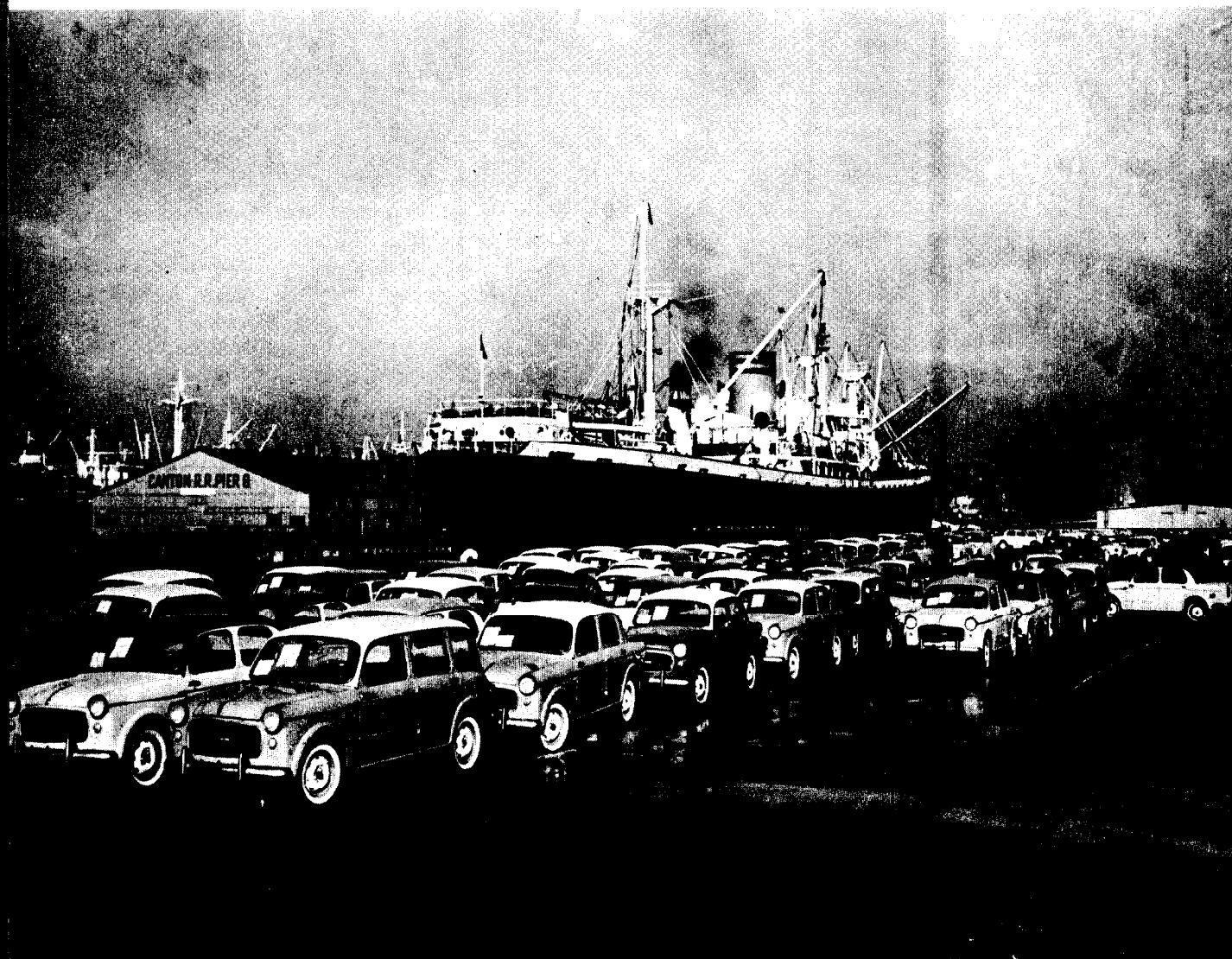


*the*  
**PLAIN TRUTH**  
*a magazine of understanding*

VOLUME XXV, NUMBER 8

AUGUST, 1960



Wide World Photo

FOREIGN CARS UNLOADED at Baltimore, Maryland, in the U.S.A. Italian Fiats line a pier after 417 of them were unloaded from Italian car transport Italmare. It was one of the largest shipments of foreign automobiles to arrive in the U.S.A. and the first which entered through the port of Baltimore. Here, as elsewhere, one can see firsthand the increasing tempo of trade war splitting the Western World.

# The Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong

*Installment 30 brings us to the start of The World Tomorrow program on the air and Volume 1 Number 1 of The Plain Truth.*

**S**URELY nothing could have started smaller. Born in adversity in the very depths of the Depression, this work of God was destined to grow to world-wide power.

But I did not realize its destiny then. There were no illusions of grandeur. It was not through any planning of mine that the little three-point campaign then being launched was to expand into its present global scope and influence.

## Divinely Planned

Most people are conscious only of what they see—of that which is material. They fail to see the invisible Hand of GOD in the working out of things.

All I had in mind, as *The World Tomorrow* program was being planned late in 1933, was to serve God faithfully wherever He should lead in that local territory of Lane County, Oregon.

It is true that "where there is no vision, the people perish." But few people realize that the source of true vision is GOD. *There has been vision* behind the planning and phenomenal growth of this great work. But this is the WORK OF GOD, not of man; and the vision and the planning has been that of Jesus Christ, the active, living HEAD of this work, not of man.

I most certainly did not sit down, in the fall of 1933, and lay out detailed plans in my human mind for a great, powerful, earth-encircling program to reach and influence the millions in every nation; there was no thought, then, of a gigantic radio program, and a publishing enterprise, starting at Eugene, Oregon, but soon expanding to every inhabited continent; nor the remotest idea that we should, at the proper time along the way, organize and build colleges in America and Britain for training the personnel for a rapidly growing organization.

I had no more conception of these future developments than any other man who might have been walking down the streets of Eugene. All I had in mind was to share with such others as I might come in contact in that locale the WONDERFUL TRUTHS which God, by His Holy Spirit, had opened my understanding to see in the Bible. And at that time I had been merely grasping God's truth a single doctrine at a time. I had not yet come to see the *whole picture* of God's real PURPOSE, or of His PLAN for working out that purpose.

I was filled with joy over discovery of these glorious truths; I was imbued with energy and drive, and I *had*, literally, given my-self over to God for Him to use as HE saw fit. I was surrendered to God's will, yielded and dedicated to His purpose. I was driven by enthusiasm, good cheer, warm friendship and a feeling of real love for the brethren. And I *had*, without realizing it then, been put through a training and experience which prepared me to be Christ's instrument in carrying out His purpose. But I had no remote conception of the manner in which this work was destined to develop.

Rather, I had, in 1924, turned down the post of advertising manager of the Des Moines Register, rated by many as one of America's ten greatest newspapers, because I was convinced that I was not an executive and never could become one. I called myself a "lone wolf" so far as directing the work of others was concerned. Later, about 1926, I had turned down the offer to become advertising manager of a large corporation in Cleveland, Ohio, for the same reason.

I knew that I could work *with* or *under* other men—I could co-operate, but I firmly believed that I could never *direct* others.

So far as radio broadcasting was con-

cerned, I was not oblivious to its possibilities in proclaiming the Gospel. But what I had in mind, and tried to plan, was to help get Evangelist Sven (Sam) Oberg on the air. I felt that *he* had an excellent radio voice—but never dreamed that I had.

No, this work as it has developed was not of *my* planning or vision. This is THE VERY WORK OF GOD, and the vision behind it has been that of Jesus Christ—the planning HIS! I was merely His instrument—and an unwilling one at first—until He conquered my rebellious will.

How, then, did CHRIST cause the work to start on radio? A man in Eugene—I do not remember who—suggested I could speak on the morning devotional 15-minute period scheduled as a sustaining public service program on the local station, KORE. I did not plan it, or think up the idea. A man whom I do not remember suggested it.

I did not originate the idea of the half-hour *World Tomorrow* program. The owner and manager of KORE called me to his office, said there had been an unusual mail response from those 15-minute broadcasts, and it was *he* who suggested the every-Sunday half-hour program.

But I know now that CHRIST *planned* it!

Personally, I had no inkling, then, that this work was to expand into a world-encompassing operation. Always I had been ambitious to develop and enlarge whatever I was engaged in. I believed in growth—in progress—in accomplishment. I think there was normal human capacity of vision. But the vision, then, did not penetrate beyond the scope of a localized sector of Oregon.

## A Powerful DOOR Opens

What actually was happening has been written for almost 1900 years. Of

course no one—least of all myself—had the remotest realization of it then. Jesus Christ said: "I will build my Church." He built it for a purpose—to become God's *instrument* in carrying on GOD'S WORK fulfilling His PURPOSE here below.

God *began* the work of His Church through Christ. Jesus said that He Himself was powerless—it was the POWER of God's Holy Spirit working in His *personal human body* which really did the work. But after His ascension to heaven, that same WORK OF GOD was carried on through the Spirit of God working in the *collective body* of God's CHURCH. That is why the true Church is called "the BODY of Christ."

God sent His Message—the GOOD NEWS of His Kingdom—of His REIGN — His GOVERNMENT — His divine FAMILY—to mankind by Jesus Christ. Jesus taught this Message to His disciples, who became the apostolic leaders of His Church as it started out. This Message from God—Christ's GOSPEL—was also recorded in the Scriptures of the New Testament. A few accepted that Message, and it *changed* their lives. They were begotten by God's Spirit as God's children and became co-workers in the WORK OF GOD. But mankind generally rejected the Gospel, and crucified Jesus for teaching it! Those who preached it were persecuted—martyred!

The continuation of that story on into the world *today* was not realized until near the middle of the decade of the 1950s. It was then, in retrospect, that the astonishing truth burst upon us. Specialists in historic research, in Ambassador College, had been for years patiently searching out the true history of that TRUE Church of God.

God marks off time-spaces, except the week, by the movements of the earth, the moon and the sun in relation to one another. These mark the duration of the day, the month, and the year. Also God divides time into 19-year time-cycles—for every 19 years these three bodies come into exact relation.

It was discovered that precisely one 19-year time-cycle after the apostles started proclaiming Christ's Gospel (A.D. 31), Christ *opened a door* for Paul to preach that Gospel in Europe (A.D. 50) (Acts 16:8-9; with II Cor.

2:12-13). Exactly one time-cycle later, A.D. 69, the apostles and the Church fled to Pella from Jerusalem according to Jesus' warning (Mat. 24:15-16). That was the END of the organized proclaiming of Christ's Gospel by His Church to the world! By the second century, the professing "Christian" church was preaching doctrines, and practising customs very *different* from those taught by Christ! More and more the visible professing church adopted pagan beliefs and practices. Scattered individual Christians, as Christ foretold (John 15:18-20; 16:2-4, 32, etc.), were persecuted, tortured, martyred. Through the years, and down through the "dark ages," millions were tortured and martyred because they individually held to Christ's teaching—the Word of God (Rev. 12:9; 17:6; 18:24, etc.). They were "cast out of the synagogues"—put out of the popular professing churches—branded as heretics. For 18½ centuries all world-wide organized proclaiming of *Christ's* Gospel was stamped out by the worldly popular, professing "Christian" churches!

But Christ also foretold that, *just before* the END of *this* world—*this* age—*this* man-built society rejecting the laws and ways of GOD—HIS very *same* Gospel of God's KINGDOM "shall be preached" (Mat. 24:14) and also *published* (Mark 13:10) "in all the world for a witness unto all nations."

And at last, in the light of fast-developing, world-encircling events, it became apparent that what was actually happening, back in 1934, was precisely this: Jesus Christ (Rev. 3:8) was opening the gigantic mass-media DOOR of radio and the printing press for the proclaiming of His same original GOSPEL to all the world!

On that tiny-powered radio station KORE—in that infant mimeographed *Plain Truth*—was going out an *astonishing* Message! Just as the public, 1900 years before, had been *astonished* at Christ's Gospel (Mark 1:14-15, 22), so were those who began to hear it in 1934. It was *so utterly different* from what had been palmed off as "Christianity."

### The Church Identified

Careful research during the first half

of the decade of the 1950s finally established the true prophetic identification of the Church of God with which I had been co-operating. It was by their Oregon Conference I was ordained. Up until about 1933 they had headquarters at Stanberry, Missouri. This historic research revealed it to be the phase of God's Church represented by the symbolic "Church in Sardis" (Rev. 3:1).

Back in those first years of my conversion—1927 up to 1933 and past—during my search for the ONE *True Church*, this small, scattered group of people seemed to be the only church that could possibly fill the Biblical qualifications of the one true Church. As God opened understanding of the plain TRUTHS of the Bible, I could see plainly that this little Church had more truth than any of which I could find any record.

Yet I was constantly puzzled by the impotence—the lack of vigor or power—in these people. God reveals clearly in the Bible that His Spirit imparts Spiritual LIFE and POWER! But these people seemed to be spiritually dead! No "fruit" was being borne. No results were being accomplished. I inquired around among older members. Not one of them knew of a single person who had been, in those recent years, really *converted*—brought to real repentance, and faith, and baptized by the Holy Spirit with power into Christ's Body—*really changed!*

Back in those years now being covered in this Autobiography this paradox puzzled and disturbed me. I could not see how such a spiritually dead work could be that of God's True Church. That is the reason I never became directly affiliated with it. The members of the Oregon Conference were individually members of the Church of God at Stanberry, Missouri. But the Oregon Conference was a local state organization, and was not under the jurisdiction of the Stanberry organization.

But, when our researchers in Ambassador College traced the history of the true Church, during that first half of the decade of the 1950s, the mystery was explained. This was, indeed, the dying or dead remnant of the "Sardis" era of God's true Church. Christ Himself says of it, in Revelation 3:1: "I

know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead." Her "works" had not been found perfect. (Verse 2). This was a spiritually dead, impotent, fruitless Church.

But, immediately on its heels follows the "Philadelphia" phase of the Church of God. And to *this* Church Christ says: "I know thy works: behold I have set before thee AN OPEN DOOR"—WHY? Because "thou hast a little strength," or, as other translations make more clear, "only a little strength," yet "hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name." (Rev. 3:8).

The Stanberry headquarters had privately confessed, on proof from me, that they were preaching an error—but refused to admit it officially or repent or change to the TRUTH. Also their leader had confessed, privately to me—as photographically reproduced in proof in a previous installment—that new Biblical TRUTH had been revealed to me, yet he and the church rejected this truth, and later persecuted me because I did accept and proclaim it!

We, having but little real power or strength of ourselves, had been willing to correct error and accept TRUTH. Therefore God was able to reveal to us HIS TRUE END-TIME GOSPEL—the same original Gospel Christ preached! Therefore, also, He opened the mighty and powerful DOOR of radio and the printing press, that HIS MESSAGE might be thundered to the whole world in magnified and multiplied POWER!

Further, just as Christ had "opened a door" for the Apostle Paul to preach His Gospel in Europe, after one 19-year time-cycle, so in this END-time closing work Christ opened the mighty "door" of the most powerful radio station on earth—Radio Luxembourg—exactly 19 years after He started us on the air January, 1934. The first broadcast to Europe was early January, 1953!

But none of these things were understood in 1933 or 1934—or until after 1953!

#### The "Three-Point" Campaign

And so it was, that when Mr. Frank Hill, owner of KORE, urged me to produce a half-hour Sunday program, consisting of a regular church service condensed into a half hour, using radio

techniques, that I went to work on the idea with zest and enthusiasm.

It was Jesus Christ who had the VISION. I could see no farther ahead, at the time, than a local program in Lane County, Oregon.

But even this seemed BIG, compared to past activities. I saw in it immediately an opportunity to reach many more people with God's TRUTH.

Not only did I set out with a will to produce the radio program, but I realized there must be follow-up if this new effort were to be resultful.

Immediately the idea came of realizing, at last, the dream I had cherished since 1927—the publication of a magazine, to be called *The Plain Truth*. Back in 1927 I had made up an entire "dummy" of this proposed magazine. I had even written articles for it. I had, while my family went hungry to pay for it, even had a professional letter artist design a front cover idea in 1927—and I had tried designing one myself. But we had never had the "wherewithall" to start publishing a magazine.

This ambition to publish *The Plain Truth* was the natural outgrowth of earlier business experience. Much of my 20 years of advertising experience had been spent in the class magazine field.

Now, at last, I realized that this magazine was a "must" as a follow-up for the radio broadcast. Yet we were no more able, financially, than we had been in 1927.

Necessity is the mother of invention. If we could not afford to publish a high-quality, professional-appearing magazine, I would simply convert the mimeographed "BULLETIN" I had been issuing for our scattered church brethren in the Willamette Valley into *The Plain Truth*.

My idea for this magazine, from the start, had been to publish a magazine, *not* for church members, but for the general public—the unconverted and unchurched—an evangelistic-type publication to bring to the world God's TRUTH—making it PLAIN!

So now, even if it had to start with about 250 copies done by hand on a mimeograph, I would start it! Like the grain of mustard seed, it started, very possibly, the smallest of magazines. But

## WHY THE PLAIN TRUTH HAS NO SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

So many ask: "How can you publish a magazine, without subscription price, and without advertising?"

The answer is simple. The GOSPEL must go to the whole world, and it must go FREE. It must not be sold like merchandise. "Freely ye have received," Jesus said to His disciples whom He was sending to proclaim the Gospel, "freely GIVE." Without money and without price, is God's way. We proclaim a FREE salvation. Therefore, we cannot put a PRICE upon The PLAIN TRUTH.

We have been called of God to conduct this work. It is not our work, but God's. We have set out to conduct God's work God's way. We rely, in FAITH, upon God's promises to supply every need.

God's way is the way of LOVE—and that is the way of giving, not getting. God expects every true child of His to GIVE of tithes and offerings that His work may go FREE—that His true ministers may GIVE the precious Gospel to others. We simply TRUST GOD to lay it on the minds and hearts of His people to give of their tithes and offerings that we may be enabled to GIVE the good things of God's Word to the hundreds of thousands who hear the Message over the air, and the scores of thousands who read The PLAIN TRUTH.

Many times our faith has been severely tried, but God has never failed us. We must not fail HIM!

it has grown into a professional-appearing 32-page (soon 36) magazine of 250,000 copies.

Also, I saw at once that the broadcasts should be followed up by continued public evangelistic services.

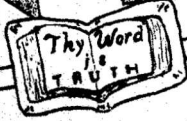
Therefore, I wrote to the small number of members on the mailing list I had—perhaps 150—the news of the forthcoming THREE-POINT CAMPAIGN: 1) The half-hour Sunday radio program; 2) the new mimeographed magazine for interested listeners, *The Plain Truth*, and 3) personal public meetings. I asked our members to pledge what they could for this new radio program. Mr. Hill had offered me the half hour each Sunday from 10 to 10:30 A.M. at a rate lower than the usual rate for broadcast time—the mere cost of operation—\$2.50 per program.

Today that price seems ridiculously, laughably low. But in those days, having just rejected the \$3 per week salary from the state Conference, receiving less than \$3 per week in tithes or offerings being handed me, it seemed a fortune.

The broadcast, and idea of the Three-Point Campaign, had been completely approved, of course, by the new Church organized as a result of the six weeks' meetings I had held in the one-room country school house, eight miles west of Eugene. And so now, the proposal of this new Gospel-spreading program was presented to the entire church membership up and down the Valley for approval and support.

The program was approved without

# The PLAIN TRUTH



June-July, 1934

VOL. I. No. 5

## What is Going to Happen!

When will the next world war come? Which will be first, the war precipitated by Russia---or the revival of the Roman Empire?

**Here is a complete synopsis of impending events, placing each future prophesied event in its proper time-order, as revealed by the story-flow of the Book of Revelation.**

Only by arranging these events in a chart can the many separate events prophesied be properly correlated, as to time-sequence.

We cannot really understand these prophecies at all, unless we can arrange them in their proper time-order.

The Bible is like the jig-saw puzzle that became such a fad a year ago; each text on a given subject is like a piece of a jig-saw puzzle; and if we get all the various pieces properly joined together, a beautiful picture, clear and perfect, is the result. But if they are not joined properly together, the picture is distorted. Neither is it complete if one or two of the texts are left out. We must have EVERY piece that fits into the picture, and every one in its PROPER place in relation to the others.

**AMAZING** Prophecies are being fulfilled before our very eyes!

Still more amazing things soon will occur in the world! But how can we tell what will happen NEXT?

How can we learn the exact ORDER in which coming events will occur?

For instance, all Bible students know that the 38th and 39th chapters of Ezekiel foretell a gigantic world war, yet future, in which Soviet Russia, together with many allies, will be the aggressor. But WHEN will this world war occur?

Most Bible students know, too, that the 17th chapter of Revelation tells us the ancient Roman Empire will once more be revived, this time by a federation of ten nations---and it will be the aggressor in war. But WHEN? How soon? Before, or after, Russia precipitates war?

What is the TIME when the "two witnesses" of Revelation 11: appear? The Bible, in scores of texts, prophesies the Second Coming of Christ. But WHEN---before the great Tribulation, to His "bride" out of it, or at the end of it and before the terrible "day of the Lord," or at the end of that? Will His coming occur before the final ending of the "Times of the Gentiles," or after Gentile "Times" have ended?

the various pieces properly joined together, a beautiful picture, clear and perfect, is the result. But if they are not joined properly together, the picture is distorted. Neither is it complete if one or two of the texts are left out. We must have EVERY piece that fits into the picture, and every one in its PROPER place in relation to the others.

### Time-Sequence Found ONLY in the Revelation

ONLY in the Book of Revelation do we find the various stages of prophesied events arranged in an orderly time-sequence. In the Book of Revelation there is a story-flow, relating one event to another in the time-order of occurrence.

But what is the KEY to an understanding of it? For Revelation is in symbols. The Book is the REVELATION---that is the revealing, not the concealing---of Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:1). What does it re-

we were ON THE AIR. The program has been continuously on the air, without missing a single week, ever since.

Mr. Hill had suggested that we produce a regular Sunday morning church service, abbreviated into 30 minutes. I had planned it according to his suggestion. In our new local church, then meeting out at the Jeans school house, 12 miles west of Eugene, we had a young couple, Claude and Velma Ellis. Claude was a very good tenor. His wife Velma sang alto. They sang duets, accompanied with Claude's guitar. They supplied the music.

I do not remember the exact format of the program, as it started, during those first few months. Very soon the duet was replaced with a mixed quartette, with our daughter Beverly singing soprano, Mrs. Armstrong alto, Claude Ellis tenor, and Alfred Freeze bass, with Mrs. Ellis at the piano.

As the program started out it was called the "Radio Church of God." It was, indeed, a church service on the air. There has been a gradual evolution in the format of the program. We were to learn, later, that an abbreviated church service appeals only to church-going people, who may want to listen in on a church service---or to "attend church" without leaving their homes. It attracts only what is called the "religious audience." Through the years the program changed, until it became a program pointed toward the NON-church-going public---people who are not religious and may never attend church.

But for the first two or three years it became a real condensed church service. In those days "The Radio Church of God" opened with an opening theme, the hymn composed by Elton Menno Roth (who later became my personal friend) "In My Heart There Rings a Melody," sung in lively manner by our "Radio Church Quartette." By that time I employed a leading choir director in Eugene to drill the quartette each week. My opening greeting came in over the music, as the quartette hummed a second chorus, announcing a lively opening hymn which they swung immediately into without a second's silence. Then came an opening prayer, with the quartette singing an "Amen" afterward---then announcements---then an anthem-

Here is a reproduction of the fifth number of The PLAIN TRUTH when it was still in mimeographed form. Notice the timeliness of the topic though written in 1934. In future issues we will publish pictures of earlier numbers.

a protest. But the pledges for financing the broadcast amounted to only \$1.25 per week. Our brethren were not in the upper strata income brackets. And these pledges had to be over and above tithes and regular offerings, which were sent to the state treasurer.

Mrs. Armstrong and I talked over the situation with Mr. Elmer Fisher, deacon and a leading member of our new local

Church, and other local members. We decided to go right ahead with the plans, trusting God in faith for the additional \$1.25 per week broadcasting expense, beside other needs for the new program.

### "ON THE AIR!"

On the first Sunday morning in the new year, 1934, precisely at 10 A.M.,

ette or two verses of a melodic hymn, then a 22 minute sermon, and then final announcements and hymn as a closing theme.

Gradually, however, we learned that it was the MESSAGE which attracted listeners. Radio station managers began to tell us that we really had a SPEECH-type program, and a Message and type of speech which would attract and hold a bigger audience than music. Since this also gave more time for the message, we gradually reduced the music, until we reached the present "World Tomorrow" format of all speech—news analysis, prophecy, a dynamic Message of interest to NON-religious and NON-church people, or, in other words, the WHOLE of the public.

But back, now, to January, 1934.

### *The PLAIN TRUTH'S Modest Bow*

Just as the 15-minute morning devotional programs had brought an unexpected mail response, so did the half-hour regular program of our own. Only it now brought a larger response. I began with the first broadcast, that first Sunday in 1934, inviting listeners to write in for the new magazine, *The Plain Truth*.

At the same time I began work on producing Volume I and Number 1 of this magazine of my dreams. I did not even have a "scope" for hand-lettering the headlines. Neither did I have the regular mimeograph lettering guides for tracing, with the stylus, larger headlines. I was still living with the Fishers on their farm seven miles west of Eugene—my wife and children still at the Hall Street house in Salem. I had to hold the mimeograph stencils up against a window, and try to cut the headlines with my right hand while I tried to hold the stencil without slipping against the window pane with my left. The headlines were a little shaky. That first issue of *The Plain Truth* was a pretty amateurish, home-made looking sort of thing. Probably no one but myself would have dignified it by calling it a "magazine."

No publication could have had a more humble, or a smaller start. But it was a start. It grew. It was improved, as scanty funds permitted. It took years before we were able to have it printed

on a printing press. But through the years it has been instrumental in making drastic *changes* in thousands of lives!

It was about November 1, 1933, that a few special offerings made it possible for us to purchase a very old, used, outdated Neostyle. It was predecessor to the mimeograph. It was entirely hand operated. The sheets of paper had to be fed into it one at a time by hand. There was *nothing* automatic about it. It cost \$10. We had also finally been able, before the first issue of *The Plain Truth*, to raise enough money to purchase a secondhand typewriter for \$10.

And so finally *The Plain Truth*, home-made at Fishers' farm on the Neostyle, but containing priceless plain TRUTH, made its humble bow to the world February 1, 1934. I have no record of the exact "press run" of that first edition, but it was in the neighborhood of 200 or 250 copies. I think we still have one copy somewhere in some old files.

Looking back now, we are a little amazed to see how far the broadcast and *The Plain Truth* have gone since then. Some 15 million people on every inhabited continent on earth hear the WORLD TOMORROW program every week. It is broadcast in English, Spanish, German and Russian. Soon is to be added French, Japanese and Italian. *The Plain Truth* now is published in three editions — the United States edition printed in Los Angeles; the British edition in London; and the Australian edition in Melbourne; now with a worldwide circulation of 250,000 copies! There is a special service for the blind. Literature is published in several languages. 25,000 students study the Bible Correspondence Course. That "grain of mustard seed" is multiplying mightily under the guiding power of GOD!

### Driving a Hall Rent Bargain

January and February, 1934, saw the broadcast and *The Plain Truth* under way. Another "grain of mustard seed" was taking root. Now we turned our energies toward the third of the new 3-Point campaign.

I looked around for a suitable hall for public evangelistic meetings in downtown Eugene. The best opportunity

seemed to be the old Masonic Temple on Seventh Street.

We were still holding meetings three times a week out at the Jeans school house, 12 miles west of Eugene; Tuesday and Thursday nights and Sabbath mornings. We, Mr. Fisher, the Ellises and I, had decided to hold meetings in downtown Eugene three nights a week—Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday.

I found that the Old Masonic Temple—long since vacant and dusty from disuse, since the new Masonic Temple had been built—was owned by Mr. Frank Chambers. He was said to own about half of downtown Eugene, and reputed to be the wealthiest man in town.

After talking the matter over with Mr. Elmer Fisher and other church members, we decided the maximum hall rental we could afford would be \$10 per month. Mr. Fisher was going to have to sponsor most of it. Somehow enough money had been coming in, besides the pledges of \$1.25 per week, to continue paying for every broadcast on Sunday morning in advance. With our secondhand typewriter and old Neostyle I had been able also to have enough money to buy stencils, ink and the few sheets of mimeograph paper required for the small *Plain Truth* circulation.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Armstrong, in Salem, found odd jobs of work to help keep herself and our four children from starving. We were now *on our own*, financially. We had no regular or guaranteed income of any kind since rejecting the \$3 per week salary from the Oregon State Conference. But, very gradually, with this new 3-Point campaign under way, tithes and offerings, small though they were, did increase slightly.

Even though it was not our policy from the first to request money over the air from listeners, a few soon became interested in the program and began giving it small scattered support. Little by little this financial support of the work increased.

An old record book found in dusty files shows that, by May, 1934, including the month of May and first 4 days of June, we had a total income of \$58.89. Amount paid out totalled \$53.77. And that included our house

rent and living expenses for our family, as well as broadcasting expense, hall rent, and publishing cost of *The Plain Truth*! Some critics, bent on misrepresenting facts in an effort to discredit God's work, began calling this work "Armstrong extravagance." This report, covering a month and four days, is a factual example of that alleged "extravagance"!

Another example is the hiring of the hall for public meetings. I sought out Mr. Chambers. I asked if he would rent out the second-floor old Masonic Hall for our meetings three nights a week. He would. I asked what was the lowest rental he would take.

"\$40 per month," he replied.

"We just don't have that kind of money," I said.

"Sorry, that's my lowest price," he insisted. "It would cost me more than that to clean the place up fit for use."

"Look, Mr. Chambers," I argued, "that hall hasn't been used in years. It isn't bringing you a cent of income unused. Anything we pay you is that much more than you are receiving now. We will clean it up ourselves. You'll have no expense. All we can afford to pay is \$10 per month. That's just \$10 per month income you are not getting now. And besides, you'll be doing a good public service."

"Mmm," he mused, "That's \$2.50 per week. Well, O.K. I'll let you have it for \$2.50 per week."

"Oh, no you don't," I came back. "I didn't offer you \$2.50 per week. That would figure \$12.50 every third month, and you are just sharp enough to figure in that extra \$2.50 every third month. I said \$10 flat per month."

Mr. Chambers grinned. He drove a sharp bargain. That is one reason he was the wealthiest man in town. But he respected me for catching him at it. In fact he respected me, and favored me from that time on.

"O.K.," he laughed. "I'll let you clean up the hall, and have it for a flat \$10 per month."

That \$10 per month may seem like less than pennies today. But, in March, 1934, that was going out on the limb of FAITH and adding just about 40% to our monthly expenses.

Where was this additional 40% of

income to be found? I knew this was GOD'S work. I knew that God owned all the money there is. I knew that God had promised to supply all our NEED. This had become a NEED in His work. Of course, Elmer Fisher was a successful farmer, and I felt I could count on him for part of it—but he also was a thrifty and a frugal farmer, and I knew he would contribute only the part he considered "his share." But I could trust God blindly for the rest. Actually, that is the principle on which this work has progressed ever since. Our faith has been sorely tried—but always justified in the end!

### The Family Arrives

It was now March, 1934. The broadcast was continuing each Sunday morning at 10 A.M. Somehow or other the \$2.50 had a way of turning up each week by Sunday morning—sometimes at the last moment. The February and March issues of *The Plain Truth* had been ground out on the old hand-operated Neostyle, and mailed to a gradually increasing mailing list. The hall had been rented for the meetings. We had set April 1st as the date to begin the meetings in downtown Eugene.

It seemed to be time, now, to move my family to Eugene. We stepped out on faith for an additional expenditure. I found a vacant house on West Fourth Avenue we could rent for \$10 a month—we had been paying \$7 in Salem.

Ed Smith, in whose home the new church had been organized, had a truck. He volunteered to go to Salem and bring Mrs. Armstrong, our four children, and our limited belongings in his truck. I needed Mrs. Armstrong to help clean up the old hall—although Mr. and Mrs. Fisher also gave quite a little help.

The truck with my family arrived one night after dark. It was too late to try to move into our house. We left the furniture and household goods on the truck overnight, and slept on cots in one of the ante-rooms in the hall.

About this time the reaction from the serious loss of sleep during that 15 months in Astoria—where I had averaged only 5 hours sleep a night, often getting none—and the driving grind

of meetings out west of Eugene, the publishing and broadcast work, constant private visits and Bible studies—left me in a condition where my nerves often refused to let me sleep of nights. At that time barbiturate sleeping pills could still be purchased at a drug store without a prescription. On this particular night I had been losing so much sleep I was desperate. For the first time in my life I took a sleeping pill.

I shall never forget the experience. I did sleep that night. But it was not a natural sleep. It was so obviously an induced, unnatural, artificial sleep, that I was frightened. I threw the remainder of the pills away. I have never used barbiturates since.

### Prosperity in Depression

While these meetings were still being held three times a week out at Jeans schoolhouse, neighbors began to complain that Ed Smith was harassing them. He went around the neighborhood arguing with those not in the church that they ought to keep the Sabbath, and tithe their income. It was becoming embarrassing.

"Why do you come around arguing these things with us, when you don't obey them yourself?" the neighbors asked Ed.

"Because," replied Ed, "I ain't a Christian, and you are. I don't have to do these things—but Christians sure do."

Of course Ed Smith attended all our meetings, even though he made no pretense of being converted. My next sermon was on the NON-Christian's relation to God's laws.

These laws, I showed, are basic principles; living, active, inexorable laws. They are the WAY to peace, happiness, prosperity, and every blessing. They are no respecter of persons—whether converted or unconverted. Those who break them have to reap what they sow. Violation brings unhappiness, everything wrong. God *promises* to *prosper* the tithe-payer—whether converted or not. Salvation does not come by obeying God's spiritual laws. The *penalty* of transgression, which is sin, is curses here and now, and the final, *eternal punishment* of DEATH. Salvation is not earned by *keeping* the law. That is only

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# AUTOBIOGRAPHY

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what everyone ought to have been doing all along. Salvation comes only as God's free GIFT—through GRACE, and by FAITH. Yet, *repentance* of sin, which is transgression of God's Law (I John 3:4), is a prior *condition* without which we cannot be reconciled to God by Christ's blood. Without repentance, and surrender *to obey*, we cannot have remission of past sins by Christ's death. But, once reconciled to God the Father thru faith in Christ's atoning work, we have the promise of receiving God's Holy Spirit—the begetting of ETERNAL LIFE.

Yet, even if one expects no salvation, he will fare better and profit more—and suffer less—if he OBEYS these inexorable principles of RIGHT AND HAPPY LIVING! If he does not, he is here and now living under a CURSE. And, even if finally lost, I was careful to point out—since Ed fully expected to be—those who have sinned *most* are to be punished with *many stripes*, and those who have sinned less with *fewer*. (Luke 12:47-48).

After that, Ed Smith quit working on the Sabbath. At the Tuesday night meeting, Mrs. Smith handed me a dollar bill.

"All the money we have in the world is ten dollars," she said. "Ed has decided to start tithing. Here is a tenth of all we have."

On Thursday night she came in beaming. She handed me a five dollar bill.

"The next day after Ed tithed that one dollar, a man who owed him \$50 came and paid up. This had been due for over a year, and we had never expected to collect it."

Ed Smith was a well driller by profession. But in these depression years he had been getting no wells to dig—and the few he had drilled previously had not been paid for. In a few days a new customer came along, and he began drilling a new well. Then another, and later another. He continued to prosper, until he had more business than he could handle. He hired other

men to work for him. Finally, he had to dig three wells simultaneously or lose one or two of them. Now he decided he had to work seven days a week.

The very first Sabbath Ed and his crews were working, his drills broke, and he lost all three jobs. After that, Ed met with other adversity. His wife and son were sent to the state T.B. hospital in Salem. Finally, Ed Smith gave in, and surrendered to Jesus Christ. I baptized him. His wife and son were healed and returned home.

Ed Smith is dead, now. But his experience is still living testimony that *God, His laws, and His promises are STILL LIVING!*

In next month's installment we shall see how the persecution started, and what happened.

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