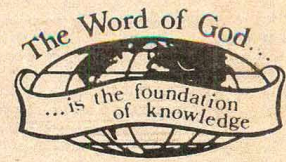


The Good News

PASADENA, CALIF.



A PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD VOL. VI, NO. 20 SEPT. 25, 1978

WELCOME to the FEAST!

By Herbert W. Armstrong

WELCOME IN ADVANCE, brethren in Christ, to the greatest Feast of Tabernacles, 1978!

My dear children in Christ, let me tell you how you came to be here — actually the largest conclave or convention held on earth. For this is an EIGHT-DAY Festival held annually with Feast sites scattered over the earth!

It started the very SMALLEST. But like the grain of mustard seed, it grew to become the LARGEST!

If this were the year 1926, you would not be attending such a great and joyous Festival. So far as I know, no such Feast was held anywhere on earth at that time.

Many of you don't know how this Festival came to be resumed after many generations — and for those of you who do, it may be interesting to refresh your memory on how the living Jesus Christ restored God's great convalescence in our time.

Driven to indepth study

God called me irresistibly in the autumn of 1926 — through my wife. I had been successful in business. I had dropped out of church attendance at age 18. My

wife began keeping God's seventh-day Sabbath. To me at the time, this was religious fanaticism. Arguments with her were of no avail. I was driven to an indepth almost night-and-day study of the Bible and the doctrine of evolution. In that intensive research God opened my mind to PROOF of His existence and of the absolute infallible AUTHORITY of the Bible as God's revealed Word. I had to eat crow, however — I was forced to find my wife correct. This first six months' study-in-depth brought me to taking a real beating. I was CONQUERED by God — in real repentance and faith. My mind was SWEPT CLEAN of all previous ideas, concepts and beliefs — OPEN to be taught from God's Word.

That same study that opened my mind to the truth of God's Sabbath brought me also UNDERSTANDING that God gave seven annual Sabbaths commanded to be observed forever!

I saw that God made the weekly Sabbath for MAN when man was made — before Adam had sinned. The annual Sabbaths were given to the Church (in the wilderness — Acts 7:38) when the Church (Old Testament) was first established.

Feast observed by two

In the spring of 1927, when this was revealed to me, I did not

yet know WHY. I knew only that God commanded. My wife and I began by keeping the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread in the spring of 1927.

I presented this truth to the brethren of the Church of God (Sardis era) in the Willamette Valley in Oregon. They laughed me to scorn! For seven years my wife and I kept God's annual Sabbaths ALONE!

Then God raised up the parent Church of this Philadelphia era through me in August, 1933, with 19 members — my converts. They accepted God's truth as I proclaimed it. For 12 years we kept the annual Sabbaths, not knowing WHY. Then, 1945, God gave me UNDERSTANDING of the MEANING and PURPOSE of His Feasts. I saw then that the Feast of Tabernacles pictured the millennial reign of Christ on earth after Satan is removed. For seven years we kept the Feast of Tabernacles, in addition to the other annual Holy Days and the seven Days of Unleavened Bread at Belknap Springs in Oregon.

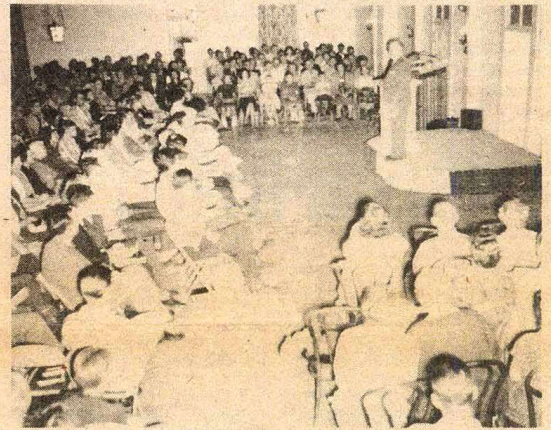
In 1952, having outgrown Belknap Springs, the Festival was held at the much larger Seigler Springs, Calif. But we outgrew Seigler that first year.

Beginning 1953 we held the Feast at Big Sandy, Tex. We built what seemed to us then a rather large tabernacle — later to become the college library.

We built later the first portion of what later became the college dining hall, auditorium and offices. Outgrowing that, we added a second Feast site at Squaw Valley, Calif., in the early '60s — then added Jekyll Island, Ga., then Mount Pocono, Pa., then Lake of the Ozarks, Mo., Wis-

OFF from contact with God, who only has salvation and eternal life to give. Those called specially by God are, on real repentance and faith, reconciled to God by the shed blood of Christ, the Lamb of God.

God called prophets and He called the children of Israel under



EARLY FEAST — Herbert W. Armstrong addresses Feastgoers at Seigler Springs, Calif., in October, 1952. Seigler Springs was the second site for the Feast of Tabernacles in the modern history of the Work.

consin Dells, Wis., and the present large tabernacle at Big Sandy.

Feast sites continued to be added over the United States, Canada, Britain and around the world.

The MEANING of these Festivals is of supreme importance to God's Church to keep reminding us year by year of GOD'S MASTER PLAN for the SPIRITUAL HARVEST of MAN.

God's creation of MAN is a DUAL creation. The physical stage began with Adam — the spiritual phase with Christ.

In Adam MAN cut himself off from God — and God sentenced man to be cut off from Him for 6,000 years — except the comparative VERY few God called to special service in preparation for God's KINGDOM.

Man since Adam has been CUT

Moses, to be His separate and peculiar nation. But God gave His Holy Spirit ONLY to the prophets. God gave ancient Israel SUBSTITUTE animal sacrifices, and also, as a SUBSTITUTE for His Holy Spirit, He gave Israel physical rituals and a ceremonial law through Moses. But animal sacrifices could not pay the penalty of human sin — they were only a reminder of sin. When the Holy Spirit came, their substitute was abolished.

God's annual Festivals are built around the physical harvest in the Holy Land as symbolic of His SPIRITUAL harvest of HUMANS.

Passover pictures first step

The Passover pictures the first step in the spiritual phase of (See WELCOME, page 2)

God's annual Feast days needed

By C. Wayne Cole

When we stood in the fork of the road (Matthew 7:13-14) and gave serious thought to the way we would go for the rest of our days, we faced the most momentous decision of our lives. Before us we literally looked down the roads to either life or death.

When you chose that way that leads to life you became a member of an elite, peculiar, treasured body. You became a Christian, a son of God, a part of the Body of Jesus Christ.

Surrender of self

At that time you surrendered your own autonomous, independent, self-oriented life to become a God-centered, yielded, converted, Spirit-led and directed person. You said, in effect, "God, You have the prior right to direct my paths, for You are my Maker!" You, after resistance and struggle, became a conquered possession, purchased by the supreme sacrifice of the death and life of Christ. You became Christ's servant.

The greatest thrill, the most exciting experience, for which we should be more deeply grateful than any

thing else, ought to be the simple knowledge felt in every cell of our being that we are Christ's own possession. To know that God cares for each of us, loves us, called and chose us to be His sons and daughters — this should move us deeply in humble submission to God in heartfelt gratitude.

As one of these God-centered ones, one of these servants to whom Christ gave His pounds and said do my work till I return (Luke 19:12-13), we should all be very much aware of our need to be in the unity of the faith. We need to work together, support each other, be a team that effectively does Christ's Work so long as we have opportunity till He returns.

Annual Festivals needed

To help us keep our eyes on God's purpose and plan He is working out here on earth, God has given us His annual Holy Days and Feasts. We have the annual highlight of the Church, the Feast of Tabernacles, just ahead of us. *We need this Feast!* With God's blessings, our submissive hearts and conquered spirits and

with our prayers for God's forgiveness and His Holy Spirit to bond us in unity we can't help but have a great Feast!

But, it takes more than just what God can do. It takes what each of us can and must do.

Let's let this coming Feast of Tabernacles be like a "gathering of the eagles!" Let's draw an analogy from the words of Matthew 24:23-28. This reference concerns the coming of Jesus Christ as King of Kings. We are exhorted not to believe any and every report about where and when Christ returns. We are told that "... whosoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together."

This statement means that wherever Christ will actually be upon His return there will all those be who are Christ's — all those who believe Him, accept Him and who serve Him.

In applying this analogy to us — Christ will be at this Feast of Tabernacles. Will you be where He is? Will we all be gathered like a great gathering of the eagles where Christ (See GOD'S ANNUAL, page 14)

IN THIS ISSUE:

This issue highlights the coming Feast of Tabernacles, at this time only a few weeks away. In it we have included:

- Articles by Herbert W. Armstrong, C. Wayne Cole and Sherwin McMichael describing the purpose of the Feast.
- A treasurer's report for the last calendar year.
- A special "Feast Adviser" section full of helpful hints for a safe and enjoyable Feast.

The Good News staff hopes you have an enjoyable and fulfilling Feast of Tabernacles.

Peace in Mideast—for a while?

PASADENA — The 13-day Camp David Mideast Summit ended late Sunday evening, Sept. 17, with a dramatic and largely unexpected announcement of the signing of two important agreements by Israel and Egypt.

The first agreement, called "a Framework for Peace in the Middle East at Camp David," sets forth an interim arrangement for limited Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and partial Israeli military withdrawal from those areas over the next five years. It is viewed as potential basis for long-sought peace treaties between Israel and her Arab neighbors.

The second Camp David agreement provides for the signing of a formal bilateral peace treaty between Egypt and Israel within three months along with Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai within a year. Once these two terms are met this second agreement calls for the establishment of full diplomatic relations between the two principal Mideast protagonists.

At a White House news conference immediately following the conclusion of the summit, President Jimmy Carter declared that the negotiations had been successful "far beyond any expectations," representing a "substantial achievement" toward Mideast peace. One commentator termed the outcome "a

minor miracle."

Both Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt praised Mr. Carter for his tireless mediary role in the talks — an effort which, as had been hoped, should serve to boost his sagging popularity among the American populace.

Not all resolved yet

Observers caution, however, that the fate of the Middle East will not be decided solely on the strength of the optimistic declarations and euphoria of Camp David. As President Carter himself admitted, "The questions that have brought warfare and bitterness to the Mideast for the last 30 years will not be settled overnight."

Great difficulties and many hard issues remain to be negotiated.

The question of Israeli settlements in the Sinai, for example, was not fully resolved at Camp David. Egypt asserts they must be dismantled and removed as a prerequisite to the bilateral peace treaty; Israel states that the issue should be resolved during the peace negotiations. Mr. Begin faces a tough time selling the dismantling of the Sinai settlements

to the Israeli Knesset.

Even more difficult to resolve, however, will be the issue of the ultimate fate of the West Bank. The two key issues here involve the political future of the Palestinians and what is to become of over 60 Israeli settlements located there after the five-year transition period. Mr. Sadat could not wrest from Mr. Begin the concession that earlier this summer he declared as crucial: a commitment to cede back to the Arabs complete sovereignty over the West Bank, along with total Israeli military withdrawal.

Observers are hopeful that Mr. Sadat will be able to enlist the support (at least tacitly) of the moderate

WORLDWATCH BY GENE H. HOGBERG

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states of Jordan and Saudi Arabia in the Camp David deals — though even their backing is by no means certain. A major effort will be made by both sides to bring the government of Jordan into full negotiations over the future of the West Bank. Jordan's participation is deemed so critical to the entire West Bank transition period that the first treaty specifically states, as one of its objectives, "To conclude a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan by the end of the transitional period."

An even bigger problem will be convincing more radical states such as Syria and Iraq to participate in the plan. They view any separate Israeli-Egyptian peace pact as a betrayal of the Arab cause by Mr. Sadat and the transitional West Bank agreement as totally unacceptable.

It goes without saying that the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was insensed by the Camp David deals. Months ago, following Mr. Sadat's Jerusalem visit, Palestinian radicals declared that the signing of any such deals by Mr. Sadat would, in effect, be the signing of his own death warrant. Security around

WHAT? NO 'CHURCH NEWS'?

This issue of *The Good News* does not carry the regularly scheduled "Local Church News" or "Announcements" sections in order that we might bring this special issue dedicated in large part to preparation for the soon-coming Feast of Tabernacles.

All local-church news and announcements that would have normally appeared in this issue will be run in our next issue scheduled Oct. 3. *The Good News* will suspend publication of the issue scheduled to fall during the Feast. Normal publication will resume with the Nov. 6 edition.

the Egyptian president is certain to be tighter than ever in the wake of Camp David.

Continuing the process

As we go to press the full facts of the agreements are only now being released. These documents will be studied and analyzed for weeks to come. What is obvious at first glance is the determined effort on the part of Israel and Egypt to continue, despite their differences, the historic initiative launched 10 months ago with President Sadat's visit to Israel.

The agreements are also careful to avoid raising obstacles on other matters that obviously could not have even been approached at this time. For example, there is no specific reference to the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights region or to the future of East (formerly Jordanian) Jerusalem.

The agreements also do not mention what may have been the major American contribution to the Israeli willingness to agree to cede control of the Sinai back to Egypt. On this point, Mr. Begin told reporters the day after the Camp David conference ended that the United States agreed to build two new air bases for Israel in the Negev Desert to compensate for the bases it will give up in the Sinai under the Camp David Middle East agreement. Mr. Begin said the Negev air bases would be located just a few miles from the international border line marking Israel's original frontier and will be of equivalent strategic value to the bases being surrendered in the Sinai.

According to former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, who made numerous trips to the Middle East in search of a peace agreement during the Nixon and Ford administrations, the Camp David advances are so great that the situation in the region has changed for the better, no matter what happens in the coming months.

"Everything in the Middle East has a fragile quality, but this is a major achievement," Kissinger said on NBC's [National Broadcasting Co.] *Today* program. He said President Carter "deserves the gratitude of the American people and the gratitude of the world."

What is clear now is this: If both Israel and Egypt are able to live up to the terms of the agreement, if Mr. Begin is supported by his own parliament, especially over the volatile Sinai settlements issue, if Jordan supports the new initiative, if Saudi Arabia lends its tacit support, if President Sadat miraculously escapes an assassin's bullet, we could see peace — or rather a state of non-war (except for bloody guerrilla attacks) — in the Mideast for the next five years at least.

A key factor, unseen by all the parties involved — Egypt, Israel and the United States — is the Work that God may yet want to accomplish in Israel and the Middle East!

But in the meantime it would also pay us well to note the admonition given in 1 Thessalonians 5:3 — "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them . . ."

Sharing...

Share yourself

In the early part of the 20th century a British explorer set out on safari through the darkest part of Africa in search of a lost civilization.

After trudging through vine-choked jungles for several interminable days in suffocating heat, he came upon a remote native village. He approached the camp astonished at what he had found.

"You people are lost to civilization," he observed to the chief.

"We don't mind being lost," the chief replied in perfect English. "It's being found that worries us."

Forests of unfriendliness

So it is with many in the jungles of modern society. Unceasingly busy with daily affairs, enmeshed in an undergrowth of self-serving ambitions and personal problems, they are lost to the fruits of fellowship and friendship and could not care less whether they're discovered or not. Generally speaking, members of the Worldwide Church of God have not wandered into these forests of unfriendliness, but many are walking on the perimeter in mighty tall grass.

There should be many good and lasting friendships in this Church of brotherly love. No doubt there are. But there are lonely people as well. And the loneliness is not isolated to any specific social class, or to any certain age group or to any particular sex. It can affect everyone and

This issue's column was written by Dennis Robertson, editorial director of Youth Opportunities United, the Church's youth organization.

probably does at one time or another.

In the near future loneliness, isolation and heartache will be but historical terms referring to a social phenomenon that occurred during man's rule on earth. At the Feast of Tabernacles we will symbolically observe that future time when people will be judged by what they are and not who they are; a time when personal conflicts will be resolved by one who knows the real meaning of love, concern and friendship.

Lonely in a crowd

The Feast is a time when we can come out of the social jungle and into the valley of peace. But even as we enjoy one of the most wonderful times of the year with family and friends, there will be those there who feel out of place, those who are lonely in the midst of a crowd.

They may be new in the Church or just visiting with relatives who are members. Or they may be older members with years of service to the Church. No matter who they are, we have a responsibility as Christians to share with them not only our substance but ourselves as well.

If it were announced that Jesus Christ would appear at all Festival sites this year, we would clamor all over ourselves to get to meet Him. It would be well to remember His words in Matthew 25:40:

"... Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Why not go out of your way this year to meet some new people at the Feast. Share your substance with someone less fortunate. And in sharing, share yourself as well.

WELCOME to the FEAST!

(Continued from page 1) man's creation. Upon repentance granted by God to those He specially calls and their faith in Jesus Christ, their sins are remitted by the blood of Christ, and they are thereby RECONCILED to God — no longer cut off! Jesus was slain on the Passover day.

The following seven days of Unleavened Bread — when no leaven may be eaten or found in our houses — pictures the putting of sin out of our lives — keeping God's commandments instead. There are two annual Sabbaths — on the first and seventh days of this Festival.

The Feast of Firstfruits, called in the New Testament Pentecost, pictures the coming of the Holy Spirit — which came on that day in A.D. 31 — as the time — between then and Christ's second coming — as the comparatively small FIRST HARVEST in man's spiritual creation — as it came at the time of the first agricultural harvest in Judea.

The Feast of TRUMPETS, coming on the first day of the seventh month of God's sacred year, reminds us yearly of the coming of Jesus Christ as KING of kings and LORD of lords to rule and offer eternal salvation to all nations — ushering in the KINGDOM OF GOD

— which is the FAMILY of God ruling the earth.

The Day of ATONEMENT pictures the event making it possible for humanity to be "AT ONEMENT" with God by the putting away of Satan.

Then the Feast of Tabernacles represents the glorious millennial reign of Christ and BORN saints in the Kingdom of God ruling all nations. Satan will be gone. ALL then living will be called. The first day of this seven-day Festival is an annual Holy Day.

The very following day is a separate Holy Day, picturing the Great White Throne Judgment after the thousand years. All who ever lived and were uncalled shall then be resurrected MORTAL. They shall then be called, with eternal salvation to those who repent, believe and receive God's Holy Spirit.

That COMPLETES the SPIRITUAL phase of God's creation of MAN — reproducing Himself. After that shall come the final resurrection of the incorrigible wicked who were called, but neglected, resisted or failed in being reconciled to God and developing the holy, righteous character from God.

After that comes the GLORIOUS ETERNITY finishing the creation

of the vast UNIVERSE.

WHAT A GLORIOUS MASTER PLAN! You are here to imbibe a foretaste of the peaceful, happy WORLD TOMORROW!

The Good News

CIRCULATION: 54,500

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NOTE: The Good News cannot be responsible for the return of unsolicited articles and photographs.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Subscriptions are sent automatically to the members of the Worldwide Church of God. Address all communications to The Good News, Box 111, Pasadena, Calif., 91123. Additional mailing offices: Box 44, Station A, Vancouver, B.C., V6C 2M2, Canada; Box 111, St. Albans, Herts., England; Box 202, Burleigh Heads, Queensland, 4220, Australia; Box 2503, Manila, 2801, Philippines; Box 2709, Auckland 1, New Zealand.

ADDRESS CHANGES: U.S. changes of address are handled automatically with Plain Truth changes of address. Second-class postage paid at Pasadena, Calif. Postmaster: Please send Form 3579 to: The Good News, Box 111, Pasadena, Calif., 91123.

The PLAIN TRUTH About HEALING

Part 6

Healing in the world into which Jesus came and in the world today, out of which Christ has called us. Final summary.

By Herbert W. Armstrong

LET'S SEE IF we can pick up the loose ends and put them together. We need clearly to understand HEALING as Christ put it in His Church for us today.

Today the medical profession interjects, as it did not when Jesus taught and healed. Correct UNDERSTANDING, as Christ intends for God's Church today, necessitates open-mindedly seeing it in the light of God's revealed teaching for TODAY.

To clear the air we need to understand why this is not God's world. We need to understand how this world has developed and changed and WHY God has called His Church to come out of this world and to be a separate and peculiar people — GOD'S PEOPLE!

The PRE-Adamic world

We need to clear our minds from today's concepts and confu-

"It is important that we KEEP IN MIND that this is NOT God's world — it is MAN'S world, cut off from God and God's ways, yet deceived and led by SATAN.

— to UNDERSTAND the beginning of human life, the world into which Jesus came and the changed world out from which God calls us today. We need to begin by refreshing our minds on what led up to MAN'S creation.

God created angels before the existence of the physical universe — immortal spirit beings, each individually and separately created. Then God created the heavens — the vast material universe — and the earth.

But understand this basic truism. God's creating is a DUAL process. In the physical universe, what God created was perfect as far as the first stage of creation that had been produced. But God placed angels on the earth to be used by Him in the finishing stage — to utilize the material already created — working with its elements to beautify and finish its creation in physical splendor and glory.

This was merely the testing ground to qualify the angels to finish the creation of the entire limitless universe — all other planets.

As God's principle of creating is a dual process, so was the creation of angels — and so is it with man.

The finishing stage of angel creation, as it is with MAN, was creation of holy and righteous CHARACTER, which must emanate from GOD. That is something

that cannot be created instantaneously by fiat. It requires a process of development in which the created beings must MAKE THE CHOICE, acquiesce in and seek this righteousness from God.

Angels, as was man afterward, were created in their initial stage with MINDS with which to think, acquire knowledge, reason, make choices and decisions. God first instructed them.

God's own holy and righteous CHARACTER is the WAY OF LIFE OF HIS SPIRITUAL LAW. It is the way, the principle and attitude of LOVE — outgoing toward God first of all, in reliance, faith and obedience; and secondly outgoing concern for the welfare and good of one's fellows. This LAW was made the basis of THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD, which He first set

over the angels that they might proceed in what God purposed for them in harmony, unity, cooperation and peace — in united effort.

On the throne of the earth God set a cherub — a super archangel named Lucifer — to administer God's GOVERNMENT.

But Lucifer defected. He led his angels into rebellion against God and God's WAY OF LOVE, into the way of GET — inflowing — vanity, lust and greed, jealousy and envy, competition and strife, rebellion against authority.

Instead of CONSTRUCTION — finishing earth's creation — Lucifer's way led to DESTRUCTION. Chaos and confusion, decay, was the result.

Lucifer was disqualified to rule God's GOVERNMENT. In his state of perversion God changed his name to Satan the devil, and his angels became demons (that is, the third part of all angels who had been under Lucifer).

Now (Psalm 104:30) in six days God RENEWED the face of the earth for MAN.

God now had set out on the supreme act of creation — REPRODUCING HIMSELF through mortal and physical MAN. Though composed of matter from the earth, God formed man in His own likeness — form and shape.

The MAN and woman He created were the first stage in the

DUALITY of man's creation. This was the PHYSICAL state — the material with which to form and create the SPIRITUAL phase.

Man — and GOD

As the physical stage of man's creation began with Adam, so the spiritual phase began with Christ.

Adam was given an opportunity to qualify to succeed Satan on earth's throne. But to qualify it was necessary that he reject Satan's way of rebellion and GET and accept God's way of GIVE and obedience.

As God had first thoroughly instructed Lucifer and his angels before placing them on the earth, so God first instructed Adam and Eve — in His LOVE, His righteousness, His WAY and His GOVERNMENT.

In the Garden of Eden where God placed the man and woman were two symbolic trees. One symbolized God's Holy Spirit and gift of eternal life on obedience. The other, the tree of the "knowledge of good and evil," represented — if partaken of its forbidden fruit — taking to themselves the GOD prerogative of determining the knowledge of good and of evil — of deciding for themselves the WAY OF righteousness or of sin — the way of determining CHARACTER. And this, of course, meant REBELLION against God's REVEALED knowledge.

Satan was not allowed to contact Adam until his Maker first instructed him in the WAY of righteous character. Then the wily Satan got to Adam by deceiving his wife. But Adam was not deceived and willfully REJECTED GOD AS THE SOURCE OF REVEALED BASIC KNOWLEDGE as well as his God and Ruler.

Holy and righteous CHARACTER can come only by the free choice of its recipient. Adam had made the decision for his HUMAN FAMILY — except those God should specially call to make their own decision.

When God "drove out the man" from the Garden of Eden and barred reentrance, "... LEST he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever" (Genesis 3:22-24). God said, in effect:

"You have made the decision. You were instructed personally by your Maker. You did not believe what He said — you rebelled against Him as Ruler and Revealer of basic KNOWLEDGE. You have decided for the whole world

that shall spring from you, except such as I shall choose to specially call in preparation for MY KINGDOM, which shall follow the day of MAN.

"Therefore I SENTENCE YOU and your world, which you shall sire, to 6,000 years of being CUT OFF from me. Go, produce YOUR OWN KNOWLEDGE, form your OWN RELIGIONS, your own GOVERNMENTS, your own CIVILIZATION. And after the 6,000 years I have allotted to you for YOUR civilization, I shall by my divine POWER restore my GOVERNMENT and establish MY KINGDOM — my BORN FAMILY ruling the earth."

The world CUT OFF

And so THIS WORLD'S CIVILIZATION was developed by MAN, cut off from God and the revelation of God's KNOWLEDGE, yet craftily and invisibly swayed and led by Satan in Satan's WAY.

Man has NOT BEEN FREE TO VOLUNTARILY SEEK AND GAIN CONTACT with GOD. So said Jesus!

Look at the historic FACTS! Noah did not seek God — God called Noah for a definite project. Abraham did not seek God. God called Abraham, and Abraham responded and obeyed without argument.

Moses did not seek God. And when God called him to lead the Israelites out of Egyptian slavery Moses protested: "I can't do it. I have a speech impediment — I stutter." Jonah did not seek

Himself, only 120 believed Him after 3½ years.

Peter and his brother Andrew wanted to be fishermen — and also John and James. And Matthew wanted to be a tax collector. Jesus said to His 12, "You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you."

The apostle Paul did not seek Christ — he was on a hate campaign to imprison Christians until Christ struck him down blind and revealed to him the GREAT COMMISSION he was to carry to the Gentiles.

Last and least, the very last thing I wanted to do was to become a minister of Christ's Gospel. I wanted to be an advertising man in the business world — until God CONQUERED me and after real conversion committed to me the GREAT COMMISSION for our time.

It is important that we KEEP IN MIND that this is NOT God's world — it is MAN'S world, cut off from God and God's ways, yet deceived and led by SATAN.

The people of China, India, southeast Asia, Indonesia and many populous areas of the world have been so completely cut off from God, few in those countries know anything about God.

God called ancient Israel out of Egypt, to be His separate and peculiar people — under HIS REVEALED LAWS. Yet He offered only their prophets His Holy Spirit. They were carnal-minded. They said to Samuel they wanted to be like the people of this world and have a king — rejecting God as King (1 Samuel 8:7).

Healing arts in Jesus' day

Into such a world Jesus came — a world that did not accept Him or His teachings.

"We must remember this development is not always progress forward. Too often, under Satan's unrealized sway, with man CUT OFF FROM God and His' revealed knowledge, it has been progress in reverse."

God — and when God called him to a special assignment, he tried to run away in a ship.

Isaiah did not seek God or the office of prophet — he protested he was a man of unclean lips, until God cleansed them. The same with Jeremiah, who gave the excuse that he was too young. Did King David seek God or the kingship? No, David was interested in herding sheep.

Jesus came saying, "NO MAN CAN come to me, except the Father which sent me draw him." And His 3½-year public ministry proved it. Of the many thousands who heard the Master

Now the medical profession antedates the time of Christ by many generations. However, man's development in the healing arts and medicine was then quite elementary compared to its status today.

Let's UNDERSTAND and fix firmly in mind this TRUTH — that the medical profession is one of THIS WORLD'S humanly devised phases of a man-made civilization — CUT OFF from God, but swayed and deceived by Satan!

Jesus had nothing to do with it. But I repeat, medical practice (and I use the word practice (See THE PLAIN TRUTH, page 12)

CHRIST'S APOSTLE TO THE MINISTRY:

'WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS!'

The following article originally appeared in the Sept. 11 Pastor's Report, a publication for the worldwide ministry of the Worldwide Church of God. It is reprinted here for Good News readers on Mr. Armstrong's request.

By Herbert W. Armstrong
Fellow ministers, Satan tried again — God's Church has been through troublous times these past few months — but the Head of God's Church, Jesus Christ, was interceding for us — and thanks largely to you ministers, the Church has come through stronger than ever!

I simply cannot find words to adequately express my THANKS and GRATITUDE and LOVE for the LOYALTY of you ministers standing staunchly and unitedly behind me, behind the living Christ and behind the GREAT MAJESTIC GOD OUR FATHER!

A POLICY STATEMENT

By Herbert W. Armstrong

A statement in a recent issue of *The Good News* was emphatically not intended to reflect distrust of the ministry.

I want ministers and lay brethren alike to know that no longer are communications to me shut off and forbidden to reach me. The office of executive vice president had demoted, or shanghaied to other fields, ministers close to the top and they were threatened with being fired if they communicated with me in any way.

When one is forcibly restrained from communicating or reaching anyone higher than any central office, he is shut off from Christ and from God.

What I had in mind was a case example that occurred many years ago — a member stirring up controversy about praying to "Our Father, which art in heaven," that is, God the Father. He insisted it was "taking it over Christ's head," and that we had no right to go to any higher than Christ. I explained how Jesus' sample prayer was a prayer to God the Father, in Jesus' name. I explained how Jesus said that if we ask the Father anything in His name, the Father will do it. I showed him Acts 4:23-31, how the early Church prayed to God the Father, saying, "... Lord, thou art God... for of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed... and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus." I showed this man how miraculously God answered that prayer. Yet he persisted in saying we cannot contact anyone higher than Jesus — we were forbidden to reach the Father.

I wanted to make plain that no one is forbidden to reach me, as no one is forbidden to go to Jesus

We have just had a splendid and successful meeting of the area coordinators. Reports from them show that God's Church — His one and only Church — has weathered this latest storm and now presses on with renewed vigor to finish the GREAT COMMISSION.

All indication confirms this. The Work's income holds steadily with a slight increase. The mail response confirms it. The atmosphere at headquarters has taken on a NEW LOOK — it seems everyone is smiling — there is TOGETHERNESS, peace and harmony. Sometimes the barber shop is a reflector of campus atmosphere. The campus barber told me that he, too, notices the happy change — all seem to be looking forward to a leap ahead in God's Work.

Let me give you just a few brief excerpts from State of the Work reports from scattered areas.

From the populous New York area Mr. Elbert Atlas reports: "There are no indications that the difficulties we have been ex-

periencing during the last few months have adversely affected Church attendance. Attendance figures for the area [New York state, New England states, Delaware, New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania] are either holding steady or are slightly up. The brethren then... are remaining steadfast and stable. The fine manner in which the ministry in this area has responded to your leadership has resulted in the high degree of stability and unity. I feel the men have been doing an excellent job shepherding their flocks during these traumatic and troublesome times.

"To the best of my knowledge only three members have left the Church... that is three out of 5,600. One lives in the New York City area, and the others — a man and his wife — live in New Jersey. Press releases to five or six newspapers announced the time and place of a meeting... in Clark, N.J., two Sabbaths ago. Letters were also sent to members whose addresses he [Garner Ted Armstrong] had, encouraging them to attend... a grand total of six or eight people showed up. Only one was a member... not yet identified.

"Mr. Armstrong, because you are the head of this Work under Christ, the ministry looks to you for direction, guidance and correction. But you are also our father in Christ... I can say as your representative in this area, the ministers are doing highly commendable jobs in shepherding the flocks over which Christ through you made them overseers."

From the West Coast Sacramento (Calif.) area, Mr. Norman Smith reports: "The ministry and the people are committed to keeping the Body of Jesus Christ working together as one unit. There have been a few families that have departed in the past few months, but generally speaking it has been only about one family per church or less. The ministry believes in the government of God and is remaining loyal to the offices God has established."

From the Cleveland, Ohio, area, Mr. Guy Englebart reports: "Mr. Armstrong, the churches here are basically very stable. The ministers and brethren are behind you 100 percent as Christ leads you in accomplishing the Work of God in these last days. I know of no one here who has left God's Church and is following Mr. Ted Armstrong. Even though the churches are basically stable... some... understood you to say in your letter that we should not pray for Garner Ted Armstrong's repentance and return to God's Work. Many are confused as to why you said this."

Let me interrupt Mr. Englebart's report here to say that I'm sure I never said that! I myself pray for him and his restoration daily. What I did write was that I had been praying earnestly for him and a real repentance ever

since 1971. In the letter to the membership I did add a quotation from Hebrews 6:4-6 — that some refuse to repent, but I'm sure I indicated how I hoped desperately that he would. I still do and ask all to do the same. Mr. Englebart continues, "Let me assure you, Mr. Armstrong, that the ministers here are solidly behind you and fully loyal to you as you accomplish God's Work. The attitude and the feeling of the ministry and brethren is to forget the past, and let's get on with accomplishing the great commission... The most encouraging thing for the brethren right now would be for them to continue to see God's Work forging ahead and dynamically accomplishing the commission Christ has given to the Church."

The report from Mr. Dennis Pyle, Kansas area: "Mr. Armstrong, all of us in the ministry are behind you. We are supportive and loyal to you and the Work of God. We want to preach the truth of God as you instruct us based on God's Word. I want you to know that the ministry daily and zealously supports you and God's Church. They earnestly need your trust, your confidence, your support and your leadership."

Fellow ministers, you certainly have my confidence, trust

and support — and as I said above, I cannot find words to properly express my GRATITUDE and LOVE for you in your loyalty and faithfulness, especially during the recent few traumatic months. And I am now working some 14 or more hours daily to try to give you the leadership under Christ that you need. Your diligence, loyalty and faithfulness, coupled with the leadership that the living Christ enables me to give you — THAT IS THE TEAMWORK AND UNITY, under Christ's guidance, inspiration and power, that has continued to pull God's Church through all attacks by Satan. I do not blame humans for the trauma from which Christ has delivered us. I attribute it to Satan. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness [wicked spirits] in high places" (Ephesians 6:12).

I pray for you daily and I still pray for my son, whom I love deeply, daily. Christ, our Head, is daily interceding for us on God's throne and will in His way bring us all in the UNITY OF THE FAITH. I remember that my mother's favorite Bible passage was, "Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133:1).

Media team formed to coordinate effort

PASADENA — A media-coordinating team has been formed here to determine and recommend the best ways of implementing the Work's programs according to Stanley Rader, treasurer and general counsel.

The team, which has been appointed to coordinate all media activities of the Work on a day-to-day basis, is composed of key personnel in the financial, publishing, editorial, television, radio, subscriber services, data processing, accounting, legal and ministerial areas of the Work.

"Mr. Armstrong has been and will continue to be directing all aspects of media," said Mr. Rader. "He [Mr. Armstrong] is especially concerned about and very personally involved in the content of television, radio, *The Plain Truth*, *The Good News* and booklets."

"His primary desire is to increase the impact of our message. The media team has been designed to back up Mr. Armstrong by determining and recommending the best means of distribution."

"Effective and efficient utilization of media in the broadest sense of the term is an essential part of doing the Work," said Mr. Rader. "We shall strive to improve all present programs and investigate new techniques and innovative ideas. Thus, Mr. Armstrong will put his full efforts into evaluating all aspects of media for the express purpose of maximizing results, thereby doing the Work stronger than ever."

The established general procedure for the media team calls for each meeting to open with brief updates on the major areas of the Work.

According to Mr. Rader an important contribution to the meetings is the involvement of the ministry. "We plan to involve the ministry in terms of creative input for more effective utilization of and feedback about our various media programs," he said.

During the team's first meeting Aug. 24 Mr. Rader said the creation of the team gives the department heads a real opportunity for interaction and creativity in doing the Work.

Mr. Rader said he was especially desirous of bringing and keeping Mr. Armstrong completely up-to-date in all areas. He requested all reports, which must be in writing, be duplicated in large type for Mr. Armstrong.

In the team's most recent meeting Sept. 14, Roger Lippross of Publishing Services made a formal presentation on the state of *The Plain Truth* newsstand distribution program.

Other topics discussed included the vast potential for *Plain Truth* newsstand circulation; the need for financial planning for a three-to-five-year period since publishing costs are increasing at rates well above the normally high inflation rates; ideas for new ways to utilize Church members in promoting *The Plain Truth*; results of preliminary direct-mail tests for *The Plain Truth*; and *The Plain Truth* as a vehicle to promote Church literature.

Mr. Rader summed up the two meetings held so far by saying, "Under Mr. Armstrong's overall policy direction, with the utilization of our most talented and competent people and with the freedom for full creativity, God's Church should experience great growth in the months and years ahead."

The Plain Truth About HEALING

(Continued from page 3)
significantly) was then crude and undeveloped compared to the medical profession of the late 1970s. Jesus had compassion on the sick, the diseased, the blind and crippled. MAN's civilization had not as yet developed a healing art that gave them much, if any, help. In His compassion and mercy for the people of Judah — God's chosen — He healed people as the general public as He came across them or they came to Him.

Jesus' ministry, as emphasized in the first installment, was a DUAL ministry. He proclaimed the good news of the future KINGDOM OF GOD, and He healed the sick. Preaching and healing went hand in hand as a DUAL ministry. So with the first apostles.

Jesus did not come on a soul-saving crusade, but He *did* make forgiveness of spiritual sin possible by His SHED BLOOD on the cross of DEATH — and He did also PAY THE PENALTY IN OUR STEAD of the broken laws that function in our physical bodies BY HIS STRIPES. I devoted some considerable space to that fact in an earlier installment.

For emphasis I repeat, Jesus PAID THE PENALTY FOR US of both physical and spiritual transgression. He reconciled us to God by His shed blood and death (Romans 5:8-10), and by His stripes we are HEALED (Isaiah 53:5, I Peter 2:24). "Stripes" biblically means lashes given by a scourge or rod.

But now, when we come to the prophecy of the GREAT COMMISSION in our day, Jesus gave the proclamation of the KINGDOM OF GOD as the ONLY SIGN by which we might know when the end of this world — THIS DAY OF MAN — would come and His KINGDOM be set up to rule the earth. BUT, SIGNIFICANTLY, JESUS MENTIONED NOTHING ABOUT HEALING BEING PART OF THE GOSPEL PROCLAMATION TO ALL THE WORLD. Why?

Perhaps it is because we of Christ's ministry do not have the faith of Peter, Paul, James and the early first-century apostles. And of our time Jesus said, "... when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8). Or could it be that man's world has developed a medical profession, which Jesus foreknew, that the people uncalled of God would be far better cared for than those of the first century?

Our DAY, now

But what we do find is that healing today is FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD'S CHURCH, as per James 5:14-15.

I repeat, there are two conditions to healing — commandment keeping (I John 3:22) and faith (James 5:15). Commandment keeping has been restored to God's Church today. And we *should* have faith, which is a gift of God, but we are almost out of faith today, and when we're out of faith we're out from GOD!

It seems so much easier today to just go to a doctor and TRUST IN MAN — MAN CUT OFF FROM GOD — than to RELY ON CHRIST and His PROMISES!

Especially when we are so well aware of the progress made by the medical profession in our day.

Forty-five years ago I spoke of the use of medicines and drugs as poisons. Even 32 years ago, the only booklet the Church had, until now, published on healing, spoke of it as prescribing an opposite poison to counteract the poison in the body. That booklet was never actually written. Unlike all our other booklets it was transcribed from the recording of an ad-libbed broadcast. I said that the medical arithmetic was that one poison plus one more poison equals NO poison, and I remarked that second-grade arithmetic ought to know that one plus one does not equal zero!

In the early days of Ambassador College in the late '40s, our Dr. Ralph E. Merrill, M.D., and a pioneer member of the Church at Pasadena, said, "We doctors have been kept so busy treating those already sick that we haven't gotten around to much research into diet and other causes of illnesses." But for the past 15 or 20 years the medical people have made considerable progress in this area.

Further, it is true that today most doctors prescribe medicines that are NOT poisons but rather designed to help nature do its own healing.

However NO MEDICINE — NO DOCTOR — can HEAL! I have never heard a medical doctor deny that statement. They do not claim to heal.

I am not saying that God's people should trust in doctors instead of relying on God and His PROMISES. I shall have more to say about those promises a little later before closing this booklet.

UNDERSTANDING for our day

At this point we need to clear our UNDERSTANDING on two vital points:

1. God created MAN in His own image — after His own likeness. Man is wholly material flesh — yet there is a spirit in form of essence in each human. Man was made to have a special relationship with God. Man's potential is to be BORN INTO the GOD FAMILY — changed from material to spirit composition.

Consequently when God made MAN after His own kind — not after the dumb animal kind — God endowed man with near-creative powers. In the sense of designing and making out of already existing materials, man does have creative powers.

At the tower of Babel God said, "... and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do" (Genesis 11:6). Therefore, to put the brakes on man's misguided civilization development, God confounded their language.

Thereafter there was little progress in man's complicated educational and industrial development until after the invention of printing. Even then it took

time for dissemination of knowledge by the printed word until man began to narrow the language gap. For a while French seemed to be making progress as the world's universal language, but today English has overtaken it.

Most civilization development has occurred only in the last 125 years — and technical knowledge and industrial development has more than doubled in the last two or three decades.

This is especially true in the practice of medicine and knowledge in that profession. The fact

"Neither you nor I can dictate to God how or when He shall do WHAT HE HAS PROMISED."

of man's ability and capacity for development reflects, not the glory of MAN, but the creative might of our Maker in creating man to have such abilities and capacities.

Yet we must remember this development is not always progress forward. Too often, under Satan's unrealized sway, with man CUT OFF FROM God and His revealed knowledge, it has been progress in reverse. As Isaiah 1:4 says of ancient Israel, "... they are gone away backward."

Satan has had access to deceive and sway man into Satan's CHARACTER IMAGE, whereas we must acquire and develop GOD'S CHARACTER IMAGE to be born into His Kingdom! It is vital that we REMEMBER THAT, in considering healing vs. medical reliance TODAY!

2. God reveals knowledge — to those called and having His Spirit — which man could not discover for himself.

God left it for Copernicus to make first discoveries about astronomy, for Newton to discover the law of gravity, Galileo to discover that the earth is round. Yet for UNDERSTANDING, bear in mind that what was accepted as science yesterday is sometimes the laughingstock of today — especially in the speculative and philosophical sciences. Revelation from GOD is the basis of real TRUTH.

The same principle pertains to what man can DO. The great advances in the medical field enable man to do for his human family many things he could not do 50 years ago, short of actual HEALING. God does for us (often by miracle) that which we are unable to do. God gave man talents, mind-power (physical) and abilities that He intended us to use and develop under His guidance, and always for His glory and toward our development in the holy, righteous CHARACTER of God.

To this end, God intends man to excel and improve — but never in a way to inflate vanity or detract from reliance on and trust in God: We must rely on GOD for

guidance even in what we are made able to do for ourselves.

Righteous character must be developed

But the very PURPOSE of human life (God reproducing Himself) is this holy and righteous character development. AND IT IS ACQUIRED, DEVELOPED and INCREASED primarily through OBEDIENCE AND FAITH.

I said earlier that God creates by the principle of DUALITY. UNDERSTAND THIS! I explained that the first stage of human creation was the physical creation, starting from Adam. The second stage is the SPIRITUAL CREATION, beginning with Christ.

But even in the conversion of one called of God in the present age, that conversion is brought about by the DUALITY principle. First, upon being called of God, granted real repentance and being CONQUERED by Him, and having faith in Christ, with baptism, we are PROMISED the gift of the Holy Spirit. That is the first stage. There is a definite time when one receives God's Holy Spirit. But only Jesus (John 3:34) was not given the Spirit by measure.

All other humans do receive initially only a certain measure of God's Spirit. Then we must grow in grace and the knowledge of Jesus Christ (II Peter 3:18). That is the second phase of the spiritual creation.

The natural-born human has only the human spirit — imparting the power of intellect. Yet all such human minds are confined to knowledge of the physical and material. And by the fact that Satan is prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2), he broadcasts — surcharges the air with his ATTITUDE OF SELF — vanity and love only toward self. We call this attitude Satan instills human nature. We acquire it from earliest childhood gradually.

Repentance is change from that attitude. Through God's Holy Spirit joining with our spirit, we acquire — become part-takers of (II Peter 1:4) — the divine nature.

But this initial stage of conversion does not eradicate human nature. Real repentance is a change of WILLFUL INTENTION of turning from the attitude Satan had injected.

I don't know (for God does not reveal) what percentage of human nature is driven out and the divine nature GIVEN through the initial measure of the Holy Spirit at conversion.

But to illustrate, let us suppose one receives 1 percent of complete full measure of the Holy Spirit. Such a one might be, shall we suppose, 99 percent actuated by the selfish nature. Possibly that may vary in different individuals.

Principle illustrated by parables

Jesus illustrated this principle by the parables of the pounds and of the talents. In Luke 19:11-20, Jesus is pictured as giving His 10 servants one pound each. This unit of British money symbolized a measure of the Holy Spirit. For

sake of clarity let us suppose it represents 1 percent of the full measure of God's Spirit. When He returns from heaven as KING of kings and LORD of lords, each of the 10 is called to give account. The first had GROWN in grace and Christ's knowledge 10 times from where he started. In the Kingdom of God — in the next life — He is given rule over 10 cities.

The second servant had increased his original spiritual stock-in-trade five times. He was not saved by his works but regarded according to his works. He was given rule over five cities.

But the third had gained NOTHING. He thought his original conversion would get him into God's Kingdom without any spiritual growth. He had the one taken away from him. He lost out totally. He did not make it into God's Kingdom! In other words, if we do not grow in God's spiritual character, we LOSE the salvation we thought we were starting with.

We GROW in God's Spirit — receiving increased measure, by whatever extent we overcome the SELF and Satan-injected attitude and increase in God's LOVE, FAITH, OBEDIENCE — and in PRAYER and BIBLE STUDY.

The means God has given His Church for this development is primarily our part in loyally standing behind Christ's apostle in our part in supporting the GREAT COMMISSION. In fact that is the primary PURPOSE of calling some to conversion NOW instead of after Christ comes to rule and Satan is bound.

Means of spiritual growth

But another important means God gave His people of our time for spiritual growth is RELYING ON HIM AND HIS PROMISES FOR HEALING.

Let me help you UNDERSTAND. True, God does for us that which we cannot do for ourselves. HEALING is something we cannot do for ourselves — something doctors, medicines or knives CANNOT do.

Do not misunderstand. Doctors may be a real HELP — because they have specialized in learning many things humans can do. Again I refer, in PRINCIPLE, to child delivery and binding and setting a broken arm or leg. Today doctors can do for us many other things possible for a human to do short of actual healing.

But the VERY FACT that two conditions to miraculous healing by God are obedience and faith requires the exercise of, and therefore GROWTH in, obedience and faith.

Jesus said, "... whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do [a PROMISE], that the Father may be glorified in the Son" (John 14:13).

But my father DIED

Finally, a most important matter to UNDERSTAND!

What if one relies on God for healing and DIES! I've heard so many refer to this old bromide to justify lack of faith that I want now finally to answer that DOUBT with God's TRUTH!

My conversion occurred in the spring of 1927. I first learned about HEALING in August of 1927 (See THE PLAIN TRUTH, page 13)

"In other words, if we do not GROW in God's spiritual character, we LOSE the salvation we thought we were starting with."

The Plain Truth About HEALING

(Continued from page 12)

— through the miraculous healing of my wife. I was learning rapidly in those days to TRUST God.

In the spring of 1933 I was visiting my father on his farm near Oregon City, Ore. That evening around sundown my father told me he had repented and wanted Christ's salvation. I was to baptize him next morning.

My father had been a solid church member all his life in a respected Protestant denomination. He was what everyone called a good man. He never used profanity, tobacco or strong drink. I knew of no bad habits. He owed no man any money.

He had a deep bass voice — had sung for years in a male quartet. He could fill an auditorium with no amplification clear down on lower C. I know of none who can do that today. When later I came into possession of a personally autographed record by Caruso, I was astonished to recognize the same voice color or tonal quality, except in the higher range, that my father had — although he had but little voice training.

That night he sang out, with gleaming eye and joyous voice, the old hymn "Praise Him, Praise Him." Then suddenly, a STROKE!

I had been ordained in 1931, about 3½ years after conversion. I anointed and prayed for my father. I BELIEVED! He believed! I continued praying for him through the night in FAITH! Yet at 9:40 next morning, he died!

That was my first experience in seeing one anointed and prayed over for healing die. Several astonishing healings had resulted from my anointing and praying.

I cannot say I was not shaken — and I can understand how others may be in such a case. But it did not destroy my faith! I prayed, asking God to give me HIS UNDERSTANDING!

He led me to the faith chapter in the Bible — Hebrews 11 — and I prayerfully studied. There I found the answer. Faith is the ASSURANCE — the EVIDENCE of what is NOT SEEN! Faith precedes the requested result. And faith is the ASSURANCE God gives us until the petition is answered. Faith is BELIEVING WHAT GOD SAYS!

Adam did not believe what God told him face-to-face. Faith is relying on the veracity of God — trusting that what God has PROMISED He will perform.

A promise I have often relied on is in Psalms 27:5, Moffatt translation: "Leave all to him, rely on him, and he will see to it."

Believer relies on God's promises

The doubter denies God's PROMISES. The BELIEVER relies on them — UNTIL God performs them.

God has given us MANY PROMISES. God promises (Romans 5:10) "... we shall be saved by his [Jesus'] LIFE." God promised salvation and eternal life through Abraham. "Now to Abraham and his seed were the PROMISES [of eternal life] made"

(Galatians 3:16). They were promised to Isaac and Jacob. Jesus Christ came to CONFIRM the PROMISES made unto the fathers (Romans 15:8). And Abraham, "... being not weak in faith [as so many are today] ... staggered not at the PROMISE of God through unbelief [as do many today] but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being FULLY PERSUADED that, what He [God] had PROMISED, he was able also to perform" (Romans 4:19-21).

Yet Abraham, Isaac and Jacob "... all died in faith, not having received the promises ..." (Hebrews 11:13).

A minister, apparently lacking either in faith or in UNDERSTANDING, writes, "Case histories in the Bible, and especially thousands of case histories in the present Church, show that faith was present in the lives of people, and God did not heal."

I could not vouch for the fact that FAITH was present in all such cases — I cannot judge others, only God can. The same letter gives the following, striking home to me, in contending against God's PROMISES to heal on faith: "What about the many of our dead we have buried — Mrs. Loma Armstrong [the wife of my youth who died at age 75½], your son Dick ... and four others.

My answer, in simple FAITH, is that they, like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, all died in FAITH, not having received the PROMISES — YET! But in the next fraction of a second from their loss of consciousness in death, THEY SHALL WAKE UP HEALED — in the resurrection, and in GOD'S

KINGDOM! I have faith that in the not-too-distant future I shall see my father, my first wife, my son Dick and others he named FULLY HEALED in the Kingdom of God.

Proclaiming the world's ONLY and SURE HOPE!

God says through Paul, "If in this life ONLY we have hope in

"The doubter denies God's PROMISES. The BELIEVER relies on them — UNTIL God performs them."

Christ, we are of all men most miserable" (I Corinthians 15:19).

UNDERSTAND! God HAS PROMISED TO HEAL — on faith and obedience!

But neither you nor I can dictate to God how or when He shall do WHAT HE HAS PROMISED.

Nowhere has God promised that we shall be healed so repeatedly that we shall never die. My wife and my son had been REPEATEDLY HEALED! God says, "For as in Adam ALL DIE ..." (I Corinthians 15:22). But He also promises "... so in Christ shall all be made alive."

You who misunderstand or lack faith, but trust in medical doctors, DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE MILLIONS WHO DIE, DIE UNDER THE MEDICAL DOCTORS' CARE? Yet you who disbelieve still have faith in M.D.s.

Frankly, candidly, it makes me a little indignant, as I fully believe it does the living CHRIST, to find people exalting the advances and "expertise" of medical doctors, while at the same

time denying that God's PROMISES are promises — discrediting faith in God, excusing their lack of trusting God while they argue for trusting MAN!

God has PROMISED salvation and eternal life on the SAME conditions He PROMISED healing — obedience and faith. Jesus paid our penalty making possible eternal life by His shed blood on the cross. He paid the penalty for physical broken law making possible our HEALING by His stripes

God's PROMISE to those who died in faith, NOT YET having received the PROMISES, STANDS SURE AND INVIOLEATE! If we can't believe that, we simply do not believe God!

I have made it plain that God's Church does not condemn medical or other doctors — nor sit in judgment of those who are weak in faith and rely on MAN. And there is much they can do for us today.

I have given the BASIC

PRINCIPLE — God does for us what we humans cannot do. One could get into endless arguments and controversy on technical specific issues of what we may go to man for and what to rely on God to do. I have given the broad guidelines. The Church will encourage God's people to BELIEVE GOD — RELY ON GOD — to say, with the apostles, "... Lord, INCREASE OUR FAITH" (Luke 17:5).

After writing the above lines, intending them to be the conclusion, I turned on television for a moments' relaxation. A medical drama was on. In a heated argument between two doctors — actors taking the part of doctors — one said to the other, angrily, "You're not a miracle worker — you're a doctor!"

God does not expect His ministers to make your decisions for you — and God's Church will not sit in judgment of you if you go to a doctor. But God says one of His BENEFITS, for which He makes no charge, is that He offers you the loving services of a MIRACLE-WORKER — the living JESUS CHRIST!

(Isaiah 53:5, I Peter 2:24).

"Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases" (Psalm 103:3). If you can't believe the one, how can you believe the other?

The Eternal God called me and committed to me Christ's GREAT COMMISSION — to go into the whole world proclaiming the world's ONLY and SURE HOPE — the soon-coming KINGDOM OF GOD!

All whom God has called to come into His Church today — coming out from among those of the world — have been CALLED to stand back of this WORLDWIDE proclamation of the soon-coming KINGDOM — the time of LIFE after this life!

Look to the glories ahead

God wants our minds to be looking FORWARD to HIS KINGDOM and the glories ahead! That's what is meant by Colossians 3:1.

WHY, then, should any of us be NOW people — saying to God, "Do it RIGHT NOW, Lord — RIGHT NOW" or else we'll drop faith in God and trust in MAN!

Spiritual tune-up in order for Feast

By Val Aspenns

The time is now for multiple thousands of God's people around the world to be busily preparing in eager anticipation for an annual spiritual high — God's Feast of Tabernacles. We're preparing financially. We're buying the appropriate clothing items for the family, depending on our Feast site, maybe a warmer overcoat for the wife or waterproof boots for the kids, an umbrella or something new in swim wear if Hawaii or St. Pete's our destination. And, of course, some long overdue attention for the family car — new tires, a brake job and most certainly a tune-up is in order. All these preparations are essential, but frequently we're so busy with these physical details that we overlook the most important need of all. What about a spiritual tune-up for ourselves?

Spiritually sputtering

What if we set out for the Feast spiritually sputtering, low on oil, with our power steering ready to burn out and with our brakes about shot? That's like going to the Feast only to have fun, to fulfill our selfish desires, to see the sights, to partake of all the available culinary delights or consume a record number of margaritas. If such is the case, we can be sure the Feast won't satisfy and will become just another big event that went bust.

But how can we get tuned-up spiritually so this Feast of 1978 can indeed be the best ever?

The author of this article is a senior correspondent in the Work's Personal Correspondence Department. The department handles mail addressed to Herbert W. Armstrong and provides answers to questions on topics not covered in other literature published by the Church.

There is no better way to get a spiritual tune-up than to take special time with the Master Mechanic and to study His manual. It's the old, simple and effective formula of prayer and study; there is no better way. No matter who we are — small or great, saint and sinner alike — as we prepare for the Feast we must take time to meditate, to pray and look into God's Word. Unless we do, we will not have the proper spiritual orientation and will surely miss the real benefits that God wants us to receive.

Unfortunately, too often some get out of spiritual sync and look to the Feast as merely a vacation and forget that it is a "Feast unto the Lord thy God" (Deuteronomy 16:15). What are our personal thoughts prior to the Feast? Are we really tuned-up spiritually? The Bible shows "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he ..." (Proverbs 23:7). Do we have a God-centered orientation with an outgoing concern for others? Certainly it's not wrong to anticipate having a fantastically enjoyable time, that's part of the Feast, but we should also be keenly tuned to react to various opportunities to serve, to give and to

lend a helping hand. The good Samaritan was ready to give aid because his heart was spiritually tuned-up. Will ours be as ready at the Feast?

Part of this spiritual tune-up is to personally reexamine and fortify our relationship with our Creator. If we're not in solid contact with Him, going to the Feast will be just so many days of eating and drinking, going and coming, which may be fun, but will have no lasting spiritual value. Feast time is to be more than fun time, much more.

Count your blessings

Now is an ideal time to meditate on the blessings we've received and on how God has worked in our lives, both individually and Work-wide. The time is now to "meditate on all thy works ... muse on the works of thy hands" (Psalm 143:5). Can we join David in giving thanks to God "... for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever" (see Psalm 136).

Perhaps having a thankful attitude is the most telling indicator of one's spiritual condition. Do we thank God enough for life, for experiences, for growth-producing trials, for beauty around us, for His Truth, for His Work, for being called? The call is out, "Come ye thankful people, come." These words should have a special meaning to all of us in God's Church. If we're not all that thankful for the Feast, but rather consider it an unwelcome inconvenience or duty, perhaps there is a measure of spiritual gunk under our hood that

needs cleansing. We might check the manual (Psalm 139:23-24).

Now is the time to ask God for special protection for all of the brethren as they travel to and from and in between. Insurance is fine, but safety is much better. We also need to ask God to strengthen, safeguard and inspire Herbert W. Armstrong as he leads the Church and the ministry in the keeping of the Feast. Also we might consider placing the order that we may have meat in due season. And good weather at all the sites. These are just some of the things we can meditate on in preparation for the Feast; it could make a vital difference.

Don't forget God

While at the Feast, let's not become so busy that we inadvertently forget God. Shouldn't He be our ever-present companion not only at services, but during our meals with family and friends, on a lift up the Space Needle or on a boat ride down the Dellys? Whatever we do or wherever we go, let's invite God along. He's one companion that won't cost us an extra dime, but His presence will transform the Feast into a real delight.

Perhaps it won't be possible or necessary to check our oil three times a day or labor an hour a day on our knees checking out the carburetion system, but if we are to have that greatest Feast ever, we need to do our part to get tuned-up and stay in tune spiritually with God now, during the Feast and always.