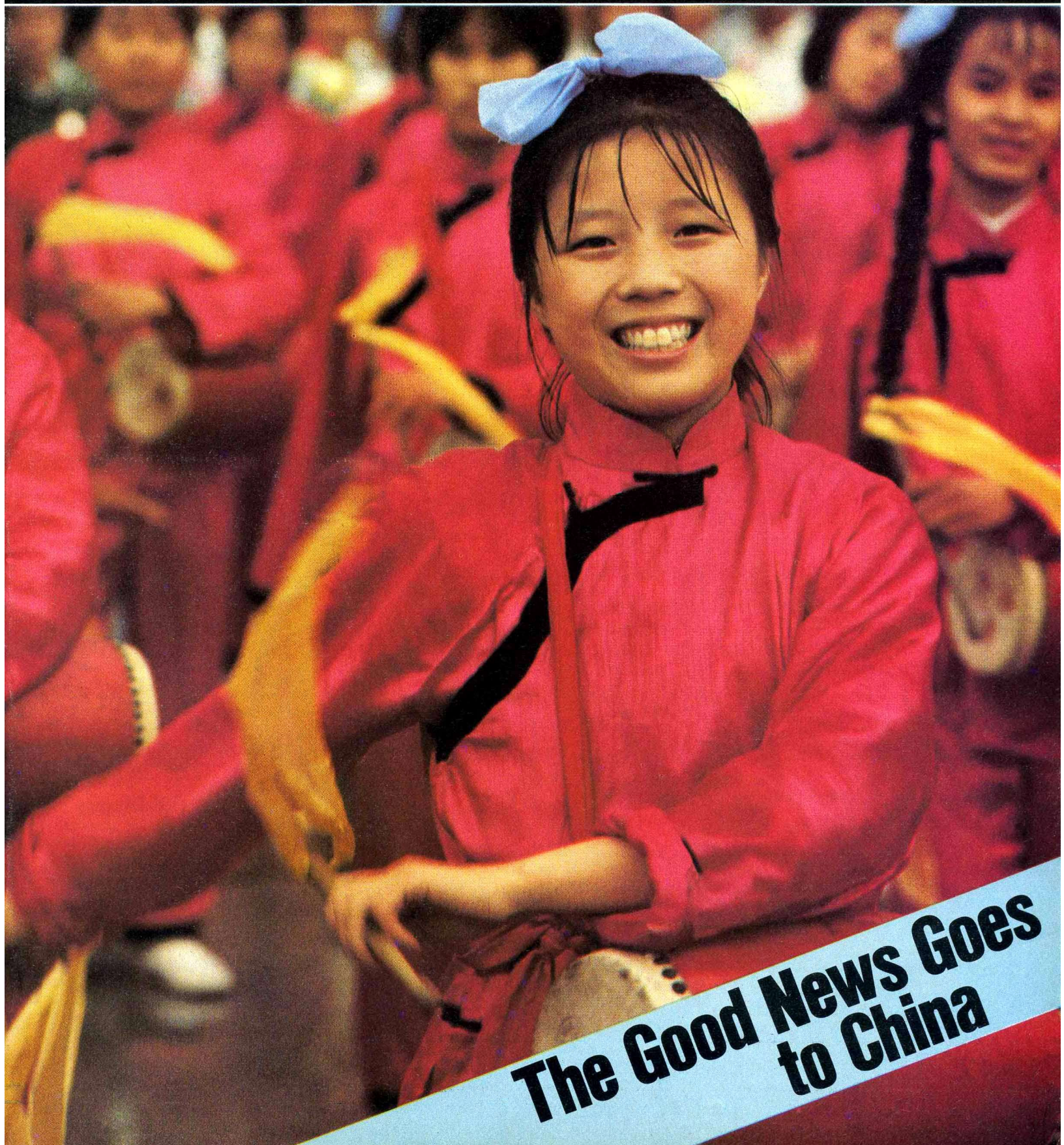


FEBRUARY 1980

THE PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding



**The Good News Goes
to China**



Personal from...

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Herbert Armstrong".

*Forty-sixth anniversary message from Peking [Beijing], China,
by the founder and editor in chief.*

I AM WRITING this 46th anniversary "Personal" from our apartment where Mrs. Armstrong and I are being housed by the government in the guest "State House," in Peking [Beijing], China.

It is indeed a gratifying experience to write this "Personal" for the 46th anniversary number at a time when I have been privileged to be the first church leader from the Western world of Christianity to be invited to confer with government leaders, and to speak here as the guest of the government. You will read my personal report of our visit here starting on page 2.

It was approximately 53 years ago that the idea of publishing a monthly magazine to be called *The Plain Truth* was born in my mind. I know now that God inspired it.

At the time I was continuing in study and research for God's TRUTH, following an initial intensive almost night-and-day study to prove whether evolution is the true means by which mankind appeared on the earth — to prove also, whether God actually exists!

I had disproved the evolutionary theory after careful study through the works of Darwin, Haeckel, Huxley and other defenders of the hypothesis. I had PROVED, and been able to prove to professed atheists, the existence and reality of the living GOD. Further, I had proved conclusively the veracity and divine inspiration of the Holy Bible as God's Word and message to mankind.

I had been forced to give up nearly all Christian teachings I had absorbed from attendance at Sunday school and church from infancy until age 18, when I lost interest in religion. Much more, at age 34 my whole life had been changed by this intensive study. My life from that point was given over to Jesus Christ, "If He could use it", for I had learned that He had bought and paid for it with His life's blood. He has used it in changing thousands of lives. I had become excitedly intrigued by the new TRUTHS I was finding revealed in the Bible.

I was experienced in writing both advertising copy and magazine articles. Early in 1927 I began writing in article form some of these truths I was discovering in the Bible. It was only natural that God led me then to

conceive of publishing a new magazine making PLAIN these marvelous TRUTHS revealed in the Bible. I wanted to get across to a biblically illiterate public an UNDERSTANDING of God's Word!

I felt then—and I know now—that God was leading me in this. My reading audience would be the general public—not those who considered themselves Bible students.

But *how* would I publish it? I had no money—in fact my family was actually going hungry—my advertising income had been cut to \$75 per month from one client only. And *how* would I gain subscribers? One thing I settled then and there. Since it would carry God's TRUTH, it could not be sold. God's Word says, "Buy the truth, and sell it not." Yet it must never be given except on request.

Undaunted by apparent impossibilities, I nevertheless took the first step. I employed a professional letter artist to design a front cover, with the name "*The Plain Truth*," and under it, "*a magazine of understanding.*" That was as far as I could go. I had to trust God to open the way to carry it on from there.

I am reminded of the experience of the children of Israel migrating out of Egyptian slavery, under Moses. They got as far as the Red Sea, and there they were blocked. Before them was the sea, but no bridge and no boats. Behind them Pharaoh's army was advancing to drive them back. They had to rely on GOD to provide a way of crossing. And God did!

And so God provided the way to start the new magazine, *The Plain Truth*—but He made me wait seven years before He did!

But I knew then, as I do today, that the reading general public is not much interested in the things of God. Perhaps most families have a Bible somewhere in the home, since the Bible is the world's No. 1 seller. But the chances were good that it would be covered with dust. The job of my envisioned new magazine would be to induce them to blow the dust off their Bibles and *read them!*

Most of my years in maga- (Continued on page 38)

Here is Mr. Armstrong's personal report of the first official visit by a church leader from the world of Christianity to the capital of Communist China.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

IN thirty-five minutes I shall leave the government's guest "State House" to address 76 ambassadors, their wives and other government representatives from as many different nations and a number of officials from the People's Republic of China, at the People's Great Hall. Last night I addressed some 400 people at a banquet at the Peking [Beijing] Duck Restaurant. Present were many leading government officials with their wives, and a number of educators from various universities.



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG discusses world's future with Tan Zhen-lin, vice-chairman of Standing Committee of National People's Congress.

Speaking to leaders here is speaking to the leaders of one fourth of all the people on earth today—*one billion people!* It is an awesome experience. But my address last night was enthusiastically received. It is now 9:30 p.m. and I am back in our apartment in the government's guest State House, where Mrs. Armstrong and I are staying. In fact, all our party, including Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Rader,

our aircraft crew, television and camera men, are also being housed here. Dinners and banquets begin promptly at 6 p.m. here, so we are back early. There is virtually no nightlife here. Almost no traffic on our drive back to our "home" in Peking [Beijing]. The People's Great Hall, where tonight's banquet was held, is a magnificent, large and stately building. Halls and rooms are extremely large by U.S. standards. In fact everything I've seen here so far gives the impression of bigness and spaciousness. Main boulevards are not only wide, but all buildings are set back, I would estimate, about 75 feet, with service streets between the main boulevard and the buildings. The banquet tonight was held in a room about the size of an American football field, with very high ceilings and massive chandeliers.

There were ambassadors from 76 different nations there tonight. It was the usual 10-course dinner (I'm told they served an 8-course dinner for President Richard Nixon). This was the third dinner for me, and all were 10 courses. I was introduced tonight by Mr. Tokuo

THE GOOD NEWS GOES TO CHINA



I do try to explain that I am an ambassador for world peace—that I talk with many heads of governments—that they all have greater problems to face than any man can solve.



TRADITIONAL ART and architecture blend with the modern in Peking's (Beijing's) inner city. A family, previous page, tours the once "forbidden" inner city.

Yamashita, a ranking member of the Japanese Diet. They heard the GOOD NEWS of the coming KINGDOM OF GOD—though in this solidly atheist communist country, I described what's coming, in our time, but not in Bible language.

The National Library

Wednesday, near noon, December 5: This morning we left the State House at 9 a.m. and visited the national library. This was a most interesting visit. The library now is housed in one of the older buildings. They are rapidly building up the volumes of books to a standard that will be a credit to the most populous nation on earth.

We were shown and allowed to examine some of the most ancient volumes, one an ancient scroll, a long roll, all done by hand about the 4th century, A.D., others up to 400 years ago. I was presented a beautiful book in color showing many photographs of China as it is today.

From the library we were driven in the limousine placed at our disposal to the "Forbidden City," a walled smaller city within the city, which was the residence of former emper-

rors. There are many buildings, courts and gardens within this "inner city," all in the ancient Chinese architecture, with much stone carving.

On our arrival at the airport last Sunday, late afternoon, limousines had driven up to our aircraft, and we were driven to the city and to our quarters in the State House.

Immediately I noticed swarms of people everywhere on foot. After three days in Peking [Beijing], it has seemed that millions of people swarm the streets, walking, with multiple thousands of people on bicycles. Very little automobile traffic until we were nearing the city center, and then automobile traffic became more like the United States, mingled with swarms of bicycles, and still crowds afoot on the sidewalks.

The more modern buildings in Peking are large and spacious. One experiences the sense of BIGNESS and SPACIOUSNESS here. Of course Peking is a city of around seven million population, about the size of New York or London in population, but utterly different in atmosphere. This was distinctly CHINA!

All the above was written while in

Peking, haphazardly, a bit at a time. It is somewhat disconnected, but since it was written on the spot while there, I will leave it.

We are now in Tokyo. There will be a large banquet here Saturday night, with members of the Japanese Diet and wives, ambassadors and wives from other nations, and members of the Chinese Embassy present.

I will try now to reconstruct the report of our visit to China in orderly sequence. But let me first say, it probably was the MOST IMPORTANT and most successful trip I have ever taken.

China Visit Begins

We arrived in Tokyo, after a two-day rest stop at Honolulu, Hawaii, on Friday evening, November 30. On Sunday, December 2, we flew to Peking [Beijing]. On arrival there, as stated above, government limousines drove to our aircraft. We were not required to go through the usual immigration and customs in the terminal. Our passports were taken as we entered the limousines and returned to us as we boarded four days later.

We were driven to the government's guest State House. That evening there was a small dinner hosted by the president and vice-president of the Peking [Beijing] University in my honor—and a 10-course dinner. It was my first experience in Chinese dinners. I ate enough for an entire dinner on the first course—not realizing nine other courses were to follow. There were many toasts given to me, to Mr. Rader, to our wives and to others. I was allowed to drink the toasts with water instead of wine.

Monday night, December 3, was the largest dinner, with approximately 400 present. These included government and university officials and their wives, primarily. The speaking was led off by the ambassador from Liberia, who was seated to my left. Then Mr. Rader was called on for a short speech, after

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to your good health

Is All Animal Flesh Good For Food ?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Were all animals made clean? What about the unclean animals shown to Peter in a vision? Here is a straightforward Bible answer, giving the New Testament teaching. This subject is important to your health and well-being!

After thousands of years of human experience on earth, it seems there still is nothing people know less about than food.

Observe a little baby. It seems to think that anything and everything its little chubby hands can get into its mouth is good to eat—and everything baby gets his hands on goes straight to his mouth! How often must young parents take things away, and try to teach the lovely little bundle of humanity that everything one's hands can touch is not necessarily good for the digestion!

We're Just Grown-up Babies

Well, one might wonder if any of us has grown up! Most of us adults still seem to think that anything we can stuff in our mouths is good for food. About the only difference between us and the baby is that baby puts into his mouth whatever *looks* good, while we employ the sense of taste in deciding what goes into our mouths. In a very real sense, your stomach is your fuel

Good health is not an accident. Like sickness, it involves cause-and-effect factors. The Bible itself contains a wealth of practical advice on good health. In addition, the science of biochemistry has produced a wealth of significant findings on health. From time to time these discoveries will appear in *The Plain Truth* magazine. In this issue we reproduce an article written by our editor-in-chief, Herbert W. Armstrong, some years ago.

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tank. Your automobile's tank is its stomach. You wouldn't think of pouring just any fluid that will pour into the "stomach" of your car. You know that your car was not made to consume and "digest" fuel oil, water, milk, or kerosene.

Yes, we are very careful what we "feed" our automobile—and totally careless and indifferent about what we feed ourselves and our children!

What happens to the food you eat? In the stomach the digestive process takes place. And, once digested—if you have eaten fit and digestible food—a portion of the essential minerals and vitamins—the life-giving properties in the food—filter through the intestinal lining into the bloodstream to replenish and build up decaying cells, to provide energy, body warmth, good health.

Your body is wonderfully made! It is the most wonderful mechanism in the world.

But, just as you must use the right kind of gasoline in the gas tank and the right kind of oils and greases in the other parts of your car or otherwise impair its performance, so you must put the right kind of food into the most delicate mechanism of all, your body.

If you tried to oil a fine watch with axle grease, you wouldn't expect the watch to keep good time.

And when you put into your stomach all kinds of foul things which the Great Architect who designed your human mechanism never intended, you foul up your body and bring on sickness, disease, aches, pains, a dulled and clogged-up mind, inefficiency and inability—and you commit suicide on the installment plan by actually shortening your life!

The God who designed, created, and made your body has revealed some essential basic knowledge about what meats will keep that body functioning in tip-top shape. Why does humanity refuse His instructions?

You Are Eating Poison

You don't eat every plant that grows out of the ground. Some things that grow are poison, not food.

But did you know there are many kinds of poisons? Potassium cyanide will kill you very quickly. Some poisons will result in death within a few hours or a few days. But very few

seem to know there are other poisons people mistakenly eat as foods which result in premature death after continuous usage for, say, ten, or thirty, or fifty years.

The only difference between these poisons we falsely call foods and potassium cyanide is the relative number of minutes, hours, or years it takes to accomplish its mission.

Just as every plant that God caused to grow out of the ground was not designed for food, so it is with animal flesh. Some will say, "Well, if swine's flesh isn't supposed to be eaten as food, what did God create swine for?" You might as well ask, what did God create weeds and poison vines for? Everything may have been created for a purpose, but not everything for the purpose of eating.

Now some believe that in the original creation—in the Garden of Eden—God did not intend any animal flesh to be eaten. God's revelation on that point is vague, and many have argued it both ways. However, God has clearly revealed that certain animal meats are to be eaten as food now, in this age, and Jesus who came to set us an example did eat flesh as well as vegetables and fruits, and so do I.

What the Great Architect of Your Stomach Instructs

When the first written revelation of God came to man through Moses, God instructed man as to which kinds of animal flesh man ought or ought not to eat. You will find this list in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14.

This is a basic law—a revelation from God to man about which kinds of flesh will properly digest and assimilate in the human system, and which will not. It is not a part of God's great spiritual law, summed up in the Ten Commandments. Neither is it part of the ceremonial, ritualistic, or sacrificial laws later abolished at the crucifixion of Christ.

It is necessary to recognize that God is the Author of *all* law, and there are countless laws in motion. There are laws of physics and chemistry. You know of the law of gravity. There is the great immutable spiritual law to regulate man's relationship to God and to fellowmen—the law of love—the Ten Command-

ments. God gave His nation Israel civil statutes and judgments—national laws for the conduct of the national government. Israel was also His Church, under the Old Covenant. And for the dispensation then present God gave Israel rituals and ceremonial laws for the conduct of religious services, laws relating to typical and temporary sacrifices, meat and drink offerings—temporary substitutes for Christ and the Holy Spirit. Those laws, of course, ended when the Reality came.

Physical, as Well as Spiritual Sin

And then, we must realize, there are physical laws working in our bodies, regulating our health. This meat question has to do with these laws.

I know of men who make a hobby of bitterly accusing others of sin for eating pork, oysters, and clams.

Let us get this straight and clear!

We usually speak of sin in its spiritual aspect. That is the aspect in which it is considered in the New Testament. The Bible definition of it is this: "Sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4).

The penalty for violation of that spiritual law is death—not the first, or physical death, but the second, or spiritual and eternal death in the "lake of fire" (Revelation 20:14).

Now the eating of wrong food is not a transgression of this spiritual law, and is not a spiritual sin. To violate the physical laws of health often brings the penalty of disease, disability, pain, sickness, and sometimes the *first* death. It is not necessarily spiritual sin.

That is what Jesus made plain, as recorded in Mark 7:14-23. Here Jesus was speaking of *spiritual* defilement, not physical health. Not that which enters into a man's mouth, but the evil that comes out of his heart, defiles the man spiritually. What defiles the man—and he is speaking of defiling the *man*, not injuring the body—is transgression of the Ten Commandments—evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, blasphemy (verses 21-22). These things have nothing to do with the physical laws of health. He was making a point concerning spiritual defilement, not physical health.

Specifically, on the physical level,

He was referring to a possible particle of dirt which might get on the food from dirty and unwashed hands—He was *not* here speaking of clean or unclean meats at all.

No Change in Structure of Animal Flesh at Cross

The animals whose flesh properly digests and nourishes the human body were so made in the original creation. No change was ever made in the structure of men's bodies at the time of the flood, or at the time of Jesus' death, or any other time. Neither did God make some sudden change in the structure of animal flesh, so that what once was unfit for food will now digest properly and supply the body's needs.

The unclean animals were unclean before the flood.

Notice, before the flood, Noah took into the ark of the clean animals, to be eaten for food, by sevens; but of the unclean, of which he was not to eat during the flood, by two's—only enough to preserve their lives. The inference is inescapable that the additional clean animals were taken aboard to be eaten for food while Noah and his family were in the ark.

Prior to the flood, clean animals were usually offered as sacrifices. Those who ate the sacrifices often partook of the animal flesh, but vegetables were the main constituent of diet. After the flood, God gave Noah not merely the green herb—vegetables—as the major part of diet, but of every *type* of living creature—clean animals, clean fish, clean fowl (Genesis 9:3 and Leviticus 11).

Genesis 9:3 does not say that every living, breathing creature is clean and fit to eat, but that "as the green herb have I given you all things." God did not give poisonous herbs as food. He gave man the healthful herbs. Man can determine which herbs are healthful, but man cannot by himself determine which flesh foods are harmful. That is why God had to determine for us in His Word which meats are clean. Since the flood every moving *clean*, healthful, nonpoisonous type of animal life is good for food—just as God gave us the healthful, nonpoisonous herbs.

This does not give us permission to do as we please!

Not Ceremonial Law

The instruction in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14, then, is not some ritualistic regulation for the Mosaic period only. Why do so many people have the idea that God is some great unfair monster who imposes foolish hardships on His people? Whatever God instructs us is for our good, not some nonsensical restriction for one period to be changed around some different way for other people of a different period.

Now for some specific instruction concerning mammals: "These are the beasts which ye shall eat: the ox [beef], the sheep [lamb], and the goat, the hart, and the roebuck, and the fallow deer, and the wild goat, and the pygarg [antelope], and the wild ox, and the chamois [mountain sheep]. And every beast that parteth the hoof, and cleaveth the cleft into two claws, and cheweth the cud among the beasts, that ye shall eat. Nevertheless these ye shall not eat of them that chew the cud, or of them that divide the cloven hoof; as the camel, and the hare, and the coney: for they chew the cud, but divide not the hoof; therefore they are unclean unto you. And the swine [hogs], because it divideth the hoof, yet cheweth not the cud, it is unclean unto you: ye shall not eat of their flesh..." (Deuteronomy 14:4-8).

Horsemeat is not fit for humans because horses not only do not have divided hoofs, but they also do not chew the cud.

Similarly, swine flesh—pork, ham, bacon, sausage, rabbit meat, etc.—is simply not fit for human consumption. The same is true with oysters, lobsters, clams, crabs, shrimp, crawfish, dogs, snakes, rats, and skunks.

The only seafood fit for food are fish having *both* fins and scales. Halibut has both and is clean. Catfish is a skin fish—unclean.

It's all a matter of what we have become accustomed to doing. It seems strange and horrifying to hear that some Orientals eat mice as a delicacy. But many Orientals are horrified to hear that we eat nasty, slimy, filthy oysters! But some human grown-ups, like little babies, will eat anything they can get their

hands on and stuff into their mouths.

At so-called "quality" grocery stores in large towns and cities, specializing in rare delicacies, you can purchase "delicious" canned rattlesnake—if you care for it.

So far as I am concerned, you may have my portion if you wish to try it. I do not care to eat it for the same reason I do not eat slugs, skunks, cats, or eels—for the same reason I do not eat poison ivy or weeds. Yes, and for the same reason I do not put fuel oil mixed with sand in the gas tank of my car!

The day will come when we will at last learn that eating greasy hog flesh and other unfit "foods" has been a prime cause of cancer and other deadly diseases.

What About Peter's Vision?

But what about the sheet containing unclean animals which was shown to the apostle Peter in a vision (Acts 10)? Did this vision change the entire composition of all unclean animals, or of the human apparatus, so that these unfit things suddenly became nourishing food?

Not at all!

The purpose of this vision was NOT to change God's food and health laws which have been inexorably in motion from the beginning, but to show Peter "that I should not call any *man common or unclean*" (Acts 10:28). Why? Because the Jewish people had been taught to regard Gentiles like unclean animals—to have nothing to do with them.

It is time you fully understood this vision. It may well affect your health, happiness and eternal life. Open your Bible to the tenth chapter of Acts.

Notice that Cornelius was an Italian soldier—an uncircumcised Italian—a Gentile by race. To the strict Jews, he was to be regarded as an unclean *man*. But God looks on the heart. Cornelius gave "much alms" to the Jewish people (verse 2). God remembered his alms and revealed in a vision that he should send some of his servants to Joppa to contact Peter.

In verse 9, we find Peter was a man of prayer. While praying on a housetop, Peter became very hungry. Just before noon Peter fell into a trance. In vision he saw heaven opened and a sheet was let down to the earth. This

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Food

(Continued from page 17)

sheet contained "all manner of four-footed beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air" (verse 12).

Notice this carefully. This sheet contained every type of animal imaginable, including wild animals—lions, tigers, hyenas, monkeys, skunks. And creeping things—snakes and lizards, vermin and spiders. And fowl like vultures and crows and eagles!

Peter was shocked by the sight of all these creatures. Then, of all things, God commanded Peter to kill and eat of these creatures! What did Peter say?

"Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean" (verse 14).

Peter had lived day and night with Jesus for over three years. He certainly understood from Jesus' teaching that there were some creatures which are simply not fit for human food. That is why when this vision came *ten years* after the rituals and ceremonies were abolished at the cross, Peter refused to eat. He knew that God's law of clean and unclean meats was still in full force and effect!

Now notice what the voice from heaven told Peter when he refused to eat: "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common" (verse 15). It does not say that what God cleansed were these revolting unclean reptiles, fowl and wild animals. It does say that what God cleansed is not to be called common! But what did God cleanse?

What God Really Cleansed

In this vision which Peter saw, the voice from heaven spoke three times, then the sheet was received up into heaven again. And what did Peter do? "Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean" (verse 17). He did not immediately assume like so many people that God suddenly changed His laws ten years after the crucifixion!

Now notice what happened! "While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. Arise therefore,

and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them" (verses 19-20).

The voice from heaven in the vision spoke unto Peter three times because three Gentile men—two servants and a soldier (verse 7)—were at that moment on their way to see him. Peter went with them to see Cornelius. This is when Peter understood the vision! He confessed in verse 28 "... God hath shewed me that I should not call any *man* common or unclean."

"What God cleansed" were not those unclean animals, but those Gentile men, formerly regarded as unclean by the Jewish people.

Those unclean animals in Peter's vision were used to symbolize the Gentile races of *men*. The Jewish people had been forbidden to associate with them because of their abominable practices. But now this wall of spiritual separation had been broken down and salvation was extended to the Gentiles. Peter finally realized that this was the meaning of the vision and said, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him" (verses 34-35).

Yes, to be accepted with God, we must fear Him and work righteousness. What is righteousness? "... All thy commandments are righteousness" (Psalms 119:172). And among those commandments are the laws which tell us which kinds of flesh are clean and which are unclean!

Would You Eat Skunks and Rats?

But suppose God had been trying to tell Peter—and us—that he should eat all the things contained in the sheet that was let down in vision. Would you eat those "creeping things"—lizards, snakes, spiders? Would you eat skunks and hyenas? Of course you wouldn't! Why? Because you have your own law of what you think is clean and unclean!

Common sense tells us that God did not intend for us to eat every creature. But we just aren't willing to let our Creator tell us which meats will give us lasting health and strength, and which ones are injurious to our bodies, and will eventual-

ly bring on more sickness and disease. It is time we let God tell us what is clean and what is unclean instead of using our faulty human reason!

Some people, however, still want to argue with God. One text they will bring up is found in I Timothy 4:1-5. Read it carefully.

Notice that these "doctrines of devils" include "commanding to abstain from meats which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving..." By whom? "Of them which believe and know the truth." What is truth? Christ said, "Thy word is truth" (John 17:17). Then the Bible itself reveals the truth concerning which meats are good for food. We should not refuse to eat any food which, according to truth, God created to be eaten with thanksgiving. But this does not mean that all meats are healthful and fit for the human body.

Notice that the false doctrine is commanding to abstain from meats which are thankfully received by those who believe and know the truth—who know God's Word. But God's Word—the Holy Bible—tells us that there *are* some meats which are "unclean," and are not to be received with thanksgiving!

Now consider what verses 4 and 5 tell us: "For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, *if* it be received with thanksgiving; for it is *sanctified* by the word of God and prayer." What does it mean to be SANCTIFIED by the Word of God and prayer?

"Sanctify" is a word meaning to make holy, or set apart for a right use or purpose—to set apart as fit for human food.

Now which meats has God sanctified for human food? The only passages in all the Bible showing which meats God sanctified are found in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14. Here you find that it is the "clean"—healthful—meats which are good for food. These are the only meats that can be received with thanksgiving and prayer!

There is not a single scripture showing that God ever set apart as fit for food any unclean creatures—snails, oysters, clams, snakes, octopuses, eels, horses, rabbits, or swine! Yet people eat these creatures with-

out realizing the harm they are doing to their bodies.

Paul Instructs Vegetarians

Paul's letter to the saints at Rome is often quoted as supposed proof that any kind of flesh food is good to eat. But is this what Paul really taught?

Turn to the beginning of the 14th chapter of Romans. Notice what the apostle is writing: "Him that is *weak* in the faith receive ye"—don't dispute with him and sit in judgment on him because of his weak understanding of the faith. Paul continues: "For one believeth that he may eat all things, another who is *weak*, eateth *herbs* [vegetables only]" (Romans 14:1-2).

Of whom is Paul writing? Of those who were vegetarians, as well as those who believed in eating both flesh foods and vegetables.

Paul was confronted with the same problem that we encounter today in carrying the gospel to the world. You would be surprised at the number of people who do not eat meat or even any animal products—milk, butter, cheese, eggs. Some have meatless days or days on which they will eat fish only. These are all people who, because they are weak in the faith, abstain from those clean meats which God originally sanctified or set apart in His Word for man's physical nourishment.

The question confronting Paul was not that Christians at Rome contended that all unclean animals had now been cleansed by God—the common false assumption of today—but the real issue, according to verse two, was over the vegetarian belief held by some that no meats whatsoever should be eaten.

Paul was straightening out the brethren on this matter, telling them that none of those clean meats which had been created by God to be received with thanksgiving should be refused. He pointed out to them, however, that it would be wrong for the vegetarians to eat meat if they had doubts about it, thereby defiling their weak consciences. For he wrote: "... Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (verses 22-23).

We must follow what God has revealed to us to be right according to the Word of God. This does not mean that our consciences always tell us what is right—not at all. We have to continually study to learn what is right and wrong. But God thinks more highly of a vegetarian who might sincerely and conscientiously deny himself the clean meats, because he does not know the full truth, than He does a person who would do the right thing according to the letter, but who really believes in his heart that he is doing wrong.

So "to him"—the vegetarian—"that esteemeth anything to be common, to *him*"—the vegetarian—"it is common." That is, it *seems so* to him. But it is not common *in fact*, nor to us, for we know that all clean meats are good for food. That is why Paul wrote: "I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing common of itself" (verse 14).

Notice that in this verse Paul used, according to the margin of the King James Version, the Greek word for "common," not the Greek word for "unclean." Why?

"Common" Does Not Mean "Unclean"

Many have carelessly assumed that Paul is writing about unclean meats in this 14th chapter of Romans. He is not! He is writing about the difference between vegetarians who regard that clean meats are common, and those who know that clean meats are of themselves not common.

In the Greek there are two different words used which are often carelessly translated "unclean" or "common." Notice that in Acts 10:14 both of these words are used. The Bible does not repeat itself foolishly. Therefore these two words mean entirely different things.

The Greek word for "unclean" is *akarthatos*. It means "unclean and impure by nature." The Greek word for "common" is *koinos*, which means "polluted through external misuse." (See any of the Greek-English lexicons.)

Paul used the Greek word for "common" throughout Romans 14:14. He did not use the Greek word for "unclean." In other words, Paul knew that no clean foods which God has sanctified are by nature polluted,

but vegetarians who were weak in the faith—weak in understanding God's Word—thought meats should not be eaten. To such a vegetarian—"to him," not to others—that meat *seemed to be* polluted. His conscience defiled the meat for him; he would become upset if he were to eat meat. But that does not make the meat polluted in fact or for everybody else.

Notice Paul's conclusion: "For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure"—that is, all things that God sanctified and gave us to eat are clean—"but it is evil for that man who eateth with offense. It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth..." (verses 20 and 21).

Paul is not recommending eating unclean meats! Quite the opposite. He is recommending not eating any meat at all in the presence of a vegetarian brother if he is offended!

When Is "Clean" Meat "Common"?

The only circumstance in which clean meats are ever common or polluted is when the clean animals have died of themselves or when the blood has not been properly drained. That is why the apostles and elders who gathered at Jerusalem forbade the use of meat from strangled animals and meat with the blood in it (Acts 15:20). This is New Testament teaching for today!

Such animal flesh was called "common" because it could be given to strangers or aliens in Old Testament times if those people wanted to eat it. They were the *common* and polluted people—the Gentiles—not the chosen and clean people, Israel (Deuteronomy 14:21).

In New Testament times, clean meat offered to idols was prohibited if it had been polluted by strangulation or if the blood were remaining in it. Otherwise the meat was permitted to be eaten if it did not offend anyone.

Paul devoted the entire 8th and 10th chapters of I Corinthians to instructions on not raising the question of meats offered to idols. "But if any man say unto you, This is offered in sacrifice unto idols, eat not for his sake that shewed it, and for conscience sake" (I Corinthians 10:28).

In other words, if clean meats offered to idols were not polluted, you could eat of them unless it offended someone. Under those circumstances the meat became common, not to you, but to the other person who raised the question about idols. Notice: "Conscience, I say, not thine own, but of the other" (verse 29).

That is why Paul said in Romans, "But to him that esteemeth any thing to be common [margin], to him it is common" (Romans 14:14)

Prophecy for the Future

What does the Bible say the people would be doing today? Notice: They that eat "swine's flesh"—that is what most people are doing today—"and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together"—in the wrath of God—"saith the Lord" (Isaiah 66:17).

This is the fate of those who lust after the foods which God forbids us to eat because those meats will harm us. This is the fate of those "whose God is their belly" (Philippians 3:19).

Is it any wonder today, that with all our scientific knowledge, we have more doctor bills, more sickness than ever before in the history of the world? It is time we returned to God and began to obey His laws. He is our Creator. He made us. He knows what our bodies were made to utilize as good, healthful foods. He set the laws in motion regulating clean and unclean meats. It is time we began to obey them as Jesus and the apostles did!

God forbids also the eating of animal fat, or blood (Leviticus 3:17; 7:23-27). Butter, olive oil, and some vegetable oils and shortenings are acceptable, but animal fat should be cut off before eating meat. Cheaper hamburger is not good because it is mixed with much fat. Lard should never be used. These things will wreck any stomach in time.

What About Fish and Fowl?

The Bible itself defines which sea life is good food: "Whatsoever hath fins and scales in the waters, in the seas, and in the rivers, them shall ye eat" (Leviticus 11:9). In verse 10 it is further clarified: "And all that have *not* fins AND scales in the seas . . . they shall be an abomination unto you."

"But which fish have both fins and scales?" is the question asked by many readers.

First, let us name the commonly known *unclean* fish—these are scaleless fish—which are not fit for food: catfish, eels, paddlefish, sculpins, sticklebacks and sturgeons.

These fish do not have true scales. Together with these creatures are other forms of sea life unfit for human consumption: abalone, clams, crabs, lobsters, oysters, scallops, shrimp, whale.

The most important clean fish—having both scales and fins—are: albacore, anchovy, barracuda, bass, blackfish, bowfin, buffalo, carp, characin, cod, croaker, darter, flounder, gaby, grayling, haddock, halibut, herring, jack, mackerel, minnow, mooneye, mullet, needlefish, perch, pike, salmon, sardine, shad, silverside, smelt, snapper, sole, sucker, sunfish, surf fish, tarpon, trout, tuna, weakfish, whitefish. If any question arises, consult such books as *Field Book of Freshwater Fishes* by Ray Schrenkeisen, which may be found in public libraries.

Some people, who are not competent to judge fish, have thought certain of these clean fish were without scales, but this is not true. One point to remember is that many fish have very small or minute scales near the head and the tail fin. In either case, such fish are clean and fit for food.

The second part of the question concerns fowl. Which birds are fit for human consumption? The answer is found in Leviticus 11:13-19 and Deuteronomy 14:11-20.

Each of these sections lists specific varieties of birds *unfit* for human consumption. No clean birds are listed. Only about two dozen unclean birds are listed out of thousands found the world over. These unclean birds illustrate the characteristics of all unclean birds. They fall into types, each of which is unclean "after its kind." The question is, how do these unclean birds differ from those known to be clean or fit for human consumption? The characteristics of clean fowl are, of course, determined by the dove and the pigeon (Luke 2:24 and Leviticus 1:14-17) which were anciently used for sacrifice.

By comparing the differences between these clean birds and those

listed as unclean, we can arrive at the following six characteristics of clean birds: 1) they must not be birds of prey; 2) they catch food thrown to them in the air, but they bring it to the ground, where they divide it with their bills, if possible, before eating it; whereas unclean birds devour it in the air, or press it with one foot to the ground and tear it with their bills; 3) they must have an elongated middle front toe and a hind toe; 4) they must spread their toes so that three front toes are on one side of a perch and the hind toe on the other side; 5) they must have craws or crops; 6) they must have a gizzard with a double lining which can easily be separated. (Consult articles in *Jewish Encyclopaedia* under "Poultry," and "Clean and Unclean Animals.")

Clean birds have all these characteristics; unclean birds lack one or more of these characteristics. If a bird lacks any one of these characteristics, it is unclean.

Besides the pigeon and dove, the following birds are clean: chicken, pheasant, quail, partridge, grouse, turkey, all song birds, ducks and geese.

Unclean birds not listed specifically in the Bible are roadrunners, woodpeckers and the parrot family (which divide their toes so that two are on either side of a perch), aquatic and wading birds and gulls which have no crops or craws, no double lining of gizzards, and often no hind toe or no elongated middle front toe.

It may not be spiritual sin to eat biblically unclean foods. Yet, if one deliberately does it out of lust of appetite, that breaks the tenth command and becomes sin. But in all events wrong food injures the body, which is the temple of the Holy Spirit. It defiles the *body* if not the *man*, and if we continue to defile our bodies God will destroy us (I Corinthians 3:17). □

ADDITIONAL READING

And now you should read the following free booklets:

What Do You Mean . . . Salvation?

The Seven Laws of Radiant Health

Why Were You Born?

Coming—A New Age!

To obtain your copies, simply write to our office nearest you (see addresses on inside front cover).

Personal from...

(Continued from page 1)

zines and newspapers were devoted to writing advertising copy. I had learned well a basic principle that would apply also to *The Plain Truth*. The writer of articles must know what the reader *is* interested in and his attitude—how he thinks about the subject you are writing about. You must approach the reader from *his* point of view.

In my advertising years I had made numerous surveys to sample public opinion and consumer attitude toward the product or service being advertised. I knew the general reading public was not interested in the things of God. The world does not think spiritually. The worldly mind fills itself with physical and material interests. The reading public, I knew, was interested in news, human experience incidents, sports, games, entertainment. Television program managers today know the public likes to see violence, exciting incidents and sex.

My job, in my new magazine, would be to 1) gain attention, 2) arouse interest and 3) create sufficient suspense in the article headlines or first paragraphs to *retain* the interest in things biblical and spiritual.

That meant a magazine much

“

I knew I would have to rely on God to make possible this “mission impossible.”

”

more difficult to produce articles for than the popular magazines of mass circulation. And yet I actually aspired—back in 1927—to produce a magazine of MASS CIRCULATION! But I knew by then I would have to rely on God to make possible this “MISSION IMPOSSIBLE.”

But this whole Work, which did not get going for seven years—until January, 1934—started literally from NOTHING—except FAITH, that is! And you are holding in your hands now, as you read, the result of that FAITH—the mass-circulation *Plain Truth*, which has neared THREE MILLION COPIES monthly in five languages, circulated around the world—without subscription-price revenue and without paid advertising!

It has taken FAITH, perseverance, courage, hard work. We have endured persecution and momentous opposition.

But something REALLY GOOD has been produced in a world filled with evils where there is little GOOD!

It is uniquely a FIRST—something *never done before!* It brings you a gold mine of TRUTH! It makes that truth PLAIN! It gives you UNDERSTANDING of the basic truths of life!

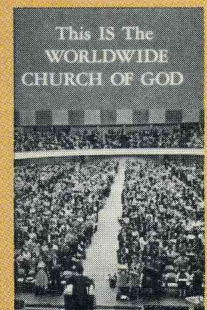
So, to you, our wonderful family of readers, I say gratefully—HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



WHERE IS GOD'S TRUE CHURCH TODAY?

Jesus said, "I will build my church!" But does Jesus Christ have many different church denominations doing His Work? Is Christ divided? How, when, and where did today's religious babylon of multiple denominations get started? And how does one recognize the true Church? Our free booklet *This Is the Worldwide Church of God*

answers these questions. We think you'll find it most enlightening. To request your copy, write to *The Plain Truth* at the address nearest you. (See inside front cover for addresses worldwide.) Your copy will be sent as soon as we receive your request.



There will finally come, in our time, a tremendous single world power, with political and military rule over all nations—no military power to challenge it.

CHINA TRIP

(Continued from page 4)

which I was introduced by Mr. Yamashita, a senior member of the Japanese Diet, whose daughter studied a year at Ambassador, Pasadena campus—he is the senior member of my “Japanese sons.” All speeches were made with an interpreter. This interpreter, by the way, is a professor of English at the university.

I followed. My address was taped and wired the same evening to Pasadena, so many have heard it in the United States.

Of course, where there must be an interpreter, there are two microphones, and the speaker can say only a sentence or two, then must pause while the interpreter repeats it in Chinese.

But, although in a communist and atheistic-oriented country, I did not use Bible language, I did get over to them the GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD, announcing the coming ONE-WORLD GOVERNMENT OF GOD. Instead of the word *God*, which might sound hostile to them, I spoke of the “unseen Strong Hand from someplace” that will intervene and bring WORLD PEACE.

The message was well received. I heard expressions saying I had given them “much to think about.”

Tuesday we made an early start and were driven to the GREAT WALL of China—surely one of the “seven wonders of the world” in terms of man-built wonders. The wall is about 3,600 miles long, and on top is wide enough for a two-lane highway.

Tuesday night was a banquet with ambassadors representing 76 nations, and many wives, beside Chinese officials and wives. It was this dining room, in the People’s Great

Hall, the official government building, that was the size of a U.S. football field. Most of those present understood English, so I spoke without an interpreter. Again I gave them the “GOOD NEWS of the coming Kingdom of God”—perhaps in even stronger and more plain language. Again it was more than well received.

It is important to understand I was



VICE-MINISTER of Education and President of the Chinese Education Society greets Herbert W. Armstrong in the State House.

speaking to officials from 76 OTHER nations this night. Many of the banquets and dinners of the past 10 years have afforded me the opportunity to speak to official representatives of many nations. There were ambassadors representing 19 countries at a luncheon in Ethiopia a few years ago.

When the prophecy says, “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations” (Matthew

24:14), it does not necessarily mean *IN* all nations. Much of that prophecy was fulfilled on December 4, when the GOOD NEWS of the KINGDOM was proclaimed to official representatives of 76 nations! This included nations from Africa, Europe, Asia, South America—pretty well spreading out to all the earth!

I will not recount here what I said that night, since it was taped, and thousands of our readers will have heard it before you read it here.

But I do try to explain that I am an ambassador for world peace—that I talk with many heads of governments—that they all have greater problems to face than any man can solve—that, meanwhile I am trying to assist and HELP toward more peaceful relations between nations *NOW*, but that solutions are beyond human ability to handle and that the “unseen Strong Hand from someplace” (and they all know very well I mean GOD) will have to intervene to bring us REAL WORLD PEACE AND ETERNAL SALVATION AT LAST!

Just another word here about the Great Wall of China. It is longer than the distance from Los Angeles, Calif., to New York—longer than the distance across the entire United States. Although I had seen pictures of it, I had not realized that it continues up and down over mountain tops. It was built in its entirety by hand labor—probably countless thousands of men. And it was hundreds of years in building. Apparently it was built to keep out the nomads from the north.

Wednesday, Dec. 5, as already covered, was a busy day. At 9 a.m., we left for the national library. Then on to the Forbidden City, the walled city within the city, former capital, palaces and residences of the empe-

rors. Then a luncheon, with about three large round tables filled.

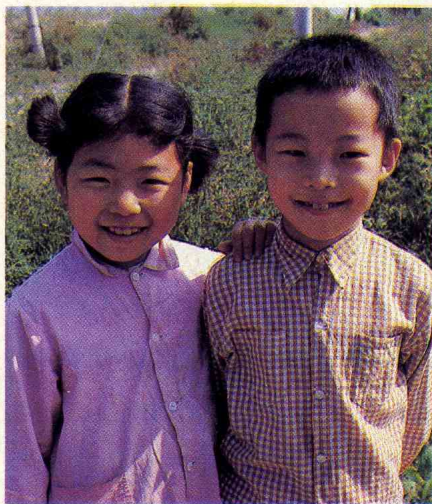
But at 4 o'clock that afternoon came the most important meeting of the entire visit. We were again driven to the Great Hall of the People on People's Square. We were driven around past three magnificent entrances on three sides, to a fourth entrance.

Meeting With Vice-Chairman Tan

On walking up the spacious entrance steps and entering the grand lobby, we were met by a delegation headed by Mr. Tan Zhen-lin, the vice-chairman of the National People's Congress—one of the three top leaders of Communist China. Chairman Hua [Hua Guofeng] and Vice Chairman Deng [Deng Xiaoping] were at the airport, welcoming Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira of Japan, just arriving for a four-day visit of exceptionally important (to them) conferences over serious situations in Korea and Vietnam.

Actually, it was well that my personal meeting was with Vice-Chairman Tan. To explain this, let me tell you a little about him. He is age 77 and was a contemporary of the late Chairman Mao Tse-tung [Mao Zedong] and Premier Chou En-lai [Zhou Enlai]. He was very close to them throughout the war of the revolution that overthrew the government of Chiang Kai-shek. He is one of the original died-in-the-wool Chinese Communists.

Actually we have found that his relationship to Mao and Chou En-lai



is most significant. It has great meaning for the People's Republic of China, as well as the rest of the world as today constituted. Their association was close and lasted almost 50 years. Though other revolutionaries tried to break this long relationship, it remained steadfast through the years.

To better understand the importance of my meeting with Vice-Chairman Tan, let me here first give you a little background.

Chairman Mao was the policy-maker and architect of the entire revolution. Also he was the "law-giver" for the People's Republic of China. He was the primary philosopher for China's communism (as differentiated from Russian communism).

Chou En-lai actually joined the Chinese communist movement prior to Mao. But that was while he was a student in Europe. His education was more academic than Mao's. He was educated in Japan and France as well as China, but Mao never left China proper. An interesting sidelight is that Chairman Mao had been once an assistant librarian at Peking [Beijing] University. It was actually while there that Mao came into contact with other early revolutionaries in communist efforts in the early 1920s. During all the years prior to the 1949 victory of communism, Mao was the leader of the communist movement. Chou En-lai also participated in the military effort. Both Mao and Chou were at the front lines all through the 1930s and 1940s. There they carried on political operations as well as military.

After the Communist victory in 1949, Chou En-lai became premier under Chairman Mao Tse-tung. Mao set all policies up until his death. Chou set up the administrative program to implement Mao's policies. Mao also delegated administration of foreign affairs to Chou.

Chou En-lai traveled extensively

during the 1950s and early 1960s, as China began emerging from a slumbering "dark-age" giant and began establishing itself as a major world power.

Their close relationship was above the norm and has filled the Chinese people with respect and admiration for them both. A large mausoleum was erected for Mao after his death. His body lies in state in the same preserved condition as that of Nikolai Lenin. But Chou En-lai had decreed that his body be cremated, and the ashes scattered over China. So there is no memorial mausoleum for Chou. However, the obelisk in



the People's Square does have Chou En-lai's handwriting engraved on one side.

But now, as of today, neither Chairman Hua or Vice-Chairman Deng had the close long-lasting relationship to Mao Tse-tung and Chou En-lai, dating as far back, as has Vice-Chairman Tan Zhen-lin, who is of older age.

I have given you this pinpoint background so that you may better appreciate what I learned from Vice-Chairman Tan.

The Message I Speak

I did not go to Communist China to approve or disapprove their communism. I once wrote articles against communism. That was because of their atheism and rejection of God. But I think I realize now, more than I did then, that ALL NATIONS, except those springing from ancient Israel, have been cut off from God, by GOD'S OWN DECREE, since the time of Adam and Eve.



tors—even before the appearance of Confucianism and Taoism. The ancient Greeks and Romans had their idol gods, such as Jupiter, Diana, Hermes and others.

They had no salvation—but neither were they “lost”—God Himself had cut off the descendants of Adam.

And, for nearly 6,000 years, has the world so done! Therefore I do not go to the heads of the governments of this world to judge their governments, or their religions or their educational systems. I DO NOT GO TO “CONVERT” THEM—or to attempt to convince them to agree with me about the TRUTH OF GOD and the GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD, which I tell them emphatically and *IN POWER* is very soon coming!

I merely tell them I am there to ANNOUNCE the coming world-ruling KINGDOM OF GOD, which shall bring THEM, and all others, PEACE AND JOY AND ETERNAL SALVATION!

That is the GREAT COMMISSION given by the Lord Jesus Christ to His apostles—that He has chosen to SEND FORTH with that GOOD NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT! That is why I even couched my message Jesus Christ was giving them through me in language UNOFFENSIVE TO THEM, yet which they well UNDERSTOOD!

And it is from that attitude and vantage-point that I talked with Vice-Chairman Tan.

It is important that you had this introductory information before I recount to you the conversation in our meeting.

Vice-Chairman Tan's Message to the West

The vice-chairman had, of course, been thoroughly briefed about me, even the attitude I have outlined above, and what I had said on the previous two nights. Also he knew well all about *The Plain Truth* and its large circulation worldwide in five languages. What he told me, therefore, he evidently wanted our readers to know.

Chairman Tan Zhen-lin did not wait in a private office for us to be shown in by minor secretaries. He came to the front entrance of the Great Hall to meet me and those with me—Mr. Rader and Mr. Osamu Gotoh—in person. He is a very outgoing, enthusiastic, constantly



IN HIS MOST IMPORTANT trip to date, Herbert W. Armstrong addresses Chinese guests and 76 ambassadors and other officials gathered in the Great Hall of the People. A musical performance, top, in honor of the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation. Above, colorful display looks forward to year 2000, when Chinese hope to gain major-nation industrial status. Opposite page, below, children on collective farm outside Peking (Beijing). Chinese officials accompany Herbert W. Armstrong to airport, far left, upon his departure.

They simply were not being JUDGED at all by God—nor are they even yet today. God is not judging them, so WHY SHOULD YOU OR I? I know that I myself *am* being judged NOW—and all whom God has predestinated to be called NOW! That is what the annual day of Firstfruits, called Pentecost, is intended to picture to us today. Some of us are called NOW. The world as a whole is NOT! Those now called to the Church of God are the “first-fruits”—merely the first small “harvest” of spiritual salvation. To all others, God said, in effect, “Go, since you (Adam) have rejected me, my government, my salvation, my revelation of knowledge, GO, form your own gods and your own religions—your own governments—your own fund of knowledge and education.”

Jesus Christ emphasized this when He said, “No man can come to me, except the Father . . . draw him” (John 6:44). Other nations have never known much if anything about GOD. In ancient Egypt they worshiped their fictitious gods, Isis and Osiris, about the time the ancient Chinese were worshipping their ances-





PRESIDENT OF PEKING (BEIJING) Technical University and the university's Chief Librarian receive gift from Stanley R. Rader, personal counsel to Herbert W. Armstrong. Study area in library, right.

smiling gentleman—in no sense a solemn, frowning, aloof, somber-looking, individual. He is brisk and enthusiastic and gave us a most warm greeting, shaking hands with me with both hands.

We followed him into an adjoining large room. He seated me near a table and the others in a line beside me. Then he took a chair beside the table, facing me next to him, and beyond me the others. Behind the table, between himself and me, was the interpreter who had met us at the airport and accompanied us everywhere since. She took notes—apparently in some sort of Chinese shorthand—of every word, as she interpreted.

Immediately the vice-chairman launched into a discussion, doing all the talking for at least a half hour. I made only an occasional interruption to ask the interpreter to repeat something I had not understood clearly.

Knowing that I am founder and president of a college, he first said (and not apologetically) that he is not an academic man by background, then he immediately launched into a full-scale discussion along geopolitical lines.

He launched immediately into the “domino theory” in regard to Vietnam. In the early stages of the U.S. war in Vietnam, this domino theory was prevalent in Washington—and I myself knew it was true. It was the theory that once the communists in North Vietnam knocked down South Vietnam, that would be only the first

domino standing on end to fall. Next would come Cambodia [Kampuchea] and Laos, then Thailand, Burma, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia.

We thought it was Communist China backing North Vietnam, but Chairman Tan said it was the Soviet Union. I felt it particularly noteworthy that he was saying the Chinese view is that this theory of going on from there to conquer the whole world was a Soviet ambition, not Chinese. He was trying to show me why the United States should oppose the Kremlin and be friendly to China.

This “domino theory,” as a reason for United States military intervention in South Vietnam, actually was, as I said (having been an observer), true. But the theory was rejected by U.S. allies, and vigorously opposed by Russia, and through propaganda, by many in the United States in the later years of that war.

But I thought it interesting that by this assertion of the Chinese view, China gets herself off the hook in regard to the horrifying starvation now going on in Cambodia.

According to the vice-chairman, the People’s Republic of China is the strongest advocate of the validity of the domino theory. While we were fearful—during the 1960s and early 1970s—that Communist China, if successful in North Vietnam, would begin toppling the dominoes to the west and south, it is China that now is saying that North Vietnam is a big threat, and if the United States and

China do not now stop North Vietnam, Cambodia will fall to the North Vietnamese, followed by Thailand, Malaysia and very important sea passages now controlled by Singapore.

The vice-chairman pointed out that Russia is not any longer a true communist society, but an imperialist country not really different from that of the czars—that Russia has been waging war against the rest of the world through proxies for more than 30 years. He claimed that North Vietnam was but a proxy of imperialistic Russia.

I was reminded by this part of the conversation of what President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam said to me, shortly before he fled and his country fell to the Communists.

If I have misunderstood the vice-chairman in any part in the above, I am sorry, but this is what both Mr. Rader and I understood him to say. I asked him if I could have a typed transcript from the translator’s notes. He smiled and shook his head. So I told him I would write as I retained it in my head.

The vice-chairman at this juncture swung all the way to Western Europe in his geopolitical discussion, with brief mentions of the Iranian crisis and the Middle East. He was urging a strong Europe to oppose a strong and imperialistic Russia.

I did not want to interrupt him, but I had something I wanted to say
(Continued on page 44)

GOD'S HAND IN CHINA

by Stanley R. Rader

Herbert W. Armstrong recently pointed out that nearly 15 years ago God began to hold up and slow down the pace of world events in order to give His Work more time to accomplish its commission. It is very interesting, in this regard, to observe how God has used the People's Republic of China to bring about His divine purpose.

While the general pace of world events has slowed down over the past 15 years the Soviet Union has used this time to engage in what many analysts now believe is the greatest military buildup in world history. Soviet power and influence have expanded throughout the world (for example, in Vietnam, Laos, Ethiopia, Angola, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, maybe Nicaragua and Iran) while governments have toppled at an alarming rate.

Western Europe has come under increasing pressure to either sever its ties to the United States or rearm in the face of massive Soviet superiority in conventional weapons. And yet, if it were not for the People's Republic of China, the world would have been even more unstable.

It was just a little more than 15 years ago that Sino-Soviet relations began to sour. Much of the falling-out centered on disputes over proper communist doctrine.

Soviet Politburo member Mikhail Suslov, who is the Kremlin's foremost authority on communist ideology, has described Maoism, the People's Republic of China's brand of communism, as "deeply hostile to Marxism-Leninism [and] the interests of socialism." For their part, the Chinese leaders have denounced the Soviet version as "revisionist."

Stirring even deeper feelings is the resentment that the Chinese feel because of Soviet border intrusions. Chinese leaders argue, for example,

that the Russian province of Tannu Tuva, which can be found on the map just above the northwest corner of Outer Mongolia, was once part of China, acknowledged as such even by Lenin. It was occupied by the Soviet Union in 1945. The Chinese also assert that the Soviets have nibbled off more than 10,000 square kilometers from China's Sinkiang province. Naturally, tensions along the Russian-Chinese border have been very high, and incidents have often averaged more than one a day. And American intelligence sources now reveal that the Soviet Union was even prepared to launch a nuclear attack on the Chinese border forces in 1969.

Because of its festering border dispute, the Soviet Union has had to commit about one quarter of its armed forces (about 40 divisions), six tank divisions and large numbers of its combat aircraft and nuclear weapons to the Chinese border. The Sino-Soviet split has thus forced the Soviet Union to divert a sizeable portion of military forces away from the west.

But just as important, the Chinese have been an important counterweight to Soviet power in the diplomatic sphere as well. For the past decade, the People's Republic of China has almost single-handedly shouldered the burden of publicly warning the world of Soviet expansionism, or as they often call it, hegemony. On a couple of occasions Hsinhua (Xinhua), the official Chinese news agency, has even declared that unchecked Soviet "social imperialism" will make World War III "inevitable."

Accordingly, China's two top leaders, Chairman Hua Kuo-feng (Hua Guopofeng) and First Deputy Prime Minister Deng Hsiao-ping (Deng Xiaoping) have both broken a Chinese tradition, which goes back thousands of years, in order to travel

outside their own country to warn the world of Soviet expansionism.

Moreover, the People's Republic of China has signed a peace treaty with Japan, sought to persuade France and England to sell it weapons, and tried to prod Western Europe to unite in order to strengthen its defenses against the Soviet Union. The People's Republic of China has become perhaps the world's foremost promoter of European unity and NATO.

It should not surprise us that God can use leaders who are Communists and atheists to accomplish His purposes. God used both the gentile kings Cyrus (Isaiah 45:1 and Ezra 1:1) and Artaxerxes (Nehemiah 2) to create conditions amenable for the doing of God's Work in their day. God can do the same thing today.

But now that world events are speeding up again, there are signs of change. Continued displays of American impotence could eventually persuade the People's Republic of China that they have sided with a loser. The Soviet military machine will finally become powerful enough to compel the People's Republic of China to seek rapprochement with the U.S.S.R.—China herself could put the 1.6 million troops guarding the Soviet border to better use.

There had been talks between Peking (Beijing) and Moscow before the Afghanistan crisis aimed at patching up their differences. Moreover, prominent People's Republic of China leaders such as Ulanfu (Ulanhu), who were once disgraced as "Russian revisionist," have been reinstated to positions of power.

Indeed, Bible prophecy is clear that at some point before the return of Jesus Christ the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China once again will be allied. Ezekiel 38:1-6 describes an end-time alliance of many peoples, including those from whom the bulk of the modern day Russians and Chinese are descendent. Rev. 9:16 describes an army made up of 200 million people coming from the east across the Euphrates. Any rapprochement between the Chinese and the Soviets would be a sign that God is now allowing world events to speed up once again. □

to him on that point. However, I held it until he finished.

I Explain Future Course of World Events

In another minute or so, he apologized for taking up all the time himself, and then I said,

"Mr. Vice-Chairman, there is something I want to say to you about Western European defense against the Soviet Union. I do not expect you to believe what I'm going to say, but I'll tell you, and you can believe it after it happens. There will be, within the next few years, a union of 10 nations or groups of nations, in Western Europe—and it might include two or three Russian satellite countries—in a union of church and state—brought about largely by the Roman Catholic Church. Now I'm not in any way in favor of it, but it will form a short-lived giant world power with military strength equal or superior to either the United States or Russia. They will have a common currency, a common government and a common military power. It will emerge out of the present Common Market. It is going to shock the whole world."

He grinned, shaking his head in unbelief.

I continued, "But what will happen finally, after that, will be what many world-famous scientists have said is the world's only hope—though they also say it is impossible. There will finally come, in our time, a tremendous single world power, with political and military rule over ALL nations—no military power to challenge it."

I speak with heads of governments all over the world. All are faced with problems, troubles and evils greater than any man or group of men can handle—although many or most heads of state are unusually competent men. They are doing the best they can, and I'm trying to assist any way I can as an ambassador for world peace. But it will finally require what an American editor called the intervention of an unseen "STRONG HAND FROM SOMEPLACE" to bring about this world-ruling Kingdom.

He knew well what I meant. With this intensive smile still on his face, he shook his head.

"I don't expect you to believe it until it happens," I concluded. "Meanwhile we will continue to help toward world peace, working WITH you, in any way we can."

We had been with the vice-chairman for one hour, and we rose to leave. He walked with us, with much handshaking all the way to the outer front door, his hospitable, exceedingly warm smile never leaving his face. He hoped I would come again.

Mr. Rader wrote to me a note, after we had returned to Tokyo, saying: "Since the vice-chairman undoubtedly had been advised of your strong comments Monday night, and again Tuesday night, I believe that he knew full well that the united Europe and the cataclysm that would follow were directly connected with your comments about the strong hand intervening from someplace that would finally save mankind from complete destruction."

The fact that Vice-Chairman Tan was in such close relationship for so many years with Chairman Mao and Premier Chou, as well as being still one of the three top men in the Chinese government, made this meeting one of extraordinary importance—for these three men RULE A QUARTER OF ALL THE PEOPLE ON EARTH!

Following this meeting there was time to return to the State House for a bite to eat and go to the theater for a semi-ballet show sponsored by our Ambassador International Cultural Foundation. There was loud, standing applause when we walked into the theater, and after the show's conclusion we were led up on the stage, to shake hands with the whole cast and take bows to the standing applause of the audience.

Thursday noon we left the State House for the airport. There again were several top officials at the plane to see us off.

Saturday night, January 8, there was a banquet in my honor in Tokyo. Several members of the Chinese Embassy were there, and three or four ambassadors from other countries, beside Mr. Yamashita and other Japanese officials. Sunday was the long flight all the way to Tucson, Ariz., with only one refueling stop at Cold Bay, Alaska. □

CHURCH UNITY

(Continued from page 6)

bility" for the ministerial function of seeking the unity of all Christians "may be entrusted to one individual minister under the gospel." They agreed that "the bishop of Rome . . . can in the future function in ways which are better adapted to meet both the universal and regional needs of the church in the complex environment of modern times."

The test as to how far the "dialogue" between the Roman Catholics and the Lutherans has come may be in evidence in early summer. On June 25 Lutherans around the world will be honoring the 450th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession.

The Augsburg Confession of 1530 led to the final break between Rome and the Lutheran supporters, whose real intent, they claimed, was to reform the parent body. There will undoubtedly be attempts on both sides to reexamine the document this year in the light of contemporary ecumenism.

"Many of the articles of the Augsburg Confession do not seem to be very relevant today," says Kirchenrat Werner Schnoor, former editor of the newspaper of the Lutheran Church in Mecklenburg, West Germany. The dean of the School of Religious Studies at the Catholic University of America adds, "What Lutherans and Roman Catholics believe in common is far and away more significant than what divides them."

Overtures to Islam

In their joint statement in Turkey, John Paul II and Demetrios I declared that they are also looking *beyond Christian unity* to collaboration with the believers of other religions and with all men of good will in a program in which "love and brotherhood would overwhelm hate and opposition."

Significantly, while he was in Turkey, the pope chose the capital of a major Moslem country to send out a clear message: the Roman Catholic Church wants to sweep away centuries of suspicion and mistrust between Christianity and Islam and move into a new era of cooperation.