A MASS KILLER'S ARSENAL — NO — CHILDREN'S TOYS!
More About Our Cover...

The second "Crime of the Century" is fading into history as Austin, Texas, buries its sniper victims. The killer played with guns from childhood! What about your children? What about toys as a whole—are they important in the molding of your child's character? Read carefully Mr. Antion's article beginning on page 5.

Ambassador College Photo

What our READERS SAY...

Normal Blessings

"I almost had to stop and think if this is my third tithe year. It isn't, but the blessings are raining down. Where I am employed we are paid an hourly rate plus a fluctuating bonus based on sales. Early this week we were told the bonus is 30 percent! The highest it's been in years! Also, the superintendent told my foreman that if the reason for my not working 5 hours on Saturday was a religious one, I could work an extra hour each evening."

Man, Ohio

Lesson Learned

"When I came home and found your letter I was actually happy for the first time to find it was a co-worker letter. Always before, no matter how much I guarded my attitude, it would turn negative when I received a co-worker letter."

K. H. W., California

Correspondence

"This means more money," I would think. I would realize that I had volunteered and no one had pressured me but still I couldn't hide the fact that I wasn't overly thrilled and willing. Today was actually the first time I was thankful to be part of Christ's Work and more than willing to do what I could. At least this was my attitude until I reached the point where you asked us to 'fast.' Wow! I went through every excuse possible in my mind why I couldn't or shouldn't fast. I felt trapped. After an hour or two of feeling sorry for myself, I finally realized where my interest really was—at least I realized where it wasn't! I thank God for opening my eyes."

K. H. W., California

Cancer Healed

"How can I ever thank you for the anointed handkerchief and for the special appeal for funds to assist the Feast of Tabernacles? My husband and I were members of the Correspondence Course. You say you will have to go slower on sending the course. Dear friends, when we get so many in the magazine and all the lessons we have on hand, it seems almost superfluous to have to pay for lessons. It will take me the rest of my life to absorb all the materials you have already sent out.

Mrs. H. F., Washington

- Thank you for seeing the positive side—almost everyone else complains because more doesn't come faster."

(Continued on page 19)

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EDITOR

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

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Mary E. Hegvold

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Paul W. Kroll

James W. Robinson

Donald G. McDonald

BUSINESS MANAGER

Albert J. Portune

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS to the Editor, Box 111, Pasadena, California 91109.

Canadian members should address Post Office Box 44, Station A, Vancouver 1, B.C., Canada.

Our members in United Kingdom, Europe, and Africa should address the Editor, B. C. M. Ambassador, London, W.C. 1, England.

South Africa: Post Office Box 1006, Johannesburg, Transvaal, R. S. A.

Members in Australia and Southeast Asia should address the Editor, Box 345, North Sydney, N. S. W., Australia.

In the Philippines, Post Office Box 2603, Manila. Be sure to notify us immediately of any change in your address. Please include both old and new address. IMPORTANT!
TO BE ENFORCED—
Ruling on Women’s Dress

Have some women been defiant—or merely careless? Must God’s Ministers exercise God’s AUTHORITY to enforce ruling concerning too short and too tight skirts?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

In the September, 1962, number of The Good News an article appeared on this subject. It was plain speaking!

It said, "In this instruction to the spiritual children in God’s Church, your Pastor is making this correction to those who need it, I sincerely hope, plain enough, and painful enough that it shall not need repeating!"

But now, four years later, it does need repeating!

And this time I know that the living Head of God’s Church—Jesus Christ—directs that His authority be used, if necessary, to enforce the ruling which comes straight from the very Word of God!

Of course, we must bear in mind that The Church of God is today twice as large in membership as it was four years ago. Perhaps half of the women in the Church did not read the former article. On the other hand, I have seen some women flagrantly violate this ruling who have been in the Church several times four years!

Embarrassment For All

And I want to say, before quoting from the former article, that God’s ministers are quite frequently embarrassed, while preaching in the pulpit, by women wearing too short skirts that do not cover their knees, sitting with their knees spread apart at least eight or ten inches. Usually the careless ones are middle-aged or elderly women. Just once, I believe, have I personally noticed this inexcusable carelessness on the part of a college girl. This happens repeatedly. Personally, I have not wanted to publicly embarrass these women. But if, after this article has appeared in print, such carelessness occurs again in my sight, I shall personally reprimand such women regardless of the painful embarrassment it may cause them!

In our teaching on child rearing, based on God’s Word, we teach parents to speak plainly just once—and then punish. The women guilty of this neglect are old enough to know better, but they are our spiritual children, and I am instructing all ministers to practice what we preach, and enforce this ruling!

When the article appeared in 1962, women were beginning to wear skirts up to the knees. Today they are becoming more daring, and wearing them two to eight inches above the knees.

The teaching of God is modesty. The reprinted article, below, makes it abundantly plain that God’s instruction does not call for women to go to the opposite extreme. God is the author of beauty. He wants His daughters to be beautiful, consistent with proper modesty. And what is proper modesty? God gives us the principle involved. He leaves it to His ministers, led by His Spirit, to apply the principle to specific instances.

Applying that principle, the ruling is, then, that the daughters of God must not go to either extreme. Current fashions and styles of the world dictate what, at any one time, is the extreme, and what is the happy medium that modestly avoids the extreme. As fashions are today, that means women may wear skirts up to the knees—that is, just below the knee-cap, but not exposing it when standing. Women should wear skirts of sufficient length to cover the knees when sitting.

It is embarrassing to me, personally, when I see a woman in constant embarrassment tugging away at her skirt while she sits, to make it cover her knees when it simply is not long enough to cover them. Or, as so often happens, now, because her skirt comes merely to her knees when sitting, but leaves them completely exposed, she continually tries to pull her skirt tightly around her legs just above the knee, fastening the skirt underneath, between her legs and the chair.

No woman is going to look out of style, or attract attention to herself by wearing skirts long enough to cover the knees—even when sitting.

Women who care more for what God thinks than what this rotten, filthy, doomed world thinks, will immediately let out any skirts shorter than that. Those who care more about what the world thinks than God will mark themselves as part of the world—and no longer members of God’s Church.

Since the last article on this subject, the Ruling has been so flagrantly ignored or disobeyed that the time has come to enforce this Ruling. God’s Ministers are instructed to act accordingly.

And this includes these too tight skirts.

By that, I mean these skirts taken up just below the hips, so they form-fit the buttocks, clinging tight behind and under the place where they ought to be spanked! I know that nearly all skirts are made that way today. But, 1) you do not have to buy that kind,
and 2) if you have them, you can, and MUST, if obedient, let them out at the seams. And if not obedient, God’s ministers will know you are part of this world, and not of God’s Church.

God is not a harsh or unreasonable God—not are His ministers harsh, stern or unreasonable. We are merely defining womanly modesty. God’s Church must be obedient. It must be kept morally pure!

Now read again the article of four years ago:

* * * * *

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BELOW

Why does the Word of God confine His instruction regarding modest apparel, and the adorning of the person with clothes, to the women?

Did God desire to discriminate—to make women uncomfortable—to show partiality to men? Does God intend for men to show off themselves in ornamental and gay attire, while He commands women to make unsightly scarecrows of themselves?

Of course we know better than that. There is nothing in God’s instruction to make women appear ugly, or to make them uncomfortable. On the contrary, many, if not most, women will suffer any amount of discomfort in their worship of the goddess Dame Fashion.

God’s REASON

God never shows partiality. He never discriminates against individuals, sexes, races, or whoever. Yet God’s Word does carry specific instruction for women to be modest in their dress—and no corresponding instruction for modesty in men’s clothing is given. WHY?

There is a reason! I think, candidly, that the girls and women in God’s Church know the answer. And for that reason some of them seem to want to violate God’s instruction!

What I am going to say applies only to a few. Women in God’s Church are different from those of the world. But a very few need severe correction.

I do not mean that even these few go to the extremes of ridiculous fashion so commonly seen in the world. You won’t see any member of God’s Church wearing artificially striped hair, green eyelids, and a purple mouth, decked out in outlandish dress design and overdone wacky jewelry. But, in the category of too short and too tight skirts, and in excessively low-neck dresses, some of you women and girls need a sharp rebuke from God’s ministers!

Now why does God’s Instruction Book contain admonition regarding modesty in women’s dress, and not regarding men’s?

In all three colleges I personally teach a class in Principles of Living. This class includes God’s instruction in regard to sex and marriage. Sex responses operate in the mind, and the male mind does not react in the same manner as the female mind in relation to sex. Sex consciousness, and arousal, in the male, is brought about much more quickly than in the female, and is stimulated by sight, or even by imagination, in a manner that has little effect on females.

God made the female body to be attractive to the male. This attraction may be, and should be, one of sheer beauty. But also it may be, and under many circumstances often is, a stimulation of lust. Especially when certain parts of the female figure are emphasized, such as the hips and buttocks by tight skirts, the low neckline exposing portions of breasts, or too-short skirts exposing more than is modest of the female leg.

I am quite aware that it is the current fashion, in the world, to wear short knee-length (and now above) skirts extra tight around the hips. But the women in God’s Church have come out of the world, and are different—or else they have not been put into His Church by God. God’s daughters do not find it necessary to conform to this world, going along in its extremes of daring, or wrong, styles.

Candidly, when I see a female with a skirt tight enough to call attention to the shape of her hips, especially when tight below the hips and under the buttocks, I know that she is either careless and needs sharp admonishing or else she is wearing it deliberately to attract male eyes and arouse lust toward her in men’s minds.

Do you want to know my personal reaction when I see such an example? It makes me feel that such a girl or woman needs either a good lecture driven home by a sound SPANKING of what she so brazenly displays, or to be classed as a fallen woman and a common prostitute.

THAT IS PLAIN LANGUAGE! I mean it to be plain, and I want the women in God’s Church to know it is coming from God’s Minister, who speaks by Christ’s authority!

Recently some of our girls and women have been wearing skirts that are entirely too short! Often I have felt I ought to speak personally to some of you. If this article does not quickly correct this evil—and it is an EVIL!—God’s ministers will be instructed to begin speaking personally and in a manner that ought to cause a deep sense of shame and produce a very red face on any girl or woman who invited such sharp rebuke from a Minister of God!

When many of you women wear skirts as high as (and now above) the knee, and which completely expose the knees when sitting, your skirts are an abomination in God’s eyes. I wonder, frankly, if God doesn’t blush when HE sees you! Are you women who do this, deliberately trying to tempt men into breaking the spirit of God’s law against adultery? Are you trying to make yourselves adulteresses? Are you not breaking the very spirit of that law, yourselves?

In our instruction to parents in proper child rearing we teach that when you spank your child, it must be sufficiently severe to impress the lesson—painful enough that he will not want to cause it to be repeated very soon. In this instruction to the spiritual children in God’s Church, your Pastor is making this correction to those who need it, I sincerely hope, plain enough and painful enough that it shall not need repeating!

Neither Extreme

God’s Church does not teach, nor does God’s Word when rightly understood, that women should go to the opposite extreme of wearing ill-fitting, overly loose skirts that drag the dust and pick up germs. I am not saying that your neckline must be so high that all the neck is covered. God is not the author of UGLINESS, any more than of
Your Children's Toys

What is a toy? What are toys for? Just what should you look for in buying toys for your children? Is there a purpose to playing? Are toys wrong for children? Are toys all that important?

by David L. Antion

Today the gun ranks as the biggest seller of the toy line! Matched six-guns of the Cowboy and Indian era are often slung low on the hips of a four-year-old outfitted in a space helmet holding a death-ray gun levelled at your midsection. Most popular lately is the fad of secret agent weapons of the 007 ilk. Transistor radially transform into fantastic death-dealers at the touch of a kiddie's finger!

Television is inundated with violence—and the "shoot-em-ups" are the favorites of the children. Cartoons—they're supposed to be funny—come one after another in hour-long shows: animals talk, heroes and villains alike are shot, smashed, cut in pieces, fall over cliffs, are run down by every contraption known to man and somehow suffer no ill effects from it whatsoever! Nothing could be more poisonous to the mind of a child!

Seeing is believing! To the millions of tots who see people die—and then get up to live normally again—the deadly seriousness of dangerous weapons, of stepping off a curb into swirling traffic, of jumping from a building to fly like Superman—the sure and painful reality is lost to their little brainwashed minds!

Tragic Consequences

Recently a preschool-age child, helping his mother shop, noticed a gun by the check-out counter. In his usual playful manner he picked up the gun, pointed it at his mother and—the roar of a .38 drowned out his childish "bang, you're dead!" When order was restored, the gun was on the floor, the child was crying and the mother was dead! And the little boy kept wondering why she didn't get up again!

In another incident two playmates, age seven, were walking home from school when one of them found a gun in the snow. The one who found the gun pointed it—pulled the trigger, shot his little friend. The boy lived in this case, but will carry a serious wound with him the rest of his life—and perhaps his scar will constantly remind him to teach his children to never play with guns!

Guns are for killing! If you intend to kill—use a gun. If you don't intend to kill—DON'T USE A GUN—THE REAL THING OR AN IMITATION!

Aimless Playing

Let us analyze just what a child does when he plays with a gun. In general he pretends to shoot and kill human beings. He uses his vivid imagination. BUT NOT IN THE RIGHT WAY!

His imagination is used to "kill" vicariously. It is not used to create, plan, or build. It is not used to organize. And he is not learning anything constructive!

He is just aimlessly wasting hours—playing. His play has no meaning. It is not constructive. And in the cases where he is pretending to kill—it is extremely destructive!

How can parents avoid these evils? How can they use wisdom in purchasing toys for constructive rather than destructive influence on their children?

The Purpose of Toys

Toys are a child's tools for learning. They can help him develop his mind and character. They can also help him develop his body and personality.

The development of our child's body, mind, personality and character should be foremost in our thoughts in choosing a toy for our child.

Look at this spectacle!

A parent walks into a department store. His child is with him as they walk through the toy department. Suddenly the child begins tugging on his parent's arm. He pulls his parent over to a counter and points with great joy at a certain toy on the shelf. His parent starts away. But immediately the child cries and screams for the object of his affection. In a minute or two the parent acquiesces. He buys the toy for his child.

Why?

Simply because his child wanted it. There was no thought or purpose to this purchase. It was merely to satisfy his child's desires. The parent wanted to stop his child from crying and give him a toy that would amuse him for a few hours—or at most a few days.

After the newness is worn off in the first two or three hours many toys are either broken or discarded. The child has very little to do with that toy afterward. Many people can take you into a room and point to hundreds of dollars worth of purchases in toys!

The manufacture of toys is a gigantic business today. With department store shelves literally bulging with all kinds of toys, it is calculated that manufacturers' sales of toys are well over one billion dollars! In 1964 this was an all time high in sales for toy makers. And 1965 was even a bigger year.

The amount of raw materials used in the manufacturing of toys is astounding. The 1964 toys included more than 100 million dollars for steel, 86 million dollars for plastics, 77 million dollars for packaging and more than 10 million dollars each for rubber, fabrics, and wood. The toy industry is BIG BUSINESS!

In the United States toy manufacturers spent more than 45 million dol-
Developing the Body

There are many toys that will provide hours of fun and entertainment for your child—and at the same time will give him plenty of exercise for developing his body. Some parents feel toys of this type are not worth anything. They want only toys to develop the mind. But in order to have a well-balanced child he must have a well-balanced curriculum. And this must take place at home.

Here are a few examples of toys that would aid in the development of your child's body and co-ordination.

A ball can be one of the most effective toys along this line. Balls come in all sizes and colors. They are relatively inexpensive. And yet they give a child hours of enjoyment and fun. They are also a means by which the parent himself can participate in his child's activities. Balls develop co-ordination, timing—agility in bodily movements. They also give the child a chance to use his imagination in inventing several types of games. Most school sports are played with balls. This will help your child to become better adjusted in games at school.

Tricycles and bicycles are excellent toys in the development of the child's body. They provide fine exercise for children. They give many hours of enjoyment and fun. They are also a means by which the parent himself can participate in his child's activities.

Balls develop co-ordination, timing—agility in bodily movements. They also give the child a chance to use his imagination in inventing several types of games. Most school sports are played with balls. This will help your child to become better adjusted in games at school.

Other toys can be mentioned along this line such as swing sets, badminton games, and various types of sport games.

Developing the Mind

There are many toys which can aid school children and preschool children in the development of mind and education. At the same time these toys and games provide hours of fun. They are also conducive to a close family relationship. Parents can participate in these games with their children. It helps the children to become more closely associated in the family. It also helps them in the development of their personality by being with their parents.

For preschool children, sets of plastic numbers and letters are available. A small child can learn to play with them and to identify the various shapes. Par-

(Continued on page 20)
The Third Tithe and You!

Who is responsible for a widow in the years you aren’t paying third tithe? How responsible is a relative to a widow in the family? Your financial problems could stem from your misunderstanding the third tithe usage. You may share a problem with the scribes and Pharisees of yesteryear!

by Paul S. Royer

Did you know that it’s possible to faithfully pay your third tithe every third and sixth years and not receive God’s blessings? Have you found yourself in financial trouble and wondered why?

The Weightier Matters

The answer to your problem might be found in Mat. 23:23, “Woe unto you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin and have omitted the weightier matters of the law.” Your answer now might be, “Wait a minute, you’re going too far! I’m no scribe or Pharisee and I’m certainly no hypocrite!”

We agree you’re no scribe or Pharisee and we trust you are not a hypocrite. But maybe, just maybe, you have the problem of a scribe or a Pharisee without realizing it!

All of us really need to search faithfully, asking God for His personal instruction and correction. Too many unintentionally and unaware break a law by obeying God in the letter of the law—yet break the law spiritually. Problems and heartaches are the result.

The apostle James was inspired and concerned enough to give us helpful warning. He said be careful! You may be keeping the whole law and yet be offending in only one point and find yourself guilty of breaking the law in its entirety. Such a mistake, even though unintentional, cuts us off from the rich blessings that God eagerly wants to lay to their charge.

Note how particular God is, concerning widows. The apostle James again writes what true religion is. Religion that is pure and genuine in the sight of God the Father will show itself by such things as visiting orphans and widows in their distress (James 1:27). James charges all of us to be concerned and helpful to our widows year in and year out, not just every third year!

Notice God’s loving-kindness is always greatest toward those who are least able to help themselves. God is their champion and admonishes us to take special notice of the needs of widows and orphans. He instructs us to begin learning now how to do well by relieving the oppressed, we are to be continually concerned (plead) for the widow (Isa. 1:17).

Job Knew

Some three thousand years ago, Israel was a good deal more aware of the physical causes that resulted from not properly caring for their widows. Bildad, Zophar, and Eliphaz couldn’t understand why Job had lost all of his possessions. They were certain that Job had committed some horrible error and had offended God. In their search for the problem they accused Job of oppressing widows. Eliphaz told Job, “You have sent widows away empty…” and you’re in trouble now because of it (Job 22:9).

Job was quick to retort to this charge. He said, “I hold fast to my righteousness and will not let it go…” (Job 27:6). Job said, I pay the tithe, I care for the widows, I am righteous, this is not the cause of my punishment from God. Don’t you know that “I caused the widow’s heart to sing for joy”? (Job 29:13.)

Yes, Job and his friends were very much aware of their responsibility to God as it concerned widows! They knew that a man could pay the third tithe every third year and still get into deep trouble. They understood that it was possible to oppress widows by not caring for the widow during the “off” years.

Zechariah in speaking for God admonishes all of us to show mercy and compassion every day of every year. We are to be careful and not oppress the widow (Zech. 7:10).

Honor Your Parents, Children

We are to honor our parents (Ex. 20:12). The commandment becomes even more binding when our mother, or mother-in-law becomes a widow! When a wife becomes a widow and loses her champion (husband) God steps in and lays the responsibility of the husband on the children and her close relatives first!

Notice the important admonition from God concerning our widows and parents. “You should treat with great consideration widows who are really alone in the world. But remember that if a widow has children or grandchildren it is primarily their duty to show the genuineness of their religion in their own homes by repaying their parents for what has been done for them, and God readily accepts such service” (I Tim. 5:3-4, Phillips Translation).

Note what these two verses do not say! It does not say children alone are responsible. It says the grandchildren (nephews) are equally responsible!!! It does NOT say that children are to help
their parents only every third or sixth year. It does say to care for your parents with great consideration!

Herein lies the problem. Many of you who are children or grandchildren of a widow have read right over these words unaware of the deep responsibility and stress that God lays on the relatives of the widow.

Widows “Alone”

Now note another very important point, “You should treat with great consideration widows who are really alone...” A widow is only alone when she has no children or grandchildren to provide for her. When she is alone, she is desolate and her only hope is in God (I Tim. 5:5).

To those widows with children or grandchildren God says to you, if you provide not for your own [mother, grandmother, or mother-in-law], then you have denied the faith and you are worse than an infidel (I Tim. 5:8).

James says anyone who denies the faith in this way will receive nothing from God in the way of blessings (James 1:6-7).

In the J. B. Phillips Translation the rendering of verse 16 of I Timothy 5 makes the charge even more clear—"It should be taken for granted that any Christian, man or woman, who has a widow in the family should do everything possible for her and not allow her to become the Church’s responsibility. The church will then be free to look after those widows who are alone in the world."

Did you notice that there is a second purpose or reason for the close relative to relieve his widow? So the Church can be relieved, Paul says! "If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged..." (I Tim. 5:16). The Church needs to be relieved of the burden of caring for widows who are not widows indeed (that is those having relatives who are responsible) so she, (the Church) can care for the widows who are widows indeed!

There are many widows in need in God’s true Church! Some of these widows are not alone. They have close relatives. The Church should be relieved of this responsibility. When you relieve your widow year in and year out, then you relieve the Church and allow the Church to help other widows who are indeed alone!

And remember to faithfully save and give your full third tithe so the Church can continue to support these necessary cases.

“Learn” Piety

In the King James version of I Tim. 5:16 it says, “If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged...”

Take special note of the word “relieve!” Quite a number of you who are responsible to a widow are at this moment unable to totally support or contribute large amounts toward the needs of your widowed mother, mother-in-law or grandmother. Thus, you may have wrongly concluded that you have no responsibility!!

Read again verse 4 of this same chapter, ”Let them learn first to show piety at home...” How do you learn to do a thing? In this case, you learn when you take positive action. You begin contributing, even from small incomes, even sacrificing from each paycheck to help support your widowed mother or grandmother.

The apostle James gives us some help along this line and some pretty heavy correction if we are guilty of negligence toward a widowed parent. James said in effect, “Let’s see some of this faith you brag about as a Christian! You call yourself a Christian and you don’t help your own widow.”

“But be ye doers of the word [for your own good] not hearers only, deceiving your own selves” (James 1:22).

James is instructing us to be careful, don’t read right over God’s instructions and not get the full meaning. Put what you read into practice, otherwise you are merely deluding yourselves.

Good Luck, Mom

Where is your faith, your action? Your action must correspond to the faith once delivered. You can’t go around knowing a need and wishing well! “What does it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister [or widow] be naked [without proper clothing, food or shelter] and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, [good luck, Mom!] be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?” (James 2:14-16.)

There are a lot of widows in God’s Church who are not "ALONE"! They have relatives and some of you perhaps unknowingly are guilty of wishing your widowed mother, mother-in-law or grandmother "good luck, I hope you find something to keep you warm and something to eat, in the years I don’t have to pay third tithe!"

When it’s put down plain on paper it’s not too difficult to understand, is it? God’s Word cuts the offender. Correction really hurts! But the fruits of good works as the result of heeding correction bring immense joy and happiness. For many of you, corrective action will mean added income, in time!

A Word of Caution

Notice that all through the Bible and now in particular here in I Timothy 5—God is talking directly to converted people who are members of His Church. There is a primary concern for the “flock”—the true members of the Church!

Some will have widows not in the Church that may or may not be deserving or in need. There may be a question of your responsibility toward a widow outside the church. Before you make a hasty move that could be a mistake, take the time to counsel with a minister. Let him advise you in such cases.

The apostle Paul was also interested in our Christian welfare and our happiness! He admonishes Christians to strip off everything that hinders.

Let’s get rid of those sins that drag our feet. Listen, obey, take your correction in a right attitude. Don’t you know that no true son ever grows up uncorrected by his father. If you aren’t corrected, you might well doubt the legitimacy of your sonship.

Hang on, obey correction that is exercised yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness (Hebrews the 12th chapter).

Take care of your responsibilities and you will be well rewarded!!
Do you really put your heart in your prayer when you ask God daily, "Thy kingdom come"? Do you honestly feel the urgent cry and the absolute necessity of God's intervention in the world's affairs—a sick world, suffering as never before?

However vivid your imagination, it is doubtful that you could visualize the desperate condition the world is in—and the people's utter misery—unless you see it with your own eyes, or associate yourself with those for whom life is nothing more than a painful existence. I have often thought what a blessing it would be for every member of the church if he had the privilege—at least once in his lifetime—of taking a baptizing tour. For no one, after having had such an experience, could ever remain lukewarm when asking God, "Thy kingdom come."

Last year I reported to you from the West Indies where an average family of ten shares a torn-down, dilapidated hut which serves all of its members as living room, bedroom, and kitchen. The necessity for a bathroom does not present a problem since nature graciously provides the facilities! The average islander has never known the blessings of electricity, or running water at home. He doesn't know what it means to have modern comfort, this seems inconceivable. We are used to taking things for granted. When we hear that the famine is already upon the earth, and that two men out of three don't have enough to eat, naturally we are impressed somewhat—but not totally shaken. We don't feel what they feel because our stomachs are not as yet gnawing with pain. We soon forget what we have heard, and get all wrapped up in our own petty problems. As Helen Keller once said—we complain because we don't have shoes, not realizing that there are some who don't even have feet.

Europe Today

Unlike the penury which is prevalent in the West Indies, Africa and Asia, Europe today is enjoying an unprecedented prosperity. There is plenty of everything—whether necessities or luxuries. Today, Europeans own more cars, more radio and television sets, more refrigerators than ever before. Nevertheless, they also have more problems than ever before! Sicknesses, vices, crime and perversion have multiplied in the same proportion. Prosperity, when acquired and used in accordance with God's laws, procures well-being and happiness; but when misused, or obtained at our neighbor's expense, it becomes a curse.

That's precisely what's happening today in Europe—especially in the western part of the Continent. Consequently, the conditions we met during our baptizing tour this year were quite different from those of last year in the Caribbean. However the general impression was much the same. Whether in abject poverty or in great prosperity, whether illiterate or highly cultured, whether ordinary human beings, or beatniks, juvenile delinquents, perverted creatures—people are unhappy and suffering all over the world. It is high time that a change takes place—a big and total change.

This will happen if you and I faithfully do our share as members of Christ's Body, if we shoulder our responsibilities, willing to work harder, with more drive and zeal—and if we pray more fervently, more meaningfully, more sincerely, asking God: "Thy kingdom come."

by Dibar Aparitan

The Mark of the Beast
Is Already Here!

Catholicism is not only the predominate religion in France, it is the state religion. The Church has undisputed authority over many aspects of life. For instance, birth control in France is not at all an individual matter, nor does it depend upon State ruling. It is the church prerogative! So long as the Vatican will not approve and authorize measures of birth control, Catholic citizens will keep "producing" babies at an alarming rate—even if they are totally unable to provide for them.

The same is true as far as the "Lord's Day" is concerned. It is not the State, but the Catholic church which dictates what day—or days—the schools and businesses should close. We all know that the Catholic church has deliberately replaced God's seventh day of rest by Sunday—the first day of the week. But do you know just how our church members have met the forty-hour week labor law without giving the workers Saturday off? Do you know what a "weekend" represents in France?

Here, in the United States, we speak of weekends because most businesses are closed on Saturdays and Sundays. But in France they have "week beginnings" so to speak—and not weekends! Indeed, Satan has seen to it that his church forces the people to work on God's Sabbath—and take, instead, Monday off as a second day of rest. Thus, a great many businesses, including large department stores, are closed each week on Sundays and Mondays but remain open all day Saturday!

You can now understand the difficulty our people are having to find work in France. Many as yet are too new in the truth to have enough faith to trust in God all the way. Rather than sur-
render their lives to Him, repent and be baptized, they are willing to compromise with God's Sabbath Law, assuring themselves that God will understand. 

God, of course, does understand—but not the way they expect Him to! But do you realize, brethren, that the same thing might soon happen—and will happen to us in this country? What would some of you do if your employer told you that, from now on, you will have your Sundays and Mondays off, but must work all day Saturday? What would you do if you were "forced" to do so, at the risk of finding no other employment anywhere else, and seeing your children go hungry? Would you have enough faith in God? Would you beseech Him on your knees, day and night, never compromising with His laws? Or would you, perhaps, just like those I couldn't baptize in France, say, "I'm forced to work on Saturdays; I have no choice. God will understand..." 

And what would you do if your children were required by the State to attend school half a day on God's Sabbath—and were offered, in compensation, every Wednesday afternoon free? This, too, happens presently to be the case in France where many of our brethren face the problem. Would you consent to let the State take away your children under the pretext that you are an "unworthy parent," unable to support your children? 

Think about these things. Question yourself. Prove your heart, because you may soon have to face the same problems those in France are facing today. Would you have implicit faith in God? Will you put God first in your life—before any members of your family—even before your very own life? 

Eleven Baptized 

Despite these difficulties, eleven persons were baptized during our tour, eleven converted people who were willing to say, "Yes, Lord," to God. They are now your brethren—closer to you than the unconverted members of your own family. 

Some of them were old—very old; others were young mothers with unconverted husbands. In one particular case, both a husband and wife were baptized. It was most gratifying and moving to hear these people say, "We hear you seven days a week"—or, "The moment I heard you, I knew it was the truth!" 

Our tour lasted five weeks and covered the northern part of France and Belgium. (Later, Messrs. Wainwright and Wilkins conducted a two-week tour in the southern part of France and baptized 3 out of 25 visited. The Bourdins and I met forty-five new prospects, missed five and visited eighteen old members or "co-workers." We could have baptized twice as many if the people would have trusted God regarding their work problem. But they will change, I'm sure, if you and I pray for them more earnestly; God can move their hearts and give them the very faith they need to take Him as their powerful partner in their occupation. 

This brings to mind a case I mentioned two years ago in a previous article published in The Good News. It concerned a father of nine children who faced the possibility of losing his job as a result of his conversion. So many have asked me since about him that I feel it would be an encouragement for all to learn just what became of that man. 

Mr. Gaveaux and His Nine Children 

When I baptized Mr. Gaveaux, two years ago, he told me that his employer had warned him never to mention again the word "Sabbath" in his presence. "You will do like the rest of us," his employer had said. "We observe Sunday and work on Saturday. Surely your religion is not better than ours. So if you want to keep your job, keep your mouth shut and work on Saturdays." 

But Mr. Gaveaux knew that God commanded us to keep the seventh day holy. He also knew that he should obey God rather than men. He had been employed in that firm for over ten years, and needed every penny he made to support his large family. Furthermore, he was well aware that he could not find another job in the Catholic community in which he lived where everything was open on Saturdays. Mr. Gaveaux had no profession to speak of; he was an ordinary factory worker. 

I still remember the long conversation we had, he and I—and how his wife was crying in the next room because she thought her husband was deserting her and his family to follow some "stupid" Jewish tradition. "Please go away, and leave my husband alone," she begged me as Mr. Gaveaux and I left the house to look for a river for his baptism. The poor woman didn't know that I was there to help—and not to take her husband away from her. She had no idea that the Almighty God does NOT let His children die of hunger so long as they do His will. She worshiped idols and images which never answered her prayers. "Please go away—and leave my husband alone" were her last words to me. 

After his baptism, I told Mr. Gaveaux to pray and fast a whole day before talking again to his employer and repeating his request. Mr. Gaveaux needed much wisdom to handle the situation. He needed tact so as not to let his employer feel inferior because he himself kept Sunday and not the Sabbath. "Tell him that you are ready and willing to work any other time, even any night to make up for your hours. If this is not acceptable, tell him that you are willing to have a cut in pay—with a promise of working harder and producing more," I told Mr. Gaveaux. 

He looked at me somewhat disheartened. "You don't understand," he said. "I have not been able to exchange two words with my employer. As soon as I open my mouth he orders me out. I can't talk to him—I can't explain anything to him."

Nevertheless, Mr. Gaveaux fasted and prayed, as he was instructed, before talking to his employer again. I, in turn, prayed fervently for him, knowing quite well that God would give him favor in the eyes of his employer. 

And God did intervene! 

"You know," Mr. Gaveaux wrote me a week or so later, "I couldn't believe my ears when, the next day, as I
On-the-Spot Broadcasts

The inside story of a new and exciting phase in God's Work. What is YOUR part in this dramatic NEW turn on the WORLD TOMORROW program?

by Charles F. Hunting

This article was received in Pasadena shortly after we went to press with my article in The PLAIN TRUTH about the on-the-spot broadcasts. Mr. Charles Hunting, Evangelist in Christ's ministry, business manager at the college in England, and member of the faculty, had been inspired to write about those programs, too! But since Mr. Hunting's article carries some fine admonitions for YOU BRETHREN, we decided to run it in The GOOD NEWS. It includes many details not covered in my article in The PLAIN TRUTH.

GARNER TED ARMSTRONG

The first WORLD TOMORROW on-the-spot broadcast was pioneered by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong many years ago when he made a broadcast at the rim of the Grand Canyon with the wind whistling into the microphone. Later, Mr. Richard Armstrong recorded the sights and sounds of France's Bastille Day from a hotel room in Paris.

Approximately ten years later, on his return from a recent trip witnessing the breathtaking launching of one of America's man-to-the-moon space efforts, Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong began to vocally reflect on the magnitude of the rocket-launching into a small portable tape-recorder. The quality was not professional, but it was unique enough to be used on one of the broadcasts. Many more of you heard his vivid description on your own radios recorded on an intercontinental jet flight 30,000 feet in the air.

The WORLD TOMORROW had taken on a new status!
Many of you have no doubt been amazed at the quality of the on-the-spot broadcasts. Even this technical aspect has a rather remarkable and interesting history.

God Provides the Equipment

The WORLD TOMORROW program requires the very highest quality in sound reproduction. This has always been a hallmark and an absolute necessity for the prestige stations carrying the broadcast. A search was launched — and amazingly, the exact instruments needed were found!

A small, lightweight recorder had recently been developed and marketed. This completely dependable and easily serviced instrument was tested in our studios in Pasadena, California, and found to be of professional quality. A special microphone was secured. And so it goes. Just when a piece of equipment was needed in God's Work, there it was!

No longer would the broadcast have to be made from the confines of the nearly acoustically perfect studios of Pasadena, Big Sandy or Bricket Wood, England.

The tons of studio equipment was now compacted into a 3 x 8 x 12 inch leather case. The "radio studio" was carried on the shoulders of the broadcaster! So inconspicuous in its camera-like case was this "radio studio" that no customs official has ever challenged or questioned its purpose or existence.

Broadcasting Handicaps

While the quality of reproduction by this instrument may be near studio-like, the conditions of broadcasting are far from comparable to the tranquil and near-perfect conditions existing in the studio of any of the three campuses.

From the raucous broadcasting site of Golgotha overlooking the horribly noisy, smelly, Arab bus station with the curious stares of the tourists and hard looks from the Arabs, to the site over-
looking the strategic Bosphorus and the gun emplacement manned by glaring, hostile-looking Turkish soldiers, Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong faced a whole new series of problems totally foreign to normal broadcasting.

Wherever the broadcasts were made there were numerous distractions. Whether or not it was in the open, on the sandy shores of the Black Sea, or the paper-thin-walled hotel in the strategic divided city of Berlin, all broadcasts were made under a great deal of pressure.

On the Jordanian side of Jerusalem, our “studio” was on the same floor and in the same wing as General Amir of Egypt, Commander of the Western Frontier—present there for a highly important mission on behalf of the U.A.R. The General was surrounded by the hard-eyed, jeep-mounted soldiers with zip and machine guns. All of this directly outside and in full view of the “broadcasting studio”—a hotel room on the Mount of Olives.

In the hotel corridors outside the room, plain-clothes men patrolled and carefully scrutinized all activities. Far from peaceful was this scene.

It was like sitting on a powder keg—close to the sensitive scenes of so much bloody butchery between Jews and Arabs—and too close to a potential protective jet escort, which added live color to the broadcast.

Even a finished tape of these highly important broadcasts did not end our problems. The tape recordings still had to reach Pasadena and would not be accepted by shipping clerks until customs officials in these countries would grant them clearance. Only one country in the entire suspicious Middle East would permit sending of tapes without inspection—Israel. These politically explosive and highly sensitive countries made the shipping of these tapes a risky business.

Why On-the-Spot Broadcasts?

Thousands of World Tomorrow programs have gripped the attention of a vast worldwide audience for 35 years. And yet both Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong have found it absolutely necessary to visit certain strategic areas where the big news is being made. When these visits were made, programs were interrupted. In this kaleidoscopic, fast-changing world, programs also quickly become outdated. But now these interruptions are no longer necessary!

Mr. Ted Armstrong, as Director of the Foreign Work, has found it absolutely necessary to visit our offices around the world. Now our mobile “radio studio” will go with him!

Even more important is the tremendously strategic locations of these branch offices. In the Far East, Manila will spark often in the forefront of
world news. Sydney, Australia, is another area of tremendous importance. And even more important from the big news of the future is the European continent. With so much of the big news taking place in the fast-rising Common Market, broadcasting from this area will take on even more importance.

Our offices in Geneva—the center of so much futile peace effort made in this world—will become of greater importance. This area will take on even more importance through on-the-spot broadcasting.

Whether it would be a broadcast from the teeming industrial area of the Ruhr, or the confines of the home of the old Nazis at some future Nuremberg-type rally, these broadcasts will cause more and more people to pause and think!

Let me make one point clear! These on-the-spot broadcasts are not some stunt for the sake of sensationalism. No chances were taken. We did not court danger or trouble. We were probably in no more danger at any time than any of you as you drive to work on a motorway or freeway.

But there were certain risks. There were difficulties! But God’s Work must give the very best witness that human ingenuity can devise. No broadcast could possibly become as vivid and real and imagination-gripping as those made from a background of experience of one who has been there, has seen the problem and, from firsthand knowledge, has been able to experience and portray what he observes to the human mind.

The tremendous interest generated by these programs absolutely proves their value to God’s Work!

Are YOU Listening?

But the important thing for each one of us is—what part do we have in the broadcasting? Maybe you’ve never realized your part. Few will ever be privileged to accompany Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong on one of these vitally important and exciting broadcasts. That does not put you on the outside looking in as a spectator! You can definitely be a part of the broadcast!

Here’s how!

Perhaps you are a longtime listener, grown a little callous to the broadcasts. Maybe you only half-listen, or listen only occasionally. Start really listening again!

Don’t get the idea this program is just for the unconverted. Many of you have wanted to go to Ambassador College. When you hear those broadcasts you are sitting-in on an Ambassador College class. You are listening to the result of untold hours of research carried on in Bible, history, international relations, science and other subjects by Ambassador College faculty.

Many of the points covered by Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong in his series on the futile theory of evolution are the direct result of his research for the second year Bible class.

But is this the big reason for listening? No—it is not!

There is a world that has to be warned!

This world is being warned primarily through The World Tomorrow!

Think of the great and gigantic problems facing Mr. Armstrong on every broadcast! Think about this taxing and fantastic challenge to the human instrumentality speaking to an unbelievably diverse audience!

People from every stratum of society listen. From coal miners to top industrialists. From peasants to powerful government officials. People with all of their deeply ingrained nationalistic prejudices. People whose languages vary greatly even in English-speaking countries.

None of these problems—and there are countless others—can be ignored!

No other broadcasters in the entire world are faced with these overwhelming problems—they’re impossible!

Impossible? Yes!

Without God’s help it is an utterly impossible task!

Seize the big opportunity!

But God will answer the prayers of His people! Don’t short-sightedly say, “Aww, that’s their part of the work.”

Paul continually reminded the tunnel-visioned Churches of his day that they had a vital part in his ministry! He said, “Pray for us that the word of the Eternal may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith” (II Thes. 3:1-2). Also read Eph. 6:19-20. When he said “pray,” he wasn’t giving them a knee-bending exercise. Paul expected God to answer—there was a real and a serious purpose—there was a big need!

This is our part of this tremendous Work—it is our opportunity to take part in the broadcast!

No, it’s not the glamorous side. Nobody will write you a letter after you have gone on your knees before God, thanking you for praying for a tremendously inspiring broadcast. No one will be there to clap you on the back after you’ve come out of your prayer-room because you prayed that God would inspire Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong. Because we don’t receive recognition of men, we might fail to see that there is a God in heaven—a God who is working through us and will answer our prayers.

Right now, we are no longer in the company of Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong. He may be broadcasting from Big Sandy, Texas, or from Pasadena, California. Yet each one of us has just as much a part of the broadcast as I did during the exciting days of the initial on-the-spot programs.

We can pray God will continue to inspire. We can pray that God will put just the right subject-matter in their minds. We can ask God that they will be continually reminded of the tremendous worldwide audience with all their indigenous interests. Pray that God will grip the minds of others just as ours were!

Let’s get the big picture straight!

This world has to be warned—in the most effective, dynamic and dramatic way possible. You are being used as a part of the warning—or are you?

You can, through your prayers, ask for the health, protection and inspiration of both Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong in these last few days of work before the return of Jesus Christ.

Do your part!
1966 ENVOY UNIQUE!

by David Jon Hill

Invaluable Asset

The money and effort that has been put into past ENVOYS is not a waste or an excess in any way, however! Men have been trained to shoot the kind of pictures The Plain Truth has grown to need. Now you see every month the fruit of these efforts, this past training. We have accumulated thousands of pictures over the years in a photo file begun by The Envoy. You will notice if you check the credit lines for the pictures in the September issue of The Plain Truth that by far the majority of them are Ambassador College Photos! Every time we run a black and white picture we have taken, we save the work $10-$25 or more — and with color the saving is from $100-$500 depending on size, position in the magazine or rarity of the shot. The training and background of the men responsible for these pictures is largely in The Envoy productions of the past.

With that in mind, you can see this is not bad news. God has prepared us to do the job He knew we would be required to do in His instrument of warning to the world (The Plain Truth) by the very pleasant and beneficial-to-you task of producing quality Envoyos each year. Now the time has come to channel this training and effort toward the greater job — be thankful your subscriptions and your enthusiastic interest have helped in this.

Many of you may still want to purchase The Envoy for 1967 — it will cover the student activities of all three campus locations of Ambassador College. Surely all of you with sons or daughters in college will want a copy. The quantity and quality of coverage will be pre-determined by the amount coming in from subscriptions. We are beginning planning now. This 1967, college issue will come out just before graduation in the Spring of '67.

Only those copies ordered before January 15, 1967, will be printed.

So if you want a copy of the 1967 Envoy, drop us a letter with your name and address clearly printed, with $5 enclosed: be sure to stipulate plainly that it is for the 1967 Envoy so we will not confuse it with the current year.

Unfortunate Delay

The four-color press we ordered to print The Envoy for '66 on, has met with delay after delay. It is now due to dock at Los Angeles Harbor, September 7th! (three days from this writing). Obviously, we will not be able to erect this press — which will take 3-4 weeks — and also print The Envoy on it before the Feast! Therefore your Envoy this year will be delayed until sometime in November! But we are not going to try to rush it through, we'll take our time and do the best job possible on it!

Again let me tell you the good side of this apparent bad news. The press we ordered for this job will be used in its workhorse, daily operation on the color cover of The Plain Truth, and in producing more quality full-color booklets. Its import to the Work is of prime importance, its use to print The Envoy only a beneficial by-product. Through negotiations direct with the factory we were able to purchase this press for a price which saves us much more than the entire cost of producing The Envoy this year over what we would have paid for the same press had we purchased it through an American agent-company. Yet the American agent-company which sells this press has agreed to give us the complete service necessary for maintaining the press.

Since this press is to be their showpiece by which they hope to make other sales, they are taking every pain to insure its perfect functioning. Along with the press we are buying, they are shipping another virtually whole press to be stored in Los Angeles as our parts supply!

This unique, historic edition is much in demand! You send us $5 and your name and address — or your friend's or relative's — and we'll send the 1966 Envoy!
WILLPOWER!!

Here is a revealing article — showing how to overcome “the pulls of the flesh” — how to gain victory over human nature! Here is how you can eradicate SIN from your character and develop Godly WILLPOWER!

by Raymond F. McNair

WHY ARE some neglecting prayer? Why do some let down in their Bible study, become lax in reading The Plain Truth and The Good News, and neglect studying the Correspondence Course? Why aren’t many of you more moderate in eating and drinking? Why are some succumbing to laziness? And why do many in God’s Church still have financial difficulties? Why do these brethren spend beyond their means — moderate in eating and drinking? Why become lax in reading instead of resisting sin?

This is true not only of many in the world, but unfortunately, this is all too true of many in God’s Church! Many of you brethren are suffering from this infirmity of the will! You have lots of wishpower, but little or no real willpower! You have a wishbone, but very little backbone! The spirit is willing, but the flesh is abnormally weak!

God Almighty made all human beings free moral agents. We have the power to choose between right and wrong, good and evil, obedience and disobedience, life and death!

The gift of volition — this choice, this power to decide for ourselves whether we will go God’s way or man’s way (under the sway of Satan) — is a precious gift!

Almighty God could have made human beings as mere fleshly automatons — like mere robots! He could have made it impossible for us to sin — so we could not have gone wrong. Indeed, He could have made us in such a way that we would never even once desire to go the wrong way.

But, man is the very pinnacle of God’s physical creation. God is molding and shaping human beings into Gods — into Sons for His own family. This God-like character which God is developing in man is the supreme master-piece of all His creation! This can only be done through the instrumentality of free moral agency. There is no other way!

Man has his part in this spiritual creation through a God-man partnership. He must voluntarily choose or decide whether or not he will accept and follow God’s way. This can only be done through man’s free choice.

Every Man Must Choose

When the Creator put Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, He gave them a choice as to whether or not they would obey Him (Gen. 2:15-17, 3:1-24). It is now a record of history. Adam and Eve, and all human beings since that day, chose the wrong way — the way of disobedience, suffering and death!

Just before Moses died, he set before the people of Israel the way of “life and death,” the way of “blessings and cursing.” Israel was given the choice as to whether they would obey God or not (Deut. 30:19, 20). They chose to disobey. They promised obedience — lip-service (Ex. 19:8, 24:3, 7) — but they never really set their wills steadfastly to obey God. They soon chose disobedience.

Then, under their next leader, Israel was again told they must choose whether or not they would obey God. Joshua said: “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve” (Josh. 24:15-18). They chose the way of least resistance — the way of sin!

In the time of the prophet Elijah, Israel was again told to choose. “And Elijah came unto all the people, and said: ‘How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow Him, but if Baal, then follow him’”
The God News

September, 1966

The Source of Paul's Iron Will

The apostle Paul was certainly one of the strongest-willed men of God. Before his conversion, he was "breathing out threatenings and slaughters against the disciplines of the Lord," and was zealously persecuting the saints—binding them over into prison (Acts 9:1).

Paul spoke of his great (but woefully misdirected) zeal toward God (Acts 22:3). He said, "And I persecuted THIS [the Christian] WAY unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women" (verse 4). Paul confessed, "I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth...and many of the saints did I shut up in prison...and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities" (Acts 26:9-11).

The apostle Paul was a very strong-willed person. He sincerely and with all his might persecuted the Church of God before his conversion. But, after Jesus Christ struck him down, and revealed to him that he was misdirecting his zeal—was actually fighting against God and His Church—then the apostle Paul quickly changed his wayward course. He set his mind resolutely to follow Jesus Christ. The fourteen New Testament epistles which he wrote are towering monuments, revealing his resoluteness, his firm will and determination to follow, obey and diligently serve Jesus Christ—at all costs!

After Paul's conversion, however, he realized just how weak he really was. He explained about his weak human nature in the 7th chapter of Romans, verses 6-25. He said: "For to will [to

have passed to the firstborn son. But he lost out because of his weak will. He knew what was right, but didn't have a strong enough will to do the right thing. He succumbed to sexual temptation and lost his birthright. His weak-willed, "unstable-as-water" character disqualified him and his descendants from receiving the chief birthright blessings (Gen. 49:3, 4).

Strong-willed Men of God

All of the great men of the Bible were, without exception, men of strong purpose, of iron will! They set their mind to go in a certain direction to obey God—and in that direction they went!

Noah had to be strong-willed in order to resist the taunts, jeers, criticism and outright blasphemy of the skeptics and atheists of his day. Why, who had ever seen a rain that could threaten the life of all human existence on the earth? How ridiculous of "Old Noah" to contemplate building such a gigantic ship!

Abraham's iron will, mixed with his faith, enabled him to promptly obey God, leaving his own country and his own kith and kin behind. He was commanded to go into a completely strange land—a land about which he knew little or nothing (Heb. 11:8). And, in spite of innumerable obstacles, he obeyed. His will remained firm! He was determined to obey God at all costs—even to the point of being willing to sacrifice his son, Isaac (Gen. 22:1-18).

Isaac, too, was a determined man. So was Jacob! Jacob's strong determination was shown by his bulldog tenacity. He wrestled all night with God—and only let the Lord go after first receiving a blessing. Yes, Jacob literally wrestled with the one who became Christ, straining and struggling in the dirt all night. (Gen. 32:24-32.)

Joseph was also a man who exercised tremendous willpower. It took a resolute mind to resist the sexual advances of a voluptuous Egyptian temptress (Gen. 39:7-20). He had set his mind to obey God, regardless of the consequences, which in this instance meant humiliation and imprisonment (verse 20).

There can be no question concerning...
choose to do that which is right or good] is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not [in my human flesh]” (Rom. 7:18)!

The apostle Paul showed that he had the power to will, to choose or decide, but he didn’t have the power or the means inherently within him by which he could always make himself do the right thing.

Realizing his weak human nature, he exclaimed: “O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of death?” (Verses 24, 25). His answer—God would!

Yes, Paul knew that his human will, strong though it was, was not sufficient in itself to enable him to be an overcomer.

He made this clear to the saints at Philippi. “For it is God which works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure” (Phil. 2:13). This setting of the will to obey God can only be done by the indwelling presence of God’s Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, he was not as strong-willed as he thought he was. He solemnly assured Christ that he would never deny Him (Mat. 26:33-35). Later the same night, however, he denied Him three times! He even denied knowing Jesus Christ (verses 69-75). But on the Day of Pentecost, the Spirit of God entered into the apostle Peter. He then became a truly changed man. And he was able to stand up and boldly tell the Jews that they had betrayed and crucified the very Son of God, their Saviour (Acts 2:23, 36).

Many people, even before conversion, develop strong wills. This is right and good. But, like the apostle Paul, before their conversion their willpower, their talents, abilities, and energies are often misdirected. Most people have been deceived by Satan (Rev. 12:9) and spend their entire lifetime misdirecting their zeal and efforts! Even so, if these carnal-minded people develop strong wills, they are going to be much better off than people with impotent wills.

Children, especially, should be diligently taught to develop willpower while they’re young. They ought to be made to do what is right, rather than what they would like to do. If a child is made to study his lessons rather than just play all of the time, he thereby develops character. If he is made to practise his music instead of just whiling away his time, he builds willpower. If he helps with the chores, instead of frittering away his time doing what he pleases, he will strengthen his character still further.

Remember, every time you make yourself do what you know to be right, your will is strengthened. But every time you do what you know to be wrong—every time you defile your conscience—you weaken your willpower and you stand self-condemned!

Each time a person drinks more than he ought, he tears down both his health and his will. If you knowingly eat more food than you should, you destroy your character—as well as your health!

Every time a person sleeps too much, he is self-condemned and thereby weakens his power of will. It takes willpower to get out of bed on time!

Each time a person gives in to human weakness by over-indulgence or by postponing or neglecting his duties, he destroys character!

Stubbornness is Misdirected Will

Some people deliberately, knowingly, will to do the wrong way. When a person knows a certain course of action is wrong, yet persists in going in that direction, he instantly develops a wrong attitude of mind—an attitude of rebellion and stubbornness!

This was true of Israel’s first king, Saul.

When Samuel rebuked Saul for his rebellious attitude, Saul tried to whitewash himself and blame the people. Repeatedly he shifted the blame from himself to the people” (1 Sam. 15:13-21).

But Samuel knew Saul was lying. He said: “Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For REBELLION is as the sin of witchcraft, and STUBBORNNESS is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king” (verses 22, 23).

God Almighty wants us to develop
to be strong-willed in the wrong direction. He does not want us to be self-willed! A strong will plus a rebellious attitude equals stubbornness! God knows that the way that appears right to us will only end in death (Prov. 14:12).

Christ's Submission to His Father

The true Christian follows Christ. He has Christ's mind and attitude. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5).

What was Christ's attitude? Just before the crucifixion and agonizing death of Jesus Christ, He prayed a very heartfelt prayer: "And He went a little farther, and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, O, my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as THOU wilt" (Mat. 26:39). Again, He prayed the same prayer shortly after this, adding, "Thy will be done" (verse 42).

Jesus Christ submitted Himself perfectly to the will of the Father. He had a mind and a will of His own, and could have chosen to go the wrong way! Yes, He was tempted in all points—yet not once did He ever will or choose to disobey—"was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:15).

Every true believer, every real Christian, should continually seek to do the Father's will. But how can the Christian know what God's will is? We're commanded, "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" (Eph. 5:17).

The apostle Paul told the saints at Rome that they should always be able to "prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God" (Rom. 12:2). Remember, brethren! God wants us to develop strong wills! But because of the weakness of human nature, because of the pull of the world and the temptations of Satan, the strongest human will that ever existed was weak in comparison with Christ! In fact, all human wills are weak in some respects. Every person has his strong points and his weaknesses—whether it be food, drink, sex, laziness, pleasure, etc. Many carnal people give in to the temp-

tations of the flesh and demolish their wills. Other carnal people develop strong willpower, and are blessed accordingly.

But with the added impetus of God's Holy Spirit, the saints receive additional strength of will, and can become real overcomers.

Ways Willpower Is Destroyed

We should all pray that God will help us to have a strong will. There are a number of ways in which our wills can be destroyed.

If we do not stay close to God, we can be deceived by the deceitfulness of sin. We can be "brainwashed" until we think wrong is right, thereby willingly give ourselves over to go a wrong way.

Another way which has led to the utter destruction of the human will is the use of drugs, or the immoderate use of alcohol! These agents can affect the human mind, including the will, to such an extent that we become very weak-willed.

Operations on the human brain can alter or even totally destroy the human will. People who have lobotomy operations become virtual zombies. Thereafter, they seem to have little or no willpower of their own.

Hypnotism in God's sight is very evil. Don't ever let any man or angel—any creature of any description—force its will upon your will. Even God Almighty does not force His will upon you. He makes you choose.

But the most common way by which the willpower is destroyed—and perhaps this is the deadliest of all, and the one you may be guilty of—is through lack of exercise! If you do not exercise a muscle, it will get weak and flabby; but with continued use it is strengthened. Likewise, the human will, if exercised, will grow stronger and stronger. But, if instead of exercising the will, you let it deteriorate by giving in to sin, then you thereby destroy your willpower.

Remember, every time you defile your conscience—every time you do what you know you shouldn't do, you further tear down your will.

"If We Sin Wilfully"

Once we are converted, from that very moment forward God holds us strictly accountable for maintaining a right attitude at all times! This is why we are warned repeatedly not to ever deliberately set our wills against God and His way, thereby cutting ourselves off from the only source of life!

For this reason we are admonished: "Let us hold fast [having our jaws set, as it were] the profession of our faith without wavering; (for He is faithful that promised;) ... For if we sin WILFULLY after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins. But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries" (Heb. 10:23-27).

Those who wilfully sin, those who knowingly and DELIBERATELY set their minds—their wills—in rebellion against God and His perfect will—will be annihilated! Their awful doom is described in 2 Peter 3:7-14, and in Malachi 4:1-3!

Only Overcomers to be Saved

Whatever you do, develop a strong will! But make sure that your will is channeled in the right direction. Be certain that you do not misdirect your will—directing it in a rebellious way. Such misdirected human will becomes stubbornness, which is exceedingly loathsome in God's sight!

It is only those who firmly set their wills—those who "endure to the end" (Mat. 24:13), those who truly "overcome" (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26 and Rev. 3:5, 12, 21)—that will inherit the Kingdom of God!

Daily you must strengthen your willpower by doing what you know to be right, rather than by following the course of least resistance—the pull of human nature.

You will have to set your mind, set your jaw, to choose, to determine, to will with all your might to obey God—if you wish to make it into God's Kingdom!

We, like the apostle Paul, will have to determine in our minds that we are not going to let anything keep us from serving Christ and from receiving our reward (II John 8, Rev. 3:11).

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness,
or peril, or sword... For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present nor things to come nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:35, 38, 39).

Paul had firmly set his will to obey God—to make it into the Kingdom of God.

If we, too, set our wills to obey God—come when we also, like Paul, can say: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing" (II Tim. 4:7, 8).

Readers Say...

(Continued from page 2)

Beyond the doubt, and a special prayer you prayed for me to be healed of cancer on my face. I did as you told me in the letter. I placed the handkerchief on the cancer and asked God for the healing. Every day it would seem to be better than the day before. It kept coming out of my face until within a few days it just fell out. It sounded like a rock when it hit the floor. I just had to praise the Lord for it. The place where it came from could hardly be seen. I knew I was healed. I thank and praise God for this wonderful healing power."  

Mrs. H. E., Mississippi

Birth Miracle

"God is indeed performing miracles today. Recently when my wife was having her baby, the way it should be—without any poison and at home, she was having some trouble, as the baby was trying to come face up instead of face down the way they should. The attending doctor remarked to the aiding nurse (an RN) to call our minister but I knew he was out of town so I had her call a local elder. Things really began to happen then and the elder was in the home about 5 minutes before he heard the cry from a healthy boy. The baby actually turned over and the doctor said that just doesn’t happen, but it did and he knows it happened."

K. McF., Kansas

God Speaks Out

"You deserve an accolade for your book GOD SPEAKS OUT on The New Morality. I think it was a book most needed for young people in the high schools and if I was so fortunate to be blessed with the wherewithal, I would endow a substantial amount for that purpose. Parents shun confiding in their children the facts of life which you tell in such an informative way that it should be magnified everywhere. Sir, I congratulate you for writing it."

T. D. L., Washington

- More than a third of a million copies have been sent on request to date—changing the lives of many more than that number.

Good Idea

"Last night we were watching 'Candid Camera' on TV and they asked some small children how they thought the world began, and the answers these children gave were amazing. I asked my three older children the same question and they couldn’t tell me Gen. 1:1. It really surprised me because we have been trying to learn about God, through your booklets and Bible study, and through the Correspondence School. I have just completed my twelfth lesson, and I find that since I have been learning, my children haven’t. I’ve neglected them. I guess I expected them to understand what I have been reading myself. I see now how mistaken I have been."

Mrs. G. T. S., Ohio

- A good project for all members: ask your child NOW.
Your Children's Toys
(Continued from page 6)

parents are surprised how quickly a small child learns the alphabet. Your child can learn to recognize almost every letter in the alphabet before going to school. And he will not have been forced to learn it. He will have done it as a matter of course—in his playing.

Word games can be very helpful in developing vocabulary and in improving spelling. Parents and children alike can participate in these games. These, of course, are for school-age children.

In this same category of developing the mind there are many fine books on the market that will entertain and teach your children. But again, it is necessary for the parent to choose material that is suited for his child's age limit and ability!

Animal books are excellent for one- and two-year-old children. There are other books which supplement your child's learning in school such as The Child Craft series of educational books. And for children in school, The World Book Encyclopedia is certainly a fine home addition to supplement your children's learning.

For preschool children books can help them get an earlier start on learning. The Whitman Company seems to have put out several fine books along the lines of phonics and mathematics. These will help children of school age and preschool-age in the development of their minds.

Developing Personality

Participation games are excellent for developing personality. Many games can be thought up in which children have to participate. There are games in which they have to express themselves verbally. These are excellent in helping them in group playing. Some of these games can be thought up rather than purchased.

Along the line of personality development is the development of creative skills. In expressing their personality through creative thought many children enjoy Tinker Toys or erector sets.

It must be stated here that the author has no connection with any publisher or toy manufacturer. Certain trade names are mentioned to give the reader a basic idea of the toys in each category.

In helping round out a child's personality music is one of the best forms of entertainment. Children learn to sing many fine songs that are not of pagan religious origin. They can develop a rhythm and genuine feeling for music. There are children's records which help the children in songs and rhythms for their own age.

Starting a child on a musical instrument can help develop a rounded personality. Children do not have to be effeminate in order to learn music. They should not be pushed to extremes along this line, but they can be encouraged to learn some form of musical instrument. This will not only add to their personality development but will also help in discipline and the development of creative skills. It will help in their appreciation of finer things too. It will give them a sense and a feeling for beauty.

Remember, King David was a man who played a musical instrument. He was all man! But—evidently—he played a musical instrument from the time he was a young boy. He sang many songs. He had a feeling for rhythm. He even danced! And he wrote poetry! There are Bible scriptures that definitely indicate that children can enjoy music and dancing. See Job 21:11 and Luke 7:31-32.

Developing Character and Responsibility

Toys are a child's responsibility. In having them he must learn to take care of them. Parents would do well to emphasize this to their children.

Have you ever walked into a home that was littered with toys from one end of the house to the other? This is not only unsightly but indicates a breakdown of character in a child. It shows a lack of discipline from the parents.

Children should be taught to take care of and put away their toys!

Toys with many parts and pieces can teach a child responsibility. Blocks, farm sets, Tinker Toys, etc., have many parts. After a child is finished playing he usually is sitting in the midst of parts and pieces everywhere. It is his responsibility—and should be emphasized by his parents—to put away these toys. He must pick up the pieces—gather up his toys.

This teaches a child responsibility. And as he learns responsibility and continues to fulfill it, he develops character!

Many a grown man now wishes he had the training of discipline and character development. Many upon growing up have had to learn to discipline themselves. They have had to learn in later life what they should have learned as a child. Their parents never enforced rules upon them. They were never taught to take care of their own toys and possessions.

Teach your child these things now!

Playing Not Wrong

"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." We have all heard this expression. Its basic principle is true.

Many parents upon coming into God's Church see that their children need more discipline and responsibility. They then feel that children should not be allowed to play at all. Some even have gone to the extreme of feeling that play was wrong or sinful. But it is not.

What does the Bible say about playing? Is there scriptural authority to show that children are allowed to play? Let's examine God's Word on this subject.

God's Word plainly shows that children will play in the World Tomorrow. Speaking of the Millennial rule the prophet Zechariah says, "And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof" (Zechariah 8:5). This play is more a type of sport's play. It is amusement in the form of games for children.

The Holy Scripture also says, "And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den" (Isaiah 11:8). Yes, children will be out playing. They will have amusements. They will have fun. But there will be
no juvenile delinquency. There will be no slovenliness and sluggards. Play will be wholesome, entertaining, upbuilding!

Instead of animal books or zoos, children will learn the animals of God’s creation in real life. Notice this scripture about the Millennial rule of Christ’s Kingdom. “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.” (Isaiah 11:6,)

Here is practical learning. Here is play with a purpose!

The Extra Ingredient

There is an extra ingredient that makes any type of entertainment more enjoyable. Without this ingredient, toys, games, good times cannot be enjoyed to the full!

What is it?

WORK!

From page 78 of the booklet, The Plain Truth About Child Rearing, Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong says the following:

“At a very early age, children may be taught to put up their own toys, fold and hang up clothing, help make their beds, clean up after themselves in the bathroom, or do other simple tasks about the house or yard. This is not with the aim of acquiring cheap labor about the home—far from it! It is with the goal in mind of teaching your child one of the most important lessons of life, which simply stated, is this: TO DO WHAT HE IS TOLD TO DO—WHEN HE IS TOLD TO DO IT!”

Without this responsibility, children will never be able to appreciate the good times of entertainment and fun. Take our society for an example. There is more vandalism now than ever before. Yet—paradoxically—we have more bowling alleys, skating rinks, movie houses, miniature golf courses, etc., than ever before in the history of this nation!!

Why then the vandalism?

Simply because children get bored with playing. Without responsibility and work PLAY becomes frustrating to children—or anyone for that matter!

The person who can truly enjoy a good time better than all others is a person who has worked hard and has fulfilled his responsibilities. By making your child fulfill certain responsibilities you will actually help him enjoy his play time more. This extra ingredient is needed in his play and in his life.

Your Responsibility

Every year the sales of toys climb upward. Today the toy industry is a billion dollar business. It will grow larger every year. Across the toy counters of the United States, money will be exchanged for toys. Many of those toys will be based on fads. There will be monster toys, toys imitating spacemen, cowboy toys, war games, etc.

And in the home of the average American a child will sit down and play. What he learns and what he does will have a tremendous influence on his character as he grows older. There are thousands of hours of play time in the lives of each one of us. How many of these hours are really profitable? How many are just aimless playing?

Toys can be used to develop a good, strong, healthy body. They can help develop an alert and educated mind. They help develop personality and creative skills. And most important of all is the formation and foundation of right character.

Toys are important. They are important to your children. They are important to your child’s future. And they are important to you.

For God has made you the steward of your money. You are the steward of the child God has given you. You are the steward of the household over which God has set you. The responsibility for thought, purpose, and balance in the purchase of toys—as well as other things for your home—is a great one.
"THY KINGDOM COME!"

(Continued from page 10)

knocked on my employer's door, he said to me, 'Come in Gaveaux, and sit down.' Me?—invited to come in and sit down? This had never happened before. Then my employer asked me what was in my mind. He listened to working employee. 'Gaveaux!' he told me, 'you are an utter idiot—a fool—with no brains in your head! Are you going to let your children die of hunger? Is this what your religion teaches? What would you do if I fired you? Where would you go? You're an imbecile, indeed!'

Strange as it may seem, Mr. Gaveaux was not fired. God didn't allow this to happen! It is true that Mr. Gaveaux was demoted and offered a much poorer job with a substantial cut in pay. Nevertheless, he was able to keep the Sabbath and earn enough to feed his children.

This, then, is the man we visited again this summer, the Bourdins and I. In fact, we spent a good portion of the Sabbath with him and his wife. Yes, his wife! She was with us in the same room this time, not crying, but smiling—and listening to the conversation. "God has greatly blessed us," Mr. Gaveaux told me. "After a year of hardship, I now have a better job than I had before. I have had several raises, and I like my job. What's more, I can now talk to my employer any time—we are on very friendly terms..."

It is needless to say that the Bible has become the most important book in the Gaveaux family. Everyone reads it—or, at least, listens to Mr. Gaveaux read it to them. His wife is very near conversion; most of his children listen to the broadcast with him early every morning.

"Do you know what my five-year-old boy did the other day?" Mr. Gaveaux told us during our visit. "He was having dinner at Grandpa's when he was served some pork chops. My son told Grandpa he couldn't eat it, and that he couldn't eat rabbits either because God forbid it. Grandpa spanked my son and threatened to punish him severely. But my son told him, 'You can punish me all you want, I still won't eat pork and rabbit, because God tells us not to!'"

Yes, indeed, the Gaveaux family is doing very well—all eleven of them!

"Isn't She a School Teacher?..."

It is not always easy, during a baptizing tour, to find deep enough water in the neighborhood to baptize someone. At times, we have to travel several hundred miles for it, but there are cases when traveling is impossible, especially when a person is physically handicapped or too old to stand contact with icy water. In such extreme cases, we have recourse to bathtubs.

But what do you do if people don't have bathtubs? We look, of course, for some friendly neighbors. What if the neighbors don't have one either? Remember, a bathtub is rather a luxury for most European homes, and there are many small villages where there isn't a single bathtub available anywhere!

The Bourdins and I visited an old French lady, born in Poland, who gets up every morning at four-thirty to listen to Le MONDE A VENIR. She has to get up that early because the village where she lives is on daylight-saving time. During our conversation, she also told us that she had spent two weeks scrubbing the floors and the walls—even part of the ceiling, if you please!—to have everything spic and span when God's ministers came. "After all," she said, "you can't receive God's ministers in an unclean home."

It was a pleasure to talk to her, to notice her grasp of the truth, her readiness to accept God's Word without ever questioning it. Of course, there were many points new to her, in the Bible, but every time I showed them to her, letting the Bible explain itself, she exclaimed, "If that's what God says, I'll do it."

There was no doubt in my mind that this old lady was ready for baptism. With the simplicity of a child, she trusted God—this must have been the reason why the other villagers found her odd. She did things differently from them: she followed the Bible. Her own daughters had turned away from her because she obeyed God's commandments. No, there was not the slightest doubt in my mind as to her conversion—but where could we baptize her? No water for miles and miles away. She was old and had a weak heart. Outside it was freezing cold, stormy, raining heavily.

A bathtub? Oh, no—you wouldn't find a bathtub in the entire village. "I think my daughter has one, but she lives in Paris," she added.

That was good news—but it so happened that Paris was one hundred miles away! What could we do? We knew from our previous night's experience that even the hotels in the neighboring cities (they were all small cities) had no bathtubs.

"Any suggestions?" I asked.

"No," she said, "I can't think of anyone else having a bathtub. But I do want to be baptized." There was a long silence.

Suddenly, her eyes shined. She looked as though she had a brilliant idea. "There is one person in this village, the school teacher, who doesn't think I'm crazy for reading the Bible," she said. "We like and respect each other. I wonder—I just wonder if she would allow me to use..."

"To use what?" I asked. "Do you mean to say that she may have a bathtub?"

"Isn't she a school teacher?" the old woman told me. "School teachers ought to have bathtubs!"

Why, of course school teachers ought to have bathtubs! I should have thought of it before. And it so happened that this one did have a bathtub—and a huge one at that! She was even willing to let us use it provided we got there before her husband returned from work. We did.

Our good old Polish-born French lady is now one of us—a member of Christ's Body. She too is praying to God, "Thy kingdom come!"

A Tragic Case

Not all of our experiences were as happy as that. But one thing is sure:
the tragedies people bring upon themselves are due to their refusal to do what they know they ought to do. The more we counsel with people on these baptizing tours, the more we realize what James meant when he wrote, under God’s inspiration, “Therefore to Switzerland, whom I knew very well. Him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (James 4:17).

There was a man in the church, in Switzerland, whom I knew very well. He understood the truth. He believed it. But he failed to grow because he yielded to his unconverted wife’s arguments to compromise with God’s commandments—at least on one point. “I don’t care what my husband believes in or does, so long as it does not interfere with our major family plans,” his wife told me a few years ago. She would even close her eyes on her husband’s not eating unclean foods, or keeping the Sabbath.

But the Feast of Tabernacles was something she could not accept! For nearly twenty years, she and her husband had been going on a Mediterranean cruise, every year, for a few weeks in September and October. God’s Feast of Tabernacles now interfered with this family tradition! Something had to change—someone had to give in. It couldn’t be she.

Her husband offered alternatives, but to no avail. Finally, in order to have “peace” at home, he, too, said to himself that God would understand if he kept the Feast in his mind only—and not in the letter! Whether he understood the depth of his disobedience or not, the fact remains that for two years he stubbornly went on cruising with his wife at the time when he should have been at the Feast of Tabernacles, in Great Britain.

Last year, a few months before the Feast, he told Mr. Wilkins, in our Geneva office, that he had all the intentions of keeping, this time, the Feast. He apparently meant it—until the moment when, once again, his wife succeeded in making him change his mind. “God will understand,” the man said again, just like all those who seek to compromise with God’s laws. They don’t realize that it is they—and not God—who need a better understanding!

It just so happened that a few weeks before the Feast of Tabernacles, last year—a few weeks before their projected cruise!—the man was suddenly stricken and rushed to the hospital. The doctors began their experimenting and butchering. When I visited him, this summer, before undertaking our baptizing tour, I could hardly recognize him. He was still in the hospital, but he had become a mere skeleton—a human derelict.

“If God ever pulls me out of this,” he had previously told Mr. Bourdin, “I will not turn away from Him again. I will obey His commandments.”

Sometimes it may be too late—as it was in this man’s case. That last Mediterranean cruise he and his wife planned to take during the days of the Feast of Tabernacles never took place! The man died, this summer, a few weeks after I saw him.

I do hope, brethren, that this will serve as a lesson to some in the church, who also look for excuses for not attending God’s Feast days. You never know when it’s too late for you!

“Charity” or Love?

I would like to cite one more example—a happy one—before concluding this report. A rather successful businessman, living in a small French city, had written in for baptism. When the Bourdins and I met him in his office, we were at once impressed by his eagerness to put into practice what he learned from the Bible.

He was comparatively new in the truth, but zealous. He said he got up early, every morning, to listen to the broadcast and to work on his Bible Correspondence Course. During our conversation it soon became evident that this man’s biggest problem was his relationship with the other members of his family. His wife “hated” his religion. He was considered a fanatic—almost a recluse—in the view of the fact that he spent most of his time in his little office either working, studying, or praying. He could hardly find any time to spend with his children and his wife.

“We have actually nothing in common,” he told us, “everything they do I dislike and everything I do they dislike. I can’t stand the music they listen to, the television shows they watch, or the friends they invite over—who are hypocrites! My family in turn can’t stand me, my religion, my faults and my beliefs. We’re total strangers who share a home. They know, of course, that I am the head of the family, and they do what I say—not because they agree or want to, but because they know they have to obey.”

“It sounds like the army life,” I said, rather amused. “Soldiers, too, do what they are told to do not because they agree or want to, but because they know they have to obey.”

“Right!” our man interjected. “That’s exactly the way it is at home. In fact I used to be an army man myself. That’s the way I have been running my home.”

No wonder our friend had problems! A family is not an army. More than anything else, this man first needed to learn the fundamental principles of life. He had to learn how to be friendly, kind, and affectionate. Actually, he had no idea whatsoever of what love is.

“Love?” he asked thoughtfully. “I wouldn’t be able to define it. Love, to me, is hard work, providing for my own, obeying the orders of my superiors—including God. That’s the extent of my understanding of love.”

“Have you ever read I Corinthians 13?” I asked.

“Certainly,” he said, and he began to quote it to me by heart, “Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil” (verses 4-5).

“Fine—and now replace the word ‘charity’ by ‘love’—for that is the true meaning of the word,” I told him, “and do recite it again, please!”

He looked almost petrified. A man of authority, of power—a be-man—how could he really subject himself to such “sentimentality?” He told me that never in his life had he known what affection was. Never had he done anything out of love—but rather out of “chari-
ty." He didn’t think that true "charity" and love went hand in hand. It never occurred to him that a he-man could and should express such feelings without being considered a weak person. Charity, the way the world understands it, is what he had practiced—but not love. He had never suspected that what Paul spoke of in this chapter was true LOVE, and not "charity" the way people practice it today.

"This—this will upset everything I stand for, everything I have done, everything I have ever dreamed of in my life," he muttered, totally disarmed. "It will mean a total change in my mind, in my thoughts, in my attitude towards my neighbors, my children, my wife."

Had the world collapsed, he couldn’t have been more shocked. "How can I ever begin such a change?" he added. I spent many hours with him to answer his questions, quoting Biblical examples of love, explaining to him how, with God’s help, he could undertake this seemingly impossible task. He told me that he had not cried since his childhood because crying was a sign of weakness. His Dad had said that a he-man never cried. So he had even obeyed that order—just like a good soldier—training himself not to cry, even when tears would have been most soothing! "You know," he said, "I wouldn’t know how to cry. Even if I lost my wife and my children, I would be in pain, but I couldn’t cry. I wouldn’t know how to go about crying."

That evening, when the Bourdins and I returned to our hotel, we talked at length about our friend who didn’t know "how to go about crying!" He was a likeable man, who wanted so very much to change. Both the Bourdins and I prayed to God that He would intervene in this man’s life—to show him His love, and even to make him cry a little...

God did intervene!

Here is an excerpt from the letter I received from our friend, just before I left Geneva for home: "I knew in my heart that God would reveal to me, through your mouth, my faults and weaknesses so that I can grow and overcome them. For weeks, I had been praying to God in this respect, asking Him to give me the right heart to put into practice what you would instruct me.

"After you left, I felt a certain discouragement in my heart, which, a few months ago, would have turned into bitterness—even hatred. But I got on my knees and prayed, asking God to help me to do what He had instructed me through your mouth. What can I say? The answer was immediate. Imagine—for the first time in my life—I, the he-man, BROKE DOWN AND CRIED... and it felt good!

"The relations between my family and me have already greatly improved. We are now on friendly, talking terms. Words cannot express my gratitude towards God. Please do continue to pray for me so that I may grow with this newly found truth, to be a light to my own and to my friends. Please also pray that I may be ready for baptism next time one of God’s ministers visits me again..."

Won’t you, brethren—you who are God’s begotten children—pray for such people? Won’t you pray for a little boy who refuses to eat pork and rabbit even under heavy punishment? Won’t you pray for an old woman, forlorn in a little village, who thinks school teachers ought to have bathtubs? Won’t you pray for a he-man, unshaken by emotions, to learn what true LOVE is and to practice it?

Once you live such experiences and get to know some of the problems God’s people—as well as the rest of the world—are facing today, you can’t help but pray earnestly, "Thy kingdom come!"