

the
PLAIN TRUTH
a magazine of understanding

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THE BEAUTIFUL AMBASSADOR COLLEGE campus in Pasadena, California. Here students are taught how to live—as well as how to study. Read in this issue what is wrong with the present generation and how it can be corrected through right education.

What DO Church Goers Believe?—and WHY?

A very large segment of American and British life attends church on Sunday mornings. WHY do they go? WHAT do these church goers BELIEVE, and WHY? The plain truth is a little shocking—and illuminating!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

NOTHING is so astonishing as the truth! It is often stranger than fiction. Most people who attend church regularly, or even occasionally, would be really surprised if they should probe into their own minds far enough to ask WHY they go, and just WHAT is their religious belief—and WHY?

Do You KNOW?

As a baby, I was taken to church. As a child, I was taken to Sunday school and church. It was a Quaker church. I attended church until I was eighteen. Then I began attending the theatre, the athletic contests, or the dance. When we were married, my wife and I felt we ought to attend church. We looked over the churches in the general area of our home, selected one that was convenient, respectable, with a reasonably modern building, a friendly and personable pastor, and members we liked socially.

But WHY did we join? WHY did we attend church?

Well, we just felt we ought to—that's about all. Did we stop to reason why we ought to attend church? Well, no. But all people *should* attend church, should they not? We supposed so. Why? We probably didn't think much about why! But hasn't everybody always heard that one should go to church? Of course! And so, we simply assume, take for granted, and accept without question what we've always heard. Usually we don't know WHY.

What Did We Believe?

Did we have a definite religion? Reflecting back, my answer would have to be "No"—how about you?

What did we believe? Well, we had

no deep-rooted convictions. We believed, of course, those things we had most often heard in church. We believed in heaven and hell—an ever-burning hell. We believed in the immortality of the soul. We believed in Sunday, and Christmas and New Year's and Easter, and from boyhood I had heard the pastor talk about a few weird things, or names, or something that had absolutely no meaning to me—"Pentecost," "Grace," "Antioch," "sanctification," "justification," "dead in trespasses and sins." Of course I knew all those things came out of the Bible—but then, I always said: "I just can't understand the Bible."

And, speaking of the Bible, what does the average church goer think about the Bible? I think that in those years I was typical of many. It was "the Good Book." I did, in a way, regard it with a certain superstitious awe. It was beyond my comprehension. Of course I assumed our church got its beliefs out of the Bible. The preacher could understand it. But then, too, I grew up looking on the minister as a person *different* from the rest of us. He was a sort of holy man, not tempted to sin or to enjoy the worldly pleasures like the rest of us. He was like a man from another world. But the Bible was the Book men laid their hands on when taking the oath of office. And it was the one Book I should have been too embarrassed to carry down the street.

Did I look on it as "the Word of God?" Well, yes, I suppose so. But then I never thought of it in *specific* terms as the message, the instruction of God, to give man the explanation of what he is, and why he is here, and where he is going, and how he ought

to live, and how he can be happy, and prosperous, and enjoy life more.

Somehow "religion" was for Sunday morning—except that I had been taught that its prohibitions lasted all day Sunday. It was sin to go to the theatre on Sunday, and it was a sin to dance, or smoke, or swear, or "drink" at any time — and even theatregoing was "worldly" and probably a sin at any time. Playing cards was sin, too.

Religion? Well, vaguely I had heard that Adam was the first man, and that he sinned, and "fell"—whatever that meant. As a result I vaguely conceived that life was like a one-way trip on a train. Because of Adam, the switch in the track at the end of the line is thrown to shoot us all down to hell. So I knew we needed to "get saved," although I had been taught that I had a "birthright membership" in the church, so I guessed I probably was already "saved"—I never worried about it. When one is "saved," the switch in the track is then thrown so that, when he gets to the end of the line he will be shot instantly up to heaven, "to be with the Lord" in mansions above, "over the river," or "on the other shore," wherever all that was. Anyway, it was "up yonder" and when they called the roll, I was going to be there.

And what was my idea of GOD—and of Christ—and of the devil? Well, God was One to fear and be appeased, in a way—and yet, if we pleased Him, He could make things break our way for us. If we faced a frightful tragedy and possible death, crying out to Him might save us. But generally, I think I rather took it for granted that God didn't want us to be happy or enjoy life—He certainly frowned on all

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RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

TO THE U.S. & CANADA

WINS—New York—1010 kc. 9:00 a.m., Sun.; 7:30 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.

*WNTA—Newark, N.J.—970 on dial—9:00 a.m. Sun.; 7:30 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.

WIBG—Philadelphia—990 on dial—12:30 p.m. Sundays.

WPIT—Pittsburgh, Pa.—730 on dial—3:30 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.

WBMD—Baltimore, Maryland—750 on dial—12 noon daily.

WEAW—Chicago—1330 on dial—9:30 a.m., Sun. (AM & FM), 7:00 a.m., Mon. thru Sat.

WWVA—Wheeling, W. Va.—1170 on dial—10:30 a.m.; 11:15 p.m., Sun., E.S.T.; 10:00 p.m., Mon. thru Fri.

WKYR—Keyser, W. Va.—1270 on dial—5:30 a.m., daily.

WCKY—Cincinnati, Ohio—1530 on dial—7:00 and 9:30 p.m. Sun., 5:30 a.m., Mon. thru Sat., E.S.T.

WSPD—Toledo, Ohio—1370 on dial—9:05 p.m. every night.

WADC—Akron, Ohio—1350 on dial—9:30 p.m. every night.

WIBC—Indianapolis, Ind.—1070 on dial—10:30 p.m., Sunday.

WJBK—Detroit, Mich.—1500 on dial—9:30 a.m., Sun.

WSM—Nashville, Tenn.—650 on dial—12 midnight Mon. thru Fri.; 1:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Sun., C.S.T.

WLAC—Nashville, Tenn.—1510 on dial—7:00 p.m., daily; 5:00 a.m. Mon. thru Sat., C.S.T.; 10:30 a.m. Sun.

WPTF—Raleigh, N.C.—680 on dial—5:30 a.m. and 8:05 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.; 9:30 a.m. Sun.

WGUN—Atlanta, Ga.—1010 on dial—Mon. thru Sat. 11:00 a.m., Sun. 4:00 p.m.

*WMIE—Miami, Fla.—1140 on dial—9:00 a.m. Sun.; 12 noon Mon. thru Sat.

WGBS—Miami, Fla.—710 on dial—10:30 a.m. Sun.

KWKH—Shreveport, Louisiana—1130 on dial—9:15 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.; 11:00 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. Sat.; 10:30 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. Sun.

WNOE—New Orleans, La.—1060 on dial—9:30 a.m. Sundays.

KTHS—Little Rock, Arkansas—1090 on dial—9:15 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.; 8:00 p.m. Sat.; 9:30 a.m. and 8:15 p.m. Sun.

XERF—Del Rio, Tex.—1570 on dial—10:00 p.m., Mon. thru Sat.; 11:00 p.m., Sun.

KCTA—Corpus Christi, Tex.—1030 on dial—12:30 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.; 4:30 p.m. Sat.; 2:00 p.m. Sun.

XELO—800 on dial—every night, 8:00 p.m., M.S.T., 9:00 p.m. C.S.T.

XEG—1050 on dial—every night, 8:30 p.m. C.S.T.

*Asterisk indicates time change.

*KRLD—Dallas, Texas—1080 on dial—8:10 p.m. Mon. thru Sun.

KCUL—Ft. Worth, Tex.—1540 on dial—7:00 a.m., Mon. thru Sat.; 1:00 p.m., Sun.

KTRH—Houston, Tex.—740 on dial—9:30 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.; 8:30 p.m. Sun.

KENS—San Antonio, Tex.—680 on dial—9:30 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.; 9:00 p.m. Sun.

KFMJ—Tulsa, Okla.—1050 on dial—12:30 p.m., every day.

KRMG—Tulsa, Okla.—740 on dial—9:30 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.; 7:30 p.m. Sun.

KBYE—Okla. City, Okla.—890 on dial—10:30 a.m., Sun.; 12:30 p.m., Mon. thru Sat.

WKYB—Paducah, Ky.—570 on dial—12:00 noon, Sun. thru Sat.

KCMO—Kansas City, Mo.—810 on dial—8:15 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.; 7:30 p.m. Sun.; 5:00 a.m. Mon. thru Sat.

KWTO—Springfield, Mo.—560 on dial—7:00 p.m. daily.

KXEN—St. Louis, Mo.—1010 on dial—12:00 noon, Mon. thru Sat., 10:30 a.m., Sundays.

*KFH—Wichita, Kansas—1330 on dial—6:30 p.m. Sunday thru Saturday.

KXEL—Waterloo, Iowa—1540 on dial—8:00 p.m., Sun.; 9:30 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.

KRVN—Lexington, Nebr.—1010 on dial—10:30 a.m. every day.

WOW—Omaha, Nebr.—590 on dial—9:30 p.m. Sun.; 10:30 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.

KFYR—Bismarck, N. Dak.—550 on dial—7:00 p.m. every night.

WNAX—Yankton, S. Dak.—570 on dial—8:30 p.m. nightly.

KLZ—Denver, Colo.—560 on dial—10:45 p.m. Sun. thru Fri.; 10:30 a.m., Sat.

KCPX—Salt Lake City, Utah—1320 on dial—7:00 p.m. every night.

KBOI—Boise, Idaho—950 on dial—7:30 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.; 9:15 p.m. Sat. and Sun.

KPHO—Phoenix, Ariz.—910 on dial—6:30 p.m. every day.

CFRN—Edmonton, Alberta—1260 on dial—7:30 p.m. every night.

CKLW—Windsor, Ontario—800 on dial—7:00 p.m. Sundays.

*CFQC—Saskatoon, Saskatchewan—600 on dial—7:30 p.m., Sun. thru Sat.

In French—
CKJL—St. Jerome, Quebec—900 kc.—10:30 a.m. Sunday.

HEARD ON PACIFIC COAST, ALASKA AND HAWAII

KGO—San Francisco—810 on dial—9:30 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.—10:00 p.m. Sun.

*KSAY—San Francisco, Calif.—1010 kc.—7:30 a.m. every day.

KRAK—Sacramento, Calif.—1140 on dial—10:00 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.; 10:30 p.m. Sun.

KFRE—Fresno, Calif.—940 on dial—8:00 p.m. Sun. thru Fri.; 10:30 a.m. Sun.

KHJ—Los Angeles—930 on dial—7:30 p.m., Sunday.

KRKD—Los Angeles—1150 on dial—7:00 p.m., Mon. thru Sat.; 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sun.

KGBS—Los Angeles, Calif.—1020 on dial—10:00 p.m. Sun.

KBLA—Burbank—1490 on dial—7:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. daily.

XERB—1090 on dial—7:00 p.m. every night.

KNEZ—Lompoc, Calif.—960 on dial—9:30 a.m., Sunday.

KITO—San Bernardino—1290 on dial—7:00 p.m. daily.

KIRO—Seattle, Wash.—710 on dial—10:30 p.m. and 5:30 a.m., Mon. thru Sat.

KNBX—Seattle—1050 on dial—12:00 noon every day.

KHQ—Spokane, Wash.—590 on dial—9:00 p.m. every night.

KWJJ—Portland—1080 on dial—10:00 p.m., Sundays; 9:00 p.m., Mon. thru Sat.

KUGN—Eugene—590 on dial—7:00 p.m. every night.

*KFQD—Anchorage, Alaska—730 on dial—7:30 p.m., nightly.

KULA—Honolulu, Hawaii—690 on dial—10:00 p.m. every night.

In Spanish—
KALI—Los Angeles, Calif.—1430 on dial—4:45 p.m. Sun.

TO EUROPE

In English—
RADIO LUXEMBOURG—208 metres (1439 kc.)—Mondays and Tuesdays: 23:30 G.M.T.

In French—
RADIO LUXEMBOURG—1293 metres—5:40 a.m. Mon.

EUROPE NO. ONE—Felsberg en Sarre, Germany—182 kc. (1622 m.)—Wed. 5:45 a.m.

In German—
RADIO LUXEMBOURG—49 metres (6090 kc.)—Sun., 6:05 a.m.; Wed., 7:00 a.m., M.E.T.

TO AFRICA

RADIO LOURENCO MARQUES, MOZAMBIQUE—3301 kc. and 4925 kc.—10:00 p.m., Saturdays; 10:30 p.m., Mondays and Tuesdays.

*RADIO ELIZABETHVILLE (The Congo)—OQ2AD—5980 kc. (60 m.), 10:00 p.m., Sun. thru Fri.

TO ASIA

RADIO BANGKOK—HSIJS—461.5 metres (651 kc.)—Monday 10:35-11:05 p.m.

RADIO TAIWAN (FORMOSA) "The 3rd Network, B.C.C."—
BED23 Taichung 1380 kc.;
BED78 Tainan City 1540 kc.;
BED79 Kaohsiung 1220 kc.;
BED82 Chiayi 1460 kc.;
—18:00 T.S.T., Wed. and Fri.

RADIO LOG

RADIO OKINAWA — KSBK — 880 kc. Sundays: 12:06 noon.
 ALTO BROADCASTING SYSTEM — PHILIPPINE ISLANDS:
 DZAQ, Manila — 620 kc. — 9:00 p.m. Sunday.
 DZRI, Dagupan City — 1040 kc. — 9:00 p.m. Sunday.
 DZRB, Naga City — 1060 kc. — 9:00 p.m. Sunday
 DXAW, Davao City — 640 kc. — 9:00 p.m. Sunday.

TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

2KY — Sydney, NSW — 1020 kc. — 10:15 p.m. Mon. thru Thurs.; 10:45 p.m. Fri. and Sat.
 2AY — Albury, NSW — 1490 kc. — 10:30 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.; 10:00 p.m. Sun.
 2GF — Grafton, NSW — 1210 kc. — 10:30 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.
 2GN — Goulburn, NSW — 1380 kc. — 10:00 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.
 2HD — Newcastle, NSW — 1140 kc. — 10:03 p.m. Mon. thru Thurs.; 10:50 p.m. Fri.; 10:30 p.m. Sun.
 2KA — Katoomba, NSW — 780 kc. — 10:00 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.
 2KM — Kempsey, NSW — 980 kc. — 10:30 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.
 2MW — Murwillumbah, NSW — 1440 kc. — 10:30 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.
 3AW — Melbourne, Vic. — 1280 kc. — 10:30 p.m. Sun.
 3BO — Bendigo, Vic. — 960 kc. — 10:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and Sun.
 3CV — Maryborough, Vic. — 1440 kc. — 10:30 p.m. Mon thru Fri. and Sun.
 3HA — Hamilton, Vic. — 1000 kc. — 10:30 p.m. Mon. thru Fri. and Sun.
 3KZ — Melbourne, Vic. — 1180 kc. — 10:45 p.m. Mon. thru Thurs.; 10:15 p.m. Fri.; 10:30 p.m. Sun.
 3MA — Mildura, Vic. — 1470 kc. — 3:30 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.; 10:00 p.m. Sat.
 3SH — Swanhill, Vic. — 1330 kc. — 10:30 p.m. Mon. thru Fri. and Sun.
 3SR — Shepparton, Vic. — 1260 kc. — 10:30 p.m. Mon. thru Fri. and Sun.
 3UL — Warragul, Vic. — 880 kc. — 10:30 p.m. Mon. thru Fri. and Sun.

3YB — Warrnambool, Vic. — 1210 kc. — 10:30 p.m. Mon. thru Fri. and Sun.
 4AK — Oakey, Qld. — 1220 kc. — 10:15 p.m. Mon. thru Thurs.; 10:30 p.m. Fri.; 9:30 p.m. Sun.
 4BK — Brisbane, Qld. — 1290 kc. — 10:15 p.m. Mon. thru Thurs.; 10:30 p.m. Fri.; 9:30 p.m. Sun.
 4CA — Cairns, Qld. — 1010 kc. — 10:00 p.m. Sun. thru Fri.
 4TO — Townsville, Qld. — 780 kc. — 10:15 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.
 4KQ — Brisbane, Qld. — 690 kc. — 10:30 p.m. Sun.
 4WK — Warwick, Qld. — 880 kc. — 10:00 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.
 6GE — Geraldton, WA — 1010 kc. — 10:00 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.; 9:30 p.m. Sun.
 6KG — Kalgoorlie, WA — 860 kc. — 10:00 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.
 6PM — Perth, WA — 1000 kc. — 10:15 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.; 10:00 p.m. Sun.
 6AM — Northam, WA — 980 kc. — 10:15 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.; 10:00 p.m. Sun.
 7AD — Devonport, Tas. — 900 kc. — 3:30 p.m. Sun. thru Fri.
 7SD — Scottsdale, Tas. — 540 kc. — 4:00 p.m. Sun. thru Fri.
 2XM — Gisborne, New Zealand — 1180 kc. — 8:30 p.m. Wed.; 9:15 p.m. Thurs.; 10:00 p.m. Sat.

TO LATIN AMERICA

In English—
 RADIO SWAN—Swan Island—1160 kc.—5:30 p.m., C.S.T. Sun.
 RADIO AMERICA—Lima, Peru—1010 kc.—6:00 p.m. Saturdays.
 HOC21, Panama City—1115 kc.—7:00 p.m., Sundays.
 HP5A, Panama City—11170 kc.—7:00 p.m., Sundays.
 HOK, Colon, Panama—640 kc.—7:00 p.m., Sundays.
 HP5K, Colon, Panama—6005 kc.—7:00 p.m., Sundays.
 In Spanish—
 RADIO SWAN—Swan Island—1160 kc.—9:00 p.m., Sat. and Sun.
 RADIO LA CRONICA—Lima, Peru—1010 kc.—7:00 p.m. Sun.
 RADIO COMUNEROS — Asuncion, Paraguay—970 kc.—8:30 p.m. Thursdays.
 RADIO SPORT — CXA19 — Montevideo, Uruguay—11835 kc.—4:00 p.m., Sundays.
 RADIO CARVE—CX16, 850 kc., and CXA13, 6156 kc. — Montevideo, Uruguay — 3:30 p.m., Saturdays.

things closer to hand. As I said, religion was for Sunday. It had no relation to or connection with the rest of life as a whole—my school, fun, play, hobbies, and, as I grew older, business, philosophies and beliefs.

What a "Bible Christian" Is Like

Years later my wife and I became acquainted with a woman who, in some ways, was rather peculiar. This woman really *had* a religion. She read and studied the Bible every day. She seemed to *understand* it! She had definite beliefs and convictions, and she said the SOURCE of all of them was *not* anything she had heard at church, but what she read in the Bible. She said the Bible carried *authority*, and was the only source of knowing the TRUTH. She actually studied the Bible to learn *how to live*—not just on Sunday—but *every day!* Actually, this woman was HAPPY in her religion. She prayed a great deal, and she seemed to really *know* God, and to be on personal terms with Him!

She was, judged by customary standards of the general public that attends church but has little or no conception of what one's church actually does believe, a rather peculiar woman.

She didn't believe any of those major beliefs I had always heard in church: being an immortal soul, going to heaven or hell when one dies, and, strangely, she did not observe Sunday or Christmas or New Year's or Easter or Valentine's day or Hallowe'en. She said none of these ideas are taught in the Bible.

This woman was a "Bible Christian." The SOURCE from which she got what she believed was the Bible.

This woman asked my wife, one day before I had met her, to open her Bible and read a certain passage. Then she asked my wife to turn to another passage and read it—then another, and another.

After reading several of these passages, my wife, in astonishment, exclaimed, "Why, this is not what I've always been taught. I've always heard and believed *just the opposite* of what it says here in the Bible!"

My wife thereupon *believed* what she read in the Bible—and that *changed her religious belief*. To me, she had be-

What DO Church Goers Believe?

(Continued from page 5)

worldly pleasures. Christ, however, was more kind and loving—He was our Saviour. Above all, neither God nor Christ were REAL to me—they were

in reality "far off."

Now these were not definite, concrete beliefs or deep-rooted convictions. They were just etherial, vague assumptions. I never gave them deep or specific thought. I just took them for granted, supposing everybody believed these things. My mind was focused on the material interests of the moment—

come a religious fanatic. I was angered, furious. Argument did no good. She had all the answers—and right out of the Bible. This was the incident that challenged and angered me into the first real study of the Bible of all my life.

I said, "You can't tell me that all these churches are wrong. I know they get what they believe out of the Bible!" So I devoted six months to intensive, almost night and day, research and study to try to find, *in the Bible*, what I had been taught in church. I, too, was astounded to find just the opposite. I obtained the literature of churches supporting their beliefs. I searched the commentaries, the lexicons, the Bible encyclopedias. I searched out the arguments of higher criticism on these points. I tried my best to overthrow my wife's new Bible beliefs—but they definitely were in the Bible. I studied evolution, almost doubted the existence of God, researched science and philosophy, and PROVED that the all-intelligent personal Creator God does exist. Then I put the Bible to the test—and by several infallible proofs, PROVED it to be the very revelation of the living God to mankind, carrying final AUTHORITY.

At last, once I swallowed my pride, admitted defeat, was humbled, had repented, and accepted the Christ of the Bible—a different Christ than I had previously pictured—I had found the true SOURCE for belief.

What a difference there is between professed "Christians" who are church goers, and a true BIBLE Christian! I know that difference because I have been both!

Regardless of whether one has been *angered* into an honest study of the Bible, as I was, or whether he had never been to church or heard anything else in the first place, or WHY he looks into the Bible for himself, he will find the same thing there that I found—if he is honest and willing.

A person who is born and reared on a faraway uninhabited island in mid-ocean, having never heard *any* religious belief, if he had a Bible and was able to read, would be a total stranger to many of these things I was taught in church—he would see, in the Bible, just what everybody else does who

looks into it *honestly*.

What's wrong, then? When today's "enlightened" clergy, and its theological seminaries where young ministers are educated, spend more time trying to determine how much of the Bible they wish to classify as myth, and how little as truth—when only 1% of theological students, by actual survey, believe in any "second coming" of Christ which is stated and affirmed repeatedly in the Bible—when theologians and the professional clergy "interpret" the Bible to mean the very opposite of what it plainly says, in order to pretend that it supports their pagan teachings—then you may *know* what is wrong.

If you will read Jeremiah 23, Ezekiel 13, and 34, which are prophecies of conditions *now*, in our day, and of Christ's statement of Matthew 24:4-5, 11, 24, of the false preachers that would deceive the MANY; and of the many statements in the Bible that the whole world would be deceived, you will begin to understand. It is, indeed, hard for one born, reared, and steeped in this world's education, religion, customs and ways, to realize that this is *not* God's world, but Satan's. It comes as a jarring *shock!* I know. I've experienced it!

The Bible ought never to be interpreted. It means what it says, and it says what it means. Taken as it *is*, it *makes sense*.

Don't be a spiritual coward. Look into it *for yourself*. It's full of surprises—it's full of TRUTH—it's full of the way to a positive peace of mind, to happiness, to prosperity, abundant living here and now, and to salvation in joyous eternal life—FOREVER!

God's world is soon coming—the peaceful, happy WORLD TOMORROW!

Letters to Editor

(Continued from page 2)

Chain Reaction

"I enjoy your PLAIN TRUTH magazines so much. I give them to a sister here, she sends them to a sister in Iowa, the Iowa sister sends them to a sister in Kansas, and she gives them to the neighbors."

Woman from Lakewood, California

Editor's comment: We'll be glad to send a year's subscription free upon request to each of these ladies so each can have her own personal copy.

True Gospel Stands Trial

"We do enjoy the preaching of the gospel by you and your son. We listened for one year before writing you. We certainly tested everything you said. We thought at first it was another false religion, but we now know that it is the one true gospel."

Woman from B. C., Canada

Tithing Brings "Extra"

"I have only recently started tithing. This is truly the best investment we have ever made. Since that time, my husband has been called to work 'extra' and I am sure we have grossed twice the amount of our tithe."

Woman from San Antonio, Texas

Plain Truth Makes Bible Real

"I am keenly interested in The PLAIN TRUTH and look forward to getting it each month. It shocked me terribly at first, but you are making the Bible real to us. It is intensely interesting. Formerly, the Bible was a closed book, but, thanks to you, what a difference."

Woman from Newcastle on Tyne, England

Public Apathy Demonstrated

"Public apathy is referred to quite often in The PLAIN TRUTH and on The WORLD TOMORROW. While discussing current history in our Personal Finance class this week I was surprised to learn that the *entire* class, with the exception of myself and the teacher, did not even know what the Common Market, the Inner Six, or the Outer Seven were. They did not even care about our foreign trade and its importance to our survival."

Reader from Michigan

Cigarette Money

"Enclosed is some more cigarette money. Thank you very much for your part in this. I feel very much better, both in health and peace of mind, knowing the money, little though it is, is being wisely spent instead of wasted."

Co-Worker from Belgium

The Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong

Now the work grows up and exerts an impact on the entire Pacific Northwest. Suicide prevented, atheist converted, PLAIN TRUTH finally becomes a printed magazine permanently.

INSTALLMENT 40

NOW that the broadcast had started in Seattle, the work began rapidly to take on new life.

Up until this time, it certainly bore no resemblance to what would be expected by most people to be the very WORK OF GOD. How could anything have had such humble and crude beginnings? Did anything ever start smaller? Looking back on those years now, I am, myself, astonished! It surely couldn't have happened. Yet, it did!

Smallest Beginnings

Actually, it had started out on Klickitat Street in Portland, Oregon, in 1927. Beaten down by successive business reverses caused by forces beyond my control, looking on myself as an abject failure, I had given what seemed a worthless life over to the living Christ who had bought my life with His own. I didn't think He could do much of anything with it. Not that I doubted His ability or lacked faith in HIM—a new-found faith; but, rather, it was hard for one newly converted to see how even God in all His power would do anything with worthless material.

Reduced to a \$50 per month income, which required only about an hour a week of my time, I can look back and see myself, now, part of the time on my knees praying and studying the Bible—part of the time clicking out articles or study-notes on an old tiny, fold-over, portable Corona typewriter, recording the wonderful new TRUTHS I was learning.

Somehow, in my own mind, I still think of the work having had its first beginning on that little old out-dated typewriter—the first model of the first make of portables to be put on the market.

The actual broadcasting and publishing work was not to start until 1934—seven years after conversion! Those were years of intensive study, preparation—and economic hardship.

Dating from my conversion—and even the six months of challenging study that preceded it—I had come into contact with the Oregon members of a very small Church. It was the Church of God, with a scattered membership over several parts of the United States—nearly all rural people—and a small publishing house and headquarters located in a small store building on the main street of Stanberry, Missouri.

It had become evident that their belief and practise was based more nearly on Biblical truth than any church or denomination I knew. Yet it seemed something was lacking. They seemed utterly lacking in power. Something always restrained me from actually becoming a member.

But by 1931 the members I had come to know in the Willamette Valley of Oregon had become separately incorporated as the Oregon Conference, independent of Stanberry headquarters in treasury and administration. I was ordained by them in 1931, and employed from June until late November as an evangelist, at \$20 per week salary.

After a detour back into the newspaper business for 15 months, I came back to the Valley in February, 1933, as their evangelist at a salary of \$3 per week. This was at the bottom of the great depression.

But two other elders in the Conference, unsalaried, but with eyes on my little \$3 per week, brought repeated persecution. In August I had to choose between bowing to unscriptural practises or remaining free at sacrifice of the weekly \$3. My wife and I saw that,

to serve God, our living had to come from Him, too. From there on we have always looked to GOD, not man, for every need.

We didn't leave the Church. We didn't set out to start any "new movement." At the time I was holding the meetings in the little one-room country schoolhouse eight miles west of Eugene. These meetings resulted in the 19-member church organized later that year.

Officially, the radio broadcast and The PLAIN TRUTH were started early in 1934 by that little local Church of God at Eugene, Oregon. But in actual operation it had of necessity to be conducted entirely by myself. The reason was simple: there was no other leadership.

The church members were supposed to tithe their incomes. But the number of families were few, and the people were economically poor, and those were the depression days. The meager amounts from this source were supposed to contribute to my family's living, in lieu of salary—but the amount only partly supplied our sub-standard existence. There were two or three small special pledges for the broadcasting, and occasionally a member contributed a dollar or two—once in perhaps several weeks, as much as \$5.

But in no sense was this little Church able to underwrite or financially sponsor the broadcasting and publishing work. I was virtually "on my own" and on sheer faith.

Thus it was that this whole work started in January, 1934, in virtually a home-operated, humble and necessarily very crude manner. Actually the entire WORK of the Church, aside from regular weekly services, and mid-week prayer meetings, put me in the position of

a man totally without funds or backing starting out "on his own" to preach and publish the Gospel to the whole world. Of course I had no vision of anything like covering the whole Pacific Coast, let alone a national or world-wide impact at the beginning.

I had not sought the ministry. It was the very last thing I could ever have chosen—until I was converted and literally pushed into it. But now I knew I was called by the living Christ. I knew I was to preach—to whatever number I could.

With Man—Impossible!

What man could start out, without money, without support or backing, without any car and having to walk or hitch-hike, on his own, with an unpopular Message to which people were hostile, and expect to get that Message preached and published to the millions on all continents around the world?

With man, it certainly is IMPOSSIBLE! No wonder I was told, in those days—as I have recorded before: "You won't get far—people won't support that kind of straight Bible preaching—the Bible gives correction, rebuke, tells people their sins. People don't like to be told they're all wrong. No, Sir—they won't support you."

But now I was not looking to *people* for support—I was relying on GOD! There is a Scripture that says, "with man it is impossible, but with GOD all things are possible!"

And *that* is the answer!

Through the years I have encountered a few individuals who thought they had a vision to "preach Christ" and started out on their own, without backing, to do it. Some have gotten out some kind of mimeographed literature, or even managed to have a "tract" or two printed. But none I knew of ever grew. All soon gave up. Their work lacked the inspiration, the "spark," the vital "something" to make it tick—and GROW! The answer, of course, is that the POWER OF GOD was lacking. They *were*, in true fact, *on their own!* Christ had never called or sent them. They were *not* speaking HIS Word faithfully! Without His guidance and the dynamic power of His Spirit, their work soon came to naught:

The only reason this work survived—and grew—is that I was not, after all, "on my own."

Pitifully small as this effort was during those first few years—crude in every way, in its physical action and material appearance, still it was, though assuredly not then apparent, the very WORK OF THE LIVING GOD. The divinely-imparted dynamic spark was in it. People have asked, in recent years, what makes this now great work "tick." The vital energy and life which the living CHRIST has imparted is what makes it tick!

The Difference

The things God does *through man* must always start small—usually the very smallest—but they grow big, until they become the biggest. Jesus compared this to the proverbial mustard seed.

Today there are three billion people populating the earth. God started this—with *one man*, out of whom he made one woman. The nations of Israel, Judah, Turkey, the Arabs, all started with *one man*—Abraham. The only true religion started with *one man*—Jesus Christ! Ultimately those born of God through Him will fill the earth.

This work certainly had no professional appearance in those days, although there must have been power in the broadcasts—they had the ring of sincerity and the truth the listeners had not heard before. And The PLAIN TRUTH, though crude in *appearance*, nevertheless reflected the years of professional writing experience. Mistakes were made. This was due to the *human* element. It was the guidance and power of God injected into it that gave it its real impetus—but God was using a mighty imperfect human instrument, and so human limitations entered into the picture too. These caused some of the set-backs, and God allowed others to test and refine and help perfect the instrument He was using.

I know of evangelists who have been skyrocketed suddenly to fame before vast audiences. They started out big and quickly became celebrities acclaimed by millions. But they were started out by organizations of MEN. It was organized religion which pumped into their great stadia, coliseums, super-tents or

vast auditoriums the multi-thousand crowds. And all such world-famous evangelists must preach *only* what is allowed by the denominations or churches who back them, and must refrain from preaching anything contrary to their doctrines.

Suppose, for example, such an evangelist backed by the conservative fundamentalist-evangelical denominations should tell his audience the Bible commands them to keep the seventh-day Sabbath. Suppose a "big-time" evangelist with so-called "pentecostal" backing in his giant circus tent should shout to his thousands that "speaking in tongues" is *not* the "Bible evidence" of "the baptism of the Holy Spirit." Immediately they would be branded HERETICS. Immediately they would lose their organized backing, their crowds would desert them, they would be plunged into "disgrace."

But such men come and they go. Their work is foredoomed to die. If they are backed by men, supported by organized men, they must become the willing TOOL of such organizations. But when one is truly called and chosen of God, he must become wholly yielded to God as God's servant, and he must speak God's Word faithfully, else GOD's support is withdrawn. *What a difference!*

Redoubling Growth

Jesus Christ said, "Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up" (Mat. 15:13). Again, "Except *the Eternal* build the house, they labor in vain that build it" (Psalm 127:1). But, David was inspired to say (Moffatt translation): "Though I must pass through the thick of trouble, thou wilt preserve me: . . . The Eternal intervenes on my behalf; . . . *thou wilt not drop the work thou hast begun*" (Psalm 138:7-8). That PROMISE of God has sustained me through the years of opposition, persecution and trouble. God is still keeping that promise, and He will perpetually!

Looking back, now, over the actual physical circumstances, conditions, and happenings of those years, it seems utterly incredible that a work started in such a humble, crude manner without any visible backing could have survived,

let alone continued to grow at the pace of 30% a year. It has DOUBLED in size and power about every 2 years and 7 and a half months.

When an operation expands by multiplication, instead of by addition, the growth rate seems incredible. Ask the average person, "Which would you rather have, a penny, doubling its amount every day for 30 days, or a single million dollars today?" and he probably will take the one million quickly. But he will cheat himself out of more than four and a third million dollars, if he does.

Now here is the surprising factor. The first several days, this doubling itself does not seem to build up very fast. At the end of the first week, you would have only 64¢—still less than a dollar. But on the eighth day you break into the DOLLAR class.

The first seven years of this work seemed, then, like very slow growth. But around this time we expanded into Seattle. We were now covering the Pacific Northwest. We had started out covering one county. We had gone through these years with only two issues of a *printed* Plain Truth—all others ground out on a crude old neostyle, ancestor of the mimeograph. We had no addressing machine—we addressed by hand. We had no filing cabinets—I used cardboard cartons. I had no office desk—I used scarred-up old tables I found in the little, inside, unventilated room we called the "office."

But now, with a Seattle station, the work again had, for the third time, DOUBLED in size of operation. From here on growth was to appear to speed up.

If you figure out the amounts, starting with 1¢ and doubling the amount each day, you'll see that after the first 7 days it appears to mount up much faster. After 14 days it has multiplied to \$81.92. You still are not even in the hundred dollar bracket. But from there it expands rapidly. After 21 days it totals \$10,485.76; and after 28 days you are in the MILLION dollar bracket, with \$1,342,177.28.

Of course this work did not double in size every day, every week, or even every year. But doubling in number of people reached, in number of precious lives converted, in radio power, and in

scope of operation every two years and seven and a half months is, after all, a very rapid and almost unheard-of rate of growth. And that rate of redoubling has continued for 28 years!

Printed at Last

If this work had the appearance, those first seven struggling years, of the pitifully insignificant and hopeless effort of an individual striving desperately "on his own," it began now rapidly to take on the appearance of a more substantial operation. Those with spiritual discernment began to recognize it for what it was—the true WORK OF GOD

A limited fund had been raised to start the broadcast on KRSC, in Seattle.

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

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

It "grew up" only to a most humble start as a *printed magazine*, however. This issue, and the few to follow, were printed on a very low-cost yellow paper we had used for years for the mimeographed editions. It was only 8 pages. And it was issued only bi-monthly. On page 4, under the mast-head box, appeared this notice: "This is the first issue of The PLAIN TRUTH since May. There was no June or July number this year. For the immediate future we hope to be able, the Lord willing, to publish one number each two months. Later we hope to be able to send you an issue every month, and to enlarge The PLAIN TRUTH to 16 pages, just double the present size. Constant improvement is our goal."

That improvement came slowly through the years—but the effort was never relinquished, and gradually the improvement did come.

HOW YOUR PLAIN TRUTH SUBSCRIPTION HAS BEEN PAID

So many ask: "HOW does it happen that I find my subscription price for The PLAIN TRUTH has already been paid? HOW can you publish such a high class magazine without advertising revenue?"

The answer is as simple as it is astonishing! It is a paradox. Christ's Gospel cannot be sold like merchandise. You cannot buy salvation. Yet it does cost money to publish Christ's TRUTH and mail it to all continents on earth. It does have to be *paid for!* This is Christ's work. We solve this problem Christ's WAY!

Jesus said, "This Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached (and published—Mark 13:10) in all the world for a witness unto all nations" (Mat. 24:14) *at this time*, just before the end of this age. A PRICE *must be paid* for the magazine, the broadcast, the Correspondence Course, or other literature. But HOW? Christ forbids us to *sell* it to those who receive it: "Freely ye have received," said Jesus to His disciples who He was sending to proclaim His Gospel, "freely GIVE!" "It is more blessed," He said, "to GIVE than to receive."

God's WAY is the way of LOVE—and that is the way of *giving*. God expects every child of His to *give* free-will offerings and to tithe, as His means of paying the costs of carrying His Gospel to others. We, therefore, simply trust our Lord Jesus Christ to lay it on the minds and hearts of His followers to give generously, thus paying the cost of putting the precious Gospel TRUTH in the hands of others. Yet it must go *only* to those who *ask for it for themselves!* Each must, for himself, *subscribe*—and his subscription has thus already been paid.

Thus the living dynamic Christ Himself enables us to broadcast, world-wide, without ever asking for contributions over the air; to enroll many thousands in the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course with full tuition cost *already paid!*; to send your PLAIN TRUTH on an *already paid* basis. God's way is GOOD!

Many months later, it did double to 16 pages. Circulation doubled and redoubled through the years. After years as a 16-page magazine, it went to 24, then 32, and today readers of The PLAIN TRUTH read a professional-appearing magazine of 40 pages, with a circulation above 350,000 copies.

Just one more enlargement, in number of pages, is envisioned. We hope, in the reasonably near future, to go to 48 pages, with a heavier cover—and possibly more colors. But, we feel, 48 pages of solid reading—without advertising or fiction—is about as much as *any* magazine publishes, and as much as readers can digest in one issue. But *other* improvements are still planned, even today—more illustrations, and even more world-coverage of news by our own staff writers.

In publishing that first regular printed issue of The PLAIN TRUTH, more than twenty-one years ago, an additional 500 copies were printed in anticipation of the first two months' response from the new Seattle broadcast.

Amazing Seattle Response

The broadcast had started on KRSC, in Seattle, September 15, 1940. By November 1 the receipt of mail from listeners was mounting rapidly. More than 500 requests for copies came from the

The PLAIN TRUTH

A magazine of understanding

August-September, 1940

Vol. V—No. 3

Published by HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

The Invasion of the British Isles in PROPHECY

SINCE the last issue of The PLAIN TRUTH, tremendous things have happened. Now even greater events impend.

France has been crushed by the Nazi juggernaut.

That key event, which we have told our readers and radio listeners for years would come as the crucial turning-point in this prophesied end-time world collapse—Mussolini's declaration of war against Great Britain, now has actually occurred.

The battle is on, in the Mediterranean, where, according to Bible prophecy, the greatest phases of the war are to be fought. The Italians will capture both Palestine and Egypt.

The invasion of the British Isles is awaited hourly—may be in actual progress before this paper is in your hands—may, possibly, not come at all.

Russia has made a series of lightning moves, annexing the Baltic states of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania, taking Bessarabia and part of the Black Sea coast from Rumania. Russia now has two or three million soldiers massed on the Rumanian and Polish-German frontiers. Thus Stalin has further encircled and checked Hitler, as we have been telling you, since last September, he was in process of doing.

Invasion of Britain

WHY has Hitler delayed these several weeks his threatened "blitzkrieg" invasion of Britain?

First, because Stalin has deterred him. While most professed students of prophecy have shouted that the prophesied alliance

WILL Hitler succeed in conquering the British Isles?

Will the UNITED STATES be able to repel the Germans, or will we, wealthiest of nations, be ruled by Hitler?

Here is an up-to-the-minute summary and analysis of the war, in the light of Bible prophecy.

between "Gog" and "Gomer," (Ezekiel 38:6) was fulfilled in the non-aggression pact between Russia and Germany, we have continuously warned our listeners and readers, since last September, that this prophecy has not yet been fulfilled. We have seen no proof that Germany is the "Gomer" of that prophecy, and no alliance has taken place. Rather, Stalin laid a clever trap into which Hitler stupidly fell, plunging him into war with the British which he did not want, and was not ready for, at the time. Russia, the "Gog in the land of Magog" of this Ezekiel prophecy, will not, as we have continually pointed out, enter the war until later. She will hold back, pitting her various enemies one against the other. Stalin feared Hitler more than any other power—yet it is Britain and America he hopes ultimately to conquer. By the non-aggression pact with Hitler, he turned Hitler away from Russia and set him to weakening his ultimate enemy, Great Britain.

Yet Stalin cannot afford to see Hitler completely conquer England, and become the undisputed master of all Europe. So he has moved in the Baltic and in the Balkans to encircle Germany. He has massed a few million armed troops at the German back door, ready to walk in should Hitler become so busy invading England that he would be powerless to stop it. This is reason number one for Hitler's delay in attacking the British Isles.

Reason number two is that Hitler found he was not ready. The British have prepared for defense with lightning speed. Today England is an armed camp. Hitler cannot successfully conquer England unless he completely controls the air—which he is now far from being able to do.

As this is written, greatly intensified air warfare has raged over Britain for the past five days. Where one hundred bombers were kept continually over British soil the past few weeks, five hundred are now being sent over. Soon the Germans will send a thousand. At the moment there is speculation as to whether this is merely an intensified aerial blockade, or heavy bombing preliminary to THE blitzkrieg invasion in its first stages. Probably it is all three.

It is the fight for control of the which Hitler must win before actual invasion can succeed. Germany outnumber Britain in number of planes about 3 to one. Emphasis now is not so much on damage done by German planes, as on the respective number of planes each side can shoot down at least one British

Here is reproduced the first printed copy of The PLAIN TRUTH since the May-June 1938 number. With this issue the magazine "grew up." Here you can read the prophecies about World War II.

first four or five broadcasts. The Co-Workers' Bulletin dated November 1, reported the subscription list of The PLAIN TRUTH had reached 3,000. We still had to keep the mailing list by handwriting, or typing, and in this manner personally address every copy. This required volunteer labor and several days' time. Mail response now indicated a listening audience of 150,000 with the three radio stations.

Although requests for The PLAIN TRUTH exceeded 500 the first five weeks from the Seattle station, there were, of course, *very* few contributions—especially when none were in any way solicited. Nevertheless, for the encouragement of older Co-Workers, this November 1 Bulletin stated: "Offerings are just *beginning*, now, to come from listeners to KRSC, our Seattle station. First, \$1. Then, later, another dollar; then \$6 the next week—\$8 total so far." It was now costing nearly \$100 per issue to publish and mail out The PLAIN TRUTH.

In this issue of the Co-Workers' Bulletin (sent only to those who had become voluntary regular contributors), excerpts from several letters from listeners were reproduced—17 of those from the Seattle station, and 9 from the Portland station.

Portions of some of those letters are illuminating. Here are just a few:

"FROM SEATTLE: 'Am enclosing \$1 to help a little in your God-given work. How I wish it could be more, but when I can possibly, will send more. Received the copy of The PLAIN TRUTH a few days ago. . . . I have wondered many times when these Scriptures would be revealed, and by whom, but God knew, and He has given the wisdom to one He can trust. You have my prayers.'" This letter accompanied the second dollar received from the program on the Seattle station. Jesus Christ said His sheep hear His voice. They recognize His Message. They catch the difference instantly. Some of these letters came from people who discerned that this, indeed, was Christ's own Gospel—very different from that the world had heard.

"FROM BINGEN, WASHINGTON: 'Will you please send a copy of The PLAIN TRUTH. I thank God for men

who tell the truth about His Plan of salvation. There are only too few in this time of great need.'"

"FROM DEEP RIVER, WASH.: 'We listen to your broadcast every Sunday, and would like to receive the magazine. . . . I realize you do not ask for money, but I am enclosing \$1 to help in God's work.'"

"FROM INDIANOLA, WASH.: 'The portion of your sermon, delivered over the radio yesterday, that I heard was most enlightening and constructive, and I should appreciate having you send me The PLAIN TRUTH. These certainly are the kind of Biblical explanations that the world needs today.'"

Yes, some who hear The WORLD TOMORROW program do recognize it as GOD'S VERY OWN MESSAGE, and it has been the generally unpreached TRUTH of God's Word, and the power of His Spirit that has given this work *life*, and *vitality*, and caused it to grow from smallest beginnings!

Now just two or three portions of letters from listeners over KWJJ, Portland. These, too, are significant:

"FROM OREGON CITY: 'I received your message today and with tears streaming from my eyes, thanked our heavenly Father that the way had been opened for your Seattle broadcast.'"

"FROM LA CENTER, WASH.: 'I enjoy your broadcast so much, and regret when I have to miss one. I feel lifted, and see more light after listening. God is certainly with you in every word that you say—one can just feel His presence. I would appreciate a copy of The PLAIN TRUTH, please.'"

"FROM PORTLAND: 'In your last broadcast you mentioned that the public might not approve your words. From your own teachings, your *concern* is to preach the TRUTH, just as you have been doing. . . . The LORD approves. That is enough. The PLAIN TRUTH is most excellent. . . . This old world is now in the critical time when we need a pilot to show us whither we are headed. You are doing a great job. I know you are giving the truth to those who never heard it, and probably never would, who will not go to the present-day church and who hold the church to be a hypocritical racket. But they listen to

you. Keep up the good work.'"

Atheists Converted

This Bulletin carried a sub-head on page 5: "*Even Atheists Being Converted.*" It said: "Yes, even ATHEISTS—those who have convinced themselves there is no God. . . . Seldom, if ever, have you heard of atheists being converted. Yet I know definitely of at least two who have been changed from death to life, through this work of which you are a vital part. Both are active Co-Workers now."

One was a young mother, prominent in the Communist Party. The facts in her case have been covered previously in the Autobiography. The second was a young man in Vancouver, Washington. I reported, in this Bulletin: "Last February 16, we received this letter—the first we had ever heard of this young man:

"Dear Mr. Armstrong: I started listening to your broadcasts in September, 1938, and since that time I have been coming to my senses. In other words, you have been the medium through whom God has acted to blast away my atheistic ideas, false conceptions and idiotic philosophies. This, to me, is a modern miracle, for I have long considered myself impregnable to what seemed to be the greatest myth of all time—God and the Bible. . . . I've been listening for a long time to various pastors, ministers and preachers, if only for the malicious pleasure of finding fault with what they say. The first time I tuned on you, I was stuck. Then I started thinking—probably for the first time in years. Then I started regretting. I didn't deserve it, but found the door open when I knocked. It's marvelous how much different one's attitude is when it is taken from a spiritual angle. All things seem different. It's something God only can do for a person. I wish you could reach a much larger audience, and I'm praying for the time when you can.'"

This man, some time after writing this letter—yet this was prior to going on the air in Seattle—attended meetings I was holding in Vancouver (Washington), and was baptized shortly after this Bulletin went out Novem-

ber 1, 1940. His prayer for the expansion of the work—along with many other prayers—was answered, and he became a valuable instrument of God, collaborating with me in God's work. He was a nationally known artist. All *Plain Truth* readers have read his BIBLE STORY, rendering the story-thread of the Bible in plain, simple, dynamically-interesting language. This man is Basil Wolverton. The letter quoted above was the first I ever heard from him. It gives evidence of some of the "fruit" God was producing through this work, even in those pioneer days.

This November 1, 1940 Bulletin ended with these words: "ON TO LOS ANGELES is our slogan now!" Yes, the work was growing up!

Christmas Slump

But immediately we encountered another obstacle threatening the work. The Christmas shopping season was upon us. Always December had been our toughest month to weather through. So many Co-Workers became so occupied with Christmas shopping, trading gifts back and forth among friends and relatives, many forgot and neglected any gift for Christ, whose birthday they supposed they were celebrating. I was forced to remind our Co-Workers of this, in the next Bulletin, dated December 6, or else see the entire work stop. It explained:

"The Seattle broadcast has had to start just as we come to the Christmas shopping season. Each year it seems that two-thirds or more of all our Co-Workers forget the Lord's work *entirely* through December. Brethren, the *tihe* is THE LORD'S for His work! Here we are, in the most serious hours of all earth's history! We are told in the Scriptures to *preach the Gospel*, to KEEP AT IT, *in season and out of season!* This is the END-time, when Jesus said *this Gospel* of the Kingdom must go to all the world for a witness, *just before the END* comes! . . . This Message *must not stop!* Surely proclaiming God's Message and the salvation of souls must come *first*—material gifts second!"

It seems that with the results of that letter we did struggle through. Meanwhile the listening audience, and The

PLAIN TRUTH circulaion, continued to enlarge.

By mid-February, 1941, circulation of The PLAIN TRUTH had climbed to 4,000 copies. Mail response now indicated a weekly listening audience of 150,000 or more. Letters were coming from all classes of people—women, laboring men, farmers, office workers, and also from business and professional men.

Suicide Prevented

In early February, 1941, we received a letter from a man who said he was on the point of committing suicide in his discouragement, when by accident—or, as he himself suggested, intervention of God—he heard the broadcast of February 9. He wrote that this Message got through to him—made him realize that what he needed was not suicide, but CHRIST! He wrote a heart-touching appeal to help him find his Saviour and salvation. He was, of course, given personal help.

More and more, evidence piled up demonstrating the power of God working and energizing His work through us.

In the Bulletin of February 14, 1941, the following appeared:

"ANNOUNCEMENT:

"Mrs. Armstrong and I announce that our daughter, Beverly, is to be married to Mr. James A. Gott of Eugene, on Friday morning, February 28th, at ten o'clock, in the little Church at the end of West Eighth Avenue, in Eugene.

"Beverly is the soprano in the Radio Church quartette, whose beautiful singing is so familiar to our radio audiences."

During this week of February 23, an exciting event had happened. We had purchased our first "almost new" car, taking delivery the night before the wedding.

First New Car

Somewhere around November, 1940, station KRSC in Seattle had switched our time from 4:00 p.m., which was the same time we aired on KWJJ, Portland, to 8:30 Sunday mornings. At first I suffered keen disappointment, feeling it would mean a smaller audience. But it proved a blessing in disguise. The

listening audience picked up faster than ever.

Best of all, it made it possible for me to drive to Seattle to put the program on live, instead of sending transcriptions. In those days our transcriptions had to be recorded in almost amateur manner on inferior equipment in Eugene. The "live" broadcasts made possible news reporting, and analysis of the very latest news, hot off the radio station teletypes, explaining the prophetic meaning with the Bible.

We were still limping along every Saturday afternoon and night the entire 320 mile drive from Eugene to Seattle in our old 1934 Graham. Constantly we had con-rod trouble.

For many months this arduous routine was continued. I usually arrived in Seattle about 1:00 a.m. Sunday morning. I remember well tuning in Seattle's powerful 50,000-watt station KIRO, which I could hear on the car radio the entire distance from Portland to Seattle. How I wished we might broadcast over such a powerful station! But we couldn't afford it—then. God *has* allowed us not only to afford it, but opened time for us on that splendid station twice daily, now.

The gruelling routine of those weekend trips lasted, I believe, until the spring of 1942. Arriving at my hotel—one of the newer but smaller ones—a service was provided whereby the garage, a block down the street, came after my car upon my arrival. After a very few hours sleep I was awakened at 5:00 a.m.—showered, shaved, dressed, and down to the all-night fountain in the corner drug store, where I bought the morning paper and hurriedly checked through it for prophetic news while drinking a glass of orange juice and a cup of coffee.

Then I hurried back to my hotel room, opened up my briefcase and portable typewriter, and started rapping out script for the broadcast. In those days, even before the United States entered the war, security precautions required that every word be presented in script form—one copy for the station announcer, one from which I was to speak. I did not dare deviate from the script.

Today neither Garner Ted Armstrong nor I use much script. We do like to have the first two or three sentences typed in script form to get us off to a start, but from there on our daily programs are nearly altogether ad-libbed. Of course we have notes, clippings and, always, a Bible in front of us. We never quote the Bible from memory—that is always read directly from the Bible.

I had to have the half-hour script completed promptly at 8:00 a.m., when I dashed down, checked out of the hotel, and found my car waiting for me at the hotel entrance. Arriving at KRSC at 8:15, I had 15 minutes in which to hand over the station copy of the script to the announcer, scan quickly the news teletape for any last-minute bulletins of significance I had not found in the morning paper, and clip it and write out any comment on my portable typewriter. At exactly 8:30, the familiar "GREETINGS, Friends!" was going out on the air. At 9 o'clock I leaped into my car, stopped off at the old "Half-Way House" midway to Tacoma, for breakfast, then continued the tiresome jaunt, with a state 50-mile-per-hour speed limit, on the old horse-and-buggy winding highway to Portland. Stopping off at Chehalis for lunch, I usually arrived in Portland about 3:00 p.m., with one hour to again check teletapes for last-minute news. Then, on the air over KWJJ at 4. Off at 4:30. Arriving in Eugene at 7:30 I would find the little church filled with a Sunday night audience. Then an evangelistic sermon and, usually, preaching every night through the week, working daytimes in the office answering letters, writing *The PLAIN TRUTH*, or out making calls on people needing help, people interested, holding private Bible studies, etc. It was a grind.

From the time I started driving to Seattle, I had to put the old Graham in the repair garage regularly every week. Finally, by February, 1941, it was costing me \$18 per week on the average for repairs, and then, on Monday, February 24, the garage owner told me:

"Mr. Armstrong, this car is not going to hold together for another single trip to Seattle. You've got a con-rod and a

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THE BIBLE ANSWERS

Short Questions

FROM OUR READERS

My child recently asked me, "Where did God come from?" Could you please help me with the right answer? I remember asking the same question when young.

Having first proved that God DOES EXIST, a very natural subsequent question is, "Where did GOD COME FROM?"

Men of all ages have pondered this question, contemplating it for endless hours in a fruitless search through all the labyrinths of their carnal minds. Yet none of them have thought to look to the only Source of true knowledge, the Holy Bible. It is not that they have not READ the Bible or looked into it in that sense; it is rather that they have refused to BELIEVE what the Bible plainly says.

The almighty, everliving, all-knowing God, as Creator of heaven and earth, and the Author of His Holy Word, is certainly in a far better position to tell us where He came from, than we as His created beings are to figure it out for ourselves, apart from His Divine Revelation. So for the answer to our question of God's origin, let us turn to the BIBLE and see what it has to say.

The Bible reveals to us God's attributes and character, by the dozens and scores. It tells us that God is love (I John 4:16). It tells us He is omnipotent (Rev. 19:6). It tells us God is merciful and full of wisdom. It tells us that God is everliving and eternal—the Beginning and the End (Rev. 1:8). When we begin to use words such as "ever" and "never" and "always" we are using words which our limited, finite minds cannot REALLY comprehend. When we read that God has ALWAYS BEEN and try to comprehend that, our minds will go just so far, as we stretch our imaginations to their limit. Then we come to what seems like a concrete wall and find we cannot understand further. ETERNITY into the past is something it is impossible for us to fully

comprehend. And yet, beyond the farthest reaches of our imagination, God has always been.

But if God has always been, where did He COME FROM? The answer is simple—if God has ALWAYS BEEN, HE didn't come from ANYWHERE—He has just ALWAYS BEEN!

If we overcome and are accounted worthy by God of being born into His Kingdom as His very own sons, composed of spirit, as He is, and VERY GOD ourselves, we will be able to understand many of the things that are mysteries to us today. Nowhere in the Bible does God reveal to us where He came from. He just tells us that He is EVERLIVING and ETERNAL. God has revealed all we need to know at this time in order to obtain salvation. The things we don't know and can't understand belong to God for Him to give to us at His Will and time. Our duty is now to act on what we DO know and to keep God's Law and grow to perfection so we can enter God's Kingdom. There God can teach us the answers to many of our human mysteries.

God says through Moses, "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God; but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law" (Deut. 29:29).

Why does the Bible say—"going down to Caesarea" from Jerusalem—when Caesarea was north of Jerusalem?

Because maps today are standardized—so that north is at the top of the page, and south at the bottom—we have come to think of north as being up, and south as being down. We say we are "going up" when we mean going to the north of us, and "going down" when to the south.

In the Bible, however, going up and

left to himself bringeth his mother shame!" (Prov. 29:15).

Yes, reproof, correction, proper dis-

cipline can be utilized as one of the most important methods of positive TEACHING!

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

(Continued from page 25)

bearing situation that won't get you there and back. It will cost \$110 to fix it. The blue-book value of your car, even after you spend that \$110, is now only \$105—so your car is now worth \$5 less than nothing, actually. If ever you intend to trade this old hulk in, it's a matter of right now—or never!"

But I could not afford a new car!

Anyway, I went over to the DeSoto dealer, to see what could be done. The dealer himself showed me a car—the most beautiful car, I thought, I had ever seen!

"We've had this car in here six weeks," he said. "My wife has used it six weeks as her personal car. It's just barely broken in—has 1,700 miles."

"But I can't afford such a car," I said.

"You can afford this one," he replied, confidently. "Because my wife drove it that 1,700 miles, I can make you a deal you *can* afford. Come, take a ride in it."

With assurance I was not obligated, I got in. It certainly was different than the old Graham! We drove out to our house, and I persuaded Mrs. Armstrong to get in for a short ride. She was very skeptical. She knew it was beyond our reach.

While we were gone, another man had appraised the old Graham. On our return, he handed a slip of paper to the dealer. He offered several hundred dollars for the old car—which I had just learned was worth \$5 less than nothing. Anyway, it came to within \$50 of making the down payment, and he offered me the car on \$40 per month payments. That was much less than I was now having to spend on repairs. But I could not meet the \$50 cash payment.

"Look, Mr. Armstrong—I want you to have this car. Can you get me \$10 cash before the end of the week, and the other \$40 before the end of the month? I'll let the regular \$40 monthly

payments begin May 1st. Now can you meet *that*? I simply insist on having *some* cash before you take the car—if only \$10."

Yes, I could do that. Actually, it was not going to increase expenses, but reduce them! It was providential!

And so, as it worked out, I got the \$10 in to him on Thursday evening, and took delivery of the car. And that car turned out to be, actually, the best car I have ever owned, even to this day. Those 1941 DeSotos were great cars.

The next morning, I married my own daughter—to Mr. James A. Gott. After the wedding, they rode with Mrs. Armstrong and me in the new car to Seattle. There was just one way Mrs. Armstrong and I figured we could give them a honeymoon. The nicest short trip we knew for such an event was the boat trip from Seattle to Victoria, B.C. In those days they were running the very fine ships, the Princess Marguerite, and the Princess Kathleen—later, I believe, destroyed in the war.

We regretted having to intrude ourselves into their honeymoon as far as Seattle, but it was the only way we could afford it at all. I had to be in Seattle by Sunday morning for the broadcast. Jimmy was able to get off from work only the two days, Friday and Monday. By going with us to Seattle, they had their transportation for that distance without cost.

We stopped overnight at Chehalis, arriving early next morning at the boat docks in Seattle. They arrived back Sunday night. We drove back to Eugene Monday. Having that *almost*-new car made it a wonderful trip. That was once that a slightly used car was everything the dealer claimed!

Next month I hope we can cover the events of how, with our other daughter, on a trip to Los Angeles to be married, we started on the air in Los Angeles, at last!

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