

the
PLAIN TRUTH
a magazine of understanding

VOLUME XXVIII, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY, 1963



Wide World Photo

CARS INCH THEIR WAY through the business section of Tokyo in a typical traffic jam, a routine affair. The problem of traffic tie-ups and accidents, with their high cost in time and lives, has reached such a point in Japan that the government is establishing a special traffic ministry. Tokyo's traffic jam, perhaps the world's worst, sometimes takes hours to untangle. Traffic is typical of Japan's burgeoning industrial growth—described in this issue.

What our READERS SAY

Too Much Volume?

"All right. You do not have to shout at the top of your lungs. I believe when the Lord comes He will converse with me in a *normal* tone of voice."

Anonymous

• Some have always resented enthusiasm. The Children of Israel begged Moses to talk to them in God's stead because when He spoke, the mountains shook. Read this statement for yourself in Exodus 20:19.

Not for Profit

"Recently I sent for your literature. Not knowing it was free, I enclosed a check and wrote on the check what it was for. You can imagine how surprised I was when I got it back. Certainly this proved to me that you're not in it for the money."

Man from Texas

We Are Positive!

"If you are positive I will not be asked for money at a future date, I would like to subscribe to *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine. I am not one of the gullible mass, and I must admit to the usual doubts of any free offer; I do hope you can assure me of your honesty and sincerity."

Man from Indiana

• Read the next letter for the proof!

Further Proof

"We have *never* been asked for money. I don't remember when we first received *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine, but it must have been 15 years ago and maybe longer. Thanks."

Man from Colorado

Likes Manner of Delivery

"Most ministers do not possess the kind of voice which you and your son have. Others are either too "sweet and quiet" or they literally shout and scream their message at the very top of their lungs."

College student from Georgia

Others Preach *About* The Bible

"Last evening I tried a little experi-

ment. I would listen to *The WORLD TOMORROW* for 5 or 10 minutes and then listen to another religious program for several minutes. By this method, I compared your program to several other programs which included programs of perhaps the most famous ministers in the United States. I came up with this conclusion: You preach the Bible and the others preach *about* the Bible."

Man from Michigan

Ideal Vacation

"I have been on a two-week vacation. I loaded up my camper and went deer hunting for 7 days. I left my binoculars at home, but I didn't forget all the wonderful magazines and papers you have sent me. I spent two-thirds of my trip reading and studying. I came home without a deer, but I came home rested, relaxed, contented, with peace of mind. There isn't enough money to buy these wonderful *PLAIN TRUTH* magazines you have sent."

Man from Washington

Blows the Dust Off

"I am 18 years of age and have been listening to your program for about four months now. I did exactly what you asked. *I blew off the dust and opened my Bible*, and to my surprise *you were telling the truth*. My parents, minister, and friends told me to quit listening to such junk."

Man from Wisconsin

Frightful Thing Taking Shape

"The Roman Empire rising in Europe is a frightful thing when you see it taking shape before your very eyes. I used to listen to you at times 8 or 9 years ago and didn't believe what you were saying. I used to turn the radio to another station, or off altogether, but now I must swallow my own words. I know you were speaking the truth. Prophecy is being fulfilled before our very eyes."

Lady from Pennsylvania

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Personal from the Editor

THIS IS the 29th anniversary of *The PLAIN TRUTH*. With this number, we start the 30th year since this magazine began. Yet there have not been 29 full years of actual publication.

The careful observer may notice that this is Volume 28—not Volume 30, as it should be had there not been two years in which there were no copies published.

I have told our readers before of the small, humble, "home-made" beginning of *The PLAIN TRUTH*. The growth was slow and gradual. The road was hard, difficult. But *The PLAIN TRUTH* survived. It grew. There was constant improvement. This is the second issue with the new, heavier, full magazine-weight cover, making it a 52-page magazine. We expect it to continue to improve in quality, interest-value, enlightenment to readers, and in circulation.

HOW MANY times have you heard non-Christians, judging one who professes Christ, say in disgust: "Well if *that's* Christianity, I don't want any of it!"

How many judge GOD by the way professing Christians live? How many assume that one must live a *perfect* life, before he can become a Christian?

How many say: "If I could give up smoking, I'd become a Christian."

How many think a Christian is supposed to be perfect, never doing anything wrong? Suppose you do see or hear about a Christian doing something WRONG. Does that mean he is a hypocrite—that he is *not* really a Christian, after all?

Is it possible for one to actually SIN, while he is a Christian, and *still remain* a truly converted Christian?

I suppose nearly everyone would reply in the negative. But here is a vital point you need to UNDERSTAND!

It's hard to believe—but TRUE! Few know just what *is* a Christian. Few know HOW one is converted—whether

suddenly, all at once, or gradually. Does conversion happen *immediately*, or is it a PROCESS? IT'S HIGH TIME WE UNDERSTAND!

The TRUTH is that there is a sense in which true conversion *does* take place at a definite time—all at once. But it is also true that in another sense conversion is *worked out gradually*—a process of development and growth.

Now NOTICE CAREFULLY!

WHEN does one really become a Christian? It is when he receives God's Holy Spirit. In Romans 8:9, we read that *unless* we have the Holy Spirit, we are not Christ's—not Christians.

There is a definite TIME when God's Spirit enters into one. At the *very moment* he receives the Holy Spirit, he is, in this first sense, *converted*. Yes, *all at once!* If he has Christ's Spirit, he is CHRIST'S—he is a Christian! He has been begotten as a child of God.

But does that mean his salvation is complete? Is he now fully and finally "saved"? Is that all there is to it? Is he now, suddenly, *perfect*? Is it now impossible for him to do WRONG?

NO! FAR FROM IT! But WHY? What's the answer? Why do so many MISunderstand?

Here is the PLAIN TRUTH you need to know.

First, there are TWO conditions to becoming a Christian: REPENTANCE, and FAITH. These two we, ourselves, must perform. Yet no one can, of himself, say: "Oh now I see—I must repent. All right, I hereby repent." One does not just decide casually, as a matter of routine, to repent. WHY?

Jesus Christ said that none can come to Him, except the Spirit of the Father draw him. God grants repentance. God calls one, and convicts the mind and conscience by His Spirit, working on the mind externally. Usually a real struggle goes on within. The person has been shaken to *know* he has done wrong—

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OUR COVER

The cover picture this issue symbolizes the tremendous growth of the Orient, especially Japan. As reported in the lead article this month, Mr. Garner T. Armstrong recently completed a short visit to Tokyo to lay the foundation for broadcasting "The WORLD TOMORROW" to the Japanese Isles, first in the English language and then—as we have the literature to follow up the broadcast—in the Japanese language. Japan is one of the most important nations in the world to which this gospel of the Kingdom of God must be sent as a witness before the sudden close of this age comes.

he has sinned. He is not only sorry—he abhors himself! He is brought to real REPENTANCE, not only for what he has done, but for what he now sees that he is.

Yet he, himself, must make the decision. If he does repent, surrender to God, and in FAITH accept Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, then, upon performance of these TWO conditions, God *promises* to put within him the GIFT of the Holy Spirit. This is the very *life* of GOD—SPIRIT life. It imparts to him the very *divine nature!*

Then *what*, at that stage, *has happened?*

This new convert has only been *begotten* of God—not yet BORN (see article, "Was Christ Born Again?" page 7). He has not received the full measure of God's Spirit Christ had—he is only a *spiritual babe* in Christ—he must now GROW spiritually, just as a newly-conceived fetus in its mother's womb must grow physically large enough to be BORN as a human.

This new convert has now REPENTED, in his mind, from the depths of his heart. HE MEANS IT, too! In all sincerity, in his mind and heart he has *turned around to go the other way*—to live a different life. He is now a CHRISTIAN—he has received God's Holy Spirit. He really *wants* to do what is right—to obey God—to live GOD'S WAY.

YET HE FINDS HE DOES NOT DO THIS PERFECTLY! Many, at this stage, become discouraged. Some give up even trying to live a Christian life. And WHY? *Because of the false notion that a Christian is one who becomes PERFECT at one fell swoop*—or, that one cannot become a Christian *until* he has broken all wrong habits, and *made himself* righteous.

It's vital to UNDERSTAND how true Christianity REALLY WORKS!

The newly begotten Christian must grow up, spiritually. What would you think of a human baby, who became 6 feet tall *all at once*, without *growing up?* The growing up process requires TIME. There is *an instant* when a person receives the impregnating Holy Spirit of God—when he first becomes a Christian. But he is only a *spiritual infant*. He must *grow up* spiritually.

The newly converted person, *in his mind and heart*, sincerely has ABOUT-FACED! He has actually gained contact with GOD, and received God's Holy Spirit. God's own divine NATURE has now been conceived within him. BUT THAT'S ALL—it is *merely conceived*—not yet full grown! And his HUMAN NATURE is *still there*—it has not been killed or removed!

Understand this!

We were all born HUMAN. We all were born with HUMAN NATURE. Few seem to know what human nature is. It is a strong PULL—a tendency—and, like gravity, it is a *downward* pull. Like a strong magnet, it draws us in the WAY OF SATAN—that is, a pull toward pride and vanity, selfishness and greed, a lack of outgoing concern for others—the spirit of competition, opposition, strife, effort to acquire, and to exalt the self. It is a pull toward self-gratification, and jealousy, envy and resentment toward others. It is the spirit of rebellion against authority, hostility toward God and the Law of God. THAT is human nature. YOU were born with it. It is still within you.

Originally God created the beautiful archangel Lucifer. He sealed up the sum of wisdom, knowledge and beauty. But one thing he lacked—the righteous CHARACTER to choose the right way, and resist the wrong—to discipline the *self* in the way he ought to go, instead of the way of self-desire.

God's PURPOSE in having created humanity—in having caused YOU to be born—is to reproduce Himself. And GOD, above all things, *is* PERFECT, RIGHTEOUS CHARACTER! God is able to create character within us—but it must be done as a result of our independent free choice. We, as individual separate entities, have our part in the process.

What *is* perfect character? It is the ability, in a separate entity, to come to the KNOWLEDGE of the right from the wrong—the true from the false—and to CHOOSE the right, and possess the WILL to enforce self-discipline to DO the right and resist the wrong.

Like muscle, character is developed, and grows by exercise. My name is Armstrong. I suppose I could make my arm stronger, and develop the muscle,

by constantly bending it back and forth at the elbow. But if I pull, or push, against some heavy weight or resistance, the muscle will develop much faster. Therefore God purposely put within us this NATURE that exerts a heavy pull *against* that perfect righteous character—to give us something to *strive against*, for THE VERY PURPOSE OF STRENGTHENING AND DEVELOPING RIGHT CHARACTER!

God's CHARACTER travels in the direction of His Law—the way of LOVE. It is an outgoing CONCERN for others. GOD has that character! HE has an outgoing *concern* for you and for me. He GAVE His only begotten Son to reconcile us to Him, and make the JOYS of His character and everlasting life possible for us. He showers on us every good and precious gift. He even puts within us HIS DIVINE NATURE—*when* we repent and turn *from* the WRONG way of THIS WORLD, begin to *resist* it, and turn TO Him through faith in Jesus Christ as personal Saviour!

God's divine nature is the nature of love—of giving, serving, helping—of outgoing concern. It is the nature of humility.

Now when one is converted—has repented, and *turned from* Satan's and this world's false WAY—has *at once* received God's Holy Spirit—his HUMAN nature, as I said before, does not flee. It, too, remains. It *still* exerts a pull. We still live in THIS PRESENT EVIL WORLD, and *it* exerts a pull. God still allows Satan to be around—and HE exerts a pull.

So we now have THREE PULLS to RESIST—to OVERCOME! We must now *overcome* these three—Satan, this world, and our own SELVES. We have to battle against these three, in order to develop and strengthen RIGHT CHARACTER within us. God says plainly it is THE OVERCOMERS who shall be saved—who shall REIGN with Christ!

No human being is strong enough to do this BY HIMSELF! He must seek, and IN FAITH receive, the help and power of GOD. Even with God's power he will not overcome such forces easily, or all at once. IT IS NOT EASY! Christ plainly said the way to ultimate salvation is

(Please continue on page 41)

Was Jesus Christ BORN AGAIN?

Here are Scriptures to baffle most professing Christians.
How could Christ, Himself, have been born AGAIN—WHEN?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

ONE YEAR ago, in *The PLAIN TRUTH* of February, 1962, appeared an article captioned "*Just What do You MEAN—BORN AGAIN?*" It warned: "Don't be too sure you know! Many religious people talk about being 'born again,' who don't really know what Christ meant by those words."

That article of a year ago is available in booklet form—free for the asking.

Impossible to Believe?

But how many realize that Jesus Christ, Himself, was born again—and in the *same manner* in which He said WE "must be born again?"

Does that seem incredible?

Just what *did* Christ mean, when He said to Nicodemus, "Except a man be BORN AGAIN, he cannot see the Kingdom of God?" The universally accepted idea of fundamentalist Christians is that being "born again" means *the experience of having one's sins forgiven*. They call it a "born-again experience." By it they mean a SINNER being converted—experiencing *salvation from SIN*.

Many fundamentalist Protestants will say: "I am a sinner born again, and saved by grace," and similar expressions. *Have* these people really been born again—or have they only been deceived? Have they had the *same* "born-again experience" CHRIST had?

But *wait a minute!* Surely that last sentence can't mean what it said?

Was JESUS CHRIST actually *born again*? And in the *same manner* that He taught that *we* must be born again? INCREDIBLE? UNBELIEVABLE? Was Jesus Christ a sinner—did He need salvation from sin? *NO! Of course not!* Yet Jesus Christ *was* BORN AGAIN—just as He taught that WE must be born again!

I now show you one Scripture—and *there will be more* later in this article—but most readers who claim to have been "born again" will not believe it,

though it is THE VERY WORD OF GOD.

Here it is:

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, *that He might be the firstborn among many brethren*" (Rom. 8:28-29).

Jesus Christ is THE FIRSTBORN OF MANY BRETHREN!" Jesus Christ was BORN AGAIN, and the FIRST of many brethren to be BORN AGAIN!

Yet that very Scripture will not be believed by many who claim to have already had a "born-again experience."

WHY Many Can't Believe it!

I am going to give you even plainer Scriptures that say Jesus Christ was the FIRST to be BORN AGAIN, in the same manner that He taught that WE must be born again. Yet many who read these words WILL NOT BELIEVE THESE SCRIPTURES.

Do you know WHY? Let's take time to UNDERSTAND!

Just what *does* take place in the mind of the average person when confronted with a Scripture statement *contrary* to his own belief?

The average mind reacts in this manner: Whatever he has been taught, or has heard or read, and is the accepted belief of his church, he has ASSUMED to be true. It has become rooted in his mind AS IF it were *true fact*. It has become FIXED—lodged hard and fast, in his mind. Millions have the firmly rooted belief that to be "born again" *means* the experience of a SINNER being converted and put under grace.

Every Scripture that has anything to do with being "born again" is viewed from this concept. It—what HE already believes, NOT what God says—is the fixed concept by which he approaches

anything on this subject. His own conviction, erroneous though it may be, is his starting point for considering any Scripture on the subject—his approach—the very BASIS *by which* he seeks to understand or explain this Scripture.

It never will even occur to him that HIS BELIEF—his definition of what "born again" means—could be wrong. He has firmly ASSUMED *this conception* to be FACT. His mind, therefore, will seek to understand this Scripture *according to his erroneous belief*—but NEVER to question or harmonize his belief *according to the Scripture*.

If he is unable to square the Scripture with his own belief, then he does one of two things. Either he tries to INTERPRET the Scripture *according to his idea of being born again*, or his mind becomes CONFUSED, and he simply runs away from it—changes the subject—dismisses this Scripture from his mind.

The first of these two reactions is the explanation for the hundreds of different denominations, each having A DIFFERENT INTERPRETATION of the BIBLE! To *interpret* the Bible is to put your meaning into it—to twist it to mean what YOU want to make it mean, instead of what GOD made it to mean and wants you to understand.

In other words, the average person who says he has already been "born again" is spiritually BLINDED to seeing the TRUTH on this point. Perhaps it is IMPOSSIBLE for him to even *see* the truth. He has accepted one of the fables to which God said, through Paul, the world would be turned.

That satanic MOTHER of harlots, described in Revelation 17, has deceived the world. And the world is, spiritually, DRUNK on her false teachings. A physically drunk man cannot see material things clearly and distinctly. They become blurred, out of focus. A spiritually drunk person cannot see GOD'S WORD

clearly and distinctly. The above explains the reason. He tries to see God's WORD through the eyeglasses of these false teachings he has absorbed from the daughter churches of the "Great Whore" (Rev. 17:1, 5).

It simply *cannot* seem to occur to his mind that what he has so carelessly accepted could be wrong.

Tell such a person that being "born again," as Christ taught we should be, does NOT mean that experience that takes place when a sinner has his sins forgiven, is converted and put under grace, and he will say: "You can't tell me that! I KNOW! I've had the EXPERIENCE, brother!" He may have had an "experience"—but it was a *different* experience than what Christ meant by being born again!

WHAT the Bible IS

WHAT'S WRONG? Not only are millions spiritually BLINDED by the false doctrines that came out of spiritual BABYLON, but almost no one, it seems, realizes just WHAT the Bible IS.

It is God's Message which He sent FOR MANKIND. It is the revealed KNOWLEDGE, inspired by GOD—basic knowledge man *needs*, but cannot otherwise acquire. It is the FOUNDATION of all true knowledge.

And what is the PURPOSE of the Bible? You'll find it in II Tim. 3:16. Its purpose is to CORRECT us where we are wrong. To REPROVE us. To reveal to us TRUE doctrine, and correct us where we have accepted false doctrine—and the prevailing fundamentalist concept of being "born again" IS FALSE DOCTRINE! Its PURPOSE is to instruct us in TRUTH, in RIGHTEOUSNESS. TO CHANGE OUR MINDS!

This, right here, is going to be a crucial test for many readers of *The PLAIN TRUTH*. Ask yourself: ARE YOU WILLING to be corrected by GOD'S WORD, on points where you have been deceived? Remember, *the whole world has been deceived!* God says so! Read it in Revelation 12:9, and 20:3. A deceived person is one who really and sincerely BELIEVES he is right. He may be sincere—but there can be a lot of SIN in that word "sincere." Can you find it? Look at the first three letters!

Yes, you may be wholly sincere and

HONEST in your conviction, and still have been deceived, and therefore WRONG! And if you now reject this knowledge from God's Word, God will reject YOU! (Hos. 4:6).

Are YOU able to let God's Word correct you, when you have accepted and believed something contrary to the truth? Can you admit that it just *might be* that you, and millions of others, have been taught WRONG about being "born again?"

WHEN Christ Was Born Again

Notice again, carefully, Romans 8:29. It is speaking of CHRIST, the Son of God. It says, plainly, that Jesus Christ was "the firstborn of many brethren."

This shows that *many brethren* were to be born—but that Christ was the first OF these brethren—the first to be BORN.

WHO are the "brethren?" In Romans 8:12, Paul shows his epistle which we call the Book of Romans was addressed to the BRETHREN. He says: "Therefore, BRETHREN, . . ." Now to whom is this epistle addressed? Notice Rom. 1:7—to those "beloved of God, *called to be SAINTS*." Paul addresses his letter to the Corinthians thus: "Unto the Church of God, . . . to *them that are sanctified* in Christ Jesus, called to be SAINTS." And in verse 10, "Now I beseech you, BRETHREN." The BRETHREN are those who have been *converted*—UNDER GRACE—who are SAINTS.

Romans 8:9 says Jesus was BORN first, before any of these brethren.

Now WHEN was He *so* born? Is this speaking of His HUMAN birth, His FIRST birth, of the virgin Mary? Well mark this fact, and mark it well! Jesus was born 33½ years *before* the Holy Spirit came on that day of Pentecost—*before* the CHURCH began—*before* these BRETHREN came under GRACE. Were any people 34 years old converted, baptized, and put under grace that day—any 35, or 40, or 50? If there was a single one older than 33½, then he was born (as a human) *before* Jesus. In that case Jesus could not have been the FIRST of these BRETHREN to be born.

This is not speaking of Jesus' first and human birth at Bethlehem. It is speaking of His being born AGAIN—*after* He was born of the virgin Mary—

because many BRETHREN were born (of human birth) before Jesus.

Next consider—since this Scripture—Romans 8:29—*cannot* refer to Jesus' *first* and human birth at Bethlehem, it *must*, of necessity, refer to a *second* birth—to being born *again*.

Now WHEN was Jesus born *again*—AFTER His human birth of the virgin Mary? Did Jesus Christ have the same "born-again experience" millions of people profess to have had? Was Jesus Christ a SINNER? Did He need, or ever receive, forgiveness of SIN? Did He need salvation from SIN?

I'm sure every person who professes this "born-again experience" will agree the answer is NO! *A thousand times NO!*

When the Scripture says that Jesus was "the first BORN of many brethren," we have to agree that this birth was NOT the conversion of a sinner, being put under grace. It was NOT the same kind of being BORN AGAIN that has been erroneously taught, and so widely accepted!

Yet, since He was the firstborn of *many brethren*, these many brethren are to be born *AS* He was—the SAME KIND of new birth!

By process of elimination we have now proved:

1) This BIRTH of Christ in Romans 8:29 was not His first, or human birth of the virgin Mary. Therefore it had to be a later birth—a being born AGAIN.

2) It was NOT the kind of "born-again experience" so commonly professed—NOT receiving salvation from SIN. Yet He *was* born AGAIN!

3) Therefore, it leaves only ONE POSSIBILITY. It was His SPIRITUAL birth, when He was BORN OF GOD, BY HIS RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD!

When He was born at Bethlehem, as a human, He was born as the Son of MAN. Continually, through His ministry, He called Himself the "Son of MAN." But He was BORN AGAIN—born of God by His RESURRECTION, as you read in Romans 1:3-4:

"Concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh (HIS HUMAN BIRTH OF MARY—making Him the Son of MAN); and declared to be
(Please continue on page 40)

The Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong

*The Armstrongs' first trip abroad, and the exciting but harassing
events preceding opening of Ambassador College*

INSTALLMENT 52

IT WAS the morning of February 14th, 1947. At that very moment, the "Shasta Limited" was approaching the station at Eugene, Oregon.

Planning Trip Abroad

The day before I had talked, over long-distance telephone, with Dr. B., from whom we were buying the first block of property for Ambassador College in Pasadena. I had become quite interested in the villa he had told me about on scenic Lake Lugano in Switzerland, as a possible second Ambassador College abroad. Since it appeared possible to make the purchase agreement—if we wanted it—immediately, without any down payment, by merely making monthly payments, and taking possession three or four years later, I felt it important that I see and inspect the property.

In this telephone conversation, Dr. B. offered to go along. I had checked. There was a sailing of the *Queen Elizabeth* early the morning of February 20th, from New York. Passengers had to board ship before 11 P.M. the night before. We decided to sail on that ship. There was no time to obtain passport or steamer reservations before leaving the West Coast. Dr. B. already had his passport. Under regular routine it required thirty days to obtain one by mail from Oregon. But I knew the Press Officer of the State Department, and felt confident he would be able to get my passport issued immediately, at Washington.

Mrs. Armstrong and I had discussed the matter of her accompanying me. But there not only was the added expense, she had such fear of the water, she felt afraid to sail.

As a young girl her grandmother, born in England, had told her of a terrible shipwreck on her voyage to

America. The grandmother was 12 years of age, when her widowed mother, with her eleven children, sailed to America. Some distance off the banks of Newfoundland, the sailing vessel was torn apart by a hurricane. Six of the children, lashed to a mast, were picked up by another vessel—but the mother and five children were drowned. Hearing the vivid, stark details of this tragedy while a very young girl had put fear of the ocean into my wife's mind. So she had decided not to sail with me to Europe.

Accordingly, on February 12th, after my telephone conversation with Dr. B., I procured round-trip railroad tickets and Pullman reservations to New York for myself alone.

I had decided to make the trip to New York this time via Portland, Seattle, and on the crack train of the Great Northern Railway—the "Empire Builder," to Chicago, thence on the B & O line to Washington, then to New York. The cost and time was the same as going straight east from Portland on the Union Pacific.

MRS. Armstrong's "Shirt-Tail-Shoot"

As stated above, the morning train to Portland was approaching the station at Eugene. Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. Annie Mann (present hostess of girls' student residences at the college in Pasadena), and I were in my office. I had my hat and coat on, my suitcase packed and beside me, and was throwing last-minute papers into my briefcase.

Suddenly, Mrs. Armstrong exclaimed, "I've decided I want to go with you!"

"Well, *this* is a nice time to make up your mind," I said. "You couldn't possibly get ready in time, now."

"Oh yes I can!" she replied. "Grab your suitcase and typewriter, and *let's hurry!*"

We dashed to the elevator. On the street below, one of our sons was wait-

ing at the wheel of the car.

"Drive over to our rooms! HURRY!" I said. "Mother's decided to go with me."

At the time, the reader will remember, we were living in two upstairs rooms in a rooming house about five or six blocks from the office. We had sold our home nearly two years before. The work had needed the money.

We were whisked, as only a 17-year-old boy can whisk an automobile around corners on two wheels, to our rooming house. We dashed upstairs. Mrs. Armstrong first threw her suitcase out of the closet, asking Mrs. Mann to throw her clothes into it while she pulled them down off hangers and literally threw them out of the closet. In less than two minutes she had dresses, suits, and other things out of dresser drawers, thrown and jammed into her suitcase.

We dashed back downstairs, and the car careened around corners, pulling up to the depot about one minute before the train pulled out. Eugene was a division point on the railroad, and the train stayed there ten minutes while they changed engines and crews. But the train had pulled into the station just about the moment we were coming down the elevator of the office building.

I told my sons to put our luggage on the train, while I dashed across the waiting room floor to the ticket office, and asked for a one-way ticket to Portland. There was no time, now, to procure tickets to New York and return for my wife.

Those who have read recent chapters of the Autobiography are familiar with the many, many times I had made what my wife termed "shirt-tail-shoots" for trains. This is one time she herself was guilty of what she had so often accused me!

But the "shirt-tail-shoot" was not over, yet. I now had to pick up her round-trip ticket to New York, while we changed

trains at Portland. We had 12 minutes between trains at Portland. But, as usual in those days, there was a long line standing queued before each ticket window. At the very last second, I finally obtained her tickets, and caught the train as it was starting.

We arrived in Seattle in the afternoon, and that evening started the long ride from Seattle. It was a rough, jerky ride across the states of Washington, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin, into Illinois at Chicago. Our Pullman berth must have been at one end of the car, immediately over the trucks, where the riding is much more rough. It was even rougher on the B & O all-night ride into Washington, D.C.

How NOT to Plan Your Trip Abroad

Now ensued a series of exciting events which give the reader an example of how *NOT* to plan your trip abroad.

Arriving in Washington in the morning, we first checked in at the Statler Hotel. Before applying for passports, it was necessary to obtain passport photos of ourselves. We found a leading photograph studio in the hotel. The photographer tried to sell us a dozen larger photographs along with the passport photos.

I had not had my photograph taken for many years. I had never allowed my picture to be reproduced in *The PLAIN TRUTH* or any of our literature. I had, for years, even dodged and avoided all camera shots, except a few to be kept within the family. But just prior to this I had received a letter from a radio listener that convinced me I had been wrong.

This listener asked me what I had to hide. He asked me what I would think of a minister if I dropped in at his church, and the pastor hid behind the pulpit while he preached. Would I not think he had something to hide? Would I not become suspicious? He said character is written on one's face, and he always liked to see the faces of those he listened to. Of course, this was not possible on radio but, at least, he said, I ought to let listeners see my picture.

The thought came of using one of these photographs to reprint, but I was still hesitant about printing it in *The PLAIN TRUTH*. The photographer made

a proposition. Why not place a bulk order for 500? He would make us a very special low price on such an order. He did it all the time, he said, for Congressmen and government officials, who thus sent real photographs to constituents.

So, it occurred to me it might be preferable to send real photographs to just those few who personally requested and wanted them, rather than publishing my picture for all readers to see. We placed an order, I believe, for some 400 of me and 100 of Mrs. Armstrong—since most requests we had received were, naturally, for mine. Actually, I think we found later that we should have ordered them just the other way around, for there was a far bigger demand for my wife's picture than the supply. After our return from abroad, these were mailed out to those who had personally requested them.

Next I went to the State Department, but the Press Officer could not be seen until afternoon. Then I went to the ticket office of the Cunard Line, owners of the great ship, the *Queen Elizabeth*. They had one cabin left, space for two, Cabin Class, on this particular sailing—but that was the only space on the ship. We wanted to return mid-March. But there was no space whatever available on the west-bound voyage until August. I was told there might be some chance of a cancellation in the next two days, before sailing. The agent agreed to telephone their New York office, and I could contact them there, after arriving in New York. I purchased the ticket for the cabin on the east-bound passage.

In the afternoon I waited a long while in the office of the State Department Press Officer until he returned, about 4:30. He was glad to see me again, and immediately called the passport office across the street, asking them to process my passport at once. It was a few moments before closing time when we arrived at the passport office.

They told me our passports would be ready in the morning. I happened to show them my State Department Credential card which I carried.

"If you had just shown us that," I was told, "we would have put through your passports earlier in the day, and you could have had them before now."

It was necessary to obtain visas to

cross France, and to enter Switzerland, as well as to enter England.

The next morning, February 18th, after obtaining the passports, we visited both the Swiss and French embassies, and had their visas stamped in the passports. However, we learned that the British visa had to be obtained in New York.

We had another very rough ride that afternoon on the train to New York—rougher than the others before it.

Arriving in New York, we went to the Ambassador Hotel, where I customarily stopped when in New York. I had wired ahead for a reservation the day before leaving Eugene. But even then my telegram had not arrived in time. The hotel was booked up solid.

"Mr. Armstrong," the desk clerk said, "we certainly try to take care of our regular guests, but we're simply filled up, and booked ahead for about two weeks. But we have arranged a room for you and Mrs. Armstrong in another very good hotel just a couple blocks away. We were also unable to accommodate your United States Senator from Oregon. You'll see Senator Wayne Morse sitting over there across the lobby."

I was acquainted with Senator Morse. He had been Dean of the Law School of the University of Oregon, in Eugene, before his election to the Senate. Mrs. Armstrong and I walked across the lobby, and chatted with the Senator a few moments, then went on to the other hotel.

Immediately upon reaching our room, I telephoned the Cunard Line to see if a cancellation had turned up on the return voyage, sailing from Southampton March 15th.

"Mr. Armstrong," said the man at the Cunard office, "I would say that your chances are absolutely hopeless. We are booked solid for all our ships—and so are all other steamship lines—until the middle of August. More than that, we have several hundred others on the waiting list—all ahead of you. There's absolutely no chance of so many cancellations that we can fill all of those ahead of you before tomorrow's sailing."

Hopeless or not, I do not give up easily. I determined to call the Cunard office again next morning.

But let me say right here, all this

experience is an example of how *not* to plan your trip abroad—on a moment's notice, without passport, steamer or plane reservation, visas, or other preparations. Start planning at least a month ahead.

Out-Determining John Bull

Next morning I telephoned the Cunard office again. The same voice answered at their reservation office. It was the same story.

"I told you, Mr. Armstrong, there's no chance whatever," he said.

But I kept on talking. Soon we got into quite a conversation. I was telling him about a branch college in Europe. The idea was something new in education. He became interested, and so I kept on talking. After a while he said, "Would you excuse me a moment? I have to take a call on the other phone. I'll be right back."

In just about fifty seconds his voice came back.

"What lucky star were you born under, Mr. Armstrong?" he asked. "Talk about miracles! Do you know what that call was? It was a man cancelling a cabin on the March 15th sailing from Southampton, and just because you're on the phone at this moment, I'm going to forget all those other applications on the waiting list ahead of you, and let you have it!"

It was no "lucky star," but it probably *was* a miracle! Mrs. Armstrong and I walked hurriedly over to the closest subway station on Lexington Avenue, and caught the first express train to downtown Wall Street, and hurried over to the Cunard office, where we procured our return passage on the *Queen Elizabeth*. Without it, we knew we would not be able to obtain British visas, or even to board ship that night.

The actual sailing was set for about 5 A.M. next morning, but all passengers had to be aboard ship by 11 P.M. that same night, Wednesday, February the 19th.

Immediately we took a subway back uptown, and went to the British Visa Office in Rockefeller Center on 5th Avenue. A line was queued before the visa window. I waited in line. Finally reaching the window, I was told that no visas could be issued in less than thirty

days' time. I could file my application now, but the visa could not be issued for thirty days.

"But I must have this visa immediately, today!" I said, "Look, here is our ticket on the *Queen Elizabeth*. We have to be aboard ship before eleven o'clock tonight."

"That makes no difference, sir," replied the clerk. "We require thirty days to issue a visa. You Americans are always trying to do things in a hurry. But you are in a British office now, and we don't rush things through in such a mad manner."

"This may be a British office, but you're in AMERICA, now, Mister," I returned. "And here, we do things the AMERICAN way. I have tickets to board the *Queen Elizabeth* tonight, and we are going to board it!"

"My dear sir," the clerk said politely, "we British are quite determined, you know. Would you please step aside, now. You are holding up this queue."

"Well now," I smiled, "you may be Johnny Bull, and you may have bulldog determination, and stubbornness, but right now, I'm *more* determined. I will not move from here until you stamp the visa in my passport. If you want to make room for those behind me, just stamp it, here."

"But I simply *have* to clear the way for the others behind you. Would you continue talking, then, to one of the officers at one of the desks behind me, so I can get to the others?"

"That depends," I said. "Is the man at the desk behind you your superior? Does he have more authority to issue the visa than you?"

Assured that he did have superior authority, I agreed that if this officer would come to the window and agree to let me inside the gate to see him, I would leave the window and continue with the man higher up.

He asked me why I had not sent in my application thirty days earlier. I explained that this was an emergency trip, planned suddenly only six days before, out on the West Coast. I explained how we had picked up passports on the run, as it were, and how miraculously space on the ship had opened up, and we had all the other required visas. Now all we needed was the British visa, so we could

land at Southampton and pass through England on the way to Switzerland and return.

But he, too, was an Englishman. He was stubborn. He refused to issue the visa short of thirty days. It seemed very unjust. If he was determined, I was *more* determined. I kept talking.

"Mr. Armstrong," he said, finally, "I simply *must* ask you to please excuse me. I have much work to do."

"I will not leave until you stamp the visa on our passports," I said with finality.

"Well then," he compromised, "will you leave now and come back at 3:30 this afternoon?"

The office closed at 4.

"Will you promise to see me then, if I do?" I asked. He promised, and Mrs. Armstrong and I left. Promptly at 3:30 we returned. But this man avoided even looking our way. I stood at the gate, waiting. He did not keep his promise. He refused even to glance my way, and I was unable to open the gate and go to him.

Finally, at five minutes to 4, he walked into another room. A moment later, another man, who sat at another desk, after cleaning up his desk to leave for the day, saw me waiting at the gate. He came to the gate, asking if there was something I wanted before the closing time.

"Yes indeed," I replied. "Mr. Blank asked me to return at this time for my visa. We are boarding the *Queen Elizabeth* tonight. But Mr. Blank just went into another room, and didn't seem to know I was here."

"Oh, I'll take care of it for him, then," he smiled. "Will you step in?" We walked over to his desk, and he stamped visas in our passports. I got out quickly, before Mr. Blank returned.

The Floating City

With nerves almost shattered, we walked up the gang-plank of the *Queen Elizabeth* about 9 o'clock that night, looking forward to five quiet days aboard ship.

But there was no quiet until after 11, when all visitors had to leave the ship. The letters Mrs. Armstrong and I wrote to our children tell the story. Here they are:

The *Queen Elizabeth* is 1,031 feet long—almost a quarter mile. It has 14 decks; its gross tonnage is 83,673 tons—about double that of a large battleship; it carries 3,500 passengers.

I was much amused at a cockney elevator operator aboard ship. Of course, actually the ship does not have elevators—the British call them "lifts." In calling out the various decks, he would say: "C Deck next—'C' for Charlie." Then, "R Deck next—'R' for Restaurant." Then, "B next—'B' for Bertie." Then, "I Deck next—'I' for Albert."

We had the smoothest crossing ever experienced by members of the crew—so some of them told us. We had prayed for it. Nevertheless, Mrs. Armstrong spent two days in bed with seasickness.

Aboard ship, at the Reservations Office, reservations were made for us at the Dorchester in London. At Southampton, the Boat Train to London was waiting in the Customs shed at the docks. I had obtained Pullman car reservations. This does not mean sleeping cars in England—just first-class coaches. The tickets had been obtained at the reservations window aboard ship. In the Customs shed, an officer examined our tickets, and told me we were in Car 'I'. So we walked almost the length of the train, past cars 'C', 'D', 'E', and on down to 'I'. Then we learned that we had encountered another cockney—and we had to trudge back to car 'A'.

Arriving London

We docked at Southampton on Tuesday, February 25th. Thursday morning, the 27th, a reporter from the *Daily Graphic* called on the telephone and asked for an interview. He arrived at 12:30, so I invited him to lunch in the



Mid-Atlantic—the *Queen Elizabeth*.

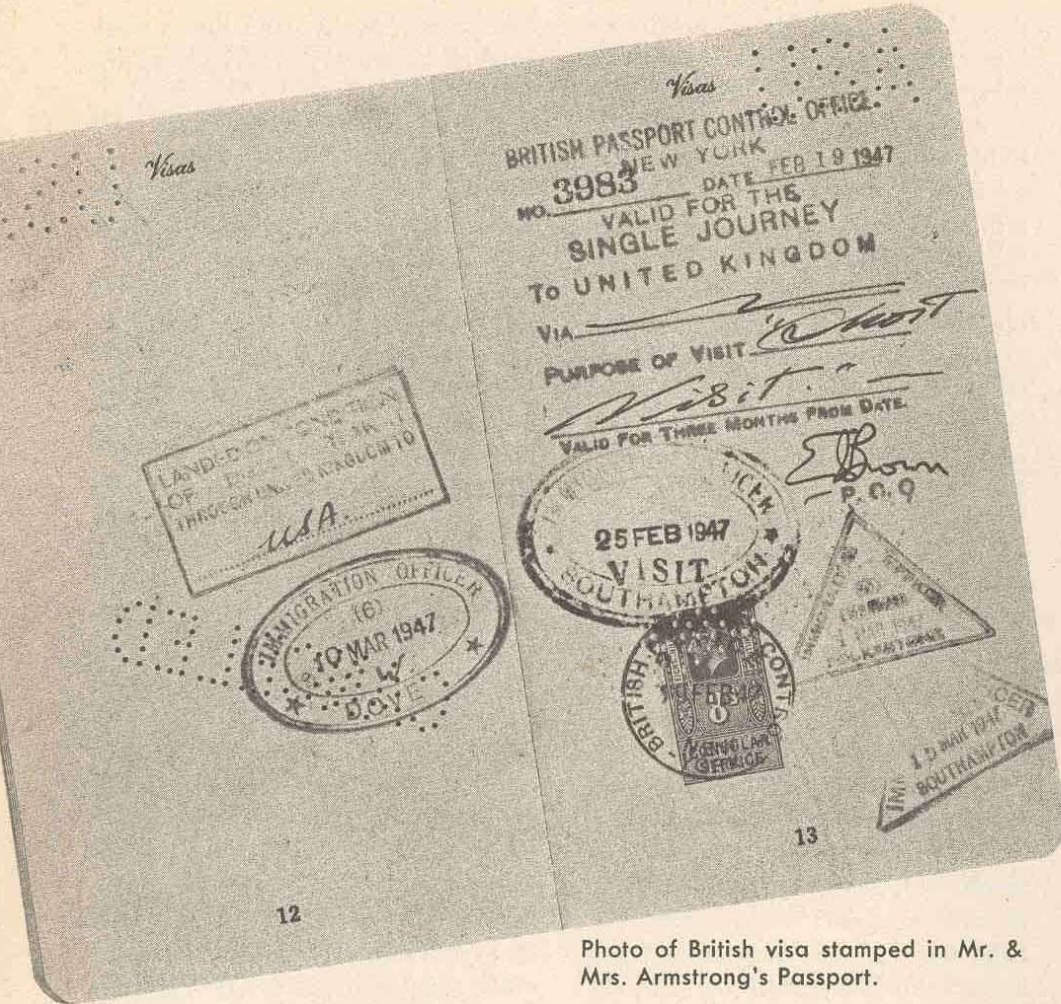


Photo of British visa stamped in Mr. & Mrs. Armstrong's Passport.

Cunard White Star

R.M.S. "Queen Elizabeth"

Wednesday Night, 11:39 P.M.
February 19, 1947

Hello, kids!

We are on board—mail leaves in ten minutes—must be brief.

Visitors all have just left. This is the largest passenger liner ever built—*tremendous!* It's been like an exaggerated movie premier—mobs throng all over—14 decks—blocks and blocks long—everyone dressed up—many in evening clothes—everyone gay—crowd surrounding Mischa Auer getting autographs (he's going to Europe on the *Queen*)—now its quieting down. This ship carries 3,500 passengers—a city *floating!* One gets lost on it.

At last we're really going to England—Europe! We have a nice small private stateroom to ourselves.

Dick and Ted, prove you are grown up and worthy of being trusted and taking responsibility. That's the way to get more privileges. Ted *dress warm*. That's all the time I have.

Keep the home fires burning. They say there's no coal for fires in England or Europe. We'll probably freeze and starve—but *here we go!*

Love,
Dad.



Cunard White Star

R.M.S. "Queen Elizabeth"

Dearest Children all of you,

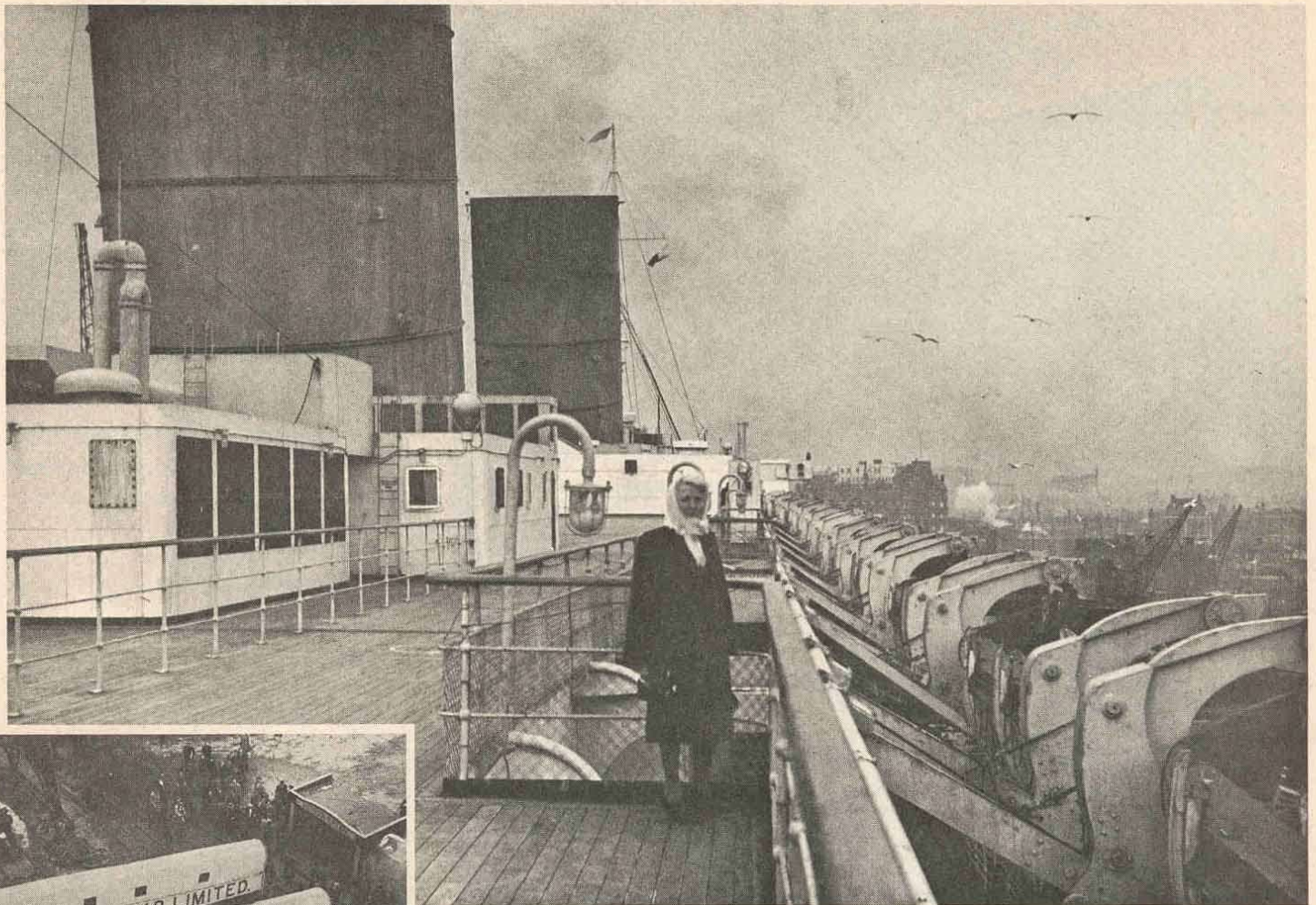
It's a quarter of midnight. We are aboard and lack a whole lot of having seen the ship. It's immense. We are going to bed.

Ted if only I knew you were taking care of yourself I would be much happier. *You must not* go out in a "T" shirt when you are accustomed to a sweater. Now take care of yourself.

I can't realize that I'm at last going to see England. I've always wanted to. This is a *beautiful* ship. We'll get pictures of it.

We wish we could see all of you. We send a world of love to our dear family.

Mother



Sun-deck, Queen Elizabeth—in Southampton, England.



The docks at Southampton, England.

Dorchester Grill Room. The idea of a college with one unit in America, and one in Europe, with a number of qualifying students transferring from the one on scholarship to the other was a new idea in education.

"A wonderful idea," he exclaimed. I did not get to see his story in the paper about it, since we left early the next morning for the Continent.

Our first real look at London was on Wednesday morning, February 26th. In some respects it was like a dream. To us, it was a different world. Some of our first impressions were recorded in letters to our children. Here are brief excerpts:

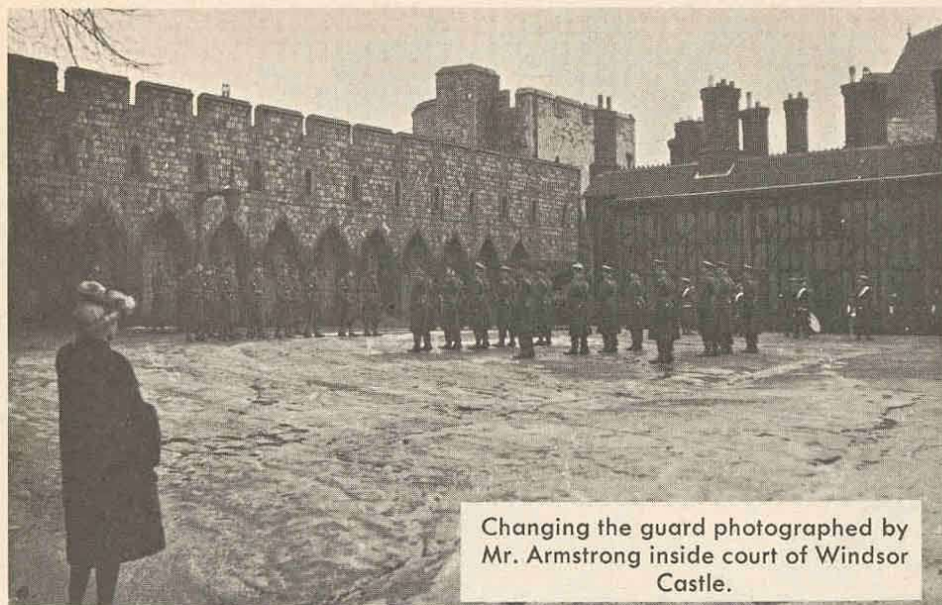
From Mrs. Armstrong: Written Wednesday: "It's so different here in London. Cabs, busses, everything—never saw such a conglomeration of buildings, so many twists and turns in the streets. We

went to Somerset House today. I thought I would look up Grandma's birth record, but couldn't find it. However, I don't know just the year or place of her birth. We have a nice room, but cold. Lights all go off and elevators (pardon me—"lifts") stop running from 9 until noon,

and from 2 to 4 p.m. Scarcely any heat in the coldest winter England has had since 1840, around two years before Grandma was born. The sun shone brightly today—first time since five weeks ago. We've seen Buckingham Palace, Parliament buildings, etc.—of

Ship-building yards—Southampton, England.





Changing the guard photographed by Mr. Armstrong inside court of Windsor Castle.



Mrs. Armstrong and guard in Court of Windsor Castle.



St. Paul's, London—entire surrounding blocks bombed out.

course, so far only a very small part of London, for we slept till almost noon."

We had not arrived in London until after midnight.

A portion of my letter, written same day: "Dear Kids all, at home: We have spent our first day in old London town. As mother told you, because of a strike, and due to coal shortage, we were kept on board the *Queen Elizabeth* until 7:30 last night. Our train didn't get started until 9. We almost froze. We're almost freezing now. The temperature in the hotel room and lobby is about 55 degrees. It's a different world. Old buildings—many in ruins, all originally nearly white, and of stone, now almost black—coal smoke."

Attending Royal Reception

Just before noon on Thursday, I received a telephone call from the private secretary to "His Excellency, the Ambassador and Plenipotentiary Extraordinary of Saudi Arabia, Sheik Hafiz Wabba." She said that His Excellency had heard that I was in London—I had had an hour's interview with him at the San Francisco Conference, in 1945—and wished to extend a very special personal invitation for Mrs. Armstrong and me to attend a Royal Reception to be held that evening in the ballroom of our hotel, the *Dorchester*.

I wondered how the Sheik had come to know we were in London. Then I remembered that the day before I had seen some Arab officials in their flowing robes in the lobby of the hotel. I had gone to the reception desk to inquire whether Sheik Hafiz Wabba was in the hotel. He was not, but I was informed that he did frequently come to the hotel. I had mentioned that I knew him. I supposed the reception office had made our presence known to the Sheik.

This Royal Reception was in honor of H.R.H., the Crown Prince, Emir Saud. He is now King Saud of Saudi Arabia. The Sheik's secretary said that His Excellency would like to have another chat with me, and this reception would be the only opportunity, since he was leaving with the Crown Prince the next morning.

We had planned to leave London for Zurich that afternoon. We had an ap-
(Please continue on page 24)

Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong

(Continued from page 16)

pointment to meet Dr. B., and Madame Helene Beber in Zurich that evening. When I expressed regret at being unable to attend, due to this appointment in Zurich, the secretary urged me to postpone the Zurich appointment and stay over for the reception. It would be, she said, the most glamorous and important social event held in England since the war, and again reminded me it was the only opportunity for another interview with the Sheik.

I said that I would telephone Dr. B. in Zurich, and if I could postpone our appointment, I would call her back. The appointment was postponed, and

I notified the Ambassador's secretary. A little later a specially engraved invitation arrived at our apartment by private messenger.

Perhaps excerpts from a letter written to the family at home immediately after returning from the reception will best describe the experience. This is what I wrote:

"Just this second we returned from the Royal Reception held by Sheik Hafiz Wabba and H.R.H. Emir Saud, the Crown Prince of Arabia. It was very colorful. About 200 invited guests—Earls, Dukes with their monocles and flashing decorations, Admirals, Com-

modores, dozens of Ambassadors—we saw those from Turkey, Chile, Albania, etc. We entered in couples. A brightly crimson uniformed page announced each couple in a very loud voice, as 'Lord and Lady so and so,' 'Admiral and Mrs. so and so,' 'The Turkish Ambassador,' and so on. We were announced as 'Mr. and Mrs. Herbert W. Armstrong.'

"The Arabs, in their flowing robes, stood in the receiving line. Mother advanced first, then I—since this was the customary way. First we were greeted by His Excellency Sheik Hafiz Wabba. In turn he introduced us to the tall and very handsome crown prince, whom they addressed as 'Your Royal Highness.' Then the remaining five or six top Arab officials. Then the crowd mingled around, munching on tiny sandwiches, French pastries, and being



Receiving line of Arab royalty at Royal Reception, Dorchester Hotel, London.

served tea. The dress was not formal. The people over here have been through a war, in a way we Americans have no conception, and they simply don't have fine clothes over here any more. There were very few in evening clothes. The clothes of several were becoming a bit threadbare. Yet the titled ones wore their glittering decorations. Mother was the nicest-looking woman there.

"We had a very nice, brief, private talk with the Sheik, and got a statement for my article on the Palestine situation for the next PLAIN TRUTH.

"We were seated at a table, when the royal party approached. Immediately, we arose, and took seats at another table. The Crown Prince sat at the table we had vacated, but before doing so smiled and motioned for us to be seated beside him at the table. He does not speak a word of English. I felt we should not accept his invitation, since it was apparent that table was intended for the royal party. He was merely trying to be cordial. Twice he smilingly motioned a welcome to us, but I smilingly and apologetically shook my head and refrained."

That Crown Prince is now the King, since his father, old King Ibn Saud, died. That experience was the nearest we have ever come to personal contact with royalty.

While I was writing the above, Mrs. Armstrong was writing the following about the reception:

"We just returned to our room from the Royal reception. I felt just like little Lord Fauntleroy. It was all so interesting. We were announced in a thundering voice to all. Presented to Sheik Hafiz Wabba (His Excellency), who in turn presented us to the Crown Prince (His Royal Highness), and on down the receiving line. We were among the Lords and Ladies, Dukes and Earls, and Admirals and Ambassadors of many countries. They are all *just folks*. We were so interested in it all—tables everywhere—you could sit or not. In the center of the ballroom were large banquet tables with different kinds of food and drinks. One just walked up anywhere and helped himself. There was beautiful music—violins and piano. The Palestinian announcer for the BBC branch there introduced himself to me



The Arabs at reception for H.R.H. Emir Saud, at the Dorchester, London. Notice Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong in background, upper right.

and then to two Ladies, and I later introduced him to Daddy.

"It's March 1st now"—(this part evidently written later), "I'm all packed. We leave soon for France. It's bitter cold, no heat at all in the rooms. I fill the bathtub with hot water and get in until heated through, and then jump into bed. Last night the maid brought me a stone hot water bottle that kept me warm. Poor Britain is suffering even worse, it seems, than during the war. Everything but water is rationed."

And Now—the Continent

The evening of March 1st I was writing, with my portable typewriter on my lap, in my upper berth in a

compartment on the sleeping car of a French train from Calais, bound for Zurich. Mrs. Armstrong occupied the lower berth. This is part of what I wrote:

"Here we are in France. Just boarded this train a half hour ago. It's now dark. At 4:30 this afternoon we were on a boat crossing the English Channel, and the sun not far from the horizon sinking in the west. I looked at my larger watch, which is still set Eugene time, and it was 8:30 A.M. I did a little quick calculating and discovered that at that hour you were looking at the same sun, same distance from the horizon, rising in the east, while we were looking at it setting in the west. We are one-third way around the earth from



The White Cliffs of Dover

you. In other words, you people are walking almost upside down. I know you are, because one of us is, and it isn't us over here.

"Calais is quite a little town. We've seen many bombed and shattered buildings. OUR bombs probably did that. The Nazis had this town. Seems strange, like a dream, to think we are actually over here where the war was fought, in territory that was occupied by the Germans. I don't see any Germans here now. They are French. And I mean FRENCH! At the dock and depot, which are joined together, the officers or attendants, or whatever they were, had typical French caps, like French army officers, and flowing capes. The porters, seeking opportunity to carry luggage for the tips, yelled out, 'Porteur! Porteur! Porteur!' with accent on the last syllable—or equally on both. The train porters can't speak a word of English. They grunt 'Oui!' (pronounced 'we').

"It's now 8:45 P.M. Just at that last paragraph we were called to dinner. A Frenchman walks through the cars ringing a cute little bell. We weren't sure it was a call to dinner, or whether there was even a dining car on the train. We're in the rear car, so we started forward. After going through all the sleepers, and about four day coaches (European type, six to a compartment), we came to what looked like the bag-

gage car, decided there was no diner and turned back. Two cars back a porter stopped us. He couldn't understand us; we couldn't understand him. We tried by motions to make him understand we were looking for the dining car—if any. Mother suddenly remembered that the word 'café' is a French word, but probably we didn't pronounce it the French way—at least he didn't understand. I pointed to my mouth, then my stomach, and finally a light dawned on his face, and a smile. He pointed back

up front. We opened the 'baggage car' door, and found it was a diner. We sat by two Englishmen, one of whom travels over this railroad every two weeks or so, and speaks French. He steered us through the meal. First a waiter came by and served something supposed to be soup. (Right here Mother says we are entering Amiens—this town figured prominently in the war—remember?) After the soup, another waiter came along with a great big dish of spaghetti, with meat balls stuffed in deviled half-eggs. There is no water—unfit to drink. Everyone drinks red wine. The Englishman told us we could have fried chicken, not too bad, at extra cost, but by that time we were too stuffed with spaghetti. Then a course of potatoes, then 'ice cream,' made with, apparently, water and skim milk. It cost over 300 francs. But a franc is only worth a penny now. Used to be 25c. I paid in English money, about 14 shillings and some odd pence.

"Wish you could see this funny French sleeping car. These French cars are larger than the British—about the size of an American car. We had to climb up a sort of steep ladder to get on the train. It's rather crude compared to our Pullmans—still, not too bad. Altogether different, though. Seems funny to us. We have a private compartment. There are no sections—all private rooms. It has private wash basin, but no



Our first glimpse of the Continent—Calais, France, from Channel.

toilet. All use the same public toilet—both men and women.

"Mother has seen some of those French farms we've heard of—house and barn for livestock all in one building. The ground is covered with snow—has been, all over, since we landed at Southampton. We are to arrive at Basel about 8:10 A.M. There are no railroad folders, timetables, or maps. Those are luxuries only Americans enjoy."

I have quoted the letter at some length. Most books or articles about foreign travel do not mention many of these little things that an American notices on his first trip abroad. I felt our readers might find it interesting.

The Vision of the Future

A portion of a letter written on the train next morning may be interesting—and prophetic:

"The English tell us that we Americans are just now starting to go through the stage of development they did 200



These photographs of Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong were taken in 1947 at the time the passport photos were needed. A few hundred of these were mailed at that time to interested readers.

years ago—that we are that far behind the times. They really think they are ahead of us! They are smugly ahead of what they *suppose* us to be—yet they know nothing of America, actually. I was particularly impressed by their pride. They feel they are superior, morally, to all people of the earth. Yet it is quite apparent that their morals have hit a toboggan slide since the war! They are surely *a long way* from realizing their sins, nationally and individually, and of repenting of them—and they don't even dream, and would never believe, that they are to be punished and conquered, and then rescued from slavery by Christ at His second coming—so as to bring them to salvation. In

some manner, I know now that I must warn them, *and will*, but it will be difficult—no use of radio there, as it's government owned and operated. YET, THEY MUST BE WARNED.

"I think it can be done by purchase of advertising space in newspapers and magazines, getting people to write for *The PLAIN TRUTH*. I've been making plans, while in London, for our coming campaign to reach England. The newspaper reporter said the advertising idea could be used. We will have to either send PLAIN TRUTHS across, or have them printed in England, which is what we undoubtedly will do—a European edition. The college over here will probably become a European headquarters for carrying on our work all over Europe. WE MUST REACH EUROPE, AND ENGLAND, as well as America! Our work is just STARTING! I see, more and more, why we have been simply led into taking this trip, and why the way opened so miraculously and suddenly before us at every turn. Before the coming atomic war, we have much work to do."

As I wrote then, the prophecy has been fulfilled. The college was established some years later than I then expected—it was established in Bricket Wood, near London, instead of in Switzerland.

But radio did finally open up, through Radio Luxembourg, most powerful station on earth. For three years we did, every other month, purchase two full pages of space in *Reader's Digest*, read by one out of five of all adults in the British Isles—and with a very large response and request for *The PLAIN TRUTH* and other literature. During that time, one out of every 25½ subscribers of *Reader's Digest* sent us a written request for the free literature—an overwhelming response.

Also, for the past few years there has been the British-European edition of *The PLAIN TRUTH*, printed in London, as well as the Australian edition printed in Melbourne, and the United States edition printed in Los Angeles.

This first trip to Britain and Europe pioneered the way. Today there is also a German-language edition of *The PLAIN TRUTH*, with a branch office in Dusseldorf. There is the German-lan-

guage broadcast of *The WORLD TOMORROW*, beamed on Germany and Austria, over super-power Radio Luxembourg. There is the French-language broadcast, over both Radio Luxembourg on the French transmission, and over Radio Europe Number One, and offices to be opened next summer either in Paris or Geneva.

The remaining incidents of this history-making trip to Lugano, and exciting and nerve-wracking events preparatory to opening of Ambassador College that fall, will be recorded in the next installment.

What our READERS SAY

(Continued from inside front cover)

Vindictive Critic

"Haven't you religious fanatics got any sense of humor or understanding at all? Those ancient Hebrews and other prophets were simply thwarted poets who, in their poverty, starvation and unkemptness, became implacable and vindictive soothsayers who predicted evil for those who were seemingly successful and prosperous. Christ Himself was a thwarted being, who never got over His anger and reproach against His mother who had borne Him out of wedlock. He respected His stepfather who had been kind enough to marry her so that no reproach would fall on the child."

Woman from Massachusetts

- What a lonely, miserable soul this woman must be!

Officer Needs Protection!

"I heard your program last night. I enjoyed it very much. I am a peace officer and night watchman and I need God very much to guard me at work."

Man from Texas

- God will protect those who trust Him and obey His commandments.

Drought in Africa

"We have just come through one of the worst droughts that we have had for many years. In many parts rain has come only this month and in other parts no rain has yet fallen. Thousands of cattle and sheep have died. This only

bears out the truth about the warning which we have had."

From Johannesburg, South Africa

Awakened by Tragedy

"I have known and proven beyond a shadow of a doubt in my mind that there is a true and living God, but have neglected to serve Him. I have been trying to serve two rulers, God and Satan, but devoted a lot more time to Satan. Now I find myself alone with four children to rear. My wife took her life two weeks ago today and my eleven-year-old daughter came home from school and found her on our bed with a rifle alongside her and only part of her head left. So, perhaps you will understand why I have got to change my way of living and start serving God instead of Satan."

Man from Nevada

- Sometimes only very bitter tragedy can move us.

Financial Problems Solved

"Since we have started tithing, God has solved our financial problems and now I have received an unexpected raise in salary."

Man from North Carolina

JAPAN—Future Super-Giant!

(Continued from page 6)

helmet, Gomer, and *all his bands*, the house of *Togarmah* of the NORTH QUARTERS, and *all his bands* and *many people with thee* [and that includes Japan and all Southeast Asia]"! (Ezek. 38:5-6.)

Here is an amazing alliance! Translators have carelessly rendered the words *Cush* and *Put* as being "Ethiopia" and "Libya." These ancient names had nothing whatsoever to do with the modern African nations of Ethiopia and Libya, but are actually identifying the eastern peoples of Pakistan and India of today—the descendants of Cush and Put.

Here, then, is a tremendous alliance foretold in your Bible to emerge as a giant world power in the latter years, made up of the peoples of white Russia, all of Persia, India and Asia! *Togarmah* is identifying the peoples living in Russian Siberia and Mongolia and around

Red Sea. This monument is also to remind all peoples who see it or learn of it that our God is to be greatly feared and respected."

Regardless of Joshua's reference to God's strength, there were some people who stared fearfully toward the west as night came on. They felt uneasy because the west edge of Israel's camp was only a little over a mile away from the forbidding walls of the strongly fortified city of Jericho!

(To be continued next issue)

Was Jesus Christ BORN AGAIN?

(Continued from page 8)

the Son of GOD with power, according to the spirit of holiness, BY THE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD."

This Scripture speaks of the TWO births of Jesus Christ. The one, of the virgin Mary, a descendant of DAVID, by which He became the Son of MAN. Then later, He was born AGAIN, this time as the Son of GOD, by His RESURRECTION from the dead!

In Context

Before leaving this Scripture in Romans 8:29, let's notice the theme of the whole chapter—let's be sure we understand it IN CONTEXT.

What is the *theme* of this chapter? It is generally called "the Holy Spirit chapter." But it is showing how God, by the Holy Spirit, changes us from carnal and sinning humans into, ultimately, sons of GOD, by the RESURRECTION from the dead.

Serving the flesh, we cannot please God (verse 8), but (verse 9), we are in the Spirit, if the Spirit of God dwells in us.

"BUT" (verse 11), IF the Holy Spirit dwells in us, even AS God raised Jesus Christ from the dead, WE ALSO shall be RESURRECTED *by His Spirit* that dwells in us. READ IT in your Bible. Even AS Christ was BORN AGAIN, born of GOD, by His resurrection, even so WE—the *brethren*—shall be BORN AGAIN as sons of GOD, through the RESURRECTION of the dead, BY His Spirit that dwells in us!

We, IF God's Spirit is in us, are children of God, and HEIRS. Not yet inheritors—but HEIRS to INHERIT, *when* we are born of God by the resurrection, even the GLORY which Christ now has. We shall be GLORIFIED together (verse 17). The whole creation groans, waiting for the actual manifestation of the SONS OF GOD, when we shall be resurrected to GLORY (verses 18-19). We are waiting for the redemption of our body—by the resurrection (verse 23).

Yes BY THE RESURRECTION, we are to be conformed to the IMAGE (spiritual image) of God's Son Christ, who was the FIRST so born, by the resurrection, of MANY BRETHREN (verse 29). "It is Christ that died, yea, rather, that is RISEN AGAIN" (verse 34).

Yes, this chapter is talking of the RESURRECTION, *by* God's Holy Spirit which dwells in us! That is its theme. Christ was the FIRSTBORN OF MANY BRETHREN, through the RESURRECTION. It is plain!

BORN by Resurrection

Now notice other Scriptures.

Speaking of Christ, "who is the image of the invisible God, the FIRSTBORN OF EVERY CREATURE" (Col. 1:15).

Now notice a PLAIN STATEMENT that it is speaking of Christ being the first-born *from the dead*, by the RESURRECTION:

"And He (Christ) is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the FIRSTBORN FROM THE DEAD; that

in all things He might have preeminence" (Col. 1:18).

THERE IT IS! Read it with your own eyes, in your own Bible. Christ is HEAD of the Church—the FIRST of the brethren in the CHURCH to be born from the dead.

Are you willing to BELIEVE that Scripture? Are you willing to realize that the teaching that being born again means conversion from sin is FALSE teaching? When we are converted, our sins forgiven, we receive the Holy Spirit, we are then BEGOTTEN of God—not yet BORN of God. If this has taken place—if we have been converted, *begotten*, we are, truly, already SONS of God (I John 3:2) but what we SHALL be, when BORN of God, does not yet appear—for then WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM—like Christ in His resurrected glorified body!

Now turn to the "resurrection chapter"—I Corinthians 15:

"If in THIS LIFE ONLY we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable" (verse 19). That is, if merely being converted in this life—being forgiven—placed under grace—is all the hope we have—if THAT is all there is to it—if there is not to be the RESURRECTION to the *life to come*, then we are of all men most miserable. If "being born again" takes place in THIS life, then we have no hope for the ETERNAL life to come!

"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept" (verse 20). That is, Christ has been born AGAIN—born to a second LIFE—*eternal life*, becoming the FIRST of many brethren to be so born. He is the FIRST of those who have died to be

resurrected—that is, BORN—to a new and future LIFE.

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the first-fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at His coming" (verses 22-23). Christ was the FIRST to be BORN AGAIN—born from the DEAD. Afterward—at His coming—they that are Christ's—the many BRETHREN—shall be BORN AGAIN from the dead, just as Christ was.

These Scriptures are PLAIN. They make PLAIN the fact, and the TRUTH that being "born again" is NOT the experience of conversion from sin during this life—but being BORN OF GOD, immortal, BY the resurrection.

That does not in any way nullify the experience of conversion in *this* life. It simply means that millions have been deceived into calling that experience by the WRONG NAME. It is a begettal, not a birth. Each of us was BEGOTTEN in our mother's womb before he was, later, BORN.

Now notice Acts. 26:23: "That Christ should suffer, and that He should be the FIRST that should rise from the dead." There it is again. Christ the FIRSTFRUITS—Christ the FIRSTBORN of many brethren—the FIRST to be BORN by the RESURRECTION from the dead!

These are plain statements of Scripture—plain statements from GOD. They do NOT say—and I do not say—that Christ was a sinner who needed salvation. If false prophets reply to this, as they did to the article of a year ago, they will not hesitate to deliberately lie and misrepresent, and send out a barrage of tracts, pamphlets and articles saying that I have said, in this article, that Christ needed salvation. They have accused me of this before.

What these plain statements from God's Holy Word do say, is that being BORN AGAIN is *not* that experience of conversion from sin in this life—it is NOT anything any human has experienced in this life—it is a NEW birth to a NEW life, by a RESURRECTION. However, it is also true that no one will be BORN AGAIN—born of GOD to the new IMMORTAL life—*unless* he repents of sin, believes on Christ and accepts Him as personal Saviour, receives the gift of the Holy Spirit, and then is LED BY the

Spirit of God. But THIS experience is NOT a "born-again" experience—it is a BEGETTAL!

Are YOU, now, willing to believe God's TRUTH? It is so infinitely more precious and glorious than Satan's counterfeits with which he has deceived so many of our readers.

Personal from the Editor

(Continued from page 2)

hard, difficult. It's a constant BATTLE—a struggle against self, the world, and the devil. The creation of CHARACTER comes through EXPERIENCE—it takes TIME!

THIS development is a PROCESS. It is a matter of GROWTH—DEVELOPMENT. It requires, to become PERFECT, full and right KNOWLEDGE of the very Word of God—because Jesus taught that we must *live by* EVERY WORD OF GOD.

The natural, unconverted mind cannot fully and rightly UNDERSTAND the Scriptures of God. The acquisition of this KNOWLEDGE, in itself, is a procedure requiring TIME. It is the DOERS of this Word, not hearers only, who shall be saved.

But can any man DO, immediately and all at once, this new WAY he now learns about? Can any man, all at once, break all HABITS he now sees are wrong? No, he finds he has a FIGHT against acquired former habits.

He still has this PULL of human nature to overcome. This nature is A LAW working within him. The Apostle Paul calls it the law of sin and death.

Paul was *converted*. Paul was a real Christian. He had repented, accepted Christ, and received the Holy Spirit. With his MIND, he wanted with all his heart, and in real intense sincerity, to DO God's WAY! But did Paul DO it perfectly?

Let him tell. LISTEN!

"For we know that the Law is spiritual," he wrote, "but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not,

but what I hate, that I do. . . . Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me." He is speaking of human nature within him. He continues, ". . . for to WILL is present with me: but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. . . . O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? . . ." Then he thanks God—that GOD WILL—through Jesus Christ, and by the power of His HOLY SPIRIT. BUT IT TAKES TIME!

The truly converted Christian will find that he often stumbles, *under temptation*, and falls down—even as a physical child, learning to walk, often falls down. But the year-old child does not get discouraged and give up. He gets up and starts out again.

THE TRULY CONVERTED CHRISTIAN IS NOT YET PERFECT!

GOD LOOKS ON THE HEART—the inner MOTIVE—the real *intent!* If he is trying—if he gets up whenever he falls down, and in repentance asks God's forgiveness, and sets out to do his very best NOT TO MAKE THAT MISTAKE AGAIN—and to persevere with renewed effort to OVERCOME, God is rich in mercy toward that man in his striving to overcome.

Speaking to CONVERTED CHRISTIANS, John writes: "These things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And *if any man sin*, . . ." (even though he ought not) ". . . we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and He is the propitiation for OUR sins . . ." Yes, for the SINS of converted CHRISTIANS. Such people often are under heavier temptation than before conversion. They are STRIVING against sin—STRIVING to overcome. But they are not yet perfect. Sometimes they are caught off guard. They may actually sin. Then they WAKE UP, as it were, and realize what they have done. They REPENT. They are filled with remorse—*truly sorry*—disgusted with themselves. They go to GOD, and CRY OUT for HELP—for more power and strength from God to OVERCOME!

This is the WAY of the Christian!

It is the way of a constant BATTLE—a striving against SIN—a seeking God in earnest prayer for help and spiritual POWER to overcome. They are constant-

ly GAINING GROUND. They are constantly GROWING in God's KNOWLEDGE, from the BIBLE. They are constantly rooting out wrong habits, driving themselves into RIGHT habits. They are constantly growing closer to GOD through Bible study and prayer. They are constantly growing in CHARACTER, toward perfection, even though not yet perfect.

With Paul, they say: ". . . Not as though I had already attained, or were already perfect: but I FOLLOW AFTER, . . . Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this one thing I do*, FORGETTING those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I PRESS TOWARD THE MARK FOR THE PRIZE OF THE HIGH CALLING OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS!"

But, someone may ask, what if one's life is cut off, and he dies *before* he has attained this perfection? Is he saved, or lost? The answer is that we shall never obtain absolute perfection in *this* life.

I said, earlier, that a person who is converted does receive the Holy Spirit at a *definite time—all at once!* Not the full measure Christ had—he is not at once full grown spiritually—only a spiritual babe in Christ. Yet he is then a changed, converted man—changed in mind, in attitude, in the *direction* he has set himself to strive to travel. Even though he has not yet reached perfection—even though he may have stumbled under temptation, and taken a spiritual fall—as long as, in his mind and heart, he is earnestly striving to travel GOD'S WAY, to overcome and grow spiritually—as long as God's Spirit is in him—as long as he is being LED BY the Spirit of God, he is a begotten SON of God.

If, anywhere along this life's journey, that life is cut short, such a man will be resurrected.

It is only the one who deliberately QUILTS and GIVES UP—who REJECTS God, and God's WAY, and rejects Christ as his Saviour—who turns FROM this direction of GOD'S WAY, *in his mind and heart*—in his inner INTENT—who deliberately and intentionally in his mind TURNS FROM Christ, who is lost. If, once having been converted, having received God's Spirit, and TASTED of

the joys of GOD'S WAY, one deliberately rejects that way, makes the DECISION, not under stress of temptation, but deliberately and finally, NOT to go God's way, then God says it is IMPOSSIBLE to renew such a one to repentance. He would have to REPENT of that decision. But if he WILFULLY made it, not in a time of temptation, but calmly, deliberately, wilfully, then he just WILL NOT ever repent of it.

But anyone who FEARS he may have committed the "unpardonable sin"—is perhaps worried about it, and HOPES he

has not committed it, and still WANTS to have God's salvation—no such has committed it—such a one MAY repent, and go right on to salvation IF HE WANTS TO!

If YOU have stumbled and fallen down, DON'T BE DISCOURAGED! Get up and press on ahead!

If you see a Christian do something wrong, DON'T SIT IN JUDGMENT AND CONDEMN—that's God's business to judge, not yours! Let's have compassion and mercy—WE don't know the inner heart of others—only GOD does!

Australia

(Continued from page 10)

What if Britain Enters the Common Market?

This question has Australian businessmen *truly worried!* Should Great Britain enter the Common Market, as she has been busily trying to do (while it looks as if she may well be kept out), Australia and New Zealand would have to pay a large part of the economic bill!

For example, Australia would have to find alternate markets for the lion's share of many of her most important exports. Presently, the British market takes 90% of Australia's canned fruit export, 75% of its butter export, 60% of its dried fruit and 50% of its sugar. Their prospects of finding alternate markets for such huge percentages of exports would not be easy! Faced with this potential effect of the Common Market—Australia has been FORCED to look hopefully toward ASIA for new and expanded outlets for its produce!

Australia is now selling vast amounts of wool to Japan, for instance. As Sir John Crawford, Australian economist, said recently, "*Japan is the major customer in Australia's improved exports to Asian and Pacific Countries!*" (Emphasis mine.) He went on to say "Japan becomes the *Britain of the Far East* as far as we are concerned!"

He anticipated, in a speech given before Sydney businessmen, an increase in trade with Communist China and said, "Americans will have to understand that the more we are pushed out of Europe or the United States, the more

we will be under pressure to trade in nonstrategic goods with China."

Out of the Frying Pan Into the Fire!

But could Australia safely turn to *Asia*? Recently, when Australia was being left out of a dramatic trade alliance being planned among the anti-Communist nations of Asia, Sir Raphael Cilento said, "This represents one of the most *blistering* comments on our *lack of vision* that I have ever heard!" (Emphasis mine.)

He had just returned from a three-week visit to Japan and Southeast Asian countries—reporting how Asian leaders had told him they had stopped looking to Australia for co-operation.

They had repeatedly commented to Sir Raphael, "You have been in different history for more than a century; *history is now catching up on you but you won't know it until the axe falls.*"

In his shocking statement subsequently released to the Press, Sir Raphael made eminently clear Australia's frightening position of today. He said, "Nobody seemed to consider Australia in the picture, because their view is that Australia is tied up with Britain and America, and although our future in the next ten years is *linked with Asia* we just are not interested enough to make a contribution!

"*I returned to Australia with chills running up and down my spine!*"

One of the leading Australian graziers said recently that Australia stood a fine chance of being *annihilated* if invaded by the hordes of Asia. He said Australia's *only hope* of surviving isolation would be to accept *complete racial integration* with Asiatics in the near future. The