By Herbert W. Armstrong

I said to my wife, 52 years ago, "All these churches can't be wrong. That's how I know the Bible says, 'Thou shalt observe Sunday.'"

But on intensive indepth study of the Bible, I found all these churches were wrong. Paul said later they did not obtain their beliefs from God's Word, but rather that they believed doctrines and practices that were contrary to biblical teaching. I wanted to find God's teachings, doctrines, customs and practices. I found them! I found them in the same way the apostle Paul did.

An eye-opener!

And, to one steeped in the practices and doctrines of today's churches, BAPTIST and Catholic — it is, indeed, an eye-opener.

But I followed Paul's example.

And I can say with him, "I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ . . . But when it pleased God, who . . . called me by His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood (neither went I to a biblical seminar, but I went into night-and-day study of the Word of God, mostly on my knees) . . . " (paraphrased from Galatians 1:11-17).

The apostle Paul says, verse 17, that instead of going to other men, he went into Arabia. Apparently Jesus Christ, in person, manifested Himself and taught Paul. He was called by Paul: "But I, Brother, did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ . . . But when it pleased God, who . . . called me by His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood (neither went I to a biblical seminar, but I went into night-and-day study of the Word of God, mostly on my knees) . . . " (Galatians 1:11-17).

The apostle Paul received their teaching direct from Jesus in person. The apostle Paul spent some three years in Arabia, apparently not knowing that the time when he saw Jesus in person and was taught directly by Jesus Christ was the time when he was a Jew in person, not a Gentile. But as Jesus is the Word in Person, so the Bible is the Word of God in Print.

Now back to Galatians 1: "Then after three years [in Arabia] I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days. But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother" (Galatians 1:18-19). Continue on, "Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Cephas, and Barnabas, and took Titus with me also. And I went up by revelation, and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had vain, in vain. But when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision [to the Gentiles] was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision [to Israel] was among Peter; (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles" (Galatians 2:1-8).

One sent forth

The word apostle means "one sent forth."

The meaning here is unmistakable — as Peter was the chief apostle to Israel and Judah, so Paul was chief apostle to the gentiles.

Nevertheless, when all of the scriptures on this subject are put together, it becomes certain that Peter, in fact, was the overall chief apostle.

The New Testament Church of God received all its teachings, practices, customs, from the apostles, with Peter chief over all the others.

I know well that, in view of Roman Catholic teachings regarding Peter being the first pope, this statement will be challenged by many — but it is true, nevertheless!

Peter did have primary chief apostle! I shall prove that, YET PETER WAS NOT A POPE! There is a vast difference! Remember, an apostle is "one sent forth with the gospel."

The Roman Catholic pope sits perpetually (unless, as some few have done, he takes a trip to some other place — not as carrying the Gospel, but as a political head of state).

Yet the apostles were the teachers installed in the Church the beliefs, teachings, practices and customs of the Church. And all members of the Church were required by God to believe and speak the same thing.

In the Church at Corinth, Paul began his letter, "inspired as part of God's word, by saying, 'Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you' . . . (Galatians 1:10).

Paul's letter to the Corinthians was corrective, as were his letters to other churches, and he was inspired to speak in the name of and authority of — Jesus Christ, for, he said, (verses 11-12): " . . . there are contentions [divisions] among you . . . that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ."

"They were beginning to follow individual leaders. They supposed those leaders differed in their teaching, though in fact those mentioned did all speak and teach the same thing as Christ had instructed."

SOURCE of Church beliefs

LET'S GET THIS STRAIGHT, once and for all! The source of the beliefs, teachings, customs and practices in the Church of God is GOD HIMSELF! Not any man. Jesus said, "I have spoken nothing of myself; but the Father which thou hast made known unto me . . ." (John 14:10)."}

Coming to Acts 8, when Philip, then a deacon, went to Samaria, and when the people believed Philip preaching the things concerning the Kingdom of God, they were baptized. It was Peter and John who went down to Samaria, laid hands on the newly baptized (gentiles) and prayed for the Holy Spirit to be given to them. This is the first example of the Church of God's custom of laying on of hands for receiving the Holy Spirit — and Peter was the leader, for when Simon the Sorcerer tried to buy an apostleship with money, it was Peter who said to him (the first pope), "Thy money perish with thee, for thou art in the path of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity" (Acts 8:20-23). He was the pope or Peter — pope of the Babylonian Mystery religion.

Paul writes (I Thessalonians 2:7): "For even if we had been like iniquity doth already work . . . That religion, having without authority appropriated the name "Christianity," is named in Revelation 17:5, "MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT."

It is not ironic that the one who rebelled and condemned the first pope was Cephas, whom Christ had appointed to be his disciple and first pope!

But continue on...

We come to Acts 10. Although Paul was the first pope, he returned to the gentiles, the time had come to first open salvation to the gentiles officially. And this was done by Peter, not Paul. Peter was whom God sent to the house of the gentile Cornelius, to teach the apostles to the non-Jewish gentiles the others at Jerusalem that God had opened salvation to the gentiles (Acts 11).

Peter not a pope

UNDERSTAND THIS about Peter. He was NOT a PROUD RULE­ING POPe. He was a humble man, strong in Christ's Gospel and faith, but he was not put on as Lord over others or always take the top seat, unless his position required. He was human, still, though since the day of Pentecost he had the Holy Spirit. When Peter came to Antioch, more than 14 years after the founding of the Church, his human nature showed, when he withdrew from the gentiles after some Jewish converts arrived from Jerusalem. Paul rebuked Peter publicly for this. But then, we might well remember that Peter was also human. This event occurred in the chief gentile church, and Paul was a little nettled at seeing Peter withdraw from eating with gentiles because some had arrived from Jerusalem. This incident reflects the humanity of both Peter and Paul — and demonstrates, also, that Peter was not a pope, else Paul would never have dared re­buke him.

Now we come to that crucial 13th chapter of Acts. (See HOW CHRIST, page 14)
The pope and the contender

PASSADEFNA - The pace of world events continues to quicken as we near the "crisis at the close of the age." Major nations are moving into significant new positions. Powerful personalities are emerging on the world scene - or are waiting in the wings.

Straws' strong view

In Europe, the shadow of Franz Josef Strauss, the man who is looming larger than ever on the West German political horizon, is casting a "prebendal victory," his Christian Social Union (CSU) piled up a solid victory in Bavaria's provincial elections Oct. 15.

The CSU garnered roughly 50 per cent of the vote, a bit more than record 62.1 per cent it collected in 1972. However, Minister-President Strauss was running for - and won - the office of minister-president (similar to governor) of Bavaria, which will give him a powerful role - at least for now - in West Germany's federal upper house. Most, if not all, of many, believe Mr. Strauss is out to replace West Germany's top contender to run against Mr. Schmidt for chancellor in Germany's 1980 national elections. A leading German political analyst says of the hefty Bavarian's "risings above the country's conservative opposition. The CSU is allied with the CDU (Christian Democratic Union) on the national level. Or he could, as he has threatened, form a grand coalition and turn his Bavarian party into a national one. The latter course might be more appealing at the moment, since Mr. Strauss is disenchanted at the fortunes of the CSU in the Bundestag.

There are two possible paths Strauss might take. One would challenge the labor-tie Social Democrats, who have dominated the country's conservative opposition. The CSU is allied with the CDU (Christian Democratic Union) on the national level. Or he could, as he has threatened, form a grand coalition and turn his Bavarian party into a national one. The latter course might be more appealing at the moment, since Mr. Strauss is disenchanted at the fortunes of the CSU in the Bundestag.

"I am the vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that bears not fruit, he takes away." (John 15:1).

Young leaders...

Straw's second view

"...and those who by reason of doctrine are opposed to the faith of the gospel, take heed; for from such turn away." (2 Thessalonians 3:1).

"Nothing in the world is easier than to bear a little cross..." (St. Ignatius Loyola).

But three of those who declared that they would not be opposed to the faith of the gospel, took heed; for from such turn away. (2 Thessalonians 3:1).

"...and those who by reason of doctrine are opposed to the faith of the gospel, take heed; for from such turn away." (2 Thessalonians 3:1).

Christian unity pushed

Lastly, the new pope gives every indication of vigorously pushing for - and in the area of Christian unity. John Paul II has pledged the removal of all obstacles to unity between Catholics and...
By Herbert W. Armstrong

WHERE is the only and only true Church today — the Church founded by Jesus Christ in A.D. 31? Seven major eye-opening proofs identify it unmistakably.

"I was, in utter astonishment, coming to realize that what I had been taught growing up in church was the precise opposite of what the Bible says in clear language."
human nature trends to cause one to believe what he wants to believe, and refuse, regardless of proof, what he does not want to believe.

reason for people’s beliefs is that human nature trends to cause one to believe what he wants to believe, and refuse, regardless of proof, what he does not want to believe. There is the old saying, “One convinced against his will is of the same opinion.”

God’s Word is truth!

That is why I said the experience I was painfully subjected to in my earlier intensive study was unique in human life and conduct. I know of no religious leader who arrived at his teachings in such manner. Perhaps that is why God’s Word is absolute — as I proved — is truth. Only God is infallibly correct!

In the beginning of the year 1927, to a complete mind-sweeping — my mind swept clean of previous assumptions and beliefs — surrendered to the word of God, by then I have proved truth, and the supreme authority.

More, I had been brought to realize my own inadequacy and nothingness. I had been brought to a real experience conquered by the great majestic God — and with a solid rock-based faith in Jesus Christ. I was baptized, and the infilling of God’s Spirit opened my mind to the joy, unspeakable of knowing God and Jesus Christ — of knowing truth — and the warmth of God’s divine love!”

When I was hated I now loved. I found the greatest and most absorbing joy of my life in concentrating on those solid gold nuggets of truth from God’s Word.

Now came a new enthusiasm in biblical study and receiving the revealed knowledge of God.

Where is God’s Church?

Now came the urgent desire to

find the one and only true Church of God as founded A.D. 31 by Jesus Christ. He had said (Matthew 16:18) that His Church would not die but continue through the ages.

My intensive biblical studies had shown me basic truths that would identify and distinguish continuing original Church.

1) It would be rightly discerned the revealed truth of God as contained in His Word, the Holy Bible. I had learned that God is the Source of knowledge, and He reveals that knowledge through His written Word. This Word, remember, I had proved by irrefutable proof the divine inspiration and supreme authority of the Holy Bible as the revealed Word of God. God is the supreme Educator — Revealer of Truth.

2) It would be, not a human secular organization; not a spiritual organism, yet well organized on God’s revealed pattern. It would be composed of begotten children of God — the household of God — built upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, with Jesus Christ as its guiding head (Ephesians 2:19-20), as a building fifty feet together gathered unto an holy temple in the Lord (verse 21) — from whom the whole body (56) fifty feet together and composed by that every joint suppleness (verse 20).

3) It would have understanding of God’s truth!

And it would be producing abundant fruit.

I did not find such a church immediately. But in His due time, God led me to that one and only original Church of God, as now reveal seven major proofs that identify it.

PROOF NO. 1

WHO AND WHAT IS GOD?

It seems utterly unbelievable!

The religions of this world do not know what God really is.

Yet religion is the worship of God. How worship is what is unknown.

The only answer is that the Bible reveals all nations have been described (Revelation 12:5).

The true understanding of the very identity of God is one proof that the one and only Church founded A.D. 31 by Jesus Christ is, today, the Worldwide Church of God.

It seems inconceivable — but you live today in a world of religious confusion! Among the largest of the world’s religions are Buddhism, Confucianism, Tao-ism, Shintoism, Hinduism, the Modern religion and Christianity — with its hundreds of denominations and sects. The latter is the largest in number of adherents.

And yet only one, neither Roman Catholic nor Protestant, one of the creator of all that is! They could know! God reveals Himself in the Bible, the Holy Bible. But no book has been so distorted, twisted and misused than the Bible to create many erroneous religious creeds.

It seems inconceivable — but you live today in a world of religious confusion! Among the largest of the world’s religions are Buddhism, Confucianism, Tao-ism, Shintoism, Hinduism, the Modern religion and Christianity — with its hundreds of denominations and sects. The latter is the largest in number of adherents.

And yet only one, neither Roman Catholic nor Protestant, the Word was a Personage separate from God — as shown in the record of the true Church of God had been systematically destroyed during that hundred years — the curtain had been rung down on Church activities, and when we started reading the Bible, the Word had an entirely different church!

Paul on Mars’ hill

They brought Paul to Areopagus, the supreme tribunal, on Mars’ hill.

And the apostle cried, ‘...what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is? ..I bring to you certain strange things to our ears...’

Paul, with its hundreds of denominations.

But what of the real NATURE of God? Just who is God? We need a concrete understanding than study merely the Being who created all. That is the story in the largest in number of adherents.

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Who was the God of the Old Testament? That leads to an important point in the understanding of who and what is God.

Monday, Nov. 20, 1978

The GOOD NEWS

SEVEN PROOFS

(Continued from page 4) "LORD" in the King James translation refers to the Hebrew word in the Godhead who in John 1:1 is called the "Word" — the very one who later became Jesus Christ.

Who was the God of the Old Testament?

What is the HOLY SPIRIT?

The earth was inhabited by angels prior to the creation of man. Apparently God placed a third of the created angels on earth. They were given opportunity to share in God's creative activities by FINISHING the earth — working in and with its many elements, improving, beautifying, completing it.

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... NONE of the religions or churches or the Worldwide Church of God understands both WHAT man is and WHY humanity was put on the earth!

HOW GREAT Thou Art

We have covered something of the nature of God. Now consider the revealed truths of who and WHAT is God.

PROOF NO. 2

THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD and CREATION OF HOLY, RIGHTEOUS CHARACTER

As Creator, the most important feat of creation is holy, righteous character.

That is an stupendous accomplishment that even the greatest men, even Jesus, could not do. His matchless supernatural power, cannot create such character spontaneously or automatically by fiat.

Such character is the ability of a separate conscious, thinking entity with free moral agency — capacity for free choice — to come to know the right from wrong, good from evil, to make the right decision, and then with God's help exercise the will to do the right or good, even contrary to self-interest.

Angels created first

Now for the moment go back to John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word. And the Word was with God, and the Word was God." That is the very earliest prehistoric record. It doesn't have to be millions or thousands of millions of years ago. The two eternally living Spirit Personages, who together constituted the Godhead, were alone in empty space.

But even, as man thinks, and designs and plans before making — so did God, who much later made man in His own image.

God — with the Word — first conceived the plan and design to create angels, also immortal spirit beings, composed wholly of spirit.

So God created angels before creating the material universe, as revealed elsewhere in the Bible.

The DUALITY in creation.

There is the duality principle in God's creative process. Angels were the first created of fine quality, reasoning, separate entities created by God.

Angels were created with minds — ability to know, reason, make choices. But their creation could not be a fabrication out of nothing. Sometime in God's creative career, the created universe, as recorded in Genesis 1:1, was finished. After this, everything was the result of God's creative activity.

God initially instructed them in his way — that of righteous character. It was the way of God's spiritual law — the basis of God's government.

God was the first of the angels to learn the way of righteousness, the basis of God's government.

To illustrate, compare this physical creation to the manufacture of unfinished furniture — sold in stores of most cities. Such furniture may be of fine quality, but lacks the finishing polish, paint or whatever.

So God created the heavens and the earth — the universe with its countless planets in sun or solar systems, galaxies, with the countless peoples such as our earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, etc.

Genesis 1:1, where "heavens" is in the plural in original Hebrew and modern translations, together with Genesis 2-4, which speaks of the universe, the universe was created as part of the material universe — all simultaneously created. Other scriptures imply this.

But, like the unfinished furniture, they were not at that time completed. Angels had been created prior to the universe, because they sang together and shouted for joy at earth's creation (Job 38:7).

A double DUALITY

Now we come to the fact of a double duality in creation.

... NONE of the religions or churches or the Worldwide Church of God understands both WHAT man is and WHY humanity was put on the earth!

... THE most important feat of creation is holy, righteous CHARACTER.

WHAT AND WHY IS MAN?

It must be as shocking to the reader as it was to me, to learn that none of the religions or churches understands but the Worldwide Church of God.

(See SEVEN PROOFS, page 12)
Sermon Summaries from Ministers of the Worldwide Church of God

Are You Ready for Spiritual Graduation?

In the academic world, when you’re going for your Ph.D., academicians call the final exam you have to take your comprehensive. And to pass you’ve got to prepare day and night, week after week, because you’ll be asked everything you’ve learned about the subject you’re studying.

In some, our Christian education is like preparing for a comprehensive. When Christ comes back to this earth, we’re going to go through our comprehensives! He’s going to quiz on everything. And He’s going to want to know what we’ve made of, and whether or not we have prepared to receive our degree (eternal life).

Along the way toward the comprehensives or the final exam, you have what’s called midterms. Today I have some midterm questions that I hope will help us to see whether or not we have the fruits of God’s Spirit and are growing in those fruits. I think that’s really what we want to know.

Question one

Are we still able to repent or still able to change? In Acts 2:38 Peter commanded the people to repent. Now we all know that before baptism one must have that initial experience of repentance. But repentance is not a one-time experience, but something that we must do daily. It is a way of life. Repentance and change today should be easier for us than it was last year.

God wants us all to repent because He has appointed a day when Jesus is going to judge us (Acts 17:30-31).

Let’s look at II Corinthians 7 about this matter of repentance. Verses 9 and 10: “Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed, that ye might repent.” He is saying, “I was really happy (the main reason I rejoiced) not because you were sorry or because you were precious, but because that mourning and that sorrow brought forth repentance and change.

When you were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by the Gospel. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to death.

In other words, a physical sorrow — being unhappy about something, sad about something — doesn’t lead to anything profitable. But if you’re sorry to the point where you change — where your life takes on a new direction, new scope, new heading — that, Paul says, will lead to salvation.

In I Corinthians 13:11, Paul also writes: “When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.” In other words: “When I was a child I acted and reasoned as a child; but when I grew up, when I repented and received God’s Spirit, I put away childish things, I look on a new way of life, and I didn’t return to childhood.

We have to grow to become perfect. Most of us have a lot of problems. Most of us have a lot of things that we want to overcome. And that’s good, because the person who doesn’t have anything to overcome is in serious trouble.

We have to continually examine ourselves “Till we all come into the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13). We ought to look at what Christ’s righteousness character and stack our character up against His. That’s a good way to measure yourself for a midterm exam. Compare yourself with Christ. We must not compare ourselves among ourselves because that sets the standard considerably lower than it ought to be.

Question two

Can we accept and cope with trials and frustrations? Romans 12:1: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” The first thing we begin to see, then, is that we are bought and paid for. We are sacrifice, living sacrifices. We have said, “God, You do with us what You Want.” We no longer are ourselves — beings to do as we please whenever we want. But we must always strive to do everything in the context of what God’s will is.

Verse 2: “Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.” So we’ve got to have a changed way of thinking — seeking the things and ways of God rather than our own natural patterns of thought and action (Isaiah 55:7-8, Proverbs 3:5-7).

This theme is repeated in I Corinthians 6:19: “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [Spirit] which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s. So everything about us belongs to God. And if He allows a trial or a test to come upon us, it’s for our good. We are His children!

Let’s take a look at 1 Peter 5: “There’s a way to always be prepared when a trial comes along. In verses 6-9: Bumble yourselves, therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time. Contrary to that, of course, are those who exalt themselves in this life: Their promise is that they’re going to be humbled and abused. Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

Sanat just loves to see us down and frustrated, unhappy, sad and gloomy. Discouragement is one of Satan’s chief tools; we would love for all of us to be discouraged. He would love for all of us to lose hope. He’s just got you out in the palm of his hand to do.

“Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. If you have a real trial or a real test, well, you’re not the only one that has. You’re not the only one who suffers frustrations and worry. We all face the same problems, believe me.

I Corinthians 2 gives us another key on how to be able to cope with these trials that come along, without giving up. Versus 9: “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” When trials come, we must think about that tremendous reward that God has for us. He’s got something prepared for us that is so far above these puny trials and tests that they’re really nothing by comparison (Romans 8:18).

God says all things do work together for good (Romans 8:28). And in my years of experience in the ministry and as a Christian, I’ve seen it always work out if you just be patient and wait. My wife is telling me, “Be patient. Things will work out.” I tell her the same thing. And sure enough, over the years things do work out. All of you are to work together for good — in the long run — for those who are called of God according to His promise.

James 1:2-4: “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers [different] temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.” In a sense it says: Let patience develop; let it grow; it mature. And then it can be plucked off the tree as a whole piece of fruit — something that God has for you.

I Corinthians 10:13, to wrap up this point: “There hath no temptation taken you which is common to man: but God is faithful, and will not suffer you to be tempted above that which ye are able: but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

He doesn’t say He’s going to prevent the temptations from coming upon us, but He says that along the way of the trial and the test, He’s going to provide a way of escape that we might be able to bear it.

Christ is the author of our salvation, and He is the finisher. So He’s going to be there to help us; and He’s going to help us build that character and withstand the trials.

Question three

Do we find more satisfaction today in giving than getting? In other words, is it easier and more enjoyable to give today than it was last year? Is it easier to give of our time, or do we find that we’re a little bit more possessive in this regard? What I want to stress is the matter of giving of time or service. “It’s more blessed to serve others than to be served,” is what Jesus is saying.

Let’s take a look at what God has given us so that we can get the proper perspective on this question. In Matthew 10:8, Christ said (talking to the disciples here, but it applies to all of us): “Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.”

There’s not a one of us who has paid for God’s truth, paid to receive it. We were given it freely.

God’s truth came into our minds, and He opened our minds to understand it. Now God says, “You have that knowledge; you share it with others.” And of course the way we share that is by using others to support God’s Work; be behind it and by supporting the Gospel through the Plain Truth, through the World Tomorrow program and all the articles and other publications. “Freely ye have received, freely give.”

Jesus said, “Whosoever doth not bear his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.” And a part of bearing that cross is the giving of our time, our money, our talent — in many ways, in many means in prayer and Bible study and in serving, helping others who are in need — instead of having a spirit of get or covetousness that we see in this world today. We must have a spirit of giving.

Question four

Do you have a greater capacity to love today than a year ago? I John 2:15, 16 shows us very plainly that we are to love the world (the world is not the world or society). “Love not the world (the society), neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

And in John 3:1: “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.” What kind of love does God have for us that we should be called the begotten sons of God?

God loved us so much that He was willing to give His only Son for us. I John 3:16 of that same chapter: “Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.” How well are we doing on this point?

I John 2:17-18: “But whoso hath this world’s good and seeth his brother have need, and shutth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the...”
HAVE A QUESTION FOR "FORUM?"

Due to the success of Stanley R. Rader's headquarters personnel meetings and round table columns and a number of enthusiastic comments received and addressed by them, Mr. Rader would like to open the column to questions from Church members.

Questions of interest to the general membership of the Church will be answered. In some cases questions may be altered slightly to be combined with other questions of a similar nature. Questions should be accompanied by a Good News mailing label (names will not appear in print) and addressed to:

Stanley R. Rader
"Forum"
300 W. Green St.
Pasadena, Calif., 91123

Those of us at headquarters responsible for doing much of the day-by-day work of this great work will be able to better understand one another and the purposes of the Work if we learn to communicate more often, more openly, more directly.

"Was the sale finalized at our own

Mr. Rader, could you dispel a rumor for us. It's not mean to put anyay else down, but there's a rumor going around that a Church evangelist who left the Work in 1974 is still full-time on the payroll of the Work. Could you comment on that?

Would you care to mention the name of that evangelist?

Yes, Sir, Mr. R. Purdy is not on the payroll, nor, as of the Work, and he has been helped for the past three years, I believe. When he left, those of us who were closest to him, and I was one of those persons, everything in our power to keep him from going back to be the biggest mistake of his life—his decision to leave the Work.

But he felt he had gone much too far and made too many mistakes. He told me that a few or our conversation on the last evening before he took his decision to leave, I spoke with him from about 10:30 in the evening until about 3:35 in the morning. (My wife made me peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches and little glasses of milk, which I was sharing with my wire-haired terrier.) He said that unfortunately this is not a very forgiving Church. And, in his opinion, not being a very forgiving Church, he felt his colleagues would not let him back.

They would make it so uncomfortable for him that his usefulness would be washed down the drain. At any rate, when he left under this cloud, we are not in a position to give him another opportunity. It is the sum total of our experience, but having understood that, we have not been executed by first question was asked. And he went on pretty cold.

We went on pretty cold.

When he left under this cloud, we are not in a position to give him another opportunity. It is the sum total of our experience. We have had some good years, so that Mr. [Ellis] La Ravia and Mr. [Ralph] Helge had been handling extended negotiations with interested buyers for five or six weeks now. There are two buyers very much interested. Offers have been reduced to writing but have not been executed by either potential buyer. Yet we received extensive coverage from the buyers telling us he had evaluated the property at $57,0000, which would be more money to be paid outside of escrow. I am sure that, should the deal go through, the money would be there. He himself is going along very well. I was holding it. We have it basking. I am sure that, should the deal go through, the money would be there. He himself is going along very well.

Yet, when we were in Big Sandy, 10 days ago, we took it upon himself to call on all of the parties in Lubbock, Tex., and received confirmation—bought by a certain industrialist (one of the competitors we're dealing with) and that the property would be conveyed to Mr. [Ellis] La Ravia and Mr. [Ralph] Helge. We went on pretty cold.

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We went on pretty cold.
We know what the problems are, and we have to marshal all of our resources, not only our money, but our manpower, our physical equipment and our spiritual resources.

Some of the things now being developed, some of the concepts being played with by our television and other creative people are exciting. And they will produce fruit.

The Plain Truth magazine, which we consider developer enrichment, is stocking out in ten days. We have to keep our message into the wind and into the ears of the people.

Our income is up, not down. Our church attendance is up, not down. Our church was 9,138 members strong. That's an increase, not a decrease. We are trying to work on all these issues. We are working on developing our people.

We will have the kind of college here that Mr. Armstrong had intended all along. We will have the kind of college here that Mr. Armstrong had intended all along.

We have a fine television department with creative, dedicated people, and it's interesting to see how much advancement, overall growth and in timing of the Holy Days offering and with the Holy Days offerings, and the Good News newspaper and Good News magazine. We have a fine television department.

We have good people working on that. And we have a fine set of concepts being developed, some of the concepts being played with by our television and our creative people are exciting. And they will produce fruit.

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PASTOR GENERAL
Herbert W. Armstrong

EVANGELISTS
David L. Anson, Pasadena Auditorium P.M.; Dibar Apostolic, Pasadena auditorium; John H. Blackwell, Abilene, San Angelo, Midland, Tex.; C. Wayne Cole, Pasadena Auditorium P.M.;

John D. Hill, Tacoma, Wash.; Howard L. Hose, Pasaden a Auditorium P.M.; Ronald D. Kelly, Denver, Colo.; Raymond McNair, Pasadena Auditorium P.M.

Roderick C. Meredith, Pasadena Auditorium P.M.; Norman A. Smith, Ohio; Calif.; Gerald D. Waterhouse, Orlando, Fla.

AREA COORDINATORS
Elbert E. Atlas, Naraun, N.Y.; Dean S. Blackwell, Abilene, San Angelo, Midland, Tex.; Guy L. Engle, Cleveland (East), Ohio; L. Paul Platt, Rome, Ga.;

John D. Hammer, Nashveil l, Tenn.; Ronald D. Kelly, Denver, Colo.; Stephen Martin, Queens, N.Y.; Robert A. Pillar, Columbus (A.M. and P.M.); H. Burk McNair, Charlotte, N.C.;

Carl E. McNair, Milwaukee, (North), Wis.; Dennis D. Rahn, Renton, Wash. (South), Kan.; Edward W. Smith, Cincinnati (North), Ohio; Norman A. Smith, Ohio; Calif.

PASTORS


Keith N. Crouch, Pasadena Auditorium A.M.; Allen D. Dennis, Long Beach, Calif.; Robert R. Dick, Columbus (A.M. and P.M.); Ohio; Arthur W. Docken, Omaha, Neb.;

Charles V. Dorph, Pasadena Auditorium A.M.; Robert E. Fahey, Pasadena Auditorium P.M.; Roger V. Foster, Cover D’Alene, Idaho; Spokane, Wash.;

James W. Gentry, Pasadena Imperial P.M.; Dennis G. Gillard, Westminster, Colo.; Robert N. Beagg, Allentown, Pa.; Lloyd E. Johnston, Charleston, W. Va.;

Thomas A. Mullis, Erie, Pa.; John W. Menbaugh, Columbia, Mo.; William A. Roberts, Kingsport, Tenn.; John S. Scudder, Bridgeport, Conn.

PREACHING ELDERS

Daniel J. Caffey, San Diego, Calif.; Colin A. Catto, Pasadena Auditorium P.M.; John M. Chestnut, Nashville, Tenn.; Randy G. Dick, Dallas (South), Tex.;

George W. Hill, Great Falls, Helena, Montana; Ronald D. McNeil, Memphis, Tenn.; Ray A. Meyer, Louisville, Ky.; William L. Miller, Grand Rapids, Mich.;


Levi J. Hill, Waco, Texas; Robert J. Dickey, Norfolk, Va.; George W. Hill, Great Falls, Helena, Montana; Ronald D. McNeil, Memphis, Tenn.;


William A. Roberts, Kingsport, Tenn.; John S. Scudder, Bridgeport, Conn.

Robert J. Persky, Roanoke, Va.; Bill J. Pippin, Grove, N.C.; George W. Hill, Great Falls, Helena, Montana; Ronald D. McNeil, Memphis, Tenn.;


William A. Roberts, Kingsport, Tenn.; John S. Scudder, Bridgeport, Conn.

Richard J. Rische, Pasadena Auditorium P.M.; Frank H. Schae, Pasadena Auditorium P.M.; Leonard J. Schreiber, Albany, Ore.; Carpathia Smith, Oakland, Calif.;

Robert L. Spencer, Pasadena Auditorium P.M.; Robert F. Steep, Pasadena Auditorium A.M.; Kenneth C. Strickland, Liberal, Kan.;

Keith F. Thomas, Long Island, N.Y.; Leon Walker, Pasadena Auditorium P.M.;

Glen V. White, Great Falls, Helena, Missoula, Mont.; William D. Adams, Johnstown, Pa.; Fred I. Alderson, Ada, Lawton, Okla.;

George A. Amidon, Mora, Minn.; Robert H. Ang, Pasadena Auditorium A.M.; Leroy Nett, Houston (North and East), Texas; Reginald Platt, Springfield, Ohio;

James W. Gentry, Pasadena Imperial P.M.; Arnold TOM, Houston, Texas; Edward W. Smith, Cincinnati (North), Ohio; Norman A. Smith, Ohio; Calif.

PREACHERS
Roger V. Abels, Chicago (Southeast), Ill.; Dennis D. Adams, Pasadena Auditorium P.M.; Bruce A. Anderson, Bridgeport, Conn.;

George A. Amidon, Mora, Minn.; Robert H. Ang, Pasadena Auditorium A.M.; Leroy Nett, Houston (North and East), Texas; Reginald Platt, Springfield, Ohio;

James W. Gentry, Pasadena Imperial P.M.; Arnold TOM, Houston, Texas; Edward W. Smith, Cincinnati (North), Ohio; Norman A. Smith, Ohio; Calif.
Members lose child, home in tragedy during Feast

SEDRO-WOOLLEY, Wash. — Fire swept the residence of Sedro-Woolley Church members Roger and Donna Weinkauf Monday, Nov. 20, 1978, killing the couple’s 12-year-old daughter and destroying the home they were building.

Mrs. Weinkauf, alone at the time with her four children, managed to rescue her 8-year-old son and 6-year-old daughter, but too late for her 12-year-old daughter and 5-year-old son. They are identified as Donna Weinkauf, home from Holy Day services at the Seattle, Wash., Feast site.

An announcement of the tragedy made at Feast services brought tremendous response according to Scott-Kolbinger Pastor Valdon White, Contributions from brethren alone totaled $5,500 for the stricken family.

Local citizens and various organizations also contributed to help the Family, according to the report. White.

"Donations from brethren began pouring in the form of prayers, clothing, food, furniture and money," said Mrs. White. "We received so many thank yous for the generosity and care in our time of need." The Weinkauf family is now relocated in Mount Vernon, Wash., where Mr. Weinkauf continues to do work reconstruction. Their address is 1122 Railroad Ave. S., Mount Vern­ on, Wash., 98273.

The Good NEWS

The fact that the nonmember income has not grown. It has shown about 40 percent in terms of real dollars, and despite the fact that costs have gone up. But we have never had what we have been told has been the primary reason — that the nonmember income has shrunk. We have never intended to wait three years and that we would have a return — a handsomely profit. We would have been willing, as is the memorandum, to buy the idea of the magazine again at the lowest price — the lowest rate of return — not this fantastic return such as has been generated by inflation, despite the difficulty it has caused them as individuals, are giving more up to take up the slack that has been caused by..."
ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHS

BAAS, David and Marjorie (Herig), of Cincinnati, Ohio, Nov. 12, 11:30 p.m., 7 pounds 14 ounces, first child.

CRAFT, Carol and Danica (Major), of Grove City, Ohio, by Dr. John Leedy, Nov. 20, 9:00 a.m., 8 pounds, first child.

CRAY, Dick and Carol (McGee), of Grove City, Ohio, by Dr. John Leedy, Nov. 20, 11:57 a.m., 7 pounds 10 ounces, second child.

CRAVENS, James and Jean (Branscum), of Columbus, Ohio, by Dr. Charles B. Holewacz, Nov. 20, 10:30 a.m., 6 pounds 8 ounces, first child.

DENZLER, Guido and Brenda (Reiser), of Boyceville, Wis., by Dr. Edward H. Walker, Oct. 9, 12:50 a.m., 8 pounds 8 ounces, their first child.

JOHNSTON, Ted and Donna (Graves), of Florence, Ala., by Dr. Paul G. Well, Oct. 9, 2:13 p.m., 6 pounds 6 ounces, their second child.

NICHOLS, Donald and Karen (Munn), of Tulsa, Okla., by Dr. Arnold S. Schlaud, Oct. 9, 12:10 a.m., 8 pounds 14 ounces, first child.

MOODY, Danny and Lisa (Pemberton), of Columbus, Ohio, by Dr. Richard J. Cesarone, Oct. 9, 1:07 p.m., 8 pounds 3 ounces, fourth child.

NICHOLS, Donald and Karen (McKee), of Florence, Ala., by Dr. Paul G. Well, Oct. 9, 2:13 p.m., 6 pounds 6 ounces, their second child.

PARKER, James and Janet (Cox), of Mechanicsburg, Ohio, by Dr. Thomas R. Hammonds, Nov. 20, 10:45 a.m., 7 pounds 14 ounces, first child.

BOOTER, Richard and Patricia (McGaw), of Grayslake, Ill., by Dr. Paul W. Zaepfel, Oct. 9, 11:32 a.m., 7 pounds 4 ounces, first child.

WHITE, Terry and Darla (Baggett), of Athens, Ohio, by Dr. Robert E. McDonald, Oct. 9, 4:15 p.m., 8 pounds, their first child.

ENGAGEMENTS

M., and Mrs. R. W. Peters of Lanett, Ala., announce the engagement of their daughter, Susan W., to Mr. M. W. Burleson, a student at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa, Ala. A wedding is planned for April 28.

ENGAGEMENTS

We'd like to let the readers of The Good News know about your new baby as soon as it arrives. Just fill out this coupon and send it to the address given as soon as possible after the baby is born.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

ANNIVERSARIES


John Laty is survived by his wife, Louise; one son, Carl; three daughters, Carol, Karen and Mary; one brother; and five sisters.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Good News announces the birth of babies in the area. Babies are born in local hospitals and are generally announced within a few days of birth. The birth announcements include the parents' names and the baby's weight and sex. The Good News also publishes engagements and obituaries. The newspaper is a local community newspaper in the United States. The Good News is not affiliated with The New York Times.
I am so ignorant of so IMPORTANT a TRUTH.

Earth's face in devastation

Instead of improving, beautifying, completing earth's creation, the sinning angels brought it to desolation and ruin.

Come again to Genesis 1:2: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. . . ." So in six days God renewed the face of the earth (not its original creation), preparing it for the creation of man.

Once again the earth was a perfect blank slate, but lacking the finishing touches.

The PURPOSE of man on earth

Why did the Creator put man on the earth? To improve the physical earth as God gave it to man, finishing his creation, which sinning angels had deliberately refused to do. And in so doing to restore the government of God, with God's way of life; and further, in this very process founding the creation of man by the development of God's holy, righteous character, with man's own assistance. Once this perfect and righteous character is instilled in man and man converted from mortal to immortal man, then is it to come the incredible human potential—man being born into the

proof that identifies the one true Church.

How human mind functions

Now we come to another, so far as I know exclusive in the one true Church.

Did you ever wonder about the vast difference between human mind and animal brain? This incident is often used in so many places for the falsity of the theory of evolution!

The physical brain of vertebrate animals remained as it is in the unimproved state. And the brain of human beings is indescribably greater. Few in otherwise intelligent conversing, in order to

things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?" . . . (verse 11).

A cow, sheep of dog cannot know the spirit of man, and neither could a man, except by the spirit of man, which is in him. Likewise, the natural man with this one spirit is limited in its ability to know why even so the things of God known not no, but the Spirit of God" (verse 11).

only when the Holy Spirit enters, combining with the "human" spirit, can a man come to know that which is spiritual.

But the natural man received the "spirit of the world" which begins with the "second Adam. . . ." (John 3:6).

"The physical brain of vertebrate animals remained as it is in the unimproved state. And the brain of human beings is indescribably greater. Few in otherwise intelligent conversing, in order to.

What, then, is the function of the natural mind can know only what the brain can physically see, hear, taste, smell, or feel. The natural mind is confined to physical, material knowledge.

"For God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit . . ." (verse 10).

For man who knows the

"ONLY when the Holy Spirit enters, combining with the "human" spirit, can a man come to know that which is spiritual."
One reason God raised up ancient Israel was to prove, eventually (not yet realized) to all humanity that the carnal mind with all its intellectual accomplishments simply will not accept and live by the revealed knowledge of God . . .

"Except for those specially called for special duty preparing for God's KINGDOM, ALL HUMANITY HAS BEEN CUT OFF FROM GOD THESE 6,000 YEARS!"

When storms go wrong

God said to Eli, "Wherefore . . . your sons above me? . . .?

(1 Samuel 2:20) and did he not know that they should die. When news came to Eli, past 90 years, that his sons had been killed and the ark of God taken in battle, Eli fell backward, broke his neck and died!

Perhaps another evidence of the Worldwide Church of God being the one original Church of God is that its apostle did remove his son, who was secularizing the Church and teaching others to do so also. It is a difficult and heartbreaking thing for a father to have to do, Eli honored his aging sons, holding priestly office, but God, God's apostle of our day, cleansing and uplifting them, did therefore, by his example, take them to be spiritually removed from the Church, that is, from God, it being written, "The EVIL eye of the people, having immoral relations with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle. Now Eli was very old—near 90—and said to his sons, . . . Why do ye do such things?" (22:23—25). "Notwithstanding they hearkened not to the voice of their father . . ." The sons of Eli had brought the evils, and the priest Eli did not put them out of the priestly order.
I, the brethren, and the apostles, about the Spirit should be given, to teach, and the apostles. Immediately some things to happen, but

And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders. Then, through Moses, God gave them the "law of Moses" — the sacrificial law of animal sacrifices, which could not justify sin, but was a reminder of sin, and of the spiritual substitutes for the sacrifice of Christ. When Christ died on the cross, animal sacrifices became useless. There also was a ceremonial law — of physical rituals, carnal ordinances, and drink offerings, etc. — to teach them the habit of obedience — things to do repeatedly morning, noon and night. The law of rituals, including circumcision, was physical, and even until the Holy Spirit should be given, to teach them the habit of obedience. In Galatians 3:24, this ritual law is called a "schoolmaster" to bring them to Christ. In Romans and Galatians, the terms "works of the law" always refers to these physical laws, which were temporary, until Christ. Sometimes after the ritual law means "good works," in accord with the spiritual law, and sometimes the ritual law when mentioned in the context will be for New in Acts 15. These Jews who had come down to Antioch thought this system was "legal" or legalistic, and that was the fact. In Galatians 5:3, Paul shows that if a man was circumcised as a legal ritual, he became dead to God, and did not do the whole ritual law — and the context is speaking of the ritual law, though this verse does not use "works of the law." Paul was quite willing to take the reproof. The apostle Peter was there at the time. This visit of Paul to Jerusalem is undoubtedly the one mentioned in Galatians 2. Apparently, according to Galatians 2:9, the only apostles at Jerusalem at that time were Peter, James and John. But in Acts 15:4, it is stated: "And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders." Thus, verse 6, "And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter." All members of the church — Jews and Gentiles — in Jerusalem. The means the lay members were excluded, but the apostles were present. And the apostles ranked lower than apostles came together in this council. Peter settles the question: Now we see that even these members of the church at Jerusalem were not the faithful who had been taught the message — not a resident pope or church; and the gates of hell [the grave] shall not prevail against it. And I will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set up the tabernacle of David, with the HOLY SPIRIT. PETER — set that this binding — and Peter's keys of the kingdom was a law of Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus said unto him [unto Peter], Simon Bar-jon: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but thy Father which is in heaven hath revealed it also unto thee [unto Peter], that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell [the grave] shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto THEE [PETE R], the keys of the kingdom of heaven: And whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven (Matthew 16:19). There has been much discussion on the question of who had the keys of lesser ministers of lower than Peter, as well as the church binding and loosing. So now let it be MADE OFFICIAL. That ye are enabled to judge — that this binding and loosing PRAISE THE ETERNAL GOD! He has NOT left nor forsaken HIS HEAD of this Church! HE built it of one of lower rank ministers ordained by his authority — not by the church, nor by his apostle. When men who held office unconstitutionally by his appointment or approval, took it into their own hands, in his absence, set up the prime mover in this conspiracy, and, under the name of God's Church and Work back on God's track! — put out the prime mover in this conspiracy, a change — put out the prime mover. Jesus Christ still REIGNS SUPREME in God's Church. The church shall, very soon, reign over all the earth! Many harmful errors in the spirit of the man of sin, and he shall be put STRAIGHT — and it shall be done by Jesus Christ, through His spiritual body, as rapidly as is humanly possible.

JESUS CHRIST is the living head of His Church, and He built it through His apostle. And He, Christ, still rules supreme in the one and only area on earth where the government of God is being administered today!
Member's book teaches children new alphabet

By John Walsh

DUBLIN, Ireland — Reading is not as easy as ABC; it is quite a difficult skill to master, and many people grow up having failed to come to grips with basic literacy.

Now a 70-year-old Irish teacher has written a book designed to simplify the whole process. He hopes it will be used in Irish schools and by groups dealing with adult illiterates.

WILLIAM HICKSON

Former Trinity lecturer William E. Hickson M.A., M.S., has written the book using the Initial Teaching Alphabet (ITA), which was devised by Sir James Pitman. In the ITA alphabet, which has been used in many British and American schools, the letters are more closely related to the sounds.

Supporters of ITA point out that the traditional alphabet is too confusing for many primitives and that a more logical approach is needed.

The problem with the ordinary alphabet is that it does not follow any rules. Words such as go and he, my and you are different in the way to spell them.

But gone, done and done look similar, yet they are all pronounced differently, and that, says ITA supporters, causes confusion and frustration when a youngster starts to read.

To add to the confusion there are different ways of writing letters. For example, there are two ways of writing d (D, d), only one of c and variations such as TH, TH and dh.

The ITA supporters say also that three letters of the traditional alphabet, c, g and z, are effectively redundant and that the remaining 23 letters cannot systematically spell the 40-plus different sounds in the English language.

Mr. Hickson, who lives at Evergreen, Coolmore, Arklow, County Wicklow, told the Press that a lot of research had been carried out but the results were inconclusive.

His own impression was that ITA does enable one to learn to read faster but, by no means is it the answer to all our reading problems among children or adults.

One drawback is that ITA is expensive to introduce. Apart from the basic reader, other books would have to be provided for the pupil.

Another important factor to be considered is the “re-entry” period from ITA to traditional spelling. Although Mr. Hickson says this is simple once the pupil has mastered ITA, otherwise it is said to be akin to learning a new language.

Professor Swan also points out that pupils miss the “cues” which aid the acquisition of normal spelling if their first contact with the written word is through ITA. These cues include signs on buses, billboards and notices.

Mr. Hickson spoke also to the educational authorities about the introduction of the ITA scheme here. However, Mr. Hickson replies that none of them had tried it out experimentally, and if they had they would have seen the success of ITA. His book is available from a number of bookshops and direct from Polaro & Co., L.I., Aiston Road, Tallaght, County Dublin.

NEW WILMINGTON, Pa. — Adoptions of healthy, white infants are rare. Most children available for adoption today are older, of mixed racial heritage and have emotional or physical problems.

The children adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Fair are members of the Youngstown, Ohio, church. This article is reprinted by permission from the News-Wilming­ton, Pa., Globe.

Thomas Fair family of Cliftonwood Road, New Bedford, do not fall into any of these categories.

“We started out taking foster children,” stated Mrs. Fair. “These kids weren’t wanted by their parents and we loved them like our own, so we adopted them.”

“We’ve loved children,” she continued. “I couldn’t have any more after Tommy so we looked into foster care. We never thought ’bout adoption.”

Tommy Fair, now a second grader at New Bedford Elementary School, first came to the Fairs as a foster child when he was 16 months old with his sister, who was 3.

The brother and sister were placed in foster care because of severe neglect. Tommy had been found in a playground with three dogs. For the next three years they remained with the Fairs and had frequent visits with their natural parents.

Rights relinquished

It was at the end of the three years that the natural parents requested that their daughter, age 6, be returned to their home. They also relinquished their rights to Tommy, who was then free for adoption by the Fairs.

During the six months of waiting for adoption to become final (either set of parents have the opportunity to change their minds during that time period), the Fairs “were worried, but not overly worried,” with the prospect of also losing Tommy.

“I still wonder about the little girl, but the mother has since remarried into a better situation, so I hope things are better for her.”

In the adoption process, Tommy acquired his name.

“I explained to him that he was to have a new name,” remembered Mrs. Fair. “It’s going to be Thomas R. Fair, like your father.”

The reaction was not totally expected.

“He was so excited to be adopted,” admitted Mr. Fair. “He kept repeating his name and telling everybody he was Tommy. He never mentioned being Ronnie again.”

Children receptive

Mr. and Mrs. Fair feel their natural children have been very adaptive and very receptive to the new and changing faces in their family. Their natural children are 10, 9, 7 and 6.

Tommy, who was 6 when Tommy arrived, is a sixth grader at New Bedford Elementary. Cindy is a senior at Wilming­ton Area High School and engaged to be married in August. The oldest daughter, Debra, is married and lives in Portsmouth, N.H. Bonnie has been a foster son of the Fairs for five years. A graduate of Wilmington Area High School, she now works for Keppers in Majesty, Ohio.

Christopher, who is in kindergarten, also came to the Fairs at 10 months.

“He was underdeveloped,” recalled Mrs. Fair, “and had pneumonia. He came to us from the hospital because he had been hurt in his parents’ home. We started feeding him and he started growing so good and fast. He’s a sweet little boy,” she added.

Child welfare supportive

After almost four years, stated Mrs. Fair, “I approached Child Welfare to have them talk to Chris’ parents. They had only ever seen him once, about two weeks after we got him. Child Welfare was very supportive of our interest in adopting Chris, and the parents signed for his relinquishment. My family was very happy,” she added.

Besides their present family, the Fairs still take care of foster children. They estimate they have had 56 foster children over the past seven years.

“She’s had a lot of different situations,” admitted Mrs. Fair. “I take any child who needs help. It’s a tremendous blessing. In the time I have them, I feel I’ve helped them.”

Adopt more children

Would they adopt other foster children if the opportunity arose? That probably would be what we would do,” Mrs. Fair exclaimed. “My husband always says if it were up to him, I’d have them hanging out the window’s doors and every­thing else. People say how much we’re doing it to take these children, but they don’t do us much for us!”

When asked about the financial burden of such a large family, Mrs. Fair responded, “If you have love for children, your family finances. They need love and time, you manage on what you have.”
Rehoboam consulted the older, winer men, who advised him to heed the complains of the people. Then he sent advice from the younger men, whose advice he followed, saying, to the people, that they should chastise you with whips, but I will chastise thereof" (II Kings 17:23-24).

Seventy years later, the Persian Empire had become king over the world's first empire — the Babylonian Empire often called Babylon. It was a powerful empire, but the people of Israel were NOT JEWS, nor are they the Jews called Jeeps in the Bible! The first place where the word Jew or Jews occurs in the Bible is in II Kings 15:29, where Israel and ally Syria were at war against the Jews!

But the house of Israel did not remain more than a generation or so in Assyria. They migrated to other parts of the empire, eventually known as "the Lost Ten Tribes." And indeed they were doubly lost — lost to identity and culture by themselves, after a generation or more, didn't know who they were — and to others who didn't care. The knowledge of this, from the Bible, is another proof of the origin of the Jewish Church today.

This mystery is cleared up in a substance in the United States and the British is a prophecy — sent free upon request, this exciting, eye-opening books ever written. Shocking — but true. The history of the house or kingdom of Judah (the Jews) continued in an extant in God's ways, but within a hundred years, seeing sinning worse than Israel had done.}

Judaic driven out

By the year 721 B.C., the King Nebuchadnezzar had become king over the world's first empire — the Babylonian Empire often called Babylon. It was a powerful empire, but the people of Israel were NOT JEWS, nor are they the Jews called Jeeps in the Bible! The first place where the word Jew or Jews occurs in the Bible is in II Kings 15:29, where Israel and ally Syria were at war against the Jews!

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