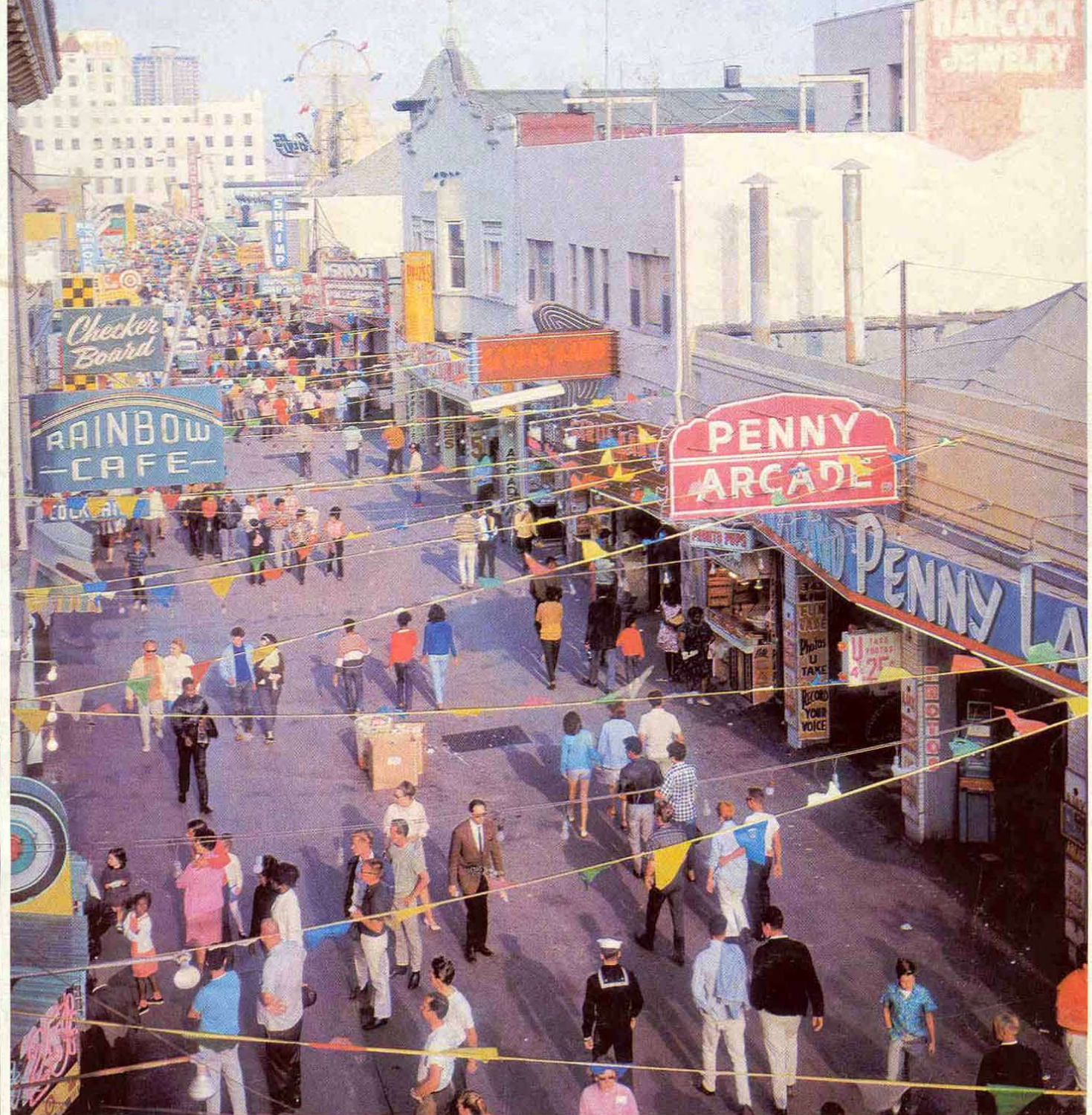


*the*  
**PLAIN TRUTH**

*a magazine of understanding*



# What our READERS SAY

## The Beat Generation

"I would like to comment on the article 'The Beat Generation.' The article was very eye-opening. It gets really sickening to see the boys at school showing such outright rebellion against all authority. Our school recently had \$1,000 damage done by a group of high school boys. This was not the first time it happened this year. We have had several fires set in the school by boys who 'just wanted to watch it burn.' Many of the girls are wearing their skirts 4 to 6 inches above their knees and cutting their hair from 1½ to 2 inches long all over. It all makes me very happy that I am privileged enough to know the truth and come out of this sinful world, and know what true happiness really is!"

Linda M., Wichita, Kansas

"I can't remember having seen a letter from a teen-ager published in *The PLAIN TRUTH*. I'm wondering if I am the only teen-ager who reads it. I enjoy reading *The PLAIN TRUTH*, although it's disheartening to read about the way the younger generation is going. I just wish more teen-agers would read this wonderful magazine and wake up!"

J. D., Old Town, Florida

• *You have just read two in a row! And we receive thousands more like them.*

## "Thinking Man's Magazine"

"*The PLAIN TRUTH* in color is the most beautiful and thought-provoking magazine printed. There is a cigarette ad, 'The thinking man's cigarette.' Well, yours is 'The thinking man's magazine,' and with God's help, the only one that brings action."

T. H., Westminster, Maryland

## Weather

"We certainly agree with you about the drought being here; being farmers, we can see what is happening. Yesterday we had one of the worst blizzards

both of us had ever been in. If only it had been rain—we need that so much right now. The snow was so hard on the livestock."

H. W., St. Edward, Nebraska

## "God Is Dead"?

"Our oldest girl came home from school the other day deeply concerned about something. I knew she was thinking about a matter that was very important to her. Just before her bedtime, she called to me and I went to her. She said, 'Mommie, a girl told me today that God was dead and so there is no God. She was wrong, wasn't she, Mommie?' She started to cry, and, Mr. Armstrong, I was hurt to think that a child could hurt another child with just a couple of words."

Mrs. Beatrice M.,  
Fayetteville, North Carolina

## File It

"I always file all of my magazines when they come in, after I have read them. I consider this magazine one of the best that I have ever seen. The article on the world famine sure is an eye-opener for everyone. Then above everything else, we do know what is published in *The PLAIN TRUTH* is the whole truth. I am greatly surprised at some of the readers getting their fur ruffled a little bit the wrong way, then they do not want the magazine any more. I read my copy from cover to cover, and I have failed to read anything that would ruffle anyone's fur. If the truth will do it, then, Mr. Armstrong, let us continue to get the truth, and amen for it."

W. F. P., Kelso, Washington

## Book

"Mr. Armstrong, I am only 19 years old. That means I am not entitled to collect your book on 'The New Morality.' I am not engaged to be married, yet. I have not seen the book, yet two boys told me that it is an interesting

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## the PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

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# Personal from the Editor

**P**ERSECUTORS HAVE CALLED me a "false prophet." Now how would you KNOW whether the accusation is true—or false?

There *are* false prophets today. And they are not a few, but MANY!

The **WHOLE WORLD**—that is, the world as a whole—is **DECEIVED** today. The world is deceived about the **TRUE VALUES** of life—about the things that really count. The world is chasing false goals, false gods. The world has lost its way. It has lost **THE WAY** to peace, to universal prosperity, to good health, to happiness. The world is in chaos, awaiting the fateful **NUCLEAR World War III!**

But who *are* the "false prophets"? How would YOU recognize one?

Actually, it probably is not very important to *you* to know whether my persecutors are right or wrong, when they call me dirty names, hurl epithets, resort to innuendo, impute sinister motives, strive to discredit, attempt character assassination. What is important to YOU is whether what you read in *The PLAIN TRUTH* really *is* the truth—whether what you hear over *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast is true—not whether I, as an individual, am true or false.

I think our readers know by now that we always say: "DON'T believe what we say *because* you believe in us." We say "Listen with open mind, without prejudice, then **CHECK UP** in your own Bible—*prove* whether it is true, and **BELIEVE** what you find *proved!*" I don't seek to induce people to believe in ME—I seek to lead them to believe in **JESUS CHRIST!**

But just **HOW** would you **KNOW** whether a man is a "false prophet"?

Would YOU know, for sure, how to recognize a false prophet? There is one absolutely **SURE WAY** to know.

Here it is: You may search the Bible from beginning to end. The false

prophets have had *one thing in common*. They have always put the emphasis on a promised desirable **RESULT**, while ignoring, rejecting, or opposing **GOD'S WAY** to that result. They always treat with the **EFFECT**, not the **CAUSE**. But the **TRUE** prophets of God have always put emphasis on the right **CAUSE**—on **GOD'S WAY** to the desired blessings.

Let me explain that. Let me make that **PLAIN!** This magazine deals with making truth **PLAIN**—understandable!

You may search the Bible from beginning to end. You'll find the true prophets, apostles, ministers of God put first emphasis on the right **CAUSE**, not the effect. They proclaim **THE WAY** that leads to peace, happiness, security, and finally, eternal life. In Bible language, this means that **GOD'S WORD**, and **GOD'S true prophets and ministers** put first emphasis on **GOD'S LAW**.

And, further, since sin is the transgression of **GOD'S law**, the true ministers lift up their voices to **SHOW THE PEOPLE THEIR SINS** (Isaiah 58:1). They call the people to **REPENTANCE**, reconciliation to God through **JESUS CHRIST**, forgiveness of sins, leading those who have been going astray back into the **RIGHT WAY** of **GOD'S LAW** through **GOD'S free grace**.

It's just this simple: There is a right **WAY** that leads to every desired result—blessings now, and eternal life forever. **GOD'S LAW** is merely a defining of **THAT WAY**. But the whole world has been going astray—going the **WRONG WAY**. **GOD** sends **HIS prophets and ministers** to proclaim the **RIGHT WAY**, to show people that they are going the **WRONG WAY**, to cause them to turn around and get back on the **RIGHT WAY** through **JESUS CHRIST** by **GOD'S free grace**. Then the desired result follows. And that's the **ONLY way** to that desired result!

But the false prophets ignore or op-  
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### OUR COVER

Fabulous Long Beach Amusement Park, called the Pike. This West Coast version of New York's famed Coney Island has only one commodity for sale: entertainment. On this street next to the Pacific Ocean at Long Beach, 2½ million restless people seek escape via roller coasters, penny arcades, gaming rooms, bars and other less legitimate forms.

sneak down to the corner drugstore, and get an "anti-grouch" pill for hubby.

You're told "God is dead," and asked, "Who WAS Christ?"

You're besieged by cries of the "new moralists" who seek to strip from our societies the last vestiges of sanctity, chastity, decency and morality.

True to the prophecy of Ezekiel, the cry today is ESCAPE! Build new homes, buy a boat! "Any two-car family can afford a boat," says one ad. Drink, have new "experiences" with others, urge the "women's" or "girlie" magazines.

Emblazoned across the covers of thousands of our periodicals and magazines is the single word, "SEX" to keep your mind on *yourself*—to keep you primed with LUST and DESIRE!

And why?

Because of a nagging FEAR millions share. They FEAR World War III. They FEAR the "bomb." They FEAR when they hear of political and military clashes in the world.

Notice what God says about it. "And the Spirit of the Eternal fell upon me, and said unto me, Speak: Thus saith the Lord: Thus have ye said, O House of ISRAEL: for I *know* the things that are come into your mind, *every one* of them. Ye have *multiplied your slain* in this city, [there are more murders in Houston, Texas, each year, than in many European *countries*] and ye have filled the streets thereof with the slain. Therefore thus saith the Lord Eternal; Your slain whom ye have laid in the midst of it, *they* are the flesh, and *this city* is the caldron: but *I will bring you forth out of the midst* of it!" (Ezek. 11:5-7.)

We talk of the "flesh-pots" of the world, the big, sprawling cities of gambling, vice, and crime. And people FLOCK to the Londons and Las Vegas' of the world—in droves—by the millions! But God says He'll suddenly EMPTY the dimly lit, smoke-filled dens of foul rot and filth; says He'll pour their sallow-faced, unhappy-looking crowds out into the streets, and send them running frantically into the countryside for TERROR!

Notice it! "Ye have *feared the sword*

[the very REASON for our frantic desire to blot out the present!] and I WILL BRING A SWORD UPON YOU!" (Ezek. 11:8.)

No one will ever escape the *certainty* of the coming calamities by kidding himself they don't exist. No one will *really* find protection; *real* escape, by refusing to face the awesome FACTS of this day in which we live.

But there is a way to REALLY ESCAPE! And I'm not talking of some type of "sanctimonious," "self-improvement" or "positive thinking" course!

I mean LITERAL escape. Escape from the horrors of war. Escape from race riots, from drought, famine, disease epidemics. I mean escape from the ravages of weather and other "natural" calamities that will soon strike this earth in increasing fury!

I'm talking of the escape Jesus Christ offered His only TRUE Disciples—those who would be diligently performing His own WORK on this earth!

Listen to what *He* said about it!

"For then shall be GREAT TRIBULATION [including, in verses 5 through 7, wars, drought and famine, disease epidemics, and earthquakes!] such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be *shortened* [cut SHORT, by the supernatural intervention of Almighty God!], there should NO FLESH BE SAVED!" (Mat. 24:21-22.)

NEVER before has mankind lived in a time when those words were so poignantly REAL! NEVER before have we lived in times when the *total annihilation* of humankind was possible by THREE SEPARATE METHODS!

But Jesus said those days WOULD be cut short.

He said God WOULD intervene!

And He said that intervention would come so a number, called "the ELECT," WOULD ESCAPE!

Notice it! "...but for the ELECT's sake those days SHALL BE shortened!" (Mat. 24:22.)

Jesus Christ of Nazareth said, "*Watch* ye therefore [and He meant watch world conditions—which He had just outlined to His true servants] and *pray always*, that ye may be accounted worthy to ESCAPE all these things that

shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:36).

He promised, "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation [TRIBULATION] which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth!" (Rev. 3:10.)

THAT is the only *true* escape left to any human being!

God says these approaching calamities are SURE. They really WILL happen! Blotting them out of our minds will *not* make them go away—but facing them squarely, *admitting* conditions *really are* "that bad," and seeking our Creator for His protection in the times ahead *will* save us from them!

Jeremiah was inspired to write, "Alas! for that day is great, so that NONE is like it [the SAME times of which Christ spoke] it is even the time of *Jacob's* [Israel's] *trouble*; but he shall be saved *out of it*!" (Jer. 30:7.)

Those of us who *know* God's true plan, and who know He has given us a part in His own work are NOT fearful of the future. We face the future with a feeling of *security*, of *confidence* and FAITH.

It's about time *you* faced reality squarely—and find out how *you* may escape!

## Personal from the Editor

(Continued from page 1)

pose God's Law. They encourage people in continuing their WRONG WAY. They ignore or tacitly approve this WRONG WAY. They work for PEACE, for prosperity, for desired GOOD THINGS, while encouraging people to travel the OPPOSITE DIRECTION FROM those desired ends!

This WHOLE WORLD is following that pattern. Public acceptance goes right along with a world traveling THE ROAD to sickness and ill health, to boredom and unhappiness, fears and worries, inequality, injustice, heartaches, frustrations, insecurity, poverty, crime, insanity, violence, war, and death.

But God's true servants are not OF

this world nor of its ways.

WHY do so many people have tooth decay and cavities? The toothpaste manufacturers compete in advertising and television commercials, each claiming its particular brand means "FEWER CAVITIES." The cavities are the RESULT. They say nothing about the cause, which is a lack of proper food containing certain organic alkaline mineral elements. They say nothing about faulty diet—the CAUSE. They treat only with the RESULT.

The world is full of hospitals. They are over-filled with patients paying the PENALTY of broken physical laws. The hospitals and the doctors ignore the CAUSE, and treat with the RESULT—try to relieve, prevent or remove the PENALTY of broken law!

Notice, now, a few Biblical examples of where God's true prophets put the emphasis, and where the false prophets put it.

After Solomon, son of David, died, the nation Israel rejected Solomon's son Rehoboam as king, and set up Jeroboam instead. Then the tribe of Judah seceded from Israel, in order to have Rehoboam for their king. The tribe of Benjamin went along with Judah. King Jeroboam of Israel immediately set up two golden calves as idols for Israel to worship; rejected the Levites (tribe of Levi) as priests, and put the lowest of the people, whom he could control, into the priesthood. The tribe of Levi then joined Judah, becoming the Kingdom of Judah. They became known as "the Jews."

All succeeding kings of Israel followed in the sins of Jeroboam. One of them, king Ahab, married Jezebel the daughter of the king of Sidon. Jezebel brought with her hundreds of the prophets of Baal the sun-god, introducing Baal worship in Israel.

King Ahab gathered together these false prophets before him, and asked: "Shall I go against Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear?" And they answered, "Go up; for the Lord shall deliver it into the hand of the king" (I Kings 22:6). These false prophets advised the king to go a WRONG WAY, and promised a GOOD RESULT.

But Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, was

visiting king Ahab, and he asked if there was not a prophet of the ETERNAL that he might consult. Ahab answered, "There is yet one man, Micaiah . . . by whom we may enquire of the ETERNAL: but I hate him, for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil" (verses 7-8). So Ahab called God's prophet, who told him that a lying spirit had spoken falsely in the mouths of these false prophets—and that Ahab would never return alive if he followed their advice (verses 19-23). This prophet advised going THE WAY of the true God—THE WAY of PEACE, and not of attack, aggression and war-making. Ahab went THE WAY of the false prophets—defied God's law—AND WAS KILLED IN THE BATTLE!

Through Jeremiah (23rd chapter) God speaks of the false prophets. "Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the ETERNAL." Then, speaking of our very generation in this 20th century—just prior to Christ's second coming, of today's drought and upset conditions resulting from misled people going the WRONG WAYS: "For the land is full of adulterers; for because of the curse, the land mourneth; and the pastures of the wilderness are dried up. Their course is evil"—they are going the WRONG WAY—"and their might is not right. Both prophet and priest are ungodly"—that is, carnal, unconverted, selfish—"even in my house [the churches] I have found their wickedness, says the ETERNAL. Therefore THEIR WAY shall be to them like slippery paths in the darkness, into which they shall be driven and fall: for I will bring evil upon them *in the year* of their punishment (that is, in the soon-coming "DAY OF THE LORD" which probably is to last for one year), says the ETERNAL." (Jeremiah 23:1, 10-12. Revised Standard Version.)

Continuing, same chapter: God foresees a horrible thing in those who *profess* to be His ministers: ". . . they commit adultery, and walk in lies." Leading churchmen in Britain are now advocating legal and public approval of homosexuality, and calling fornication and adultery "*the New Morality*." Even United States ministers are approving this lying so-called "*New Mo-*

*rality*." Jeremiah continues: ". . . they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness;"—that is, they ignore or reject GOD'S WAY, which is His Law. They approve the world's ways contrary to God's ways. They fail to show the people THEIR SINS. They go along with the world. ". . . they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah" (Jer. 23:14-15). Today, for the first time in all history, leading churchmen are openly approving "sodomy"—homosexuality—the most revolting IMMORALITY in violation of God's Law.

Further, same chapter: "Thus saith the ETERNAL of Hosts, Harken NOT unto the words of the prophets that preach unto you: they make you vain:"—that is, they flatter, approve, encourage vanity—"they speak a vision of their own heart, and NOT out of the mouth of the ETERNAL. They say unto them that despise me, The Eternal hath said, Ye shall have peace;"—they promise a GOOD RESULT, while approving a WRONG WAY. Or, to quote from the Revised Standard Version: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets [preachers] who prophesy [preach] to you, filling you with VAIN HOPES; they speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the ETERNAL. They say continually to those who despise the Word of the ETERNAL, 'It shall be well with you'; and to every one who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, 'No evil shall come upon you.'" That is, go THE WRONG WAY, and there will be no penalty—no evil RESULT. They promise a good result for a wrong cause.

This 23rd chapter of Jeremiah is a prophecy about conditions in OUR TIME, *now* shortly before Christ's return as KING of kings to rule the whole earth. Notice, in verse 20: ". . . in the *latter days*, ye shall consider it perfectly."

Continuing: God says, "I have not sent these prophets [preachers], yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they preached. But IF they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words [the words of the Bible], then they should have turned them *from* their EVIL WAYS, and