

Volunteer fund-raising projects stimulate involvement in Work

by RICHARD RICE

PASADENA — The members of the Church have always been eager to become more personally involved in the Work. And many have done just that during the last year through volunteer church projects.

Members and teen-agers have spontaneously engaged in almost every type of activity to raise contributions. Projects include garage sales, bake sales, cutting

accomplished.

It enabled the Ambassador College Press to buy enough paper and ink to print 90,239 additional *Plain Truth* magazines or 235,562 additional copies of the *Correspondence Course*.

Since each magazine is read by an average of four people, 360,956 individuals read those 90,239 magazines.

But remember, these figures span only three months! When

are giving thousands of new individuals exposure to the truth of God.

Did you know that our ancient ancestors showed a similar attitude when they were given the opportunity to help build the Tabernacle in the wilderness?

God had given the Israelites detailed instructions for the Tabernacle and its furnishings (Exodus 25-30). Craftsmen had even been chosen to do the work (Exodus 31).

But God had not supplied the materials needed for construction.

In Exodus 35, God outlined a two-part plan to fulfill that need:

- God asked all who were of a willing heart to make direct contributions (Exodus 35:5-9). In this regard we today donate our tithes and offerings.

- God also asked the Israelites to donate their time in helping to construct the Tabernacle (Exodus 35:10-19). They were to use their talents and abilities to produce what was needed for His Work at that time.

This did not require individuals taking money from their own pockets but something they con-



pulpwood or firewood, mowing lawns, tilling gardens, washing cars, selling quilts, ironing, making and selling dresses, picking fruit, cleaning houses, baby-sitting, selling old furniture, etc.

The money contributed to the Work from this effort is no small sum.

During the three-month period of December, 1972, through February, 1973, local congregations earned and sent to headquarters \$4,746.59.

From the aspect of printing, here's what that \$4,746.59 has

we consider an entire year, the Work has received enough money from these projects (\$18,986.36) to buy paper for 360,956 magazines and has enabled nearly a million new people to read *The Plain Truth* for the first time (942,238 to be exact!).

In other words, those seemingly indispensable items you may have contributed to the church garage sale (a rusty old bicycle, aging appliances, dishes, stack of warped records, jewelry, cameras, used clothing, pictures)

Unusual Passover service held inside prison walls

Editor's note: The following is an account from Mr. Judd Kirk and Mr. Steve Nutzman, ministers in the Detroit, Mich., area, of a very interesting and very unusual baptism and Passover service that recently took place in the Detroit West church.

by JUDD KIRK and STEVE NUTZMAN

DETROIT, Mich. — Our first visit with Jack Walker was last fall, right before the Feast of Tabernacles.

Jack seemed to be a strong prospective member, yet one factor set him apart from other P.M.s. Jack has been a prisoner at Jackson State Prison for almost six years!

It was quite an experience to talk to him about why he was

tributed by working on specific areas or aspects of the Tabernacle.

In principle, in going above and beyond the call of duty, many in the Church are doing the same thing today.

We at headquarters want to thank all of you very much for your splendid efforts through the months. God is aware of the extra sacrifice and dedication you have given for His Work and is well pleased.

Women raise money for Work

HOUSTON, Tex. — Ladies in the Houston, Tex., churches recently held bake and art sales at three shopping centers in the area as a special fund-raising campaign to send money to the brethren in the Philippines.

"This is something done when there is a special need," stated Mrs. Glenda Machin, a member in the area. A similar sale was held a few years ago when there was a financial crisis in the Work.

The sales, organized by Mrs. Gary Barron, a former commercial artist, were held over a period of three weeks in various sections of Houston so more ladies could participate.

According to Mrs. Machin, the proceeds have not been totaled, but the first sale brought in "well over \$100."

there, how he got interested in the truth (he first heard Mr. Armstrong on the radio in the late '30s; then a fellow prisoner reintroduced him to the truth in 1968), and it was obvious to see that he sincerely was sorry for the crime he had committed and now wanted to live according to God's laws.

On subsequent visits, we answered his many questions about church doctrines and baptism. There was no doubt about it, Jack was ready for baptism.

But would it be possible to baptize him while in prison?

Other prisoners could be sprinkled into a Protestant church by the prison chaplain, but would one of God's ministers be allowed to immerse him completely into a tank of water inside the prison walls?

We wrote a letter to the prison chaplain explaining the situation, asking him to take into consideration Mr. Walker's extreme sincerity and the importance of the matter.

Thankfully, the chaplain wrote back saying Jack could be baptized the very next Sabbath! This was extremely encouraging for us all and certainly an answer to prayer.

That Sabbath the chaplain helped out tremendously as he made all the necessary arrangements for the baptism.

Jack was baptized in an old bathtub (filled with cold water, much to his surprise) located in the laundry room of the psychiatric ward!

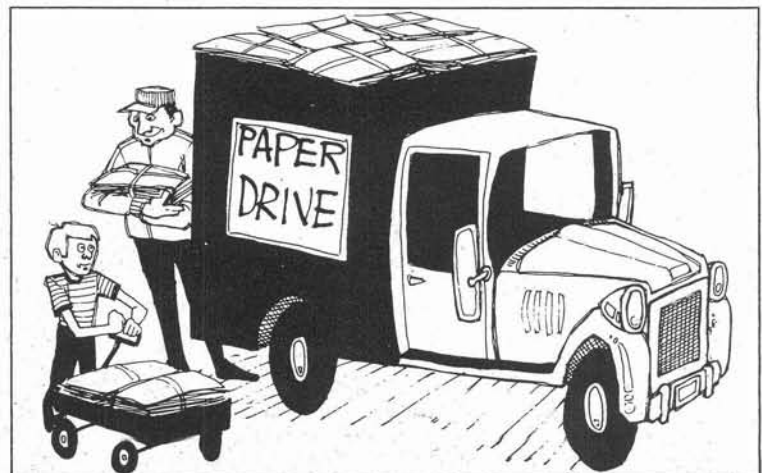
So, as strange a situation as it was, God honored this baptism and Jack found himself overjoyed with the thought of having the heavy burden of his earthly crime and sins forgiven.

Jack realized, of course, he was still a ward of the state and as such would continue serving his prison term for years to come.

He has mentioned, though, there is the possibility his sentence could be reduced, and in a year or two he could be released.

We certainly pray this will be the case.

Before leaving the prison, we (See BAPTIZING, page 7)



Canada releases campaign reports from Toronto

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — The following is an update on the aftermath of the campaign held by Mr. Ron Dart in Toronto April 21 and 22.

As of May 7, there have been 26 calls from those who attended, plus two letters. Most were interested in the Work and in coming to the follow-up study.

Thirteen showed up for the first one, which was combined with our regular one, so many brethren were there as well.

Several new prospective members recently visited said they would have come to the campaigns had they known about it in advance and if it had not been on a holiday weekend.

Five or six new people attended the Sabbath services. Some were reluctant to give their names to us, so we don't know for sure how many came from the campaign or from the ad in the newspaper.

We placed business cards of Mr. Harry Walker and Mr. Gary Antion in the hands of approximately 1,500 new people. This was done through having our cards stapled into the programs.

This means they have access to us when they choose, so calls will probably trickle in for some time in the future.

The following letters were received as a result of the campaign:

Dear Sir:
This is to inform you how much I appreciated the invitation to see Mr. Ronald L. Dart at the Four Seasons Sheraton Hotel on the 21st and 22nd of April.

I was very pleased to meet the Church of God people in person. And I enjoyed the stimulating speech on world problems by Mr. Dart.

This also gave me the opportunity to meet people of similar interest here. And should the need arise to use the services offered here, I have no excuse.

F.E. Hamilton
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Mr. Armstrong:
... I must tell you about Mr. Ronald Dart's visit to Toronto and what happened to me.

I was astonished to see all those people at the meeting who had come from far and wide to hear Mr. Dart speak. I always felt so alone, thinking you only sent out literature, such as *The Plain Truth*, but now I've managed to locate your church here in Toronto and will also attend Bible-study sessions to help me fully understand to read my Bible.

Suddenly life is much more meaningful, and I feel I am going to make a lot of friends who share my religious beliefs.

Mr. Dart was an excellent speaker and I feel sure that if there were any nonbelievers in his audience he has really given them something to think about.

Marie T. Green
Scarborough, Ontario

Dear Mr. Armstrong:
... On Sunday, April 22, I attended the public rally at the Four Seasons Sheraton Hotel featuring Mr. Ronald Dart.

I found his lecture well done and telling like it is in the world without using any gimmicks.

I have attended various "evangelistic crusades" in the past, but I must say that Mr. Ronald Dart's lecture is the best I ever heard.

Willem Leegsma
Malton, Ontario



BACK FROM OVERSEAS — Mr. Dibar Apartian, head of the French Department, is shown above after recently returning from a visit to the French-speaking churches during the Days of Unleavened Bread. [Photo by Art Allender]

French Department director reports progress overseas

by MARC A. FLYNN
PASADENA — Mr. Dibar Apartian, director of the French Department, recently returned to Pasadena after he spent the Feast of Unleavened Bread overseas.

He brought good news of progress in the French churches and the French Work with him.

The first half of the Feast he spent in Geneva, where 107 brethren attended services on the first Holy Day.

It was the first time the Passover was observed in five French-speaking cities: Geneva, Montreal, Brussels, Fort-de-France and Paris.

During his stay at Geneva, Mr. Apartian went to Praz-sur-Arly, the site of the French Feast of Tabernacles, nestled cozily in the French Alps.

While there, he made the necessary arrangements for the 1973 French Feast, which an estimated 650 will attend.

In 1972, 60 brethren from Quebec, Canada, attended the Feast in France, but this year the French-speaking people in Quebec will have their own Feast site, where approximately 250 persons will attend.

While Mr. Apartian was in Geneva, he decided that Mr.

Colin Wilkins, manager of the Geneva office, would return to Pasadena in August for a year to take classes and work more closely with Mr. Apartian.

In his absence, Mr. Bernard Andrist will direct the affairs in the French office.

This shift in manpower will call for the occasional aid of Mr.

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Spanish head finds church in jungles of Guatemala

by MARIO SEIGLIE
PASADENA — After being baked in the scorching sun of the Guatemalan jungle for several days, Dr. Charles V. Dorothy, director of the Spanish Department, emerged glowing like Stanley, the famous African explorer.

For he too had found his Dr. Livingston. In this case it was a congregation of the Church of God, Seventh Day, founded in the late 1920s.

The excursion began when their local minister, Gamaliel Galdamez, asked Dr. Dorothy to assist in the services of the Spring Festival for the 60-member congregation.



JUNGLE EXPERIENCES — Dr. Charles Dorothy, head of the Spanish Department, recently returned from the jungles of Guatemala with glowing reports of the brethren down there. [Photo by Art Allender]

Baptizing prisoner

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wanted to see if there was any way at all for Jack to take the Passover by himself, which was just eight days away.

This presented quite a problem for several reasons.

First, no alcohol is permitted in the prison (not even in minute amounts) and no gifts (including unleavened bread) can be given to the prisoners except during the Christmas season.

So when we asked the chaplain about the Passover, we hoped somehow they would approve Jack taking the Passover by himself, if prison rules allowed it, that is.

His reply astounded us both. He said Jack *could not* take the Passover by himself. But if one of us wanted to come out and take it with him, then that would be fine with the prison and himself!

This really bowled us over as we never expected to be allowed actually to come out and take the full Passover service with him!

But this door was dramatically opened to us, and all the prison guards proved to be very helpful in arranging a private room for us and taking care of the necessary security procedures the evening of the Passover.

It was a tremendously moving experience to be with Jack the

night of the Passover.

We found ourselves in an office room with a guard waiting outside the door (for security reasons) surrounded by thousands of prisoners in countless prison cells.

Yet, even in this type of circumstance, we were able to partake of the Passover in privacy and with much feeling.

Carefully, the tissue paper was removed from the unleavened bread and wine poured from a pill bottle into paper cups. A nearby drinking fountain supplied ample water to fill a wash basin the guards allowed to be taken into the room.

During the service we realized how thankful we could be for what this ceremony pictured, and to understand that someday all those in the prison cells could come to realize the meaning of the Passover for themselves.

Afterwards, Jack couldn't get over the fact that tens of thousands of brethren around the world were observing this same Passover and how he longed to be with them someday, under much better circumstances.

We're certainly praying that proper legal action can be taken soon in order that Jack can be set free, as it is less than ideal, to say the least, to be a Christian while in prison.

Because of his unusual circumstances, Jack deeply realizes that God has opened his mind to the truth and forgiven him of his earthly and spiritual crimes. Jack now looks very thankfully to his future in the Work and in the Millennium.

What an encouragement for those of us who are really free on this earth to see this man's very optimistic and positive attitude in spite of his seemingly difficult situation.

Yet, how many of us would tend to get discouraged if faced with his problems?

For instance, he has no privacy during the day, and if he is going to pray on his knees, he must wait until "lights out" to do so.

Also, could you and I face the future and continue to grow, knowing that it might be years before we set foot outside the prison walls as a free man?

Yet, he must continue to keep his record spotless if he is to have parole possibilities in the future.

This means living an orderly, disciplined and productive life, day after day after day.

So Jack now finds himself a Christian behind prison bars. Instead of focusing on his plight and problems, though, he continually counts his blessings (of being a begotten son of God, of having good health, of realizing that thousands around the world are paving the way for Christ's return, and of contributing his part in the Work).

He just doesn't let his difficulties blind him of his God-given blessings.

Jack has been a definite inspiration to those of us in the Detroit churches, and his life has made us realize even more that God can call anyone on this earth, no matter where he is or what his circumstances may be.

Yet they were willing to share freely whatever they had with our men.

Services were held in a thatched pavilion with the only cement floor in the village —

(See SPANISH, page 11)