They CAN get out of the ghetto!

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OUR COVER

Youths in New York City's Harlem district reflect the diversity of inner-city populations worldwide. Poverty and limited parental interest in education present an almost insurmountable barrier for many youths. What is needed to crack that barrier is made plain in this issue.

COVER PHOTO BY: JIM POZARJ-LISSON

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A Boy from the Inner City

I didn’t appreciate it at all! It was Sunday afternoon in Chicago, baseball time, and all my friends were expecting me to play ball. But my father had other ideas—Sunday afternoon was reserved for the family to listen to the John Charles Thomas Symphony Hour.

As a musician himself, my father believed it was good for the family to be exposed to quality music. The opera hour provided that opportunity. No excuses. I didn’t like it and longed to be outside playing ball.

I began to develop resentment toward authority. “I’ll show him,” I finally decided. So even though I was under age, I ran off and joined the U.S. Navy! Much to my embarrassment, my dad had to give his parental approval for me to remain in.

I found I had only traded one authority in my life for another. Yet I clung desperately to the belief that I had done the right thing in trying to escape my father’s involvement in my “personal affairs.”

When I returned from World War II, I went home thinking the world owed me a living. I’ll save the details for a later “Personal,” but suffice it to say that my dad had a little more to say about my personal affairs. Through his love and direction, I was able to make something of my life.

I started by taking advantage of the U.S. government apprenticeship program for veterans.

I was later to recognize that without my dad my life would have been radically different. He provided the strength, the stability and the direction that a young man needs to be a success.

When I look at the conditions of Western society today, I am grieved for the young people it is producing. There seems to be a crusade against the family—the very building block of any successful society.

There is a devil—alive and active. He stands as the adversary, the enemy of mankind and of God. He has injected his way of selfishness, greed and hatred into a deceived mankind. Skyrocketing divorce rates resulting in single-parent families, custody battles, shattered dreams, hopes, ambitions and lives are disintegrating the fabric of fatherhood and motherhood. Permissive sexual mores, touted by the media in every form of entertainment, produce the agonizing fruit of children destined to grow up in the care of inexperienced mothers, only children themselves, with no fathers at all. (Read “Families Without Fathers” in this issue.)

But there is a solution! There is a God in heaven who has given mankind a way of life and revealed it in his Word, the Holy Bible. That way has largely been rejected by mankind. But it works! It produces every good and right result in the lives of those who follow it. Plain Truth founder Herbert W. Armstrong referred to the Bible as “God’s instruction manual” for mankind. And so it is!

God calls on wayward humanity to change. To turn from our own ideas, ways and methods of solving problems to God’s. To listen to God’s instruction and do something about it.

Impossible? Not at all. Not if one is willing to brush aside prejudices, preconceived ideas and notions and false suppositions about God and the Bible. Sadly, most people are not. No, utopia is not impossible. True, lasting happiness and joyful, abundant living are not impossible. And world peace is not impossible. In fact, it is coming!

Each month, The Plain Truth points the way to that coming world tomorrow, based on the spiritual law of God and the coming rulership over all nations of the glorious Jesus Christ.

Joseph W. Thack
WORLD attention has focused on the nuclear capacity of the United States and Soviet Union. Comparatively few look to the potential nuclear capacity of other, smaller powers. The United Kingdom, France, the People's Republic of China and, to a lesser extent, India, all belong to the nuclear “club.”

But gone are the days when only these six powers will possess nuclear capability.

Why Proliferation?

Basic nuclear bomb theory is widespread. More than information, however, is needed to build a bomb. Educated nuclear scientists are required and enriched uranium to make fissionable material.

Western nations willingly supplied the reactors and provided the schools to educate scientists in non-nuclear nations.

The United States, France and West Germany generally climbed over one another to sell the nuclear technology—for peaceful purposes—to almost any country. If the United States wouldn’t sell to Brazil, for example, West Germany would.

Until the Carter administration, Western nuclear technology didn’t have ample safeguards to ensure that no fissionable material was diverted to the secret construction of weapons.

In contrast, the cautious Soviet Union has had stringent controls for years. No nation dealing with the Soviets can divert fissionable material to the manufacture of weapons. That’s why a nation turns to the West when it wants to have access to matériel that it could use to make clandestine weapons.

So today we face the specter of smaller nations, not directly involved in the East-West struggle, close to obtaining nuclear capacity. Pakistan is now closing upon the nuclear threshold.

Argentina and Brazil—traditional rivals for regional preeminence—are engaged in a quasi-nuclear race.

Israel and South Africa, it is rumored, may have unassembled nuclear weapons at their disposal.

Experts worry about the future of South Korea and Taiwan. Both might seek nuclear weapon technology to support defense needs.

Iraq went to great lengths to acquire nuclear capacity. After being rebuffed by the Soviets, Iraq turned to the West. France sold them the knowledge, equipment, and enriched uranium to make a “peaceful” nuclear power plant. The fuel and capacity for the reactor were way out of proportion to Iraq’s needs. The design of the reactor was well suited for nuclear weapons manufacture.

A growing consensus among experts agreed that if the reactor went on line, Iraq would have had the means to build the bomb. Iraq claimed the reactor was for peaceful purposes.

However, Israel settled the matter. In June 1981 Israeli U.S.-built F-16 fighter bombers swooped down, performing a surgical strike, destroying the reactor and thwarting Iraq’s nuclear plans. France has agreed in principle to help rebuild, but the matter remains under protracted negotiation.

Leaders privately sighed with relief after the raid, although publicly condemning it.

Libya has tried just about everything to acquire nuclear capacity. They have tried to buy a nuclear weapon from China and have helped bankroll Pakistan’s nuclear program in hopes they could get a bomb from Pakistan. They have their own small nuclear facility built under a pact with the Soviet Union. But the Soviets keep it under tight control, preventing any diversion of fissionable material to weapons manufacture. So far Libya has been thwarted.

More chilling is the specter of a
nuclear-armed terrorist group holding a city—or cities—for ransom. Will some terrorist group, a decade from now, launch a suicide mission? How long can radical nations be restrained from acquiring nuclear weapons?

**Nuclear War Coming?**

Today's nations possessing nuclear weapons have one thing in common, despite political differences: sane leaders. Leaders from Moscow to Paris, from London to Washington, and on to Beijing, each fathom the absolute devastation unleashed by nuclear war. They will not push the button eagerly or by idle fancy. They will not allow nuclear war to start by political accident.

Contrast this with the statement made by a defense official in one radical Middle Eastern nation: "We...have enough courage to press the button." Thankfully the military inventory of that power lacks nuclear weapons.

The two superpowers continue to build their nuclear stockpiles "a little more" to better defend themselves from possible attack. But one thing is sure: Bible prophecy reveals no major war will be fought solely between the United States and Soviet Union.

This is not to say the United States and the Soviets will not be involved in some brushfire conflicts. But a nuclear World War III is not prophesied to be fought between today's two superpowers.

Yet nuclear war, Bible prophecy reveals, is coming, triggered by an unexpected series of events involving a new Europe and the Mideast.

You can read about it in the last few verses of Daniel 11.

The prophet Joel also writes about our day: "Proclaim this among the nations: 'Prepare for war!...Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruninghooks into spears; let the weak say, "I am strong!"'" (Joel 3:9-10, RAV).

Imagine a nuclear armed smaller nation with unstable leaders, attempting to settle a national vendetta, perhaps in the peninsula of Korea, in the Persian Gulf or in North Africa, just to name a few.

The prophesied time when presently weaker nations will unite politically and become strong through possession of nuclear weapons defies description. "In all your dwelling places the cities shall be laid waste..." (Ezek. 6:6). After the bombs fall, "then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Matt. 24:21).

More than 1,900 years ago, the greatest newscaster the world has known foretold this condition. He knew that men would produce the destructive forces that threaten you and me. This newscaster—Jesus Christ—foretold: "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved [alive]..." (Matt. 24:22; see the Moffatt translation for use of the word alive).

**World Peace Coming!**

But there is hope. Humankind, according to Bible prophecy, is not doomed to extinction in a nuclear fireball. God will intervene in human affairs. Jesus brought the good news that God will stop humanity from destroying all human and animal life on earth by sending Jesus Christ to enforce peace among nations (Rev. 19:11-21).

What a paradox! God will have to force men to live the way that brings peace and happiness! What a world that will be! Weapons will be destroyed or reworked into implements of peace. "Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord's house [the government of God] shall be established on the top of the mountains [the great nations], and shall be exalted above the hills [the small nations]; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.'" For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations [settling disputes], and shall rebuke many people [who want to impose their will on others]; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore" (Isa. 2:2-4).

The world tomorrow—that utopian paradise we announce in the pages of The Plain Truth—will be ushered in before the end of this generation. And you can have a part in that world if you learn to live that way now and learn to rule over yourself!

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**Nuclear weapons club, mid-1983**

- **Known nuclear weapons states**
- **Suspected nuclear weapons states**
- **States scientifically capable of producing nuclear weapons**
- **Strong risk nuclear weapons may be produced by 1990s**

Source: The New World of the Year 2000, Michael Kidron and Ronald Segal—Pluto Press

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*June 1986*
Seven Wise Men
In Search of Peace

by Keith W. Stump and Leon Sexton

Why did a recent event of historic importance go largely unnoticed in the Western press?

Wisdom has been a rare commodity throughout human history.

"I cannot find one wise man among you," lamented the biblical patriarch Job more than three millennia ago (Job 17:10). "Where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding?" he asked (28:12).

Lamentably, today's leaders are often men of limited vision and strength of purpose.

It always comes as something of a surprise, therefore, when one person of wisdom and courage strides onto the world stage and strikes a blow for sanity. But when seven men of wisdom and courage come on stage—that is an event of historic proportion!

When Men of Wisdom Meet

Such an occasion was the first-ever summit of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The summit was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, last December. By any standard, this was an historic event.

The SAARC summit brought together for the first time in South Asia's history the leaders of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The seven jointly representing one thousand million people—more than one fifth of all mankind, including many of the poorest on earth.

Their aim: to promote mutual assistance among member nations in economic, cultural, technical and scientific fields in the common cause of a better future for South Asia's millions. It is an undertaking of staggering scope and ambition in a subcontinent that has been one of the world's more turbulent regions and where grinding poverty remains a way of life for many.

Major Breakthrough

Viewed in the context of the region's stormy past, the Dhaka summit represented a major breakthrough, a landmark in the history of South Asia. That its seven leaders were sitting down together was, in itself, a significant accomplishment.

Nowhere in the developing world as in South Asia can be found such depths of poverty and human misery coexisting with immense physical and above all human resources," observed the Bangladeshi president, Lt. General Hussain Muhammad Ershad, host and chairman of the summit. The teeming millions of South Asia live on a mere 3 percent of the global land area, and have a per-capita income of less than one tenth of the world's average.

Now—in an unprecedented expression of solidarity and brotherhood—seven leaders have had the wisdom to see a way out of their regional plight, the courage to put aside their historical legacies of conflict and sit down together with hope and optimism to map out a strategy for peace and cooperation.

"Today we are gathered as a family in recognition of that very brotherhood to reflect upon our common objective and consider common means to achieve our goals," declared Sri Lanka's President Junius R. Jayewardene in his address at the summit's inaugural session.

At Dhaka, the leaders agreed on numerous areas of cooperation, ranging from agriculture, rural development and population planning to science and technology, transportation and telecommunications. The regional forum is not designed...
at present to have a military or political role, but rather to stress the elimination of poverty, hunger and illiteracy.

The seven leaders—two kings, two generals, two elected presidents and a prime minister—declared that “a new dawn” had broken over their turbulent region. They expressed the hope that “a new South Asia” would emerge from the summit, and that it would open a new era of friendship, cooperation and understanding in the region.

“We are seven brothers today,” declared President Ershad at the concluding session. In a poem he composed for the occasion, the Bangladeshi leader dubbed the new South Asia “a Zone of Hope.” King Birendra of Nepal called the summit “a turning point in our relations.” The Pakistani president, General Zia ul-Haq, termed the gathering “epoch-making” and “an immense contribution to the march of human civilization.”

When in the recent history of this volatile and conflict-ridden world have we heard such words of buoyant optimism?

The formal and informal meetings among the seven leaders were characterized by warmth, enthusiasm and understanding, and removed some of the long-standing regional mistrust. They displayed a genuine spirit of friendship and goodwill, and a deep commitment to uplift the lives of the peoples of their poor and unstable region despite the seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

Certainly here is an example for the world at large. If this violence-prone region—with its historic animosities and its great diversity of races, cultures, religions and languages—can move to heal divisions and separations that have kept them apart for nearly four decades, surely other areas ought to be inspired to follow their example of good neighborliness.

Yet, sadly, SAARC rated precious little coverage in the world’s press. SAARC was generally passed off as a “poor man’s club” with dubious prospects for success. The developed nations, it seems, refuse to believe much of value can be learned from the developing.

Formidable Obstacles
The goals and aspirations set forth by the seven South Asian leaders show courage and foresight.

SAARC is the tangible manifestation of their collective wisdom and their determination to cooperate regionally. In response to the needs of their peoples they have created an instrument for peace and cooperation despite economic disparities and differences in strategic perceptions.

How to put words into deeds, however, will present a major challenge.

Will SAARC succeed in ushering in an enduring stability in South Asia?

The SAARC countries have made a start—but they have a long way to go. The challenges facing the region are both numerous and immense. The leaders at Dhaka were not unaware of the obstacles in the way of real unity. “It would be unrealistic to claim instant success or to ignore or deny that very real obstacles, political and historical, face us,” President Ershad admitted candidly.

King Jigme Singye Wangchuck of the small Buddhist mountain state of Bhutan observed: “As we meet here over the next two days, we will initiate the process of creating a climate of peace and cooperation in our region, based on mutual understanding, goodwill and trust. This process will not be easy, given our political and strategic divergences and asymmetries in our sizes, resources and levels of development.”

The world’s press was quick to point out that there remain many unresolved political issues that were purposely excluded from discussion at the Dhaka summit—sensitive issues that could threaten to undo all that was begun there.

To ensure a successful launching of SAARC, the ground rules of the summit explicitly barred from the formal framework of the summit the discussion of contentious bilateral issues. Private, one-on-one talks outside of the formal agenda reportedly touched on a few of those issues.

All realize, however, that politics—both internal and external—will play a major role in determining the future of their region.

King Wangchuck acknowledged this when he observed: “It may neither be possible nor desirable to limit discussions in our meetings to issues of a nonpolitical nature, for the political climate of our region will undoubtedly cast a long shadow over our deliberations. In the geopolitical realities of our region, it would be unrealistic to ignore the primacy of the political factor...which will determine the shape and scope of regional cooperation in South Asia.”

Among the irritants in relations among the seven nations:

Traditional rivals India and Pakistan are engaged in an arms race, and have serious suspicions about each other’s nuclear intentions. India also accuses Pakistan of harboring and training Sikh terrorists fighting Indian troops in the northern Indian state of Punjab. (Pakistan has denied the charge.) An-
other point of contention between New Delhi and Islamabad is the long-disputed state of Kashmir, which sparked the first war between the two nations in 1948.

Farther south, Sri Lanka accuses India of harboring Tamil separatists fighting for an independent state on the island country. To the east, Bangladesh and India are at odds over sharing river waters in their border areas. Many such troublesome political issues lurk just below the surface to threaten harmonious relations.

President Jayewardene warned that the new regional grouping would face storms and even mutinies in the days ahead. "The ship [of SAARC] will sail troubled seas," he cautioned.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi noted that there are also external forces that don't want to see SAARC succeed. "It is indeed a fact of life that historically, powers have played on our divisions," he observed, alluding to the region's vulnerability to the maneuverings of other, mightier nations. King Birendra also spoke of the region's historical experience of "external aggressions and brutal scenes committed through greed and inspired by lust."

Can the nations of the South Asian region remain free from big-power rivalry? Or will they fall prey to the designs of outside powers and be drawn into the swirling vortex of international chaos foretold by the ancient prophets for the years just ahead?

For the moment, SAARC appears to have defused regional tensions to a degree. A week after the summit, India and Pakistan pledged not to attack each other's nuclear facilities—a significant development expected to improve the climate of regional relations.

But will the trend continue?

Collective Resolve

The seven have made a modest beginning. Their launching of regional cooperation represents a positive new beginning for the subcontinent after four decades of suspicion and war. That is no mean achievement. The inauguration of SAARC has required courage and vision on the part of South Asia's leaders. They can legitimately take pride in their accomplishment.

This world's leaders have a weighty responsibility to create a climate of harmony and cooperation among nations. Yet history shows that while wise leaders may perceive the way to better relations, their wisdom is not always heeded, that path not always taken. Wisdom needs the collective will to give it meaning. Grand ideas in the minds of farseeing men profit little unless those ideas become the common concern of all. Everything depends on the quality of the collective human resolve.

The record of 6,000 years of human civilization is not very reassuring. No people in all history has ever achieved lasting peace and prosperity. Despite the best intentions of men of peace and goodwill, all human societies have, at some point, failed!

Cause and Effect

"SAARC is the way to peace and prosperity," declared a wall poster commemorating the summit. Yet history—and the Bible—declares unequivocally that "The way of peace they know not" (Isa. 59:8).

Why must this be?

For every effect there is a cause. There is a cause for all of this world's evils. And there is a cause—a WAY—to peace, happiness and abundance.

The seven South Asian leaders have approached the path that must be taken if meaningful progress is to be realized in their region. It is the path of cooperation, of mutual assistance, of good neighborliness.

But how are they to turn this vision of cooperation into reality? How—in this world of increasing physical and spiritual conflict—are they to marshal their peoples to walk down the path proposed?

That is the question. And its answer is ultimately spiritual in nature—and that spiritual answer they "know not"!

Understand this basic truth: Man's relationship with his fellowman is essentially a spiritual relationship. The world's problems have a deep-rooted spiritual basis. Problems cannot be solved through the use of human, physical, materialistic knowledge alone.

Before men can change the external aspects of their lives, they must change the inner attitudes of their hearts and minds. Before they can cooperate, they must possess the attitude of cooperation—the attitude of sharing, of serving, of giving, of concern for the welfare of others equal to one's own self-concern.

The world does not have peace today because its peoples do not have peace in their minds and hearts. They are not living the way that produces peace. That way is the way of cooperation and of wholehearted loving concern for others. Instead, within nations and among nations, humans live the way of competition and strife, the way of greed, jealousy and hatred, based on the philosophy of GET. And it has brought nothing but discontent, unhappiness, violence, human suffering and war.

This is the paradox that frustrates even the wisest and best-intentioned leaders.

In this vein, King Birendra wisely observed: "The world never had in its recorded history such technological resources as it has today to cope with poverty and hunger on a global scale. But the gradual erosion of the collective spirit has aggravated our problems and frustrated our efforts."

As a result, we are today on a cataclysmic collision course with the future. Mankind's chosen way of GET is now propelling the world into the supreme crisis at the close of this age—a time of trouble "such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Matt. 24:21).

It is time we faced the hard, cold fact: Mankind cut off from contact with the great Creator God cannot and will not overcome its propensity for violence and destruction. Man lacks the will and the know-how to solve his troubles and problems. The solution to mankind's problems—spiritual problems—lies outside the realm of its competence. The record of history permits no other conclusion!

Yet—There Is Good News!

Mankind will have peace when hu-(Continued on page 26)
Why Doesn't God Do Something?

by John Ross Schroeder

Has God lost control? People do have eyes to see. Obviously something is wrong.

No corner of the earth has escaped the terrors of the 20th century. The Third World continues to suffer from traditional killers like famine, starvation, disease epidemics. Witness Ethiopia and other areas of Black Africa. Six African countries are on the 1986 famine danger list.

And don't forget those areas of the earth where human beings are enslaved by autocratic political systems. The natural freedoms and dignity of men—taken for granted in the Anglo-Saxon world—are continually denied by many totalitarian governments.

Someone to Blame?

Wherever we look the media blares out the agony of modern civilization. Innocent travelers in Rome and Vienna suffer and die at the hands of terrorists. An American military plane crashes in Canada. Its returning 248 young Sinai peacekeepers perish in the flames.

"You don't know whom to blame," declares a surviving relative. Amid all the tears people ask—"Why?"

Sooner or later someone brings God into the picture. If he is all-powerful, why didn't he intervene and prevent these terrible tragedies?

Forgetting the Canadian crash for the moment, consider the potential causes for any air accident. Is God to blame for pilot error? Is he responsible when airlines scrimp on maintenance? Is he culpable when obsolescent aircraft are in service? Is he to be blamed for metal fatigue?

Nonetheless, why doesn't God step in and use his powers to make up for man's errors? Why this hands-off policy?

The answer is—God has done...
something. Many times he has stretched out his hands to an errant humanity. Throughout history God has offered his loving help. But have people accepted his offers?

Or has God consistently been shown the door?

Human beings, as a whole, haven't wanted the Creator “meddling” with their lives. He has been dismissed from the supervision of their affairs.

Jesus lamented: “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing” (Luke 13:34, Revised Authorized Version throughout unless otherwise stated). Here Jerusalem symbolizes the plight of all mankind. Humans don’t want God’s “intrusive” protection—not really! And if we think we do—it has to be on our own terms. Humankind has not been willing to accept God’s terms and conditions.

This universe runs on law. God’s natural and spiritual laws are a fact of life. Violations exact fearsome penalties. But man would rather reap the consequences than submit to the way of God. Hence the carnage of the 20th century.

Has God, then, given up on mankind? Has he washed his hands of our problems—left us to our own devices? Or is he still fully in control of the fate of man?

God in Time

The truth is: God is going to bring human existence to a successful conclusion. Ultimately he will help us solve every one of our problems.

He is very aware of our decision-making capacity. He made us with that capacity. We are agents of choice. We must decide between good and evil.

We are deemed worthy of accountability. As we are chosen for life, so we must ourselves learn to choose wisely. We must experience—and witness—the folly of unwise choices. This is character building. This requires time.

God himself does things at the proper time. Some 2,000 years ago he took a decisive step in human history. The apostle Paul described it in his letter to Christians living in Galatia. “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law” (Gal. 4:4).

Notice the expression—“the fullness of the time.” Various Bible translations and paraphrased versions bring out the meaning more clearly. The New English Bible translates this expression, “But when the term was completed, God sent his own Son...” The Jerusalem Bible has it: “When the appointed time came...” Today’s English Version describes it simply as “the right time.”

All that had gone before was necessary preparation. At least 300 years had elapsed since the last scripture in Hebrew was written. Now the time for the Messiah had fully come.

At that particular juncture in history Rome controlled the known civilized world. Do you think this was an accident? No, the Roman Empire provided the means for the apostles to carry the message to the whole Mediterranean world and beyond. Organization was one of the Empire’s strong points.

God did not send Jesus at a time of general anarchy. Not in the Dark Ages when the true Church of God was forced underground. But Jesus came at a time when Rome would, unwittingly, provide the vehicle for the gospel to go wherever the Empire had planted its feet.

God is not capricious. God is not impulsive. He does things according to plan. He has a master schedule. In American football nomenclature, God has a game plan.

The First Step

Every plan worthy of the name has a number of steps. God’s plan is no different. It is outlined by seven major steps.

The apostle Paul aptly describes the first step in God’s master plan. Again the time factor is prominently mentioned. Paul wrote: “For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly” (Rom. 5:6).

Nothing about the sacrifice of Christ was an accident. Much that had happened in Hebrew history led up to this singular event. It was the first vital step in a grand plan.

No place in the Bible describes its incredible impact better than John 3:16. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish...”

Why doesn’t God do something? He did do something! He sacrificed his Son to redeem all of humankind. That one act set in motion a chain of events that would ultimately solve man’s problems.

Mystery of the Ages

The apostle Paul spent much of his ministry thinking about God’s great master plan—one with a definite timetable. Take Ephesians 1:9-10 as another example. This time the apostle summarized the whole of the plan—emphasizing the overview rather than any one step in particular. He writes:

“[God] having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.” These two verses encompass the arrival of the kingdom of God on earth.

Indeed these two key verses in Ephesians sum up the whole plan of God. Step-by-step details are mostly omitted, but the grand overview is immediately apparent. Here’s another rendering, from The Translator’s New Testament: “He made known unto us the secret [Greek: mystery] of his will, that gracious purpose which he had set himself to fulfill in Christ when the right time should come: his plan to gather up the whole universe, everything in heaven and earth, to a unity in Christ.”

What is this mystery Paul is speaking about? You need to be reading the series now running in The Plain Truth titled Mystery of the Ages. Here God’s plan is depicted in its entirety—including a detailed description of each essential step.

Why doesn’t God do something? He has, he does, and he will—all in due time. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Heb. 13:8).
Mystery of the Church

We continue, with this tenth installment, part two of this chapter of Herbert W. Armstrong's last book, Mystery of the Ages.

So, once again, WHAT and WHY is the CHURCH? The Church is the called out (from this world) begotten children of God. It is the Body of Christ (I Cor. 12:27; Eph. 1:23). It is the spiritual organism that shall be the "Bride of Christ"—after its resurrection to immortality. Then it shall be married to Christ! It is the spiritual TEMPLE to which Christ shall come at his second appearing (Eph. 2:21).

The Church could not be actually founded UNTIL Jesus had ascended and been glorified (John 7:37-39). But in a sense God began calling out some to form the foundation of the Church with Abraham and the prophets of the Old Testament—even, perhaps, with Abel, Enoch and Noah (Eph. 2:20).

And Jesus, immediately after qualifying by overcoming Satan, began calling out his future apostles. They were to form, with the prophets, the very FOUNDATION of the Church, under Christ who himself is the real foundation and HEAD of the Church (I Cor. 3:11; Eph. 5:23).

The average person has no conception whatever of the tremendous, supreme supernatural achievement Almighty God has undertaken in REPRODUCING HIMSELF—ultimately into billions of spiritual GOD BEINGS! Or of the many-faceted stages of development necessitated in this pinnacle of all divine accomplishments!

God's Plan: A Step at a Time

God could not hurry. It required a master plan, which must proceed at a time. It required PATIENCE and never-deviating determination on the part of the divine Creator!

Through the years from Abraham until Christ, God had called out of Satan's world begotten and prepared PROPHETS, as the preliminary co-foundation of God's CHURCH! Jesus himself is the main foundation.

During Jesus' 3½-year earthly ministry, he called out, chose and trained, to begin with, the second co-foundation, his original 12 apostles.

During his human earthly ministry, Jesus announced publicly the future KINGDOM OF GOD. He taught and trained his apostles as he proceeded.

But he DID NOT CALL to salvation the public to whom he preached. He spoke to them frequently in parables. And why in parables? To cloud, to hide from them the meaning (Matt. 13:10-17) that was given to his chosen apostles to understand. There was an all important reason why God's plan, a step at a time, did not, as yet, call for saving the world. God first called out the Church to be converted and changed to become kings and priests (Rev. 5:10) under Jesus WHEN Jesus comes to save the world. Consequently, much of the truth was revealed to the Church, which was being trained to assist Christ in saving the world. But the time had not yet come to reveal these truths to the world. Yet this world's churches are teaching doctrines diametrically contrary to this truth.

Completion of Jesus' Earthly Ministry

By the end of his earthly ministry, Jesus had completed preparations for founding his Church. He had finished the work he, as a human, had come to do. Then he gave his life on the cross. He took on himself our human guilt for our sins.

Understand, however, Christ did not take on himself Satan's primary share in all human sins. Satan will continue to pay his own penalty throughout all eternity!
The foundation for the Church of God had been laid. Christ himself is the Head and chief cornerstone—the main foundation. His apostles, with the prophets, formed the remainder of the foundation.

The apostles were chafing at the bit to get started—to go forth proclaiming the gospel message. But God has wisely used restraint, with patience, taking a proper step at a time. So Jesus cautioned his apostles to wait! "Tarry ye," he commanded (Luke 24:49), "in the city of Jerusalem, UNTIL ye be endowed with power from on high."

Ten days later came the annual day of Pentecost, originally named the Feast of Firstfruits (Num. 28:26).

On that day the Holy Spirit came! On that day the CHURCH was FOUNDED!

That day symbolized the very firstfruits for God's kingdom. God's feast days picture God's spiritual harvest. The very first portion of God's spiritual harvest of humans finally to be born of God—made GOD BEINGS—is THE CHURCH! That's why even those who shall be born into the kingdom of God at Christ's return starting with ancient prophets are part of the CHURCH OF GOD. Even prophets of Old Testament times are part of the FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH (Eph. 2:19-21).

All—prophets, apostles and Church brethren in whom resides the Holy Spirit—shall be resurrected and/or changed to immortality at Christ's coming in GLORY and power!

Thus the whole CHURCH constitutes the very FIRST of all humans who shall be finally born again into the kingdom of God. They shall be GOD BEINGS!

How deceived (Rev. 12:9) have been all those who think they already have been "born again."

The reader should request our free booklet Just What Do You Mean—Born Again?

Salvation Now Only for Minute Few

Now before proceeding further, understand why only the minute few have so far been called to salvation—why the world as a whole has been cut off from God—why the world has not been yet judged—why neither "saved" nor "lost"!

Unless or UNTIL a son of Adam could qualify where Adam failed—could overcome and conquer SATAN—could pay the penalty of human sin and ransom the world from Satan—none could restore GOD'S GOVERNMENT—none could be given eternal God-life!

The supreme master plan for working out God's purpose—reproducing himself—called for the self-existing "WORD" to be born of human flesh as a son of Adam. But ALSO that plan called for him to be born as the only begotten Son of God!

The Messiah, and he alone, would be able to overcome and conquer Satan—to QUALIFY to replace Satan on the throne of the earth! Only through him could the sons of Adam be reconciled to God, receive God's Spirit, become God's sons—become the GOD BEINGS by whom God should have finally reproduced himself!

What a superb incredible master plan for such a SUPREME PURPOSE!

How great is the Eternal God who designed it!

This wonderful plan of God therefore of necessity called for the sons of Adam in general to be NOT YET JUDGED! God left them to their own devices—knowing full well they would willingly and willfully follow automatically Satan's "GET" way.

But meanwhile they would not be finally judged, but "reaping what they sowed." They would live this sinful life, die, and God would resuscitae them in a special resurrection to judgment in the end of the 7,000 years of the master plan. Christ already having atoned for their sins—Satan having been removed—Christ and the kingdom of God having restored the government of God over the earth—then they could be called to repentance, to reconciliation to God, to becoming, on their then free choice, GOD BEINGS!

And that's why God has kept the world as a whole cut off from him, even as their progenitor Adam had cut off himself and his human family.

Why a Mystery to the World

As the apostle Paul was inspired to write, in Romans 11: "I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery" (and it is a mystery to the world) "that blindness to these mysteries has happened to this world—even to its "Christian theologians"—UNTIL the kingdom of God has been established in rule of the earth!

Through Moses, God raised up the nation Israel—God's first Congregation. That Church was given God's government, but not his Holy Spirit!

"For," continues Paul, "as ye [Christians] in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all!"

And at this point Paul shouted out in writing: "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" (Rom. 11:25, 30-32).

True, the apostle wrote the above concerning Israel, and I have applied it to all uncalled humanity—but it is truly applicable.

God called and prepared the Old Testament prophets. He has called and still calls and prepares the CHURCH to overcome Satan—whereas those now blinded, uncalled and cut off from God have not had to overcome Satan. Why?

WHY the Church?
That we may qualify to rule with and under Christ in the kingdom of God—that we may prepare the way for the ultimate call and salvation of the world!

At this point let me quote two passages from the direct word of Jesus, which apply only to the Church:

To the Church of this twentieth century Jesus says, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne" (Rev. 3:21).

Then again to the Church Jesus says, "He that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron ... " (Rev. 2:26-27).

In that passage of Scripture Jesus showed plainly why some are called out of this world into the Church at this present time. Not because he is trying to save the world—and we are part of the world. Not just that we may be saved and make it into his kingdom, but, as Jesus also said in Revelation 5:10, to be kings and priests and reign with and under Christ when he sets his hand to bring salvation to the world.

Thorough Conversion Necessary for Church

I cannot repeat too emphatically that those being called into the Church now are not being called merely and only for salvation. Nevertheless, in order that they may be kings and priests, as actual God Beings aiding Christ in the salvation of the world, those in the Church themselves must be genuinely converted.

I cannot make this truth too plain. I fear many, even in the Church, do not fully comprehend just what is a real conversion.

Conversion takes place in the mind, and that faculty of mind we call the heart. This could never be fully understood without an understanding of the actual makeup of the human mind, as explained in chapter three of this work. It could never be understood, until the knowledge was revealed through the Bible, of the human spirit in man and the actual composition of the human mind.

As the human mind differs from the animal brain by the addition of the human spirit, so the converted person differs from the unconverted person by the addition of the Holy Spirit.

How much greater is the capacity and output of the human mind than that of the animal brain? The realization of that difference should make clear to us the vast difference between a converted mind being led by the Holy Spirit, and mind of the unconverted.

One does not receive the Holy Spirit until he has first of all repented. God grants repentance (Acts 11:18). The second condition to receiving the Holy Spirit is faith. That means not only believing in God and in Christ, but since Christ is the Word or Spokesman of the God family, it means believing what he says.

Repentance means a change of mind. Godly sorrow is a much deeper sorrow than remorse. And godly sorrow leads to repentance. It involves not only heartfelt sorrow for past sins, but a total change of attitude, of mind and direction and purpose of life. Actually, repentance is more concerned with future conduct than the past. The blood of Christ has atoned for the past. Repentance is not penance. Nothing you can do can make up for past guilt. The blood of Christ has paid the price of past guilt. It has washed the slate clean.

A converted person is a person with a totally changed, or converted mind. A converted mind in which the very mind of God is joined with the human mind. As God says through the apostle Paul, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5). The Holy Spirit is the spirit of a sound mind, which is a completely changed mind. It has made an about-face in its desires, purposes and intentions.

Error of Traditional Christianity

The "salvation" in what is called traditional Christianity does not actually change one into a new and different person. Too often ministers and evangelists tell people that if they have just "received Christ," "accepted Christ," or "given their heart to the Lord," they are saved. They are already "born again." It is as if some mystic switch has been flipped and the person will be shot instantly up to heaven upon death, which so many believe is not really a death after all. God, in the Bible, teaches no such thing. God reveals that as in Adam all die, even so the same "all" in Christ shall be made alive by a resurrection from the dead. Meanwhile, God reveals the dead are totally unconscious.

In ancient Israel God gave them knowledge of his law, but not his Spirit. Their minds were not converted or changed. They were still carnal. And the natural mind is hostile against God (Rom. 8:7). There was no conversion in ancient Israel—no salvation. The 37th chapter of Ezekiel reveals how those of ancient Israel will receive the Spirit of God, if willing, in the Great White Throne Judgment.

One receiving and led by the Holy Spirit is a changed person. He has undergone a renewing of the mind. Until the knowledge of the human spirit in man was revealed, and that God's Spirit can unite with human spirit, true salvation could not be fully understood. A Christian must grow and develop in grace, spiritual knowledge and godly character.

Why Church Called First

At this juncture let me explain further why the Church is called the firstfruits of God's salvation. Far from being a discrimination against the overwhelming majority of the world not yet called to salvation, it is for the very purpose of calling the rest of the world to salvation. Once again let me remind you there is a definite order in sequence in God's plan for saving the world—for reproducing himself.

Jesus Christ is the first of the firstfruits. He is the firstborn of many brethren (I Cor. 15:23; Rom. 8:29). The Church is being called to be changed, developed in character, and finally born at Christ's Second Coming as God Beings, to be kings and priests under Christ when he will set his hand to save the world.

In a sense, then, the Church shall become co-saviors with
Christ. Two things basically were required of Christ to save the world. First it was necessary for him, who was the Maker of all, to die for all, thus paying the death penalty in our stead. No one could do this but Jesus Christ alone.

But many have not realized that we are not saved by the blood of Christ. You will read in Romans 5:10 that we are reconciled to God the Father by the death of Christ, but we shall be saved by his life—by the resurrection. I am writing this particular passage on what the world calls “Easter Sunday.”

Today, the churches and the evangelists have said much about the resurrection of Christ, but virtually nothing about the resurrection of all who shall be saved, and of the resurrection by which people may be saved.

Jesus alone could make the sacrifice in payment of our past sins. But the world must look for salvation through his life after his resurrection. The Church is the affianced Bride of Christ to be married to the Son of God on his return, after the resurrection of those in the Church. After we have attained to the resurrection of the dead, as the wife of the Son of God, and members of the God family, we shall be not only heirs and coheirs with Christ, but in a sense, co-saviors.

The family of God will grow. As kings and priests, the Church in the resurrection will be co-rulers under Christ in restoring the government of God over all nations. But we shall also be, as priests, co-saviors with him in saving the world.

**Why Firstfruits Necessary**

Now why was it absolutely necessary that the Church be called out of the world to receive salvation during this Church age, while the rest of the world was left in spiritual darkness and deception?

Before Jesus could qualify to become our Savior and future King, it was necessary for him, as the second Adam, to do what the first Adam failed to do—to overcome Satan and to choose the mind and government of God instead. If the Church is to rule with and under him—if the Church is to be priests as well as kings, aiding, under Christ, in saving the world, it was also necessary that those in the Church must also qualify by resisting and overcoming Satan.

That will not be required of the overwhelming majority of others when salvation comes to them. Salvation will not come to them until after Satan has been put away. So, you see, it was far from discriminating against the rest of the world, when Jesus said, “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him” (John 6:44). It was necessary that the Church be called at a time when each member had to turn from, resist and overcome Satan. Otherwise we of the Church could not qualify for the wonderful position of becoming kings and priests in the kingdom of God during the 1,000 years.

This explains the **WHY** of the Church—its great PURPOSE.

**Is the Church Organized?—If So, How?**

But **WHAT** is the CHURCH—HOW ORGANIZED—HOW does it function?

When I came among the brethren of the Church of God, there were questions among the leaders respecting the nature of Church organization. At that time, 1927, the Church was organized on the pattern of a biannual general conference. Each local congregation could send one member to the biannual general conference and thus had one vote in election of officers, questions of Church doctrine and Church policy. A local congregation could consist of as few as five members.

But division over Church organization and government began about 1930. By 1933 the Church was divided right down the middle. Two leaders organized a new Church, departing from its headquarters at Stanberry, Missouri, setting up its new headquarters at Salem, West Virginia. They adopted a system of organization that they erroneously called “Bible organization.”

This new organization consisted of twelve men named as *apostles*—designated as “the twelve.” Seven men were appointed to the office of deacon, the chairman of whom was the treasurer handling the money. Then there were “the seventy”—or seventy leading elders. This was copied from the ancient Sanhedrin in Judaism. However, there were not enough ordained ministers within the Church to make up more than half of “the seventy.”

The Roman Catholic Church is organized on the hierarchical system with the pope in supreme authority, a college of cardinals next in authority, a curia at headquarters in the Vatican with archbishops, bishops and priests.

The Presbyterian Church is organized with the presbyters or ministers in control. The Congregational Church delegates top authority to the congregation—“government by the consent of the governed.”

And so it goes. The churches of this world of Satan are organized according to humanly devised patterns. But the Bible gives explicit directions in regard to Church government. Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church. God’s form of government is, indeed, hierarchical. God the Father is head over Christ—the sole Lawgiver and supreme authority.

God explains in I Corinthians 12 functions, offices, administrations and their officers as God set them in his Church.

“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. . . . Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. . . . But all these worketh that one and selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, ARE ONE BODY: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we [in the Church] be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free . . .” (I Cor. 12:1, 4-6, 11-13).

**One Church with One Government**

Notice especially, there is only the ONE CHURCH. Not many churches. The Church is not divided. There is only one Church. Not a parent
church and many little daughter churches that have split off in disagreement. Divisions splintering off are not still in the Church. It is the Church that is to marry Christ in the resurrection at his coming—not disagreeing churches—not groups who have broken off! Not a parent church and apostate daughters. That will become more obvious as we continue.

So notice, too, the Church conducts various operations. For these in the one Church there are also various administrations or executive departments, with an executive manager over each department or operation (verses 4-6). Remember, an executive administrator does not set policy or procedures or doctrines. He administers—he carries out and directs—what has been already set from above.

Even in this world, in the United States the President does not make the laws. He administers the policies as functions authorized by Congress—enforces the laws made by Congress. Administrators are set in the Church merely to supervise, direct, execute the policies, procedures, doctrines assigned to them from above.

The one Church, undivided, is emphasized again in verse 20: "But now are they many members, yet but one body"—one undivided Church! Even God is composed of more than one Personage, yet but the one God! God, remember, is the divine God family. Those in the Church are already begotten sons—begotten members of that God family. But not yet born as God beings!

Notice verse 25: "That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another." To administer these many operations, God—not a vote of the members—"hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers." Or, as stated in more detail in Ephesians 4:11 (RSV): "And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers."

An apostle is "one sent forth" with Christ's gospel message, including the supervision of professionalizing that message to the world by means and persons other than himself. Also an apostle was given supervision over all the local congregations or churches (I Cor. 16:1). The apostle Paul had oversight over the churches of the Gentile world (II Cor. 11:28).

The prophets set in the foundation of the Church are those of the Old Testament, whose writings were used to form a considerable part of New Testament and gospel teaching and functioning. No prophets are mentioned as having either administrative, executive or preaching functions in the New Testament Church.

Evangelists were leading ministers, proclaiming the gospel to the public, even raising up local churches and having supervision over some churches under the apostle. Therefore an evangelist may hold executive functions under the apostle in the Church headquarters or work today. An evangelist is not necessarily stationary. Pastors are stationary pastors over a local church or contingent group of local churches. Then there were placed in the Church teachers—not necessarily preachers. Yet all ministers and teachers are called elders in other New Testament texts. Therefore, in God's Church today there are both preaching and nonpreaching elders. Preaching elders pastor local churches. Then some elders, not preaching, are called local elders in the Church today.

Temple to Which Christ Shall Come

Now further about Church organization.

The Church is the spiritual Body of Christ—not a secular or worldly organization, club or institution. Yet it is highly organized.

Notice how thoroughly organized: "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God." Notice the Church is a family, even as God is a divine family—"the household of God."

Continue: "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building"—the Church is a building "fitly joined together" (well organized—all parts joined and functioning together in harmony and teamwork)—"groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit" (Eph. 2:19-22). This scripture plainly reveals the temple to which the glorified world-ruling Christ shall come at his soon Second Coming. There is no scripture foretelling the construction of a material temple in Jerusalem before Christ's appearing. The 40th chapter of Ezekiel, however, describes the building of a temple after the return of Christ.

The Church, then, is to grow into a holy temple—the spiritual temple to which Christ shall come—even as he came to a material temple of stone and metals and wood the first time.

Notice further: "...the head, even Christ: from whom the whole body fitly joined together"—organized—and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body ..." (Eph. 4:15-16). Compacted means knit together, compressed together, as closely together as if welded together. This shows organized unity, harmony! It is commanded that those in the Church be so united that they "all speak the same thing." (I Cor. 1:10).

Old Testament Israel, the Church of the Old Testament, was also a nation in the world—though not of the world as God organized it. Its government was hierarchical. It was theocratic government—government from the top down—the very opposite of "democracy."

The Church is organized under theocratic government, hierarchical in form. The members do not set officials in the Church. God sets even the lay members in the Church (I Cor. 12:18).

Jesus said explicitly, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him" (John 6:44). The world, except for the specially called, is cut off from God!

(Continued on page 21)
ON A warm summer's morning a man child was born in the ghetto. As his lonely mother considered their future, she cried. Thirteen years later, on a cold winter's night in the streets of the ghetto, this man child was killed in a gang shoot-out, and his mother cried.

This genocidal cycle of life and death happens thousands of times each year in urban ghettos.

But where was the "man" who made this child? Where was the "father" that boy needed to guide and save his life? Why are so many ghetto families without fathers?

In this article I am going to give you the plain truth about the family that must live in the ghetto. I am going to show you the problems and the solutions.

As a black husband and father working in America's largest urban city, New York, I see and deal with the effects of the breakdown of the family every day. I see a whole class of people destroying themselves. This is not just a black-ghetto problem, it is affecting every sector of our society—it is a national crisis and is spreading to all the world's urban areas.

And by the way, all black people are not criminals or poor. Many blacks are responsible, successful people with stable families. Some are middle class and upper-middle class and highly educated. But the problem hits blacks of the ghetto the hardest, and that is where we must be most concerned.

Roots

The problems of the black family in the ghetto are an exaggerated microcosm of society as a whole. The family is under attack in all areas. Why should we be surprised
at the high rate of female-headed families in the ghetto, when in marriage a 50 percent divorce rate in the United States is par for the course?

Why should we be shocked over the escalating illegitimacy in the ghetto, when “let’s live together” has become an American motto? Why should we cringe at crime on ghetto streets, when white collar crime increases on Main Street?

The big difference is that what’s happening in the ghetto is much more deadly and vicious. The lives of whole generations of people are being wasted because of families without fathers. But what can be done? How can the black family be restored and the character of many a delinquent father be improved in the ghetto?

The past is a key to the present. Poor black families have not always been this way. Black people historically are not irresponsible when it comes to family and work. A look at the black family of yesterday will help us solve the problems of today.

During the hardest of times black families have had a deep commitment to stay together. That commitment flourished even in the face of American slavery. When a family member was sold off, the bonds of affection, love and loyalty remained. When a slave escaped, it was not uncommon for him to risk his life by returning to try to free his family.

After slavery, in the face of discrimination and associated poverty, the black family thrived. The unquenchable commitment to family, hard work, self-esteem and inspiration from the Bible continued to bring them success in the big cities of the North.

By 1948, black male employment had reached its peak. At 87 percent, black male employment was a full point above that of white males. A small highly educated, prosperous black middle class began to emerge. Even the unskilled could still find meaningful employ-

Homeless family receives help at urban family center in metropolitan New York. Former Governor James R. Thompson of Illinois stops along route of annual “Bud Billiken” parade—named after fictitious character created by the Chicago Defender. Parade was created to give youths summer fun. It is paid for by black businesses.
logically castrated. Many subse-
sequently failed to acquire an un-
derstanding of the true spiritual values
in life and the education to equip
themselves to survive in this techno-
logical, highly competitive society.

The fathers who made it by
hard work suddenly found that it
took more than hard work. They
could no longer compete success-
fully. At the same time society
was putting more and more em-
phasis on false materialism—satis-
ifying the self.

With the onslaught of technol-
y and materialism came rebellion
against traditional values and
morals. One segment of society
even declared the death of God!
The "new" morality was born.
Anything goes—if it feels good, do
it. All of these factors in society
had an exaggerated impact upon
the black family in the ghetto.

Beginning in the late '60s, many
young black men, with limited in-
terest in technological knowledge
and lacking the true spiritual val-
ues that build character, chose to
check out of a society that they
were ill prepared for. The attitude
became, "Don't bother me; I can't
cope." They checked into a subcul-
ture of their own creation, one they
themselves run by their own rules.

They rejected the role of tradi-
tional fatherhood and manhood.
They lost the commitment to fam-
ily and made a commitment to
"have all the ladies"—manhood
became studhood. They said good-
bye to hard work and hello to the
"easy" work of hustling and pim-
ping, crime and drugs.

No longer did they seek for the
true spiritual values that help us
build character. They made them-
selves gods (in their gangs) and
their "will be done" upon their
victims. Their inspiration was
found in the syringes of their push-
ers.

And so a new subculture was
born: the culture, the life-style we
call the ghetto. In this subculture
families without fathers live and
die. The man makes babies that he
does not, later, father—leaving
them to perpetuate the same
deadly cycle, in the ghetto.

The needed leadership of the
black family in the ghetto is dy-
ing—yes, literally dying. The lead-
ing cause of death among black
males is not cancer or heart dis-
ease, it's murder! A black man has
one in 29 chances of dying of mur-
der, and that at the hand of his
"brothers."

Another large percentage of
would-be fathers are functionally
incapacitated, many doing time in
the big house (prison), and still
others are doing time on cloud nine
(as drug addicts).

Thus we have families without
fathers. Families going nowhere
fast—nowhere but down and out.

What can be done? A lot, for
those with ears to hear. Restoring
the family is one of the chief pur-
poses of this magazine and work.

The Next Generation
Children are our hope for the fu-
ture. The newly freed slaves in
1863 understood this, and many
struggled so that their children
and grandchildren could be truly free.

We must struggle with that
same determination and zeal to
free our children from the chains
of ignorance, crime and poverty in
which they are now enslaved.

Our children's minds can be
guided to produce a better life for
the future. Wise King Solomon
observed, "Train up a child in the
way he should go, and even when
he is old, he will not depart from
it" (Prov. 22:6, Jewish Publica-
tion Society trans.).

Parents can start solving this
problem in the cradle. Since most
of ghetto children live with single
mothers, we must first help the
mothers help their children—as
the mother goes so goes the child.

Mothers must change unfortu-
nate life-styles. Some are compla-
cent—"comfortable" with the wel-
fare existence to which they are
accustomed. Hopelessness grips
others—they feel doomed to a way
of life that emotionally enslaves
them and their children.

These mothers need to repent of
complacency and instill in them-
selves, by seeking God's help and
neighbor's, a desire to achieve.
To rise from public assistance to self-
assistance. This magazine explains
they can do it and how to do it.

The government made the mis-
take of thinking that the solution
was giving handouts, when what
people really needed was a hand—a
hand to help others help them-
selves.

Challenge motivates people.
Yes, even welfare people. Chal-
lenge yourself to see the need to
change. People do not change until
they see. SEE is an acronym for
SIGNIFICANT EMOTIONAL EVENT.
In other words, people do not
change until they have to. They
must experience a Significant
Emotional Event—one that begins
with seeing that assistance is con-
ditional upon participating in a

In New York City's Harlem dis-
trict, Clara Hale worked for nearly 20
years with drug-poisoned babies of
addict mothers. Hundreds of babies
and other children have been cared
for by the staff of Hale House, now
under supervision of Clara Hale's
daughter. The five-story House is
a publicly funded brownstone.
A child usually remained for
18 months of care, during which
the parent who wants the child
back completes a drug rehabilita-

The PLAIN TRUTH
program of eventual self-dependence. That is God’s way to challenge many to action. This needed approach—that assistance is designed to help them toward independence—is too often lacking in welfare in this world that is cut off from the knowledge of God’s way.

What can mothers do today? A three-point plan of preparation, participation and separation from the system would change the lives of many.

While they have small children and need to be at home with them, mothers could complete correspondence courses. As the children get older the mothers could attend classroom training.

Involvement in preparation and training will have the additional benefit of giving mother a positive attitude toward herself and her children. A mother is inspired by the fact that she is in control of her life, knows she can go to God for help, and is able to do something positive to change it. And most important, she will begin separating herself from the life-style that surrounds her. She will begin to see that there is hope for a better life. She will know that she can escape from the slavery of the ghetto and its cruel slave masters (crime, drugs, poverty) just as the Harriet Tubmans of American slavery did before her.

Mothers will be building the road to success down which their children will follow. A few programs like these exist now—but there needs to be more.

Teach the Children

Mother must expend energy and time to shape a child’s character and mind. She needs to instill early in her young children a desire to learn, a desire to acquire true spiritual values of proper conduct, respect for others, learning to sit quietly and listen. There are library books available giving instructions on how to teach young children. Once this is accomplished, the child needs to be stimulated to achieve in school.

Let’s face it, the subculture of the ghetto is anti-school and anti-learning. It’s “cool” to drop out of school and hang out on the corner. It’s not reading, writing, arithmetic that gets you ahead—it’s hustling, pimping and stealing that gets you ahead in the ghetto.

Teachers, too, have a responsibility. They must help students to see that the way of the streets is the way of death! Children must see that street life is no life at all. Some schools make an effort to accomplish this but much more must be done.

In addition, students must be shown that school works. They must see how applying themselves in school pays off now and in the future. They need constant encouragement and motivation by teachers, administrators and parents to keep them on the right track. They need to be shown that they can do it—they can succeed! Laws of success such as goals, resourcefulness, perseverance and, above all, the guidance and help of God need to be constantly stressed. (Write for our free booklet The Seven Laws of Success that makes it all clear.)

Parents’ input with the schools can help ensure that the school curriculum is relevant and practical to the context of children’s lives. Specialized practical training that will prepare them for responsibility as well as jobs must be stressed. They must be equipped to succeed at work in the mainstream of society.

Spiritual Maturity

In the past, the black church provided inspiration and hope to strive for a better life. During slavery, slaves sang songs about freedom from “Pharaoh” (the slave master) and, crossing over the “River Jordan” to the “Promised Land” (fleeing north to freedom and prosperity). That old-time religion and its songs provided hope and inspiration for that time, but it has not stood the test of time. It was first aid, but not lasting aid.

It takes more than emotional inspiration to save a people. It takes more than hope of a better life. It takes the developing of a people’s character and mind—and that takes teaching a way of life. Christianity is supposed to be a way of life that affects every facet of your life every day of your life.

The truth is, “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hos. 4:6, Revised Authorized Version throughout). Knowledge not only of how to make a living (which we need) but more important, how to live.

This magazine for more than 50 years has explained that obedience to the supreme spiritual law of God is the way to true freedom and success. If God’s laws were taught and obeyed, every problem of the ghetto—and outside the ghetto—would be solved.

Take the problem of motivating people to work and providing them for a time of rest for spiritual rejuvenation. God said in the fourth commandment: “Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God…” (Ex. 20:9-10). How many do what this commandment says? The eighth commandment would guarantee that the work would be honest—no more mugging and robbing. God says, “You shall not steal” (Ex. 20:15).

The escalating, unbelievable statistics of black men murdered at
"THE WORLD TOMORROW"

Our staff of telecasters analyze today's news with the prophecies of the world tomorrow on TELEVISION and RADIO.

THE WORLD TOMORROW

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U.S. Nationwide Cable
Lifetime Cable Network (L1F) New York — 10:30 pm ET, Sat
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WTBS, Atlanta — 6:30 am ET, Sun; 1:05 am, Mon
ALABAMA
WBRC, Birmingham — 6, 11:30 am, Sun
WTVY, Dothan — 6, 9:00 am, Sun
WEAR, Pensacola — 3, 11:30 am, Sun
WXTL, Sarasota — 40, 7:00 am, Sun
WTV, Tallahassee — 6, 12:00 noon, Sun
WXPL, Tampa — 8, 11:30 am, Sun
WPEC, West Palm Beach — 9, 9:30 am, Sun
FLORIDA
WBBH, Ft. Myers — 12, 1:30 pm, Sun
WTVX, Ft. Lauderdale — 7, 9:30 am, Sun
WJCB, Gainesville — 20, 9:00 am, Sun
WTLY, Jacksonville — 12, 9:30 am, Sun
WCIX, Miami — 6, 9:30 am, Sat
WTVJ, Miami — 4, 8:00 am, Sun
WCPX, Orlando — 6, 8:00 am, Sun
WESH, Orlando — 2, 9:00 am, Sun
WEAR, Pensacola — 3, 11:30 am, Sun
WXTL, Sarasota — 40, 7:00 am, Sun
WTV, Tallahassee — 6, 12:00 noon, Sun
WXPL, Tampa — 8, 11:30 am, Sun
WPEC, West Palm Beach — 9, 9:30 am, Sun
GEORGIA
WTSG, Albany — 31, 8:00 am, Sun
WAGA, Atlanta — 5, 11:30 am, Sun
WTBS, Atlanta — 17, 6:30 am, Sun; 1:05 am, Mon
WFRD, Augusta — 12, 10:30 am, Sun
WBRL, Columbus — 3, 8:30 am, Sun
WGA, Macon — 24, 11:30 am, Sun
WTOC, Savannah — 11, 10:30 am, Sun
WVGA, Valdosta — 44, 10:30 am, Sun
HAWAII
KHVO, Hilo — 13, 11:00 am, Sun
KITV, Honolulu — 4, 11:00 am, Sun
KMAU, Wailuku — 12, 11:00 am, Sun
IDAHO
KIVI, Boise — 6, 10:30 am, Sun
KPV1, Pocatello — 6, 7:30 am, Sun
ILLINOIS
WCTU, Chicago — 26, 10:00 pm, Sat; 12:30 pm, Sun
WGN, Chicago — 9, 10:00 am, Sat
WAND, Decatur — 17, 7:00 am, Sun
WQAD, Moline — 8, 8:30 am, Sun
WMBD, Peoria — 31, 10:30 am, Sun
KHQA, Quincy — 7, 8:30 am, Sun
WTVO, Rockford — 17, 9:00 am, Sun
INDIANA
WTVY, Evansville — 7, 7:30 am, Sun
WKIG, Ft. Wayne — 13, 9:30 am, Sun
WTHR, Indianapolis — 13, 8:00 am, Sun
WLEF, Lafayette — 18, 8:30 am, Sun
WSBT, South Bend — 22, 8:00 am, Sun
WTWO, Terre Haute — 21, 10:30 am, Sun
IOWA
KCRG, Cedar Rapids — 9, 9:30 am, Sun
KJLB, Davenport — 18, 9:00 am, Sun; 6:00 pm, Sun
WOL, Des Moines — 5, 10:00 am, Sun
KMT, Mason City — 3, 10:00 am, Sun
KTV, Ottumwa — 3, 10:00 am, Sun
KCAU, Sioux City — 9, 8:00 am, Sun
KANSAS
KJLB, Davenport — 18, 9:30 am, Sat; 6:00 pm, Sun
KUPK, Garden City — 13, 10:00 am, Sun
KLOE, Goodland — 10, 10:00 am, Sun
KAYS, Hays — 7, 10:00 am, Sun
KCTV, Kansas City — 5, 10:30 am, Sun
KSNT, Topeka — 27, 10:30 am, Sun
KARE, Wichita — 10, 10:00 am, Sun
KENTUCKY
WBKO, Bowling Green — 13, 10:30 am, Sun
WLEX, Lexington — 18, 9:30 am, Sun
WAVE, Louisville — 3, 9:30 am, Sun
WPSP, Paducah — 6, 10:00 am, Sun
LOUISIANA
KLAZ, Alexandria — 31, 9:00 am, Sun
WAFB, Baton Rouge — 9, 11:30 pm, Sun
KLFY, Lafayette — 10, 9:30 am, Sun
WDSU, New Orleans — 6, 9:30 am, Sun
WGNU, New Orleans — 26, 7:30 am, Sat
KTBS, Shreveport — 3, 8:30 am, Sun
MAINE
WVI, Bangor — 7, 9:00 am, Sun
WMTW, Portland Poland — 8, 9:00 am, Sun
MARYLAND
WBFF, Baltimore — 45, 10:30 pm, Sun
WHAG, Hagerstown — 25, 7:30 am, Sat
WMDT, Salisbury — 47, 9:30 am, Sun
MASSACHUSETTS
WNEV, Boston — 7, 11:00 am, Sun
WSBK, Boston — 38, 8:00 am, Sun
WGBB, Springfield — 40, 9:00 am, Sun
MICHIGAN
WUHQ, Battle Creek — 41, 11:30 am, Sun
WTOM, Cheboygan — 4, 10:00 am, Sun
WXON, Detroit — 20, 8:00 am, Sat
WJMN, Escanaba — 8, 10:00 am, Sun
WJRT, Flint — 12, 8:00 pm, Sat
WWZM, Grand Rapids — 13, 12:00 noon, Sun
WIXL, Lansing — 10, 10:30 am, Sun
WBJK, Southfield — 2, 6:30 am, Sun
WPBN, Traverse City — 7, 10:00 am, Sun
MINNESOTA
KCM, Alexandria — 7, 9:30 am, Sun
KDLH, Duluth — 3, 10:00 am, Sun
KMSP, Minneapolis — 9, 7:00 am, Sat
WUSA, Minneapolis — 11, 8:30 am, Sun
KNMT, Walker — 12, 9:30 am, Sun
MISSISSIPPI
WLOX, Biloxi — 13, 8:30 am, Sun
WCBH, Columbus — 4, 10:30 am, Sun
WABG, Greenwood — 6, 8:00 am, Sun
WLB, Jackson — 3, 9:30 am, Sun
WTOK, Meridian — 11, 10:30 am, Sun
MISSOURI
KRCG, Jefferson City — 13, 10:30 am, Sun
KODE, Joplin — 12, 9:30 am, Sun
KSHB, Kansas City — 41, 7:30 am, Sun
KOLR, Springfield — 10, 10:00 am, Sun
KPLR, St. Louis — 11, 10:30 pm, Sun
KSDK, St. Louis — 9, 6:00 pm, Sun
MONTANA
KULR, Billings — 8, 11:00 am, Sun
KTVM, Butte — 6, 4:00 pm, Sat
KCFW, Kalispell — 9, 4:00 pm, Sat
KECI, Missoula — 15, 4:00 pm, Sat
NEBRASKA
KWNB, Hayes Center — 6, 9:30 am, Sun
KHGI, Kearney — 13, 9:30 am, Sun
KMTV, Omaha — 3, 9:30 am, Sun
KSTF, Scottsbluff — 10, 9:30 am, Sun
KSNB, Superior — 4, 9:30 am, Sun
NEVADA
KVBC, Las Vegas — 3, 7:30 am, Sun
KOLO, Reno — 8, 10:30 am, Sun
NEW HAMPSHIRE
WJMER, Manchester — 9, 9:30 am, Sun

The PLAIN TRUTH
The new critics of Charles Darwin's explanation of evolution are not misguided "creationists." They are, rather, among the most respected adherents of evolution.

"While biology teachers continue to teach the most up-to-date textbook version of Darwin's theory of evolution to the children of the 1980s," announces author Jeremy Rifkin, "some of the high priests of biology have all but abandoned their own sacred texts.

"Remarkably little has been written in the popular press about this rebellion in the making. The coup d'état has unfolded rather quietly within the semi-sequestered domain of official academic conferences and scholarly journals." So writes Mr. Rifkin in his book Algeny, page 114, hardcover edition.

One critic of Darwin's theory of evolution is Dr. Pierre P. Grassé of France. Dr. Grassé is considered one of the world's greatest living biologists. Said Dr. Grassé: "The explanatory doctrines of biological evolution do not stand up to an objective in-depth criticism. Through use and abuse of hidden postulates, of bold, often ill-founded extrapolations, a pseudo-science has been created."

David Raup, curator of the Field Museum of Chicago, says fossil evidence doesn't support gradual, step-by-step evolution: "We are now about 120 years after Darwin, and knowledge of the fossil record has been greatly expanded. Ironically, we have even fewer examples of evolutionary transition than we had in Darwin's time."

David Raup's statements are actually cautious and too kind. Says Mr. Rifkin: "What the 'record' shows is nearly a century of fudging and finagling by scientists attempting to force various fossil morsels and fragments to conform with Darwin's notions, all to no avail" (ibid., page 125).

What, then, is the new theory of evolution? Biologists are still casting about for a new explanation. One thing is certain, however: The idea that the existence of all life came through a mindless evolutionary process has finally been trashed. Now, the evolutionists have appealed to something called "Mind." Much of the new concept is based on the philosophy of Alfred North Whitehead.

Says Mr. Rifkin: "In Whiteheadian thinking, every living thing is a small reflection of the total mind that makes up the universe. . . . The goal of evolution is the enlargement of mind until it fills the universe and becomes one with it" (Algeny, page 188).

One may laugh at the notion. But the point of all this is that evolutionists are still stuck with the problem of "Mind." What is this "Mind"? There are only two possible answers: Either one must recognize that "Mind" is the Creator God, the maker of all things, and that through what exists we are forced to see the superiority of his creative intelligence—or the alternative is to worship nature itself, that which is created, by assigning to it the notion of "Mind."

The apostle Paul, criticizing the ancient Greek philosophers, posed a challenge even to the new idea of evolution (which sounds suspiciously as if it had roots in ancient philosophies): "His invisible attributes, that is to say his everlasting power and deity, have been visible, ever since the world began, to the eye of reason in the things he has made. . . ."

But most evolutionists reject God as the Creator. The effect? "Hence all their thinking has ended in futility, and their misguided minds are plunged in darkness. . . . They have made fools of themselves, exchanging the splendour of immortal God for an image shaped like mortal man . . . " (Rom. 1:20-23, NEB).

The conclusion? The "Mind" that makes up the totality of the universe is the Creator God, and every living thing is a reflection of his creative mind. (For a thorough answer to this all-important question, write for a free copy of our booklet Does God Exist?)

—Paul Kroll
We have just covered the truth that God set officials to serve on the human level under Christ, in the Church. Members do not elect them. Yet in the churches of this world some believe in government by the entire congregation—"democracy"—and call themselves "Congregational." Others have organized themselves into government by ministers or presbytery and call themselves "Presbyterian." Some follow Luther and call themselves "Lutheran." Some follow Wesley, who was strong on "method," and call themselves "Methodist." Some learned God's truth about baptizing and call their church after the name of "John the Baptist," who first taught baptism. One wanted complete universal world dominion, and called itself "Catholic," which means "universal." What is the name of the Church Jesus founded?

**True Name of Church**

Jesus prayed for his Church:

"... Holy Father, keep through thy own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be ONE, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name. And now come I to thee. ... I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not OF the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:11-17).

Jesus said his true Church was to be kept in the name of the Father—God. Twelve times in the New Testament, the name of this one true Church is the Church of God! It is God's Church, and Jesus Christ is its guiding, sustaining, directing Head!

In five passages where the true name of the Church appears, the entire body of Christ—the Church as a whole—is indicated. Thus when speaking of the entire Church, including all its individual members on earth, the name is "The Church of God." Here are these five passages:

1) Acts 20:28: The admonition to the elders is to "feed the Church of God."
2) I Corinthians 10:32: "Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the Church of God."
3) I Corinthians 11:22: "... Despise ye the Church of God, and shame them that have not?"
4) I Corinthians 15:9: Paul wrote: "For ... I persecuted the Church of God."
5) Galatians 1:13: This verse repeats the one last given—"I persecuted the Church of God."

Where one specific local congregation is mentioned, the true Church is called "The Church of God," often in connection with the place or location. Here are four more passages:

6) I Corinthians 1:2: "The Church of God which is at Corinth."
7) II Corinthians 1:1: "The Church of God which is at Corinth."
8) I Timothy 3:5: In speaking of a local elder in a local congregation, Paul wrote Timothy: "For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the Church of God?"
9) I Timothy 3:15: "... behave
thyself in the house of God, which is the Church of the Living God.” Here it is the Church of the living God.

In speaking of the local congregation collectively, not as one general body, but as the total of all local congregations, the Bible name is “The Churches of God.” Here are the final three verses of the 12 which name the Church:

10) I Corinthians 11:16: “... We have no such custom, neither the Churches of God.”

11) I Thessalonians 2:14: “For ye, brethren, became followers of the Churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus.”

12) II Thessalonians 1:4: “So that we ourselves glory in you in the Churches of God.”

Yet none is truly the Church of God, unless it is God's Church, continuing in doctrine, practice, organization, in all ways on the original biblical pattern, headed by Jesus Christ, yet belonging to God the Father, empowered by the Holy Spirit, having God's truth, fulfilling Christ's commission of proclaiming his Good News of the Kingdom of God to the world as a whole.

And there is only one such Church!

And it cannot be divided. It remains one.

In I Corinthians 1, the apostle Paul was inspired to command that all in the Church “speak the same thing.” There must be no division in what is believed, taught or preached.

Traditional Christianity

But what about all the many organized churches labeled under the category “Christianity”—some with millions of members? They are all described in Revelation 17:5: “Mystery, Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth.”

Are they, then, evil?

Not consciously or knowingly, necessarily. The world of humanity has been cut off from God. Satan is still on earth's throne, next in power to God himself! And the whole world is deceived by Satan (Rev. 12:9). Those deceived are not aware that they are deceived. If so they would not be deceived! They may be ever so sincere in believing they are right!

Are they condemned? By no means! They are simply not yet judged—neither “condemned” nor “saved.” Few indeed realize the magnitude of Satan's power and the extent of his deception!

It is Satan who is evil and diabolical. But he is an invisible being and force—unseen and unrecognized by mortal humans.

Satan is a great counterfeiter! He appears as “an angel of light” (II Cor. 11:13-15). And he has his counterfeit churches! His ministers are deceived by him into believing they are “ministers of righteousness” and of Christ (II Cor. 11:15; Matt. 24:5).

“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him... For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works” (II Cor. 11:3-4, 13-15).

Notice these deceived but false churches believe they are the true church, and their ministers are “transformed as the ministers of righteousness”—in other words, appear to be the true ministers of Jesus Christ. And indeed, many of them may be entirely sincere, being themselves deceived. Yet they have neither known nor preached Jesus' true gospel of the Kingdom of God (Matt. 24:14). Nor do they comprehend what is written in this book about the Church of God!

Partial Truth

Many Protestant denominations, and some personal “ministries,” quote certain scriptures, especially concerning Christian living, faith, love, etc., correctly. But they ignore numerous basic scriptures, cited in this book. Satan seems willing to let the deceived have parts of the truth.

But these run afoot on pivotal truths. Usually they do not have the proper name, The Church of God. Neither do they know or proclaim the kingdom of God or what it is—that is to say, they do not have or proclaim the true gospel of Christ. They do not have God's government headed by Jesus Christ, with apostles, evangelists, pastors and other elders. They do not know what salvation is. They do not understand God's purpose or plan.

One original Church, much persecuted and opposed, but still in existence, has these evidences proving it to be the original true Church. And even this Church, until after the year of 1933, had lost many of these vital truths. At least 18 basic and essential truths have been restored to the true Church since that year.

Human Mind Alone Can't Know

Until now, I have not been able to give a clear concise explanation of precisely what and why is the Church.

And why not?

People naturally and normally think only of and about physical and material things. People do not realize it, but they have been cut off from God! The human mind, unless and until it receives the Holy Spirit of God, cannot think spiritually—cannot know spiritual knowledge—cannot understand human problems, troubles, evils or purposes of human existence.

But the Church is God's Church. And the things of God are a mystery—not understandable to the natural carnal mind. So people may have some kind of human idea of what and why the Church is, but it is not God's concept.

God has communicated to man in our day through his printed Word, the Holy Bible. But the real central meaning in the Bible is spiritual. And natural minds without God's Spirit cannot think spiritually or comprehend revealed spiritual knowledge. To make it still more a mystery, I repeat once again, the Bible is like a jigsaw puz-
The very truth that the Church is not called merely and only for salvation—not merely to "make it into the kingdom" as so many have expressed it—is plainly affirmed in the parables of the pounds and of the talents.

Parable of the Pounds
In the parable of the pounds (Luke 19:11-27), Jesus is pictured as the rich young ruler going to God's throne in heaven to receive the kingdom of God. He gave to each in the Church a pound, representing a portion of God's Holy Spirit. This illustrates that we must grow in the Spirit, or in grace and knowledge, during the Christian life. When Christ returns to earth, having received the kingdom and being already crowned, he shall call those of the Church to an accounting. The one who has multiplied the portion of the Holy Spirit received (has grown and developed in grace and knowledge) by ten times over, shall be rewarded by being given rule over ten cities. He who qualified by spiritual growth and development only half as much shall reign over five cities as his reward. Remember we shall be rewarded according to our works or spiritual growth, but salvation is a free gift. But what of the person who thought he "had it made into the kingdom" without spiritual growth and development? He shall have taken away from him that first portion of the Holy Spirit—he shall lose the salvation he mistakenly thought he had. He shall not make it into the kingdom! He was not called merely for salvation, but to qualify to rule and teach under Christ in the kingdom, when God does open salvation to all on earth. It is well to note that it will not be opening salvation to those in Satan's world. It shall then be God's world—the world tomorrow.

The parable of the talents (Matt. 25) emphasizes the same truth.

Parable of the Sower
Also the parable of the sower and the seed in Matthew 13:1-9. But Jesus' disciples did not understand the parable. They questioned Jesus (verse 10), asking why he spoke to the multitudes in parables. To his disciples, called out of the world to a special commission, Jesus replied, "It is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given." Here is another example showing God is not now calling the world to understanding and salvation. Jesus spoke to the uncalled world in parables to hide the meaning (verse 13). He explained the parable to his called disciples (verses 18-23). Some who are called in this Church age hear the Word of God when preached, but do not understand, and Satan catches away that which was sown in their hearts. Some receive the truth when preached with joy, but lack the depth of mind and character; when persecution comes, they are offended and turn away. Others hear and initially respond, but are so encumbered with earning a living and pleasures of the world they produce no fruit—like the one who received the one pound but did not grow in spiritual character and knowledge.

During his human earthly ministry, Jesus announced the future kingdom of God. He taught and trained his apostles as he proceeded. But, of the others called out of the world and into God's Church, some produced spiritual fruit 100 fold, some 60 and some 30. They are saved by God's free grace, but in the next life in God's kingdom, shall be rewarded or given positions of responsibility and power according to their works.

That means according to fruit borne. And fruit borne means more than regular Bible reading, prayer, church attendance or volunteer church duties. It means "the fruits of the Spirit" as explained in Galat-
tians 5:22-23—showing more love or outgoing concern toward others, growing in joy, which is happiness running over, in peace with your own family, with neighbors, with all others. Growing in patience, being more kind and gentle toward others, goodness and faith, as well as meekness and temperance.

The Church, then, is that body called out from Satan’s world being prepared to restore, with and under Christ, the government of God. That shall be a time when Satan shall have been removed. It shall be a time when all living shall be called to repentance and salvation with eternal life through the Holy Spirit of God! The Church, immortal, shall be ruling with Christ—replacing the present rule of Satan!

The Church, then, is that body of called-out-ones, who at the resurrection shall form the first fruits of God’s harvest. That harvest is the reaping of physical flesh-and-blood, matter-composed humans converted into divine immortal God Beings—those in whom God actually has reproduced himself!

Church Still Carnal

Why has God in wisdom gone slow—a step at a time? Few realize how great is God’s purpose!

After all these years of sinning, human life cut off from God, even with God’s own Holy Spirit given to those changed by initial conversion, those in the Church are initially “babes in Christ”—still far more carnal than spiritual.

Understand this!

The Church, as initially called in this life, is not yet capable of ruling the earth—of sitting with Christ in the throne where God originally placed Lucifer—of administering the government of God.

And that is WHY God has placed his government in his Church. That is WHY God’s Church government is theocratic instead of democratic. That is why God has set ranks of government in his Church, apostles, evangelists, pastors, elders, both preaching and nonpreaching, “till we [in the Church] all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” (Eph. 4:13). It is not a matter of having “made it into the kingdom” upon being baptized, but a matter of spiritual growth and development in knowledge and in righteous character. That is why it is hierarchical in form—government from God at the top on down, not from the bottom up. Otherwise those at the bottom would be ruling God!

It is the same government by which Christ shall rule all nations beginning with the millennium!

And that is WHY Satan has subtly influenced dissidents in God’s Church to become resentful and bitter over God’s government—why some have gone out of the Church!

The churches of this world—“traditional Christianity”—do not speak of the government of God. They do not picture Jesus as coming world ruler. They do not preach Jesus as coming King—but only as Savior. They overlook—reject—scriptures speaking of Christ as King and coming Ruler, and government rule in the kingdom of God. And that is to say, they deliberately reject and omit the gospel message of Christ in their teaching and preaching! They teach that one is already saved on “receiving” (getting) Christ!

I repeat, the individual whom God calls and adds to his Church is not, at initial conversion, remotely capable of being given power of rule over nations!

He is called a “babe in Christ.” He has, if repentant and really converted in this preliminary human state, actually received a portion of the Holy Spirit of God. Indeed in Romans 8:16 we read: “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”

But we need to grow spiritually before we are qualified to rule over cities and nations and teach those being converted.

As the apostle Paul said to those in the first century Church who were not growing spiritually: “That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. For when God made promise to Abra-

ham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself, saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee” (Heb. 6:12-14).

We are already, though yet unborn, the begotten children of God. By direct comparison the impregnated embryo or fetus in a mother-to-be’s womb is already the child of its parents, though not yet born. Therefore I remark, in passing, abortion is MURDER!

But this brings us to a most important purpose and function of the Church!

Beginning verse 22 of Galatians 4 is an allegory about the two covenants—the Covenant made with national Israel at Mount Sinai and the New Covenant to be made at Christ’s return. However, ministers in the Church are “able ministers of the new testament” (II Cor. 3:6).

The Church is a part of, and preliminary to the final making of, the New Testament.

In this allegory of the two covenants, the Church is called “the mother of us all”—that is, of those in the Church.

So notice the direct comparison. God is reproducing himself through humans. He endowed us with power to reproduce ourselves. And human reproduction is the exact type of God’s spiritual reproduction!

How Human Reproduction Pictures Spiritual Salvation

Now see and understand how human reproduction pictures spiritual salvation!

All human life comes from a tiny egg, called an ovum. It is produced inside the human mother. This ovum is about the size of a pin point. Inside it, when highly magnified, can be seen a small nucleus. But this ovum has a very limited life, of itself! Some doctors and scientists believe it has a life of only some 24 hours, unless fertilized by a sperm from a male.

But human life may be imparted to it by a sperm cell, produced in the body of the human father. The sperm cell is the smallest cell in the human body—about one fiftieth the size of the ovum. The sperm—technically named a spermatozoon (plural, spermatozoa)—on entering an
ovum, finds its way to and joins with the **nucleus**. This imparts **life**—physical **human** life—to the ovum.

But it is not yet a born human being. Human life has merely been **begotten**. For the first four months it is called an **embryo**. After that, until birth it is called a **fetus**. This human life starts very small—the size of a tiny pin point—and the sperm that generates it is the **smallest** cell in a human body.

Once begotten, it must be **fed** and nourished by physical food from the ground, through the mother. From this physical nourishment it must grow, and **grow**—until physically large enough to be born—after nine months. As it grows, the physical organs and characteristics gradually are formed. Soon a spinal column forms. A heart forms and begins to beat. Other internal organs form. Then, gradually, a body, a head, legs, arms. Finally hair begins to grow on the head, fingernails and toenails develop—facial features gradually shape up. By nine months the average normal fetus has grown to a weight of approximately six to nine pounds, and is ready to be born.

A human has to be **begotten** by his human father. To be born **again** of the **Spirit**—of **God**—one must first be begotten by the **SPIRITUAL** **FATHER**—**Almighty God**.

### The Amazing Comparison

**Now see how HUMAN begettal, period of gestation, and birth is the astounding identical TYPE of spiritual salvation**—being born of **God**—being given eternal life in the kingdom of **God**—the **God** family into which we may be born!

Each adult human is, spiritually, an **“egg” or “ovum.” In this spiritual ovum is a nucleus, the human mind with its human spirit. This spiritual “ovum” has a very limited life span, of itself—compared to **ETERNAL LIFE**—an average of some 70 years. But spiritual, **divine immortal** life may be imparted to it by the entrance into it of the **Holy SPIRIT**, which comes from the very Person of **God the Father**. This divine Spirit of **God** joins with the nucleus of the human ovum, which is the human spirit and mind, and imparts to us also the **divine nature** (II Pet. 1:4). Heretofore we have had only human, fleshly or carnal nature.

As the human sperm cell is the very **smallest** of all human cells, even so, many newly begotten Christians start out with a very **small** measure of God’s Holy Spirit and character. Many may still be, at first, about 99.44 percent carnal! Apparently those in the Church of God at Corinth were (I Cor. 3:1-3). The apostle Paul said he still had to feed them on the spiritual **“milk.”** They certainly were not yet **“born again.”**

**Now, as the physical male sperm finds its way to, and unites with the nucleus in the ovum, so God’s Spirit enters and combines with the human spirit and MIND! There is, as explained before, a **spirit in man**. This human spirit has combined with the brain to form human MIND. God’s Spirit unites with, and witnesses with our spirit that we are, now, the children of **God** (Rom. 8:16). And God’s Holy Spirit, now combined with our human spirit in our MIND, imparts to our mind power to comprehend **SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE** (I Cor. 2:11)—which the carnal mind cannot grasp.

**Now we have the presence of eternal life**—**God-life**—through God’s Spirit. In like manner the human embryo was an actual human life as yet undeveloped. But we are not yet immortal spirit beings—not yet born of **God**—just as the human ovum was not yet born of its human parents—not yet inheritors, and possessors, but physical **HEIRS** (Rom. 8:17). But **IF** God’s Holy Spirit dwells in us, God will, at the resurrection, “quicken” to immortality our mortal bodies **BY** his Spirit that “dwelleth in us” (Rom. 8:11; I Cor. 15:49-53).

**Now we see how the astonishing analogy continues!**

As yet we are not **composed** of spirit, but of physical matter. The divine life has merely been begotten. This divine character starts so very small it is doubtful if much of it is in evidence—except for the glow of that ecstasy of spiritual “romance” that we may radiate in that “first love” of conversion—spiritually speaking. But so far as spiritual knowledge and developed spiritual character goes, there is not much, as yet.

### The Spiritual Embryo

**So now, once spiritually begotten, we are merely a spiritual embryo. Now we must be fed and nourished on SPIRITUAL food! Jesus said man shall not live by bread (physical food) alone, but by EVERY WORD of **God** (spiritual food)! This we drink in from the Bible! But we drink in this spiritual knowledge and character, also, through personal, intimate, continuous contact with God through **PRAYER** and through Christian fellowship with God’s children in his Church. And also by the continual teaching imparted by the Church.

**Now the physical embryo and fetus is fed physically through the mother. God’s CHURCH is called Jerusalem above “which is the MOTHER of US ALL” (Gal. 4:26).**

**Notice the exact parallel! The CHURCH is the spiritual MOTHER of its MEMBERS. God has set his called and chosen ministers in his Church to FEED THE FLOCK—“for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body [CHURCH] of Christ: TILL WE all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” (Eph. 4:11-13).**

**It is the duty of Christ’s true ministers (and how scarce today) to PROTECT the begotten but yet unborn saints from false doctrines, from false ministers. The HUMAN
mother carries her unborn baby in that part of her body where she can best protect it from physical harm; and that protection is part of her function, as well as to nourish the unborn child! Even so, the Church, through Christ's ministers, instructors, teachers, counsels with, advises, and protects from spiritual harm the unborn members! What a wonderful picture is human reproduction of spiritual salvation!

Continue further! As the physical fetus must grow physically large enough to be born, so the begotten Christian must grow in grace, and in the knowledge of Christ (II Pet. 3:18)—must overcome, must develop in spiritual character during this life, in order to be born into the kingdom of God!

And as the physical fetus gradually develops the physical organs, features and characteristics one by one, even so the begotten Christian must gradually, continually, develop the spiritual character—love, faith, patience, gentleness, temperance. He (or she) must live by and be a doer of the Word of God. He must develop the divine character!

Finally—Immortality!

Then in God's due time—though the person may die meanwhile—by a resurrection, or by instantaneous change to immortality at Christ's coming, he shall be born of God—into the kingdom of God—because God is that kingdom! He is no longer material flesh from the ground, but composed of spirit, even as God is a Spirit (John 4:24).

How wonderful is the truth of God!

Yet, by his dastardly deceptions Satan has deceived the world—has blinded humanity to the fact that God IS his kingdom Jesus proclaimed—and that we may be born as spiritual individuals—as part of that divine family—as part of the God kingdom!

How precious is God's truth! God designed reproduction to picture his truth in physical manner and to keep us constantly in the knowledge of his wonderful plan of salvation! □

FAMILIES

(Continued from page 17)

the hands of their brothers would be eliminated. How? By obeying the sixth commandment: "You shall not murder" (Ex. 20:13).

And what about the shameful illegitimacy problem? God says, "You shall not commit adultery" (verse 14). Young people must be taught that sex is for marriage, if the family and this whole generation is to survive.

We are teaching this today through this very magazine you are now reading.

To Save a People

Black people in the ghetto are facing a great challenge.

Today, we need to stir our hearts and souls as never before! What we need is to target energies and resources on this life-and-death problem.

Almighty God says: "... turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse" (Mal. 4:6). That is serious! God is not looking at this problem lightly.

Young black men should seek out, with the help of counsellors, responsible big brothers for role models. Black organizations have begun work with young men, but much more needs to be done.

Young men can begin turning their lives around. They need to read this magazine to find what true character is. They need responsible black males to show by positive role models that youths can be successful in the mainstream of society. Youth needs to be encouraged to stay in school and acquire the training needed to be employed and develop their management skills. They need to be inspired to become real men to care for wives and children.

You do not have to wait on government to implement programs. You do not have to sit until community leaders take action. If what I have been describing fits your situation in life, or your neighbor's situation, you can begin now applying the solutions given in this magazine! With the help of God you can change your life. □

In Search of Peace

(Continued from page 6)

The seven leaders of South Asia have called for an era of peace and prosperity, and one is coming—and in our time! There is a bright future ahead for South Asia! Properly channeled, the energies of that area—an area rich in resources and manpower, a storehouse of cultural and intellectual wealth—will ultimately transform today's poverty and backwardness into genuine prosperity and well-being for all.

For an advance look into that wonderful future, read our free book The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like.

Meanwhile, efforts in the direction of peace and cooperation among nations, however imperfect they may be, should be heartily welcomed and encouraged for the good and welfare of the peoples involved. And thus The Plain Truth applauds the efforts of seven wise men at Dhaka. □
**Understanding World Events and Trends**

### Measuring Earthquakes

One of the most common ways of measuring earthquakes is the Richter scale, devised in 1935 by Charles F. Richter. It measures the amount of energy released at the center of an earthquake. For every increase of one on the open-ended scale, ground motion increases 10 times. Thus a 5.0 quake is 10 times stronger than one measuring 4.0.

According to the U.S. National Earthquake Information Center in Denver, the damage inflicted depends on geologic formations of an area. The chart below is a generalization.

The Mexico City earthquake in September 1985, which did more than US$4,000 million worth of damage, measured 7.8 on the Richter scale. It showed the destructive power of a "major" earthquake in a populated area.

### Report Focuses on Quake Prediction

For years scientists have sought accurate, definite ways of predicting when and where earthquakes will strike. The goal: to reduce earthquake losses through better preparation.

Now the United States Geological Survey has published a report, the first of its kind, detailing recently developed methods for forecasting the consequences of earthquakes.

The report focuses on the Los Angeles, Calif., area, which rests on a network of more than 90 geologic faults.

"Potentially destructive earthquakes are inevitable in the Los Angeles region," says the report. Geologists now estimate that the chance of a large earthquake occurring along the San Andreas fault during the next 30 years is greater than 40 percent.

The report, focusing on the behavior of bedrock, could have application to other urban areas and should help planners decide where and what types of structures to build.

Critical information on other factors relative to earthquakes, such as groundwater and soil, is still unavailable.

### Breast-feeding

Mother's milk contains more than 200 different substances, some of which provide disease-preventive benefits in young children. Mother's antibodies are passed to her child through her milk.

Human milk even appears to offer some protection against diseases to which the mother has not developed immunity.

Cholera, which kills about five million people a year and is a major killer of children under 5 in the Third World, can be prevented in young children through milk-passed antibodies.

Mother's milk also appears to fight parasites of the digestive system and can prevent liver disease deaths.

These disease-preventive attributes are important in countries where medicines and hospital facilities are expensive and scarce.

A UNICEF report in 1983 warns that in the Third World bottle-fed babies are between three and five times more likely to suffer malnutrition than breast-fed babies.

A serious problem with commercial baby formulas arises when mothers cannot read or understand the...
instructions on the labels. And in many nations, the quality of water to be mixed with baby formulas is uncertain at best.

Even the cost of formulas may be prohibitive. In the Caribbean seventy-five percent of nonbreast-feeding, low-income mothers in Barbados were stretching a can containing enough formula for four days to last as long as three weeks, stated a study cited in the UNICEF report.

And cow's milk may cause serious digestive problems in some young sensitive babies.

In the Philippines, Baguio General Hospital banned bottle-feeding in favor of breast-feeding for two years to test the benefits of mother's milk on infant health. Infant mortality dropped an astounding 95 percent, and infant health improved noticeably from the beginning of the test.

Another benefit of special importance to the Third World is that breast-feeding can delay a mother's return to fertility after childbirth. "In ancient times it was common knowledge that a woman who was nursing a baby was unlikely to conceive in that period," wrote R.V. Short in Scientific American.

The trend away from breast-feeding "has had serious consequences for rates of population increase . . . in many developing countries." For example, Kenya's sharply rising birthrate is directly attributable to a decline in the length of lactation following childbirth.

**Asia's Newfound Surplus**

Who would have thought five years ago that surplus food would be a worry in Asia today? Formerly famine-stricken nations are now rivals on international grain markets. India, Thailand, Indonesia and China have significant grain surpluses and storage problems.

In 1984 China's grain harvest of 407 million tons was the all-time record for any country. The runner-up that year, the United States, had a 312 million ton grain harvest, one of its biggest ever. The Soviet Union produced only about half as much.

China's wheat production alone more than doubled between 1979 and 1984, from 41 million to 87 million tons. The Chinese, who have 285 million acres planted in grain, now grow more than twice as much grain as the Soviets do on 300 million acres.

At the turn of this decade the Chinese broke up their communes as economic systems and introduced price and production incentives. A real agricultural explosion began.

Under the "responsibility system" begun by Chinese leaders in 1981, many farmers have been allowed to work family-sized farms for rent. After they sell a quota of produce to the state at a fixed price, they can produce and sell anything else they want in free markets for whatever they can get. Freed to prosper by their own hard work and initiative, China's farmers, using specially bred hybrid seeds, have increased food production 8 percent annually over the past seven years, about two and a half times the rate from 1949 to 1981.

Several years of relatively good weather have allowed dramatic increases in food production over much of Asia. Still, millions in Asia have yet to reap benefits from the agricultural revolution. And food officials warn that these production gains are fragile. Adverse weather, soil erosion or severe national economic difficulties could quickly undo the agricultural boon.

**Criminal Character Development**

Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania have given new meaning to the old saying, "Spare the rod and spoil the child." Studying the criminal histories of everyone born in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1958, and who lived there from age 10 to adulthood, researchers found that nearly half the juveniles who had committed four serious crimes had never even been placed on probation, much less incarcerated.

Other studies have indicated that 80 percent of habitual juvenile offenders grow up to be habitual adult offenders. This prompted one of the researchers, Paul E. Tracy, now an assistant professor of criminal justice at Northwestern University, to say: "The point is: If you let a kid do what he does with impunity, then he's going to continue to do it. . . . We know who he [the chronic offender] is by the time he is 13 or 14. My idea is, Let's do something about him early and not wait until he's an adult."

The results of the US$1.5 million study have prompted calls for stiffer penalties and enforcement for juvenile crime. But swift, sure punishment as a deterrent to crime was focused on long ago in the biblical book of Ecclesiastes: "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil" (Eccl. 8:11).

**Drying corn (maize), Huhsien County, Shang Xi Province, China.**
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Middle East Peace
What spurs me to write was the speech in the January issue by Adnan Abu Odeh, Minister to the Royal Court of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, titled "What We Need Most is Peace."

I studied the Mideast since even before my liaison days with Naval Intelligence in the Great War. I was concerned with those hotspots at a time when the name of that country was Transjordan, and Syria and Lebanon were very French, while in the Palestine mandate the Arabs were second class and the Jews third class to a British first.

Let me in the spirit of comradely friendship point out truths relevant to Jordan. First, that country is really East Palestine, having been carved out of the original Palestinian mandate which England had charge of by the League of Nations agreement after the First World War; let's not forget this fact.

Prior to the first division of Palestine, and the British mandate, Palestine and much of the Middle East was under the Ottoman Empire; there was no Jordan; there was no country was Transjordan, and let's not forget this fact.

Paul Small
Adjutant, American Legion
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Correspondence Course
I would like to give you my sincere thanks for the Bible Correspondence Course I have been doing. I have reached the end of lesson 4 and am certainly looking forward to the next lesson. I am 14 years old and I certainly wouldn't be able to afford a course such as this if it had a price.

I found the lessons I have received so far extremely interesting and inspiring and I hope that the future lessons will have the same impact.

Stephen Bradley
Westville, South Africa

I am presently working on lesson fourteen of the Correspondence Course. I have found the course to be the most informative and accurate look into God's Word that I have ever experienced. I have tried supervised and self-taught studies, but never have experienced the understanding that your course has given me.

Lloyd Humphreys
Woodstock, Ontario

Truth in my Sunday sermons. I am very pleased to know that you also have a free Bible Correspondence Course. I shall be more than happy to receive the first lesson of your Bible Correspondence Course "Why Study the Bible?"

C.A. Dubie
Durban, South Africa

Magazine Follows Sea Captain
I had the rare good fortune to be given a copy of Plain Truth when my ship was in Australia and I picked up a subscription form in South Africa. I was very impressed by your magazine and deeply moved by some of the things I had read.

I had intended to write for a subscription, but somehow it had slipped my mind.

When I left Cape Town and found I had a subscription card for South Africa, I felt as if God was giving me a reminder and a second chance.

Captain A. McGrail
Liverpool, England

School Studies
I have been a subscriber for almost one year and find it a superb magazine. I am Portuguese, 19 years old, and study in a secondary school. The Plain Truth helps me in my studies because we do articles about, for example, abortion, sex, salvation, war and youth.

It's remarkable the very wide circulation of this magazine and the many eyes that are being opened to the truth. I hope it continues for many, many years.

I. Franca
Oliveira de Azemeis
Portugal

I first discovered your magazine while at school and was surprised that it contained articles on the superpowers relevant to my studies at that time, as I was majoring in politics. From then on through college and then university your magazine has continued to provide me with discussion and good background materials for many essays and debates.

I hope to continue receiving it, although I don't always agree with every point of view presented! Some topics have given rise to heated arguments, on religion especially! However, I do believe your magazine contains valuable information. Perhaps if more people take time to sit and read (and think afterwards) the world could be a better place. It never ceases to amaze me when reading your letters page how far and wide your magazine is distributed!

K.M. McKay
Edinburgh, Scotland

Addict Finds New Life
I am writing to thank you for your wonderful magazine. The story I'm going to tell may sound a bit farfetched, but it's true—the best thing that ever happened to me. It all started when I became a drug addict at thirteen. My craving forced me to steal and eventually to male prostitution. I would have carried on like this for my whole life if I had not found your magazine. Its stories are enlightening and they helped me break my addiction. Through God I can now live a meaningful and religious life.

I am now seventeen and attending a sixth form college where I hope to repair the damage. And I hope this letter will help other young people in my position to see the light.

James D.
London
IN THIS ISSUE:

THE NUCLEAR CLUB: ALMOST ANYONE CAN JOIN
Today we face the specter of unstable nations obtaining nuclear capacity.

WHY DOESN'T GOD DO SOMETHING?
More lives were lost in 1985 through air accidents than in any previous year. Why doesn't God prevent accidents?

WHY SCIENCE QUESTIONS DARWIN
The new critics of Charles Darwin are among the most respected adherents of evolution.

SEVEN WISE MEN IN SEARCH OF PEACE
Why did a recent event of historic importance go largely unnoticed in the Western press?

The "World Tomorrow" television program is cabled weekly throughout the United States on these superstations:

WOR New York, NY
(11:30 am and 11:00 pm ET, Sunday)

WGN Chicago, IL
(10:00 am CT, Saturday)

WTBS Atlanta, GA
(6:30 am, Sunday; 1:05 am, Monday, ET)

TEMPO Tulsa, OK
(12:00 pm CT, Wednesday)

LIF New York, NY
(10:30 pm ET, Saturday)

Check local listings for other stations and times in your area.