

This IS The WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



**This IS The
WORLDWIDE
CHURCH OF GOD**

**The Incredible March Toward
a Changed, Realistic and
Peaceful World Tomorrow**

This booklet is not to be sold.
It is a free educational service in
the public interest, published by
The Worldwide Church of God.

This is the true story of the true Church, founded A.D. 31 by Jesus Christ, the unique and only voice giving a hopeless world its only and sure hope—the soon-coming peaceful world tomorrow!

The visitor, to put it mildly, was astonished! He was witnessing something he had never expected to see.

He was professor of comparative religion at one of the world's great universities, visiting a Canadian festival site of the world's largest annual church conclave. This, however, was one of the smaller of a score of such annual convention sites throughout the world. Seven thousand were here assembled for the eight-day festival.

At once the visitor was impressed by an atmosphere refreshingly *different*—and he had visited many church conventions in many countries. Had these people been odd or fanatical, it would have been no new experience. He was well aware of religious groups who generated a temporary emotional fervor in their meetings. He was familiar, too, with those who were stiffly formal—and unhappy.

But here he was experiencing something which was, to him, unique. He was seated next to one of the ministers of the Worldwide Church of God.

"These members," he volunteered, "obviously are solid and stable people, and they radiate an inner happiness that is genuine. Life to them seems to have purpose and meaning. It's an enjoyable and healthy attitude I can't quite find words to describe."

"Yes," smiled the minister, "life *does* have purpose and meaning to our people. And they do radiate the inner joy you have observed because their lives have been changed by God's Holy Spirit, and because they are participating in and prayerfully backing the spreading of Christ's TRUE gospel—the same message originally proclaimed by Christ Himself.

"For nineteen centuries that message had been suppressed. But this is the very generation that shall see that message fulfilled. It is God's time for that message of WORLD HOPE to be again proclaimed in POWER, worldwide. When one knows he has a part in giving a dying world its real and only hope, it is

indeed a gratifying experience. That's what radiates that inner joy you see here."

"But how can this be? How can one explain it?" the professor asked.

"Well," responded the minister, "it begins with the story of the appearance on earth of the REAL Jesus Christ more than nineteen centuries ago. It's the story of His message from God to mankind. It's the story of the founding, the history and the mission of His Church. It's the story of the suppression by hostile world powers of Christ's real message—of spurious and counterfeit teachings deceiving the whole world for nineteen centuries—and, finally, of God's rejuvenating His people with His Spirit and vitality to carry that message of sure HOPE to this present world's last generation."

"Yes," observed the visitor thoughtfully. "I can believe that must be true."

Why Unique

These people are members of the Church of God, known in our day as the Worldwide Church of God. This Church is unique in practicing Christianity as A WAY OF LIFE, as well as a faith—even as it did originally in the days of the first-century apostles.

Its members are motivated by a supreme goal, inspired by knowing the transcendent human potential. They know the true values. They have found THE WAY that makes life truly meaningful, rewarding, abundant! It is the way the whole world ought to be living. What *is* that WAY OF LIFE?

It is the WAY OF LOVE—the way of outgoing concern for the good and welfare of others equal to self-concern. It is the way of cooperating, serving, helping, sharing—of consideration and patience.

More important, it is the way of humility and of obedience to, reliance on, and worship solely toward God. It is the GOD-centered way. The world in general lives the way of "GET." It follows the SELF-centered way of vanity, of greed, lust, envy, jealousy and hate. It exalts the self. It sets its heart on self-gain and material possessions. It lives the way of competition, strife, unconcern for the welfare of others. It always seeks to get the best of every deal, indifferent to the fact that the other must take the worst.

In this world the successful are considered to be those who have piled up the biggest fortunes in material goods, not those

who have *given* the most in spiritual gifts for the happiness of others. And yet there is the promise that *if* one seeks first the righteous and unselfish way, then material prosperity shall follow. Material possessions may add to happiness already attained, but they are not the SOURCE of happiness—they cannot produce it.

Actually, what almost none—including those who profess Christianity—seem to realize is that this “GIVE” way is based in an invisible, yet inexorable, spiritual LAW in active force and motion. It is a law as real, as inflexibly relentless, as the physical law of gravity. It governs and regulates all human relationships. Traditional Christianity seems to have forgotten that this law is summarized in the Ten Commandments, which are the basis of the Christian WAY OF LIFE.

And the lives of these people who were enjoying the convention in southwestern Canada are a living demonstration that the teachings of Jesus, which He carried out in the example He set by His own life here on earth—*living* the principles of the Ten Commandments—are in truth THE WAY of practical, rewarding and joyous living—and neither impractical platitudes nor a burdensome yoke of bondage. This WAY OF LIFE is paying off among Church of God people in joyous happiness, successful living, and abundant well-being! This GOD-centered way broadens and expands one’s horizons. Self-centeredness constantly shrinks one’s mental and spiritual outlook.

It is, to most who profess Christianity today, astonishing to learn that Jesus, Peter, Paul and all the first-century apostles taught obedience to this inexorable spiritual law—the WAY OF LOVE. It is surprising to most to learn that the Bible plainly shows that the religion of Christ—the only *true* Christianity—is a WAY OF LIFE as well as a living FAITH..

This spiritual law was set in living motion as the loving gift of humanity’s Maker to CAUSE every desired GOOD. Yet humanity in general has been living a diametrically contrary way of life. There can be no law without penalty for violation. All the evils suffered down through the stream of time by humanity have simply been the PENALTIES *caused* by violation of that law.

How Knowledge Was Lost

How did mankind LOSE knowledge of the PURPOSE of human life—of WHAT man is, WHY he is, WHERE he is going—his transcendent potential—of THE WAY that is the only possible CAUSE of peace and happiness and everything good and desirable?

First, we might illustrate the world's sickness this way: A manufacturer sends along with his mechanized product an instruction manual. The instruction book explains what the product is, what it is intended to do, how to operate it to accomplish its intended purpose.

In like manner, man's Maker created a human mechanism far more perfectly designed than any man-produced product. And our Maker also sent along *His* INSTRUCTION MANUAL. In it He reveals *what* we are, *why* we are, *where* we are going, and above all, HOW to operate this human mechanism to accomplish its intended potential in peace, happiness and abundant well-being.

But the more perfectly designed GOD-MADE human mechanism is not functioning well. Human society is sick—filled with unrest, discontent, unhappiness, suffering. Human society does not know the way to PEACE. Crime and violence are rampant and on an accelerating spiral. Morals have skidded into the cesspool. Evils of all kinds escalate.

WHY?

If people threw away or ignored the instruction books for operating mechanical gadgets—or tried to operate them contrary to all the manufacturer's instructions—mechanical devices would not work, either!

It all started in the Garden of Eden when our first parents rejected their Maker's revealed knowledge and disobeyed His commands. And humanity as a whole has followed that course ever since—cut off from God!

Humanity has continued to reject revelation as the source of basic knowledge. Man has continued to reject the WAY of God—His spiritual law—as the way to all desired good, and to decide for himself what, in his eyes, is good and what is evil. He has continued to take to himself the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He has continued to do what is right in his own eyes. And in so doing, he has brought on himself every evil that has beset humankind.

See where it has now brought this world. Humanity continued along on even keel, in knowledge production, until about 170 years ago. As the prophet Daniel foretold, at “the time of the end . . . knowledge shall be increased” (Dan. 12:4).

Science, the False Messiah

So, about 170 years ago, scientists decided the human intellect had become so near perfect it could now safely cast off its

swaddling clothes and throw away the crutch of religion and belief in God. Given sufficient knowledge, they reasoned, they could solve all of man's problems and cure all his ills. Modern science stepped forth as the new Messiah that would deliver humanity from all troubles and evils.

Morals began to relax. Spiritual values gradually were de-emphasized. Education threw the Bible out the window, and with it interest in teaching moral, spiritual and ethical values. Educational emphasis came to be, after World War I, solely on intellect, unconcerned with development of righteous character. Knowledge production was increasing at an accelerating rate. Great PROGRESS was being made—in industry, in technology, in areas of materialistic, scientific and medical knowledge. But increasing knowledge DID NOT solve humanity's problems. It cured no ills.

On the contrary, man's problems, troubles and evils accelerated in almost exact proportion to this increase in knowledge. Finally, in the one decade of the '60s, the world's fund of KNOWLEDGE DOUBLED! And in the same ten years the world's TROUBLES ALSO DOUBLED! And the trend has continued since.

The more man works at producing KNOWLEDGE, the more he brings EVILS upon himself. Now he has brought himself to the very brink of cosmocide. World leaders and scientists now know that humanity's number-one problem is that of SURVIVAL! Now they are beginning to speculate on whether the '70s or '80s may be MAN'S LAST DECADE. The engines of destruction have been produced that could quickly erase all human life from the earth!

The Foundation of True Knowledge

But our Maker has sent along with the product He made—humanity—His Instruction Book. He has made the TRUE KNOWLEDGE accessible for those willing to seek and use it.

The VERY FOUNDATION of knowledge is this Instruction Book of man's Maker. The FOUNDATION of education to fit one for happy and successful living is being totally ignored in today's educational system.

One is shocked and disillusioned in the discovery that virtually all religions, including traditional Christianity, have utterly ignored or rejected God's revealed WAY OF LIFE. This makes shockingly plain the reason WHY the world's religions and churches have not made this a better world—WHY there is no peace, WHY so little happiness!

Ask the average church member how much biblical teaching has to do with his everyday life—his business, his social life, his home life, his politics, his entertainment and recreational life. He will probably reply, “Why, nothing, I suppose.”

But the Church of God, from A.D. 31 to now, has *lived by* God’s revealed WAY OF LIFE, as well as by the faith of Jesus Christ.

And in that it is indeed unique!

Importance of the Name

This Church has always recognized the importance of the NAME given the Church. And it has been always kept in that name. Twelve times in the New Testament the NAME of God’s own Church is called just that: “the Church of God.” Christ is revealed to be the living Head of that Church. And in this connection it is in one place only spoken of as the “Churches of Christ.” But it is composed of the begotten children of God, who collectively as a Church are named after their Father. In some New Testament instances, a descriptive phrase is added to the name, such as the Church of God at Corinth, or the Churches of God in Judea. Today, it is the Worldwide Church of God. But Jesus prayed to God the Father that the Church would be *kept* in the Father’s name (John 17:11).

It has been.

A Worldwide Function

But when Jesus Christ said, “I will build my Church,” it was for a PURPOSE that is more than merely preserving members in THE WAY that produces happiness and successful living for themselves.

The Church has a serious and worldwide function to perform. It is a mission of LOVE—of outgoing concern for humanity worldwide. Its commission is to proclaim to the world the good news of the Kingdom (government) of God—not to convert the world, but merely as “a witness.” That government has been taken from the earth. It is to be restored (Acts 3:19-21). God governs—as do all governments (or kingdoms)—by LAWS. God’s law is a spiritual law—the WAY OF LIFE that CAUSES—PRODUCES—every good result.

For carrying out that commission, the Church is called, in the New Testament, the “body of Christ.” Few understand why. Jesus had come in human flesh, among other purposes, to start the Work of God. He said that *of Himself* He could do

nothing. It was the power of the Holy Spirit of God *in* Him that empowered the Work.

He called and chose His disciples, who became the original apostles. He taught and trained them to become, with Him and the prophets, the foundation of the Church. He gave His life for the Church—to pay the penalty for the sins of the whole world—for all who will repent and accept His shed blood which is full payment for their sins. God raised Him from the dead, that by *His* life we might receive eternal life as God's free gift by grace.

But, after His resurrection, and just before He was taken up to God's throne of the universe in heaven, Jesus "commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father" (Acts 1:4)—that is, wait to receive within them the same Holy Spirit that empowered Him. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you," He said (verse 8).

The Spirit which had started God's Work in Jesus' single human body would now carry it on in the COLLECTIVE body of the Church.

That Work—that commission—was: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). And, for this present time in which we now live: ". . . this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached [and published—Mark 13:10] in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end [of this age] come" (Matt. 24:14).

The first great commission becomes a far more complex and sizable operation today than it was in the first century. The world's population has multiplied many times over. We live in a different, far more mechanical and complex world today.

Powerful Work Today

The Church of God was not, in the first century, a world power either religiously or politically. It is not today. At times it has undergone violent persecution. It is not, today, a multi-million-member Church.

Yet today it carries on a great worldwide Work. As a public service, it is reaching, by radio, television, and mass-circulation magazines and newspapers, 150,000,000 people with the inspired message of the WAY OF LIFE that is the CAUSE of all GOOD—of peace, happiness, prosperity, abundant well-being—the truly successful life.

The faith and way of life of the Church is precisely the same

today as it was in the first century. It is the true faith “once delivered to the saints.” That never changes. But today the Church lives and functions in a vastly different and highly complex and mechanized world. Accordingly, modern conditions necessitate different procedures, and modern methods of organization and operation.

The Truth About God’s Church

The real truth is incredibly eye-opening. It is stranger than any fiction. It may be hard to believe—but it is TRUE!

Let’s go back, for the moment, to the time of Christ—and even to the time of Old Testament prophecies before His appearing. The prophet Isaiah foretold the appearance of Christ; that He would be born as a baby, grow up, and eventually become the RULER and the SAVIOR of humanity. Note this amazing prophecy in which Isaiah was recording a message from God concerning ancient Israel: “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the GOVERNMENT shall be upon his shoulder . . .” (Isa. 9:6). In other words, Isaiah foretold that Jesus Christ was BORN TO BECOME A KING—A RULER. But continue the prophecy: “. . . and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

So Jesus Christ was to be not only King and Ruler over GOVERNMENT, He also was to be Savior or God. Continue, verse 7: “Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.” (See Luke 1:26-33.)

Messenger of the Covenant

Notice one more key prophecy foretelling the coming of Christ. It is in Malachi 3:1: “Behold, I will send my messenger [human], and he shall prepare the way before me [Christ]: and the Lord, whom ye seek [Christ], shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger [Christ] of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.”

This is speaking of Christ’s coming as “the Messenger of the New Covenant.” Moses was the mediator of the Old Covenant. That covenant was a MARRIAGE covenant, by which Israel became a NATION of this world, “married” to God. Christ came as a Messenger of the NEW Covenant, which shall

establish the coming government and the KINGDOM OF GOD on earth. The true Church, at that time, shall be changed from fleshly material composition to immortal spirit composition. And this Church, then immortal, is to marry the resurrected Christ.

As the Old Covenant under Moses established ancient Israel as one of this world's human kingdoms, so the New Covenant will establish the resurrected saints of Christ, immortal, as the WORLD-RULING KINGDOM, with Christ as Ruler.

But if one reads verses 2-5 of Malachi 3, he will see it refers primarily to the SECOND coming of Christ as King of kings—not merely to His first appearing on earth more than 1900 years ago. John the Baptist was the human messenger who prepared the way before Christ's first coming. But another must prepare the way before His second and now imminent coming in supreme power and glory.

What Was Christ's Gospel?

Now look briefly at the New Testament record of Christ's coming, ministry, and establishment of God's CHURCH.

One summary-in-brief is the book of Mark, chapter 1: "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (verse 1). Mark's Gospel begins at a time when Jesus was about thirty years old.

Beginning in verse 2, the account of Jesus' ministry speaks of John the Baptist preparing the way before Him. Verses 9-10 speak of Jesus being baptized by John and of the Spirit of God descending upon Him. Verses 12-13 record Jesus' 40-day fast and His overcoming of Satan, thus qualifying Him to reestablish the Kingdom of God upon the earth.

Then, in verses 14-15, the actual beginning of His gospel message (of which He was the Messenger—Malachi 3:1) occurs: "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching"—WHAT gospel message?—"the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled [since Jesus qualified by overcoming Satan], and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."

The word gospel means "good news." His message was prophetic. It was NEWS of the future setting-up of the Kingdom of God to RULE and bring peace and salvation to the world—therefore it was the ANNOUNCEMENT of future GOOD NEWS!

Born into God's Family

But Jesus was born and came into the world for more than being KING and RULER WORLDWIDE! He came also as spiritual SAVIOR.

This is recorded in brief in John 3: "There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God. . . . Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (verses 1-3). Notice, the Kingdom of God will be something that can be SEEN—but not until one is *born again*.

"Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" (Verse 4.) Nicodemus could not understand this matter of being "BORN AGAIN," just as almost no one understands it today.

"Jesus answered. . . . That which is born of the flesh is flesh [that is, a mortal HUMAN]; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (verses 5-6). That is, once born again, one is born not of a human father in mortal physical human flesh, but of God, impregnated by God's Spirit, in immortal SPIRIT COMPOSITION, as a God Being! *Born of God!* One may be begotten of God by receiving His Holy Spirit in this life. But he is born again *only* in the immortal SPIRIT life to come—at the time of the resurrection. When BORN AGAIN, he will BE spirit—no longer mortal flesh and blood. These words of Jesus ought to be plainly understood—and they are further explained in the "resurrection chapter," I Corinthians 15. Yet they are NOT today generally understood, even in theological seminaries!

Jesus came, then, for TWO primary purposes: to qualify to become, SOON now, WORLD RULER; and to become Savior. Humans may become, through a resurrection from the dead, divine immortal spirit beings—as *born* children of God in the GOD FAMILY!

But how little of this is understood today! And how subtly the plain teachings of Jesus and of Scripture have been twisted into a counterfeit meaning!

Jesus' Mission on Earth

Now quickly take a look at what Jesus did during His 33½ years on earth.

He met and conquered Satan (Matt. 4:1-11), thus qualifying to be EARTH'S KING and to set up the KINGDOM OF GOD!

Then He called and chose His disciples, later to become His original apostles, to carry the message of the KINGDOM OF GOD to the world. This is the message of the WAY OF LIFE of that Kingdom—based on the Ten Commandments!

He proclaimed the GOOD NEWS of the future KINGDOM OF GOD to thousands—though He did not come, some 1900 years ago, on a “soul-saving crusade.”

Then, although sinless Himself, He was crucified so that His shed lifeblood would pay the death penalty for a repentant and believing humanity.

After three days and three nights in the tomb, He was resurrected by God the Father. And thus was He BORN by a resurrection as a Son of God—as the pioneer, the firstborn (to immortality) of many brethren (Rom. 8:29, Heb. 2:9-10).

Then, having for 3½ years taught and trained His apostles in the truth, He SENT THEM (the word “apostle” means “one sent forth”) to proclaim this GOOD NEWS of the future KINGDOM OF GOD!

However, before sending forth the apostles with this message, he ascended to heaven to be seated at the right hand of God, on His Father's throne over the entire UNIVERSE.

Christ, in His resurrected state, had spent some 40 days on earth with His apostles. On the annual day of Pentecost, some ten days after His ascension, He sent from heaven His Holy Spirit to enter into the 120 disciples (Acts 1:15) who had followed Him and believed—thus founding the CHURCH OF GOD (Acts 2). That same day about 3,000 were baptized and added to the 120 (Acts 2:41).

True Gospel Suppressed

Almost immediately a great persecution was aroused against the Church and the gospel message (Acts 8:1). The apostle Paul was converted and made the chief apostle to the Gentiles.

The Church had been founded on the day of Pentecost, June A.D. 31. But by A.D. 59 or 60 the opposition already had suppressed Christ's true gospel of the Kingdom. People had been turned to another gospel (Gal. 1:6).

It is difficult to believe, I know. But what the world *supposes*, falsely, is the “gospel of Jesus Christ” is not the gospel OF Christ—not the message He taught—but the message of un-called and deceived men ABOUT Christ—about the PERSON or the

Messenger. But the message God sent BY Christ as the divine Messenger they have not heard.

But, though Christ's gospel message was after a few years suppressed, the apostles went forth with that message—infused with dynamic POWER by the Holy Spirit. They, with the Church backing them with their prayers, encouragement and tithes, started out imbued with vitality and strength.

God's Church Endures Persecution

But it must be realized that the fierce persecution had a discouraging effect. One example of this—and of the primary function of the Church—is found in Acts, chapters 3 and 4. For healing a cripple and preaching to the crowd the miracle attracted, the apostles Peter and John were thrown overnight in prison and severely threatened.

But these apostles went immediately to the Church brethren for encouragement. They prayed fervently, asking God to grant divine power that the gospel might continue to go out. Result? “And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they [the apostles] spake the word of God with boldness” (Acts 4:31).

However, as the persecution intensified—and as the true gospel message was suppressed by the power of the Roman government and the false church started in A.D. 33 by Simon the sorcerer (Acts 8:9-24)—the work of proclaiming the true gospel had to go underground. It was no longer proclaimed to the world. The work of the Church had ebbed through the centuries to a mere trickle.

But Christ had said the gates of the grave would not prevail against His Church. It continued, often an underground Church meeting in secret, through every generation. By the beginning of the twentieth century that vital power which had worked dynamically in Christ and the original apostles had waned, until, in Christ's prophecy of Revelation 3:1-6, they had “a name that they lived”—the Church of God—“but were dead” spiritually, and they lacked the vitality to go forth with Christ's message! A number of small isolated groups in Chile, Argentina, Mexico, and Central America, as well as in the United States, were still kept in the NAME Church of God.

New Leadership and Vitality Infused

In 1927 the United States members consisted of very small local groups of from five to one hundred.

At that time Christ raised up a new leader imbued with God's Spirit, vitality, inspired UNDERSTANDING and perseverance—Herbert W. Armstrong.

He had been a successful businessman in the advertising, newspaper and magazine field.

In the fall of 1926 he was shaken by two emotion-stirring challenges—one on the validity of God's spiritual law, the Ten Commandments; the second on the theory of evolution—then rapidly gaining complete acceptance by higher education.

Mr. Armstrong was somewhat familiar with the evolutionary doctrine, but he had not pursued an intensive in-depth study and research into the question. He delved immediately into the writings of Darwin, Haeckel, Huxley, Spencer, Vogt and other advocates of the hypothesis. He PROVED, to his own satisfaction, the falsity of the theory.

He had believed, in common with the Protestant teaching in which he had been reared, that God's spiritual law had been abrogated by Christ and the early apostles.

"All these churches," he had argued with his wife, "can't be wrong—and they teach the abrogation of God's law." But to his utter amazement and chagrin, Herbert Armstrong began to learn that "all these churches" indeed *were* in error! "Why," he exclaimed on his first real examination of the Bible, "the churches of organized traditional Christianity are teaching the diametric opposite of what I see plainly in the Bible!"

His intensive almost night-and-day study, although frustrating at the time, swept his mind clean of teachings from his Sunday school and church upbringing! God caused him to now seriously and earnestly study the Bible AFRESH—as if he had never allowed previous teachings to have a place in his mind. No world religious leader, in all probability, has ever been brought to revealed TRUTH in this unprejudiced manner.

The experience of the apostle Paul seemed to parallel his own. Mr. Armstrong later wrote: "But I certify to you, brethren, that the gospel preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, nor was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ. . . . But when it pleased God . . . to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him to the world, I conferred not with flesh and blood [humans], neither went I to any theological seminary, but, as the original apostles and Paul were taught by CHRIST IN PERSON, so was I taught by the SAME CHRIST, through His WRITTEN WORD" (cf. Gal. 1:11, 15-17).

“But,” Mr. Armstrong said at the time, “IF all these churches ARE wrong—and IF, as Jesus said, His Church would never die but continue to exist—where is the one true Church today?”

Mr. Armstrong and his wife began fellowshipping with people of the Church of God in the Willamette Valley and Oregon City, in Oregon. They were living then in Portland. These humble but sincere people, it soon became clear, had MORE BIBLICAL TRUTH than any other church—though they constituted one of the smallest and most scattered churches. But until the summer of 1928 he had refused to speak before these small local church groups, because he felt the ministry was a profession no man ought to choose himself. Finally he was virtually drafted into doing so.

Realizing that he had the training and unusual experience in the business world, the education, the know-how, the vision, the initiative and experience in utilizing modern methods necessary to get the Work of God going out in a complex modern world, they looked more and more to Mr. Armstrong for leadership. And finally it became evident to all that the call to the ministry was genuinely from God, and not a self-imposed one. In June 1931, Mr. Armstrong was ordained by the Oregon Conference and entered the Work of God full time.

New Era—New Life

It was under his leadership that a new era of the Church of God was begun. The Church was revitalized and injected with new life and vigor by the Spirit of God, so that Christ's gospel—His ORIGINAL MESSAGE—could go out in power to the whole world. Much more than human experience and know-how was required. Once again God was sending forth and infusing into His Church His Spirit of POWER.

The time had come for the final message of God for this present world to go out with great impact. The time had come for God's Work to prepare the way for the soon-coming wonderful WORLD TOMORROW—the time when, by act of God, His government will be restored on earth. It will be a world of PEACE, of HAPPINESS, of JOY, with abundance and plenty, under the worldwide government of the great God through the living Jesus Christ!

In the summer and autumn of 1933, Mr. Armstrong gave a series of lectures in and around Eugene, Oregon, on the original gospel message taught by Christ which produces peace, true

success, and real happiness. The response was spontaneous and beyond expectation. An invitation followed to speak on radio station KORE, then Eugene's only radio outlet. Frank Hill, owner, suggested a weekly half-hour program to give this missing dimension in God's TRUTH exposure to a wider audience. He, himself, contributed substantially to its cost.

Phenomenal Growth

God now began opening doors for a Spirit-empowered Work to leap forth (Rev. 3:7-8). The Work from this point grew in power and scope at the rate of 30 percent a year over the next 35 years.

The first week in 1934, *The World Tomorrow* program went on the air. It met with an immediate response, considering the small power and limited coverage of the station. KORE was then of the very smallest wattage for commercial broadcasting—100 watts. Gradually the program went on more and more stations. By 1942 the program had gained national coverage in the United States, and by 1945 it became a daily program.

Finally, the broadcast had the largest wattage of any radio program worldwide—more than 50 million watts of power weekly—reaching an estimated 100 million listeners, besides many additional millions reached by other media.

On February 1, 1934, *The Plain Truth* magazine made its most humble bow. That Volume I, Number 1 had a circulation of approximately 250 copies. *The Plain Truth* was offered radio listeners gratis, but subscriptions were entered only on personal request. It has never been our policy to put a price on the magazine, nor to request financial support in its columns or on the air.

Today *The Plain Truth* is one of the finest quality magazines in the world, but it still contains the same vital message, and it is still offered free of charge.

Why a College?

As the Church and its work expanded, the establishment of a college became imperative. There were a number of reasons for this.

The Church of God had never been a proselyting church. Jesus Christ set the example. He *never* urged people to "get saved" or "be converted." When the woman at Jacob's well in Samaria asked Him to give her of God's Spirit, which He had

referred to as “living water,” He made no effort to convert her.

He did proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God, saying, “Repent ye, and believe the gospel” (Mark 1:15). He chose His disciples and simply said, “Follow me.” They followed unquestioningly. He made no emotional appeals for converts. He made no pleading “altar calls” accompanied by sentimental hymns. Nor did the apostles. The Church of God follows the example they set.

Therefore it has no evangelistic program or missionary activities in the modern sense of the words. Instead, its commission is to proclaim the good news of the coming Kingdom of God—*not* to convert the world, but merely “as a witness” to all nations.

This is actually an EDUCATIONAL message of the WAY OF LIFE to be lived in the Kingdom of God—THE WAY that leads to success, to peace, happiness, to the full, enjoyable, abundant life. It involves the KNOWLEDGE of the PURPOSE of human life on this planet—the real meaning of life; the knowledge of the TRUE VALUES in a world pursuing the false; the knowledge of what man is, why he is, and the WAY to his transcendent potential.

This is not a sentimental, emotional message *about* Christ as a Person—it is *not* a message of pleading with people to “give their hearts to the Lord”—but a message showing people what they need to turn from and teaching them THE WAY that will CAUSE the results they really want—here and now, as well as throughout eternity.

An adjunct of the Church’s commission is to feed those who do become converted—converted means “changed to a different attitude and way made possible by receiving God’s Spirit”—to feed them the spiritual food of practical commonsense Christian LIVING by God’s WAY OF LIFE.

Ambassador College Founded

Therefore the Church of God found the establishment of an educational institution imperative. It was needed to provide an educated ministry. It was needed to provide trained personnel for administrative needs in God’s Work of proclaiming this good news worldwide—by radio, by television, in print.

Pasadena, California, was chosen as the locale for the college. Ambassador College swung open its doors to students October 8, 1947. It was separately incorporated in 1951.

Since the commission of the Church is actually an educational—not an evangelistic—one, this entire operation became for some years the activity of Ambassador College. Therefore Ambassador College has remained Church associated. It is largely Church financed. The Church of God has always been a tithe-paying church. It knows God has promised, scripturally, to prosper the tithe-payer. This practice has caused members to be more careful in budgeting personal finances. These members have prospered financially and, consequently, so has the Church.

Nonproselyting, Nonpolitical, Nonmilitant

As stated above, the Church of God from A.D. 31 has been nonproselyting and entirely noncompetitive, in accordance with biblical principles. In no sense is it militant, nor has it ever participated in any agitating movement to bring about any objectives by action. It participates in no group or mass action, political or otherwise. The Church of God, in all its history, has had only an attitude of love for all races and peoples, regardless of color, creed, or nationality.

Always its teaching has been submission to whatever AUTHORITY is over one—whether human government or the authority of God. But where there is conflict, we must obey God while being subject to penalties (Acts 5:29).

The Worldwide Church of God, while not activist or militant, does nevertheless believe in and offers practical *solutions* to the many human problems.

Through its continued teaching over radio, television, and in its magazines and special booklets, it has profound impact upon society in many ways.

More than a million people have received our booklet concerning crime, its causes, and how people can protect themselves, their children, and their property from criminals.

Millions have experienced changes in their marital lives through our broadcasts and through reading the instructional booklets and magazine articles they have received. From New Zealand to Africa, and from the Swiss Alps to Puget Sound, tens of thousands write of the deep and far-reaching changes effected in their homes and families through a better understanding of God-revealed *ways* of right, clean, wholesome living.

Tens of thousands write of their newfound ability to properly rear their children; of the immediate rewards in greater love

and obedience shown them by their children after they have read and applied the information they have requested.

Millions of Lives Changed

Millions have read literature which changed their personal lives in many constructive, useful ways. The television and radio broadcasts and booklets about pollution, famine, the population explosion, and the space race deal with big, worldwide issues. And our literature about drugs, alcohol, marriage, managing personal finances and the laws of success deals with daily, practical, personal information that literally *changes lives*.

The members of the Worldwide Church of God are so genuinely concerned for OTHERS, and with the problems of the world at large, that they GIVE of their own substance to aid in this worldwide effort to APPLY THE SOLUTIONS to the problems suffered in common by all mankind.

The divine commission to the Worldwide Church of God is to proclaim the coming world of peace under the soon-coming divine Messiah. The Church is merely in the role of a reporter, reporting prophecies as ADVANCE NEWS REPORTS.

It is giving hopeless nations with their masses the ONLY hope for the future—the hope never heard in those nations before.

And THAT is the Worldwide Church of God!

If You'd Like to Know More

Many hundreds have written asking if we have representatives in their local areas to counsel with them personally and to answer their questions.

The answer is yes, we do.

The Worldwide Church of God stations personal representatives (most are ordained ministers) in the United States and many other areas of the world. These local ministers will visit you, if invited, directly in your own home.

So if you have spiritual matters to discuss or questions to ask about biblical topics such as repentance, baptism, etc., please feel free to write us and request a private appointment. Worldwide mailing addresses are as follows:

- United States: P.O. Box 111, Pasadena, California 91123 (Or simply dial this toll-free number in the *continental* U.S.: 1-800-423-4444. Readers in California, Alaska and Hawaii may call 213-577-5225 collect.)
- United Kingdom, Europe, India, Africa and the West Indies: P. O. Box 111, St. Albans, Herts., England (Or dial this number in the U.K.: Radlett [092 76] 2670.)
- Australia: P. O. Box 202, Burleigh Heads, Queensland 4220 (Or dial this number: 075-35-4233—reverse the charges.)
- Canada: P.O. Box 44, Station A, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2M2
- South Africa: P.O. Box 1060, Johannesburg 2000 (Or dial this number: 011-216406.)

Other areas of the world should check at the end of this booklet for the address of our office nearest you.

THIS UNIQUE COURSE MAKES THE BIBLE LIVE!



TWELVE EASY STEPS TO

The Ambassador College Correspondence Course is *unique*. It makes the Bible relevant and meaningful to today's world conditions. Life's most important questions are researched as you are directed, step-by-step, to the clear answers *in your own Bible!*

The Correspondence Course covers such vital subjects as:

- Why study the Bible in the space age?
- Why were you born? Just what is man?
- What is death? What is "Hell"?
- What is "Armageddon" — and the "Four Horsemen"?
- What happens *after* "Armageddon"?

And much more is laid out in step-by-step detail.

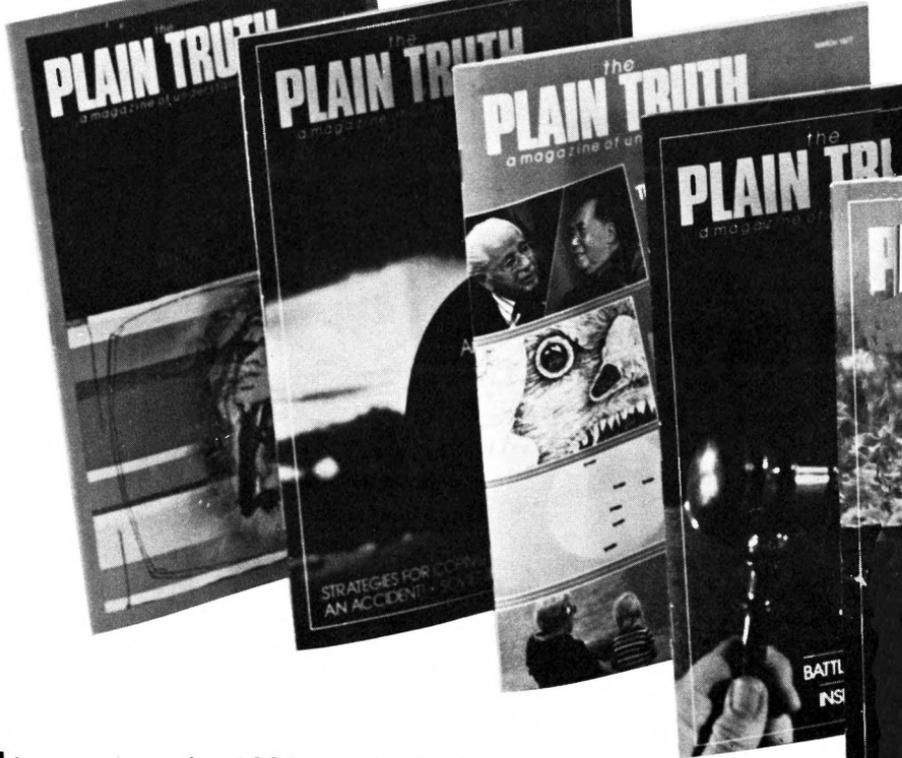


BIBLE UNDERSTANDING

You'll find these lessons stirring, sparkling with interest. Many of our students have written to tell us it was difficult to pull away from this course, once started. You can be richly rewarded by these lessons. They lead to a study that is surprising, exciting.

There are no tests to return. *You* evaluate your own progress. And there is absolutely no tuition, no obligation on your part.

For all twelve, 16-page, monthly lessons, just write to *Correspondence Course* in care of our office nearest you. Lessons are also available in the French, German, Dutch, Spanish, Italian, Danish, and Afrikaans languages. (See last page of booklet for addresses.) Send for it today. You'll be glad you did!



It was true in 1934, and it's true now. When you read *The Plain Truth*, you're getting a look at tomorrow's headlines *today*. For example: even before the dust had settled after World War II, *The Plain Truth* predicted the rapid recovery of Germany and Japan. The coming economic (and eventual political) unification of Europe was foreseen, as was the emergence of the Middle East as the hub of a giant world power struggle. Today's upset weather patterns, food and energy shortages, worldwide racial and religious strife—all were foretold years ago. Now these things are happening, and *The Plain Truth* is pointing out solutions to world problems. *Where else* can you read tomorrow's headlines today?

the
PLAIN TRUTH
After 45 years,



still ahead of its time!

Why were you born?

"I will say that any man must indeed have a blind soul who cannot see that some great purpose and design is being worked out here below."

—Winston Churchill

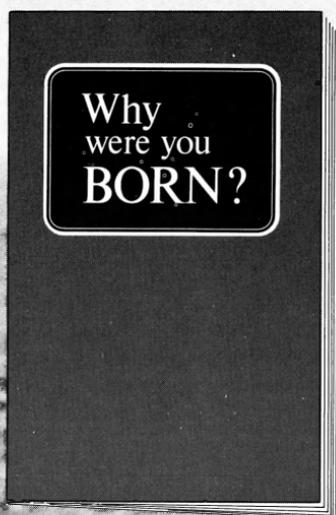
To the United States Congress
December 26, 1941



Churchill understood that man's blood, sweat and tears are not spent in vain. Life was not intended to be an exercise in futility, but rather a meaningful and fulfilling experience.

From birth, every human being possesses an incredible potential that few develop, or are even aware of. There seems to be no consensus of what man is or why he exists, if there is a reason at all. There *is* a purpose to life that science has not discovered and religion has not explained. There are universal goals that lead to abundant living and happiness in a frustrating world.

You can receive your free copy of *Why Were You Born?* by mailing your request to our office nearest you. See the last page of this booklet for our mailing address nearest you.



This Is the Worldwide Church of God

MAILING ADDRESSES WORLDWIDE

United States: P. O. Box 111, Pasadena, California 91123

Canada: P. O. Box 44, Station A, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2M2

Canada (French language): B.P. 121, Succ. A, Montreal, P.Q. H3C 1C5

Mexico: Institución Ambassador, Apartado Postal 5-595, México 5, D. F.

South America: Institución Ambassador, Apartado Aéreo 11430, Bogotá 1, D.E., Colombia

West Indies: G. P. O. Box 6063, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936

United Kingdom, Europe and the Middle East: P. O. Box 111, St. Albans, Herts, England

France, Switzerland and Belgium: Le Monde A Venir, Case Postale 10, 91 rue de la Servette, 1211 Geneva 7, Switzerland

Germany: 5300 Bonn 1, Postfach 39, West Germany

Holland and Belgium: Postbus 333, Utrecht, Nederland

Denmark: Box 211, DK-8100 Arhus C

Norway: Box 2513 Solli, Oslo 2

Sweden: Box 5380, S-102 46 Stockholm

Australia: P. O. Box 202, Burleigh Heads, Queensland 4220

New Zealand and Pacific Isles: P. O. Box 2709, Auckland 1, New Zealand

The Philippines: P. O. Box 2603, Manila 2801

Israel: P. O. Box 19111, Jerusalem

South Africa: P. O. Box 1060, Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa 2000

Rhodesia: Box UA30, Union Ave., Salisbury

Nigeria: PMB 1006, 35 Akinola Cole Crescent, Ikeja, Lagos State

Ghana: P. O. Box 9617, Kotoka International Airport, Accra

Kenya: P. O. Box 47135, Nairobi

Mauritius and Seychelles: P. O. Box 888, Port Louis, Mauritius

THIS BOOKLET IS PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE BY THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

It is made possible by the voluntary, freely given tithes and offerings of the membership of the Church and others who have elected to support the work of the Church. Contributions are welcomed and gratefully accepted. Those who wish to voluntarily aid and support this worldwide Work of God are gladly welcomed as co-workers in this major effort to preach the gospel to all nations.

