Jesus as an anti-Roman agitator proposing to overthrow the Roman rule. They feared being imprisoned as seditionists if they sided in any way with Jesus. They plotted to kill Him, and at God's set time Jesus was crucified, making possible man's reconciliation with God.

God miraculously raised Jesus from the dead, making possible eternal life for humanity. On the fiftieth day (called Pentecost) after His resurrection, the 120 converts of Jesus, including the apostles, received the POWER of the Holy Spirit of God. In that power they proclaimed the good news of the Kingdom of God. In the same divine power from God by which Christ healed, they healed the sick wherever they went.

But, as with Jesus, so now with the apostles: The miracles drew tremendous crowds. Without any pressured solicitations, thousands were converted and baptized. But soon the persecution against them multiplied. Two years after Jesus' resurrection, A.D. 33, Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8), the Pater (father or Peter) of the Babylonian mystery religion in Samaria, after being rejected by Peter, appropriated the name of Christ and applied it to his Babylonian mystery religion, calling it "Christianity." Simon and his followers began systematic opposition and persecution against the true Church of God, founded in A.D. 31 by Jesus Christ. (How the Babylo-

nian mystery religion was moved into Samaria in 718 B.C. is explained in II Kings 17:18-24.)

Gentile and Jewish Opposition

The earliest opposition against Christ's Church was Jewish, opposing the acceptance of Jesus as the Messiah. Judaizers insisted on observing the temporary rituals of Mosaic law. For this reason the early ministry of the apostles put prime emphasis on the replacement of rituals by the Holy Spirit, and on the resurrection, infallible proof of Christ's messiahship. The apostles were personally with Jesus for three and a half years before His crucifixion, and for forty days after His resurrection—so they were eyewitnesses to the resurrection.

After A.D. 33, as the work of this Simon the Sorcerer spread, the opposition to the true Church became Gentile. The writings of Paul, as well as I and II Peter, of James, of I, II and III John, and Jude show the Gentile opposition was primarily aimed against the law of God. Simon appropriated the doctrine of grace from the teaching of the apostles, but it was grace turned into license to disobey (Jude 4). They preached a false Jesus who, they said, did away with the basic spiritual law of God. Simon and his followers preached a totally different gospel than the apostles—primarily that of their own Babylonian mystery religion, with grace and Christ's name added. Of course they got it to the Galatians.

To the Galatians, Paul wrote: "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel" (Gal. 1:6). To the Corinthians, Paul wrote: "For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus . . . or another gospel . . ." (II Cor. 11:4). Of these Simon Magus-type preachers, Paul wrote: "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness" (verses 13-15).

It was Satan—the former cherub Lucifer (Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:12-17)—who originally rebelled against the GOVERNMENT OF GOD and caused its removal from the earth. Satan is the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4). He has his churches and his ministers. They oppose the law of God. Therefore they oppose the KINGDOM of God, since it is governed by the laws of God. These apostles of Satan offered the world an easier religion. Obedience was unnecessary.

Dark Age Begins

The opposition of Simon's false church finally snuffed out the proclaiming of the MESSAGE of the KINGDOM OF GOD. Before the end of the first century, the curtain was systematically rung down on all records of true Church history.

When the curtain lifts, late in the second century, we behold a "Christianity" utterly unlike that of Christ and His original apostles. Its doctrines, sacraments and customs were those of the Babylonian mystery religion. It persecuted and martyred those true Christians still holding to the teachings and customs of Christ and His apostles. Christ's doctrines and customs were branded as "Jewish." The term "Jewish" became a dirty word—an epithet.

The message God sent to mankind by Jesus Christ—the true gospel Christ preached, the announcement of the coming KINGDOM OF GOD—was done away by expediently calling THE CHURCH (Simon's) "the kingdom of God." Some, later, reduced the KINGDOM OF GOD to an ethereal indescribable something "set up in men's hearts."

Thus, through manipulations of "the god of this world," Satan, by whom ALL NATIONS HAVE BEEN DECEIVED (Rev. 12:9), the true GOSPEL MESSAGE CHRIST BROUGHT was suppressed and not proclaimed to the world after the first century! And healing the sick as a regular practice had ceased also.

Thus the DUAL ministry of Christ and the apostles was no part of what the world has accepted as traditional Christianity.

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HEALING

(Continued from page 5)

But, persecuted over the centuries, mostly unrecognized by the world, the true and original Church of God has continued through all generations to the present. In the book of Revelation two churches are described. One, in the twelfth chapter, the true and original Church of God, small and persecuted, having to endure hardship, persecution and martyrdom for survival; the other, in the seventeenth chapter, the great politically popular church, ruling over kings and nations of this world, drunk with the blood of saints and martyrs of Jesus.

For 18½ centuries Christ's true gospel—His MESSAGE from God of the coming KINGDOM OF GOD—had not been proclaimed to the world. It was only taught to the comparative few—secretly—who kept the Church of God alive through the centuries.

Gospel Restored

The original one and only true Church of God still lives! And, still persecuted, maligned, misrepresented, it is restoring the true gospel of Jesus Christ today! *It is sending out that good news worldwide*—as a witness for all nations, in real POWER!

And Christ's doctrine of healing the sick is also being restored. There have been multiple thousands of miraculous healings. But not, in our time, spectacular public displays of sensational miracles to attract both crowds and added persecutions. The REASONS for this, and the truth about the whole subject of healing will be made plain in this series of articles.

There have been "gospel" programs—scores of them—all over the world. But, as Paul described, they have each been *another* gospel. Christ's MESSAGE was suppressed. Christ has been preached to the world—but a *different* Jesus. (Be sure to read our free booklet *The Real Jesus*.)

But what about healing the sick TODAY? How is it being restored in God's Church? This important series will continue next issue and will be available later in booklet form. □

TWO PROPHETS

(Continued from page 22)

Son governing in that particular area, "and we"—hopefully you and I, glorified as born sons of God at that time—"will walk in the name of the LORD our God"—total unity—"for ever and ever," and THAT is a *long time!*

David will be the son of God governing all Israel. The twelve apostles will be busy with the duties of judging and governing, one each, the twelve tribes of that one nation, Israel.

Some unnamed successful overcomers will have lesser duties governing five cities, or ten cities.

What will you and I be doing?

Just a Beginning

Now that we have scratched the surface, gotten the overview of the purpose of life and the Kingdom of God, we're ready for more details of that busy eternal life. "Governing" and "ruling" in the Kingdom of God are too general. Some people even say they don't *want* to be telling others what to do forever. They have too narrow a view of government. Life won't be just a piece of cake; sitting on a throne giving orders. Active *doing* in every facet of life is involved.

Next issue we'll get to some of those details, and see if you wouldn't just love to be *doing* at least one of those jobs forever! □

(To Be Continued)

RESURRECTION

(Continued from page 15)

What was the result of listening to Paul with readiness and open minds, digging out the source material and studying it on a daily basis? "Therefore many of them believed..." (verse 12).

You have a choice before you. You can close your mind to what you have read, cling to your own cherished concepts and shut your mind to everything except your own preconceived ideas. Or you can be objective and open-minded about this new knowledge, and use these articles as a springboard to more and more truth.

The choice is yours. No one else can make up your mind for you.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ of Nazareth is a fact of history. Your Bible proves it. Sound logic and plain admission of concrete evidence prove it! Without it there would have been no Holy Spirit from heaven; no New Testament of the Bible. All history would have been written differently.

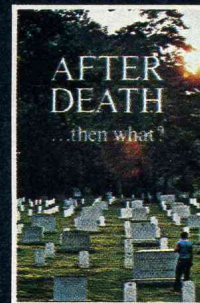
Without it you cannot be saved. Without it there would have been no Church; there would have never been a single real Christian.

It is a *prelude* to another great event in history soon to come. Jesus Christ is going to stand on this earth once again. He will rule it with a rod of iron. Think of it! The heavens splitting with a rock-breaking, earth-quaking roar! Streaming, blinding, brilliant flashes of light revealing the descending King of kings, followed by vast numbers of His angels, as far as the eye can see.

Will you be ready to meet Him? □

Death takes all the fun out of life.

No one likes to think about his own death. We'd like to postpone it forever. The apostle Paul called death man's enemy—"the last enemy that shall be destroyed." Everyone hopes for some kind of afterlife. For an explanation of what the Bible says on the subject, request the free booklet, *After Death, Then What?* Just return the coupon on the back cover.





GARNER TED ARMSTRONG congratulates his father, Herbert W. Armstrong, and his new bride, the former Ramona Martin, after performing the wedding ceremony (left). The wedding took place among a small group of family and friends in Tucson, Arizona. A joyous reception followed which included the traditional cutting of the cake (right).

Personal from...

(Continued from page 1)

one day, "everyone who knows you is convinced that GOD really chose your wife—my mother—for you, brought you together, and used you together. If you will be patient and trust God, He will choose the second wife by your side to help you carry on from here on."

But that seemed impossible. You see, by this time, this last phase of the Work had developed to the point where I was now forced to travel to all parts of the world. I was away from home 300 of the 365 days each of the last two years—and what woman could stand that grueling ordeal and travel with me? Mrs. Loma Armstrong never could have. I think not one in a hundred—whether man or woman—could. Often our flights last from 12 to 17 or more hours—with perhaps two 30-minute refueling stops—and crossing six to nine TIME ZONES. It is a killing pace.

Then I became conscious of a woman traveling with our traveling team as Mr. Rader's assistant, who often did special missions—like flying on ahead alone to Nairobi, Kenya, to make all advance arrangements for my big campaign there—a very competent woman. Our acquaintance developed. In due time I discovered that God had *already* done what Garner Ted said He would do—HE had chosen and *sent her to me*. (I had nothing to do with her joining our traveling team.) As with my first courtship, it developed into ROMANCE and deepened into real LOVE.

Now, after three weeks of married life once again after a ten-year lapse, I realize now that I have needed her all along.

What has, in a sense, amazed me is that there could, after all these years—now in the sunset of my life—be that same thrill and ecstasy, sense of romance, and visits to cloud nine again that were there in the sunrise years of life. But, then, is not a beautiful sunset in Arizona, Florida, or Iowa, usually even more beautiful than a sunrise? We are both fully mature now, whereas at

25 we were at the beginning years of maturity. But the beauty of pure, God-given LOVE is fully there.

God did not intend earthly human life to be merely childhood play and fun followed by a brief period on that high cloud of early romance in the first few years of marriage, then a settling down to life's work, raising a family, and nothing from there on but serious work, problems, troubles, sorrows—and too often years of lonely widow- or widowerhood—eking out an existence, looking forward to nothing but relief from it all by death.

One of the most pitiful sights that I have ever had the misfortune to see was a few blocks of second-rate hotels for elderly and retired people in one of America's cities. Sitting on the front verandas were elderly people just enduring life until death released them from it. They looked so terribly unhappy, frustrated, hopeless. In calendar years, I am sure most of them were younger than I—probably in their sixties or seventies.

Most of those still had their marital mates, but life was not fun any longer. Undoubtedly they had long



MR. HERBERT ARMSTRONG shares his exuberance after the wedding with Dr. Robert L. Kuhn (center), Larry Neff, Worldwide Church of God minister in Tucson, and Garner Ted Armstrong. At right, the newlyweds pose in the kitchen with Stanley R. Rader, who frequently accompanies Mr. Armstrong on his many travels around the world.

since let sex dry up and die out, whereas God, the loving Creator, intended sex to supply spice and active LOVE and even to increase vitality and the spark of life as long as we live—even into the eighties and nineties—as long as we are still physically active. And ten times as many of us would be, if we took care of our health, learned to eat natural health foods and correct diets, remained careful and diligent about elimination all our lives, and got the proper amount of exercise, especially walking in the later years. About 99 percent of us grow old before our time.

Life *could* be so much more enjoyable and beautiful than it is, *if* mankind had not cut itself off from our Creator and our God and His LAWS and WAYS.

I have been referring primarily to elderly married couples, still living together.

But what of the tragedy in the United States where more than HALF of all the population past 55 is NOW SINGLE—living ALONE through widowhood, widowerhood or divorce?!

One of the cruelest ways that

Satan has deceived this world is in regard to sex life. The world is getting away from the old dictum emanating from the church that sex is evil, shameful and wrong. But it is leaping from the frying pan into the fire and going into promiscuity.

GOD created sex. He made us male and female, and all He designed and made was “VERY GOOD” (Gen. 1:31)—not “very BAD.” The really important sex organs that God designed and created supply the hormones that make a woman feminine—with feminine VITALITY and charm and *active* personality—and which make a man actively and vitally male.

We used to think that all the OTHER systems in the physical body—the digestive system, the eliminative, the respiratory, the nervous, the circulatory systems—were meant to keep us alive and vital in this life, but that the reproductive system was meant only to bring forth the future generations and had nothing to do with our own physical well-being now. Satan has never foisted a greater lie on a deceived world. A well-regulated and normal sex life between husband and wife

originates in the very vital organs that keep a man actively and vitally MALE, and his wife actively and vitally FEMALE, exuding charm, fascinating personality, thus giving happiness to others.

Those elderly married couples who maintain a normal sexual-love relationship live some ten years longer than the average oldster, either married and sexually inactive, or those living single.

Why do so many know so little about how to live?

Sex normally is not more than about 15 percent of married life; companionship 80 or 85 percent. But in the full, ABUNDANT life that’s 100 percent, and the 15 percent helps and adds to the 85 percent.

Yes, it has been an eye-opener to me to learn that ROMANCE can be just as thrilling, exciting, and filled with JOY and happiness in the SUNSET years as in the sunrise years, and perhaps we have a little more sense to enjoy it with.

Not only have I been happier these past three weeks, but I have worked harder and accomplished more in the wonderful Work of the living God! □

Photos by Ken Evans—The Plain Truth