

An Open Letter to Our Newly Begotten Brethren Recently Baptized

By **Herbert W. Armstrong**
GREETINGS! newly baptized brethren in Christ Jesus.

This year again there is joy and rejoicing among the angels in heaven over your repentance and having been begotten to a lively hope as *children of God* through Jesus Christ our Lord!

And there is new joy in the hearts of ALL our true brethren and co-workers in Christ over your recent conversion from the desires and will of the flesh and the ways and customs of the world, to the government of God in your life now, that you may have reward in His Kingdom at the coming of Christ, in the world tomorrow!

You will meet trials

You have entered upon a new life — a life of great happiness and joy — a life to continue FOREVER — yet, in this present evil world it will not be an easy life.

As a matter of fact, you have left behind the "easy way" — the popular, broad road that leads to destruction. You have passed the crossroads and turned off onto the narrow, rutty, bumpy, rocky and HARD and DIFFICULT road that very few people in this world ever are willing to enter — but that leads to SUCCESS, to USEFULNESS, to HAPPINESS, JOY and ETERNAL LIFE.

It leads to rewards — not of idleness and ease, but to usefulness and service and accomplishment and success — so great that I know your mind can't possibly grasp it, now, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY THE PRICE!

It won't come easy! All your temptations, trials, persecutions and hardships will come from *other people* — or from the devil — or from the consequences of sin, which means violations of God's laws and ways. You must remember you still have to live in a world organized and living in disregard of God's laws — a world governed by the sway of Satan, and according to the impulses of pride and vanity, the lusts of the flesh and the greed and tempers of human nature.

If you were still of this world, the world would love its own. But because you have renounced this world and its ways, and are no longer of it, the world will hate you, persecute you, turn against you, even as it hated and persecuted your Savior before you.

Why you must suffer

"My PEACE I give unto

you . . . that my JOY might remain in you, *and that your joy might be full,*" said Jesus (John 14:27, 15:11). "These things I have spoken unto you, that *in me* ye might have PEACE. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

You will meet many afflictions — trials, tests, troubles — even more than before. But, if you trust in Him, the Eternal will deliver you out of them ALL (Psalm 34:19). ALL who will live godly in Jesus Christ shall suffer persecution (II Timothy 3:12).

But WHY? Because God has called you to surrender your life to HIM — to GIVE your life into HIS HANDS — that He may transform you into a perfect, holy, righteous CHARACTER. God is CREATOR!

And now, with your consent, according to your own free will, you have placed yourself in His hands to CHANGE you — to CREATE out of you the supreme masterpiece of all His creation!

What is character?

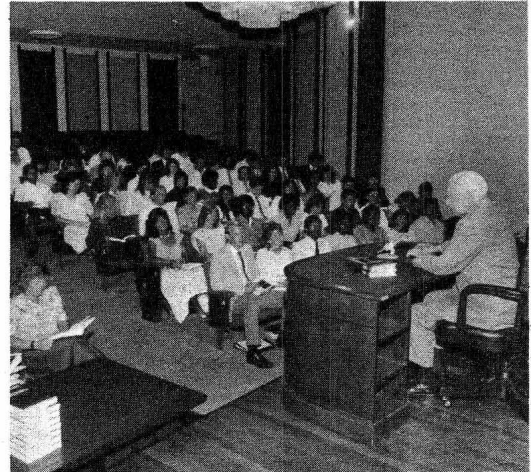
And CHARACTER means SELF-DIRECTION, WITH GOD'S HELP, INTO GOD'S WAY OF LIFE. You'll find it is a new and different way of life from the way you have lived up to now. It means SELF-DENIAL! It means SELF-DISCIPLINE! It means resisting all that is evil or wrong in your nature. It means *breaking up wrong habits* — rooting them out of your life — and instilling into your life NEW habits — *and making these newer right ways fixed* HABIT.

This is not easy. It takes WILL-POWER. It requires DETERMINATION.

Besides all this, God will permit trials and tests to come upon you — severe problems. He will permit CIRCUMSTANCES to drive you to HIM for HELP — for deliverance! You may soon think no one in the world is troubled like you are. You will begin to won-

der why you have greater trouble to face than anyone else on earth — not realizing that all other real Christians are going through the same tests! Perhaps closest relatives will turn against you, probably because of the Word of God — the TRUTH you have embraced and started to live.

But, if you learn the lesson of FAITH — and if you have PATIENCE — you may KNOW that you will be delivered out of (See LETTER, page 3)



NEW TEXTBOOK — Chancellor Herbert W. Armstrong presents his book *Mystery of the Ages* to the fundamentals of theology class at Pasadena Ambassador College Sept. 9. During an hour lecture, Mr. Armstrong explained why he had written the book as the textbook for the class. [Photo by Warren Watson]

Injured minister making 'rapid progress'

Evangelist visits Latin America

PASADENA — "Mr. [Regional] Killingley's recovery has been excellent," said evangelist Leon Walker, who flew to Lima, Peru, Aug. 25 after Mr. Killingley, pastor of the two churches in Peru, was robbed and shot there (see "Minister Shot in Peru," *W/N*, Sept. 2).

Mr. Walker, regional director for Spanish-speaking areas, returned to Pasadena Sept. 3.

"We have to realize that the bullet could have easily killed Mr. Killingley," Mr. Walker said. "The bullet entered his chest about three inches from his heart. It's obvious that God was with him and protected him from fatal injury."

Mr. Killingley was released from the Anglo-American Hospital in Lima Aug. 29.

"Since the Feast site in Peru is about 10,000 feet above sea level, we were concerned that Mr. Killingley might have trouble breathing," the evangelist said. "However, he visited the doctor Sept. 3, and the doctor said he was making such rapid progress that he shouldn't have any problems giving sermons during the Feast."

Summer trip

Mr. Walker and his wife, Reba, spent five weeks visiting ministers and brethren in Latin America July 14 to Aug. 13.

During the trip the Walkers vis-

ited the Mexican Summer Educational Program (SEP) on the Big Sandy Ambassador College campus, and met with ministers' and brethren in Venezuela, Colombia, Costa Rica and Guatemala.

"Despite continuing severe economic problems, brethren are doing well spiritually, and in many cases are better off financially than their counterparts," the regional director said.

"I hadn't visited some of these areas for about three or more years," the evangelist said. "My

purpose was to maintain close, intimate contact between the field ministry in Latin America and the Church's headquarters.

"Each time I go to Latin America I discuss what is happening at God's headquarters in Pasadena, what Mr. [Herbert] Armstrong is doing and discuss the plans and goals of the Spanish Department.

"This also gives the ministers an opportunity to ask biblical and administrative questions, and discuss plans for *Pura Verdad* [Spanish (See EVANGELIST, page 11)]

Brethren escape injury from Hurricane Elena

PASADENA — Damage to housing and meeting facilities of three U.S. Feast sites in the path of Hurricane Elena was "remarkably minimal," according to evangelist Ellis La Ravia, a member of the Festival coordinating team under Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong.

The Festival sites hit by the hurricane are Biloxi, Miss., and Pensacola and St. Petersburg, Fla. Evangelist Joseph Tkach Sr.,

who serves on the coordinating team, said, "Although the destruction to communities hit by the storm was in some cases severe, there have been remarkably few problems with the meeting facilities or the housing in any of the three sites."

"Out of about 20,000 brethren attending the sites, about 50 to 100 brethren attending the three sites will have to relocate their Festival housing," said Mark McCulley, Festival planning coordinator.

"We are grateful that the damage was not more severe," he said. The convention hall in Pensacola suffered slight damage, while the centers in St. Petersburg and Biloxi escaped unscathed.

Steven Moody, Festival coordinator for the Biloxi site and pastor of the churches in Mobile, Ala., and Biloxi, said no brethren were harmed, although some suffered damage to their homes.

"One Church member living on the beach in a trailer lost everything," Mr. Moody said. "When she and her husband returned after the storm, they found their truck in the bayou and their trailer shredded."

(See HURRICANE, page 11)

Finances down, says treasurer

By Leroy Neff

PASADENA — Two thirds of 1985 is history. Except for unexpected changes, the financial trend

Evangelist Leroy Neff is treasurer of the Worldwide Church of God.

could be set for the year. We pray that is not so, and that the trend will make an upward change for the rest of the year.

August produced an increase of 9.2 percent in income for the Church — in the United States — over last August. As this is lower than the overall average, our year-to-date figure dropped a little during the month to 11.9 percent more than last year.

The expenses for most departments are slightly below budget. The Media Purchasing area is considerably over budget because of new stations. The Mail Processing

Center is on an upward trend that will continue for the rest of the year, requiring an increased number of booklets to be printed. Projections indicate that these two areas will exceed the overall budget for the year by 2 or 3 percent.

Unless there is an upward increase of income during the remainder of the year, the Church will have from 2 to 3 percent less in cash reserves than at the end of last year.

(See FINANCES, page 11)

Letter

(Continued from page 1)
 every trouble that comes up. God has PROMISED to deliver you from every trial — if you obey and trust Him. You see, you are now His very own child — actually begotten of Him just as much as you were begotten of your human father.

God gave you the precious gift of His Holy Spirit — placed His Spirit within you to renew your mind, give you a sounder, more understanding mind, fill you with His love, faith, patience, power, goodness — His own character.

In short, you became an actual begotten SON — or daughter — of GOD. Not merely a creature or being He created — but His very own child, actually begotten of Him by His seed, so to speak — His SPIRIT, entering within you. He is now your FATHER! Not figuratively, but actually — REALLY!

Now you can go to Him just as any child can go to his father, for counsel and advice, for wisdom, for direction, for HELP in any time of need. Would a good human father deny his own child any good thing the child might really need? Neither will your heavenly Father deny you anything that is really for your good.

If a human father heard the screams of his child, ran and found his child imprisoned in a burning building, would he break inside and rescue his child from danger? Your heavenly Father has given you His written PROMISE to deliver you from every danger, trouble or trial — if you call on Him, obey Him and RELY on Him!

Since you are now a real begotten child of God — now one of the FAMILY of God, which is His true Church — you are one of His heirs. Angels are not sons, but servants. And a servant is not an heir like a son. You are now a coheir with Christ, to inherit, with Him, ALL THINGS — eternal life, this earth as an everlasting possession, eternal happiness and joy!

Think of what that means! But we are now only heirs — only begotten sons. And just as it was necessary for us to grow physically from the time we were begotten in our mothers' wombs until we developed ready to be born, finally separated from the dependence on the mother for nourishment and sustenance, and coming into individual and separate existence, so the begotten spiritual infant must grow and develop spiritually, being fed the spiritual food, the Word of God, by the mother of us all, the true Church, until, at the coming of Christ, we shall be CHANGED, finally BORN of God, to have eternal life inherent in ourselves, and to be actual INHERITORS and

POSSESSORS of the wonderful Kingdom of God!

In order to GROW in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord (II Peter 3:18) — in order to develop spiritually and overcome, and have perfected in you the CHARACTER of God ready to be fully BORN of God — you must do two things daily without fail!

You must not only read, but

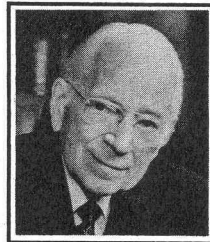
eagerly, earnestly STUDY the Word of God to learn how to live — you must live according to God's teachings in His Bible — you must make it your guide for everything you do. In this way, God talks to you!

But you must also talk to Him! You must go to a private place, alone with God, and have long talks with Him — yes,

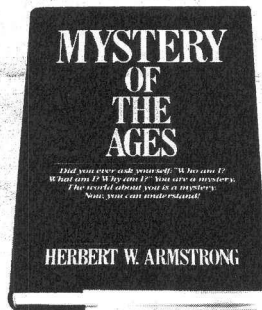
EVERY DAY! Unburden your heart to Him. Take all your problems, your interests, your plans, your troubles to Him. Talk over everything with Him, continually. Then, even when going about your work — when walking down the street — when driving your car, or wherever you are or whatever you do, talk with God as you work, or as you

drive or walk along. Go to a private place, and kneel in prayer (on both knees) as often as you can, and at least once every day. But talk with God often in between. PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!

Keep close to Him. You can't afford to be without the SECURITY of His constant guidance and protection.



“WHY ‘Mystery of the Ages’ could be one of the MOST IMPORTANT books of our day..”



I HAVE lived a long, active, interest-packed life. It has covered all of the 20th century to the present and the last eight and a half years of the 19th century.

I have lived through the horse and buggy age, the automobile and industrial age, the air age, the nuclear age and now into the space age.

I have seen this twentieth century develop into a state of awesome advancement and achievement industrially and technologically. At the same time I have seen alarming escalation of appalling evils.

And now—the crucible of nuclear war threatens the very extinction of the human race within our generation!

Why the Paradox?

The world's great minds—the evolutionists, the educators, scientists and religionists have striven in vain to solve the paradox of great scientific technological accomplishments and appalling human evils.

These conditions and facts are mysteries that have remained

MYSTERY OF THE AGES unlocks the long-hidden mysteries that concern people of all ages, beliefs and backgrounds:

- ▶ Why were you born?
- ▶ Why human suffering?
- ▶ Is there hope for a better world tomorrow?

unsolved. They now need to be explained.

Why the Mystery?

Have you ever asked yourself: "WHO am I? WHAT am I? WHY am I?" I did. And I tried to reason out the answer, but I couldn't. It was a mystery to me and to the

world as a whole. So as a young man, I began an in-depth study and research into the theory of evolution and also into the Bible.

I found the Bible to be a coded book, with positive, absolute answers to the paramount mysteries confronting all humanity.

I discovered that the Bible is like a jigsaw puzzle—thousands of pieces that need putting together—and the pieces will fit together in only one way.

"Mystery of the Ages" puts the many pieces of the great puzzle together so they can be clearly understood.

It will explain "Why human suffering? The origin of the universe. Who and what is God? Why were you born? Is there hope for a better world tomorrow?"—and much, much more!

Time may prove this to be one of the most important books of our day.

This book will open many eyes to the truth of these long hidden mysteries of life.

Herbert W. Armstrong

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by Herbert W. Armstrong

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NEWSPAPER AD — The advertisement to the right promoting Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong's book *Mystery of the Ages* will appear in all editions of *The Wall Street Journal* once during the week of Oct. 14 to 18, according to Ray Wright, director of Publishing Services. The full-page ad was prepared by the design graphics area of Publishing Services, with ad copy taken from Mr. Armstrong's book. The toll-free number listed in the ad is for the book order department at the Dodd, Mead publishing house.