

SPECIAL LETTERS

GOD  
STILL WORKS MIRACLES  
TODAY

Mail Processing Center

— 1982 —

## INTRODUCTION

Each day the Mail Processing Center receives thousands of letters from people of all walks of life. A number of these bear striking testimony to the fact that God still works miracles much like the ones we read of in the Bible. Many are from members, some are from others God may be calling into His Church. These letters describe incredible incidents of God's hand in the lives of those who put their faith and trust in Him.

We have selected 136 of the most inspiring accounts. They have been grouped into 12 special categories for easy reference, as shown in the Table of Contents.

We believe you will be very much inspired by these recorded experiences and will find them helpful in preparing sermons and Bible studies, as well as in offering encouragement to others when counseling.

God is indeed the same yesterday, today and forever. These letters make it plain that He is a loving, merciful and caring God who still works miracles today.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	i
 <u>FIRST CONTACT WITH GOD'S WORK</u>	
PT Found After Long Search and Prayer . . . . .	1
Found PT Lying on the Street . . . . .	2
PT at a Mining Site . . . . .	2
PT Discovered in Waste Bin . . . . .	3
Found PT in Public Laundry . . . . .	4
Found PT in Her Mailbox--Now Hungry for Truth . .	5
Found Coupon for Bible Course on the Street . . .	6
Autobiography Found at Dump Site . . . . .	6
Booklet Offered on Back of Receipt . . . . .	7
Found Last Page of Booklet . . . . .	7
Found Booklet in Water- Filled Trunk of a Car Wreck . . . . .	8
Telecast Viewed by Chance . . . . .	9
Police Officer Tunes in to Broadcast . . . . .	9
Broadcast Reaches Prisoner . . . . .	10
"The Kids Caused It" . . . . .	10
Grandmother's Request Fulfilled After 31 years. .	11
 <u>CHANGED LIVES</u>	
War Veteran's Outlook on Life Changing . . . . .	12
Turning from Satan's Way to God's as a Result of Mr. Armstrong's Preaching . . . .	13
God Becomes Father to a Suicide Case . . . . .	14
From Hellish Existence to an Abundant Life . . .	15
God Turns around Life of Embittered, Guilt-Ridden Woman . . . . .	16
From Near Suicide to a Life of Fulfillment . . .	17
Husband Changing as a Result of God's Calling . .	19

COMING TO CONVERSION

Mr. Armstrong's Book Opened Eyes to Truth . . . .	20
God's Calling Brings Hunger and Thirst for Understanding . . . . .	21
Still Proving All Things and Overcoming Doubts. .	22
First Day in Church . . . . .	23
Found Members to Be a Rare Breed . . . . .	24
Thrilled to Find True Church After Years of Search . . . . .	25
No Religion Comparable to God's True Church . . .	26
Couple Excited About and Grateful for God's Calling . . . . .	27
New Member--After 21 Years of Contact with God's Work . . . . .	28
Ex-Paratrooper Finds Christian Life More Exciting Than First Airplane Jump . . . . .	29
Recently Baptized Member Sees God's Hand in His Life . . . . .	30
God's Church Fulfills Desire from Childhood . . .	31
God's Calling Brings Happiness and Prosperity . .	32

GOD GUIDES AND PROVIDES

God's Perfect Timing in Working Out Circumstances . . . . .	33
God Removed Obstacles That Stood in Way to Marriage . . . . .	35
Member's Children Receive Favor at School . . . .	36
Trust and Obedience Lead to a Perfect House Plus Financial Blessings . . . . .	37
God Provides for Family's Needs Through a Large Tax Refund . . . . .	38
Long Term Unemployment--Yet God Provided for Needs . . . . .	39
A Job Just When Needed . . . . .	40
God Provided Blueberries as a Future Source of Income . . . . .	41

ANSWERED PRAYERS

Help Arrives for Stranded Mother and Child . . .	42
Fatherless Family Receives Needed Financial Help . . . . .	43
God Provided Needed Finances As Well As Opportunity to Serve in the Work . . . . .	44
House Miraculously Spared from Hurricane . . . .	45
Lost Key Floats on Water . . . . .	46
Family Pet Found . . . . .	47
Selfish Husband Makes Remarkable Change for the Better . . . . .	48
Husband Agrees to Resume Tithing . . . . .	49
Divided Family Reunited . . . . .	50
Faulty Microwave Transmission Quickly Restored Through Prayer . . . . .	51
Prayer Answered in Unexpected Way . . . . .	52

HEALING

Co-Worker Totally Healed of Bone Cancer . . . . .	53
Healed of Lung Cancer . . . . .	54
Cancerous Tumor Disappears . . . . .	55
Healed of Tumor on Eyelid . . . . .	56
Severe Stomach Problem Healed . . . . .	57
Teenager Gets to Know God Through Healing of Thyroid Condition . . . . .	58
Healed of Infection, Pneumonia and Stomach Blockage . . . . .	59
Eight Year Old Healed of Meningitis . . . . .	60
Pneumonia and Cirrhosis of Liver Healed . . . . .	61
Broken Neck Healed When Faith Put in God . . . .	62
Healed of Appendicitis--Learns Many Lessons . . .	63
Healed from Paralysis the Hour the Church Prayed . . . . .	64
Drowned Seven Year Old Brought Back to Life . . .	65
Crushed Fingers Healed . . . . .	66
Massive Injuries from Car Accident Healed . . . .	67
Girl Speedily Recovers from Sledding Accident . .	68

	Page
Severed Tendon Painlessly Healed . . . . .	69
Baby Conceived after Waiting 17 Years . . . . .	70
Baby Healed of Severe Deformities . . . . .	71
From 45% Hearing Loss to Perfect Hearing . . . . .	72

GOD'S PROTECTION

Children in Roll-Away Car Miraculously Protected . . . . .	73
Trapped under a Ton of Steel Sheets-- Yet Saved Alive! . . . . .	74
Widow's Life Spared in Armed Robbery . . . . .	75
Attacker Overpowered by Invisible Force . . . . .	76
Members Escape Moments Before Disaster . . . . .	77
Home Saved from Fire . . . . .	78
Angelic Protection While Driving . . . . .	79
Family Uninjured Despite Severe Accident . . . . .	80
God Protects Lives, Property and Reputation . . . . .	81

BLESSINGS

Prospective Member Blessed with Work, Friendship and Favors . . . . .	82
Many Blessings in Only a Few Months . . . . .	83
Life Turned Around in One Year Through Blessings . . . . .	84
Member Blessed Through Increasing Income . . . . .	85
Blessings Follow Two Robberies . . . . .	86
Blessings Come Automatically Through Giving! . . . . .	87
Man Blessed in Countless Physical and Spiritual Ways . . . . .	88
Spiritual Blessings after 10 Years as a Church Member . . . . .	89

TITHING BLESSINGS

Store Prospers as a Result of Faithful Tithing . . . . .	90
Garden Protected from Hail . . . . .	92
Despite Trials, God Proved a Faithful Business Partner . . . . .	93
List of Blessings Could Fill a Book . . . . .	94

	Page
Excellent New Job Provides for Financial Needs . . . . .	95
Blessed for Tithing Despite Hardships . . . . .	96
Blessing Follows Lesson in Patience . . . . .	97
Woman In Dire Financial Straits Claims God's Promise of Malachi 3:5 . . . . .	98
Co-Workers Learn They Cannot Afford Not to Tithe . . . . .	99
Co-Worker Celebrates Birthday Before Tithing--Blessings Withheld . . . . .	100

THIRD TITHE BLESSINGS

A Series of Miracles Leads to House Purchase . . . . .	101
Blessed with a Home and Furniture . . . . .	103
A Job Gained, A Job Lost--Just at the Right Time to Buy a New Home . . . . .	104
God Provides a Fridge and Stove and Teaches Spiritual Lessons . . . . .	105
Gifts of Freezer, China, Clothes, Farm Animals and More! . . . . .	106
Heart's Desires Fulfilled for Entire Family . . . . .	107
Travel and Other Blessings . . . . .	109
Blessings Include New Baby, Baby Supplies, Car and Much More . . . . .	110
Company and Family Blessed . . . . .	111
Blessed Beyond Belief in First Third Tithe Year . . . . .	112
Despite Financial Hardship, Family Is Unbelievably Blessed . . . . .	113
Stolen Valuables Recovered or Replaced . . . . .	114
Widow Grateful for Third Tithe Assistance . . . . .	115

TRIALS

Severe Trials During Festival Period Redirect Member to God . . . . .	116
Surgery Brought Her Closer to God . . . . .	117
God's Truth Helps Mother Face Daughter's Death . . . . .	118

	Page
Had Only God to Turn to After Husband's Death . . . . .	119
God Saw Them Through Health and Financial Trial . . . . .	120
God Strengthens PT Subscriber in Battle with Cancer . . . . .	121
Family Rejoices after a Seven-Year-Long Trial . .	122
Trial of Unemployment Teaches Gratitude . . . . .	124
An Uphill Struggle Toward a Better Life . . . . .	125
Young Teenager Wouldn't Compromise on God's Way Despite Persecution . . . . .	127
Problems Outnumbered by Blessings . . . . .	128

RETURNING TO CHURCH

Prodigal Son Returns . . . . .	129
Childhood Teaching Bears Fruit in Adult Life. . .	130
Left Church As a Result of Spiritual Weakness and Marriage Problems . . . . .	131
Dissidents Repent and Return . . . . .	132
Years Spent Outside God's Church Were the Worst in Her Life . . . . .	133
Imprisonment Leads to Repentance and Return . . .	134
New Love for Church Leads to Return . . . . .	135
Recovering from a Long Spiritual Illness . . . . .	136
Member Rejoices After Returning to Church . . . .	137
Regained First Love after Returning to Church . .	138

First Contact  
with God's Work

PT FOUND AFTER LONG SEARCH AND PRAYER

September 1, 1981

Dear PLAIN TRUTH:

We have searched for God's real truth for so very long. We (separately and now together) have tried organized religions, pentecostal and cult groups, drugs, alcohol, and many other people, places, and things in hopes of finding whatever that answer and truth is that can set a person free, truly free.

We and so many others have always come away from those experiences feeling even more lost, lonely, and confused...until these last six months.

There was nothing else to try, no one else to talk to, no place else to go. The proverbial bottom didn't just fall out from under each of us. We went so far down that even the bottom was above us!

Despite all the pain and sorrow that we had been living with, giving up without one last attempt seemed to be a terrible waste of living. So each of us, one at a time, found ourselves turning to Jesus in total blind faith without any outside help or interference. He listened to us and He truly loves even us, the least of His children....

I prayed and asked God to lead me to the truth--the plain truth. Later, I was walking by a shopping center and dropped my last penny. I bent over to pick it up and realized that if I needed it that badly, one of the old men on the bench might need it more. I felt foolish, so I straightened up and was about to turn away for good when your magazine all but jumped out and smacked me over the head. Those words--The PLAIN TRUTH--were exactly what I had asked God for....

PT FOUND AFTER LONG SEARCH AND PRAYER

Then and there, I knew that believing in God was the way to peace, love, and joy. I asked Him for the plain truth, and I sure got it!

I brought your magazine home and read it from cover to cover. Each page brought me more insight and understanding than I had ever known before in my life. I shared it with my roommates, and they were as delighted as I was to finally feel in touch with God and His Word. Reading the Bible every day is a joy now, and each new day brings more light and understanding into our lives.

God works in wondrous ways and He truly works through all you blessed people and your PLAIN TRUTH magazine.

With so much love  
and gratitude,

L. J.  
(Melbourne, FL)

FOUND PT LYING ON THE STREET

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Some months ago, I came across a copy of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine lying in the street. This was my first introduction to your Work. How it has helped me! Thank you for making your publications free. It helps me to believe, even more, that you are doing His Work.

R. J.  
(Grand Rapids, MI)

PT AT A MINING SITE

September, 1980

Dear Sir,

I have not been a magazine reader before. But I found a copy of The PLAIN TRUTH on a roadside one early morning. I read it and found what was going around. Our place here is mountainous because we are on a mining site. We are much behind any good or bad happenings all around and that is why I am interested to have every issue. I hope that I will be given a chance to subscribe.

R. R.  
(Philippines)



PT DISCOVERED IN WASTE BIN

January, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I recently came upon a PLAIN TRUTH magazine dated January 1979 thrown away in a waste bin. Although it was a year old, the message it contained wasn't in any way outdated. It was up-to-date, particularly for a young Papua New Guinean like me, who lives in a country where my traditional culture and beliefs are changing quite rapidly through modern civilization.

My idea of life, and outlook on life, changed considerably after reading your magazine. I have never seen such a magazine in all my life. I beg you, please enter my name on your mailing list.

J. S.  
(Port Moresby, Papua  
New Guinea)



FOUND PT IN PUBLIC LAUNDRY

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

We are social outcasts, alienated from the community mainstream and driven out of the ordinary churches for a number of reasons. A drunken father or husband, a convict relative, a prostitute daughter, a notorious son, a barroom mother, endless poverty, shame, humiliation.

Here in what is called the "Bible-Belt," the low-caste fundamentalist churches are the only ones which will let us in, usually grudgingly at that. Or, perhaps there are spouses at home, or parents, who make it too miserable for us to go to church. Everywhere we turn there is condemnation of one kind or another.

I was born a "nasty little no-good girl." I married a man who believes his manhood is proved by how often and how much he can browbeat women and children; it's his "divine right." I am the daughter-in-law of people who say all women (except their immediate family) are daughters of Eve and, therefore, evil.

It's much the same at church. The preachers seem to like nothing better than all the negative, condemning scriptures they can find, especially about women. The brain is scrambled; the heart is hurt; the spirit yearns for light, and somehow never seems to find it.

May God bless you in your work. I found your magazine lying in a laundry where others of my kind go often. I hope many of them read it.

Woman  
(Tulsa, OK)



FOUND PT IN HER MAILBOX--NOW HUNGRY FOR TRUTH

July 28, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Several years ago, as a drug-oriented teenager, I found in the mailbox a copy of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. I had not requested it, and, truthfully, had I known what it was I would never have read it. For some reason, I thought it to be some sort of a rebellion-oriented type of magazine and, therefore, read it cover to cover. In that particular issue you mentioned another publication entitled HIPPIES, HYPOCRISY AND HAPPINESS. Still convinced that somehow your literature was of the radical drug-oriented culture, I sent for that publication.

Needless to say, I was wrong. In the months that followed I received both your magazines and several of your booklets. After "kicking the habit," I put the information on the shelf, and really never thought much about it again.

Recently my husband and I became acquainted with people at work that are members of your church. Now we too are attending services at the local Worldwide Church of God. But I am hungry for as much information as possible, particularly your Bible Correspondence Course, and any information relating to the Holy Days.

I have recently heard that the holidays that are celebrated as religious by most of the U.S. population are not truly holy holidays but some sort of a false celebration. My main interest is in both Easter and Christmas, for these two holidays have always been an important part of my religious upbringing.

I am also enclosing a list of other publications that I would like to receive.... My deepest thanks and sincere prayer that you may continue to spread the word of the gospel through your ministry.

Thank you.

S. D.  
(Springfield, MO)



FOUND COUPON FOR BIBLE COURSE ON THE STREET

June, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I was glad when I received the Ambassador College Correspondence Course. I thought you would not respond to my request because I had only found the request coupon on the street. I am enjoying reading the lessons. This is only a start. Little by little the course is helping me to understand what really is the content of the Holy Bible and how it relates to us human beings.

D. Q.  
(Bayawan, Philippines)

AUTOBIOGRAPHY FOUND AT DUMP SITE!

October 9, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I am a 34-year-old divorced mother. I wanted you to know that I read your Autobiography and found it very interesting. I moved to Milton, Florida, in search of a place to live a decent life with my kids. My electric bill was extraordinarily high one month for some odd reason and I had to "work" at the dump, finding trash to sell in order to pay that outrageous, unreasonable bill. Some people here live in the worst poverty that I ever saw, yet they throw away the most valuable things instead of passing them on. I found your Autobiography there, read it, and passed it on.

A. W.  
(Spokane, WA)



BOOKLET OFFERED ON BACK OF RECEIPT

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Please send us the free booklet MANAGING YOUR PERSONAL FINANCES that was offered on the back of our receipt from T. J. Thrifty's grocery store.

T. T.  
(Fort Worth, IN)

FOUND LAST PAGE OF BOOKLET

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I found the last page of one of the booklets. I have no idea as to the title, but the top of the page has printed in bold letters "Additional Reading. The Worldwide Church of God publishes many colorful, informative booklets on a wide range of biblical topics." I would appreciate any booklets you may have available.

J. S.  
(Chicago, IL)



FOUND BOOKLET IN WATERFILLED TRUNK  
OF A CAR WRECK

February 16, 1982

Dear Sir:

A few days ago, I passed a car wreck. The trunk was open and full of water. In it I saw a book called, The UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY, all wet. I picked it up and dried it. Some of the leaves were stuck, but I was able to separate them without any damage. I have enjoyed so much reading this book.

I found this coupon in it and hope it is still good. I also noticed two other booklets advertised-- The RESURRECTION WAS NOT ON SUNDAY and The PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT EASTER--and would like to request them. I read my Bible, but there are so many things I don't understand.

When I was growing up my parents thought that education was a waste. I married and had three children. I was left alone and worked hard for a very small salary. Often we had little to eat, but God was always right there....

Now my health is bad and I am a shut-in. But I love to read and teach my grandchildren about Jesus. I watch the news and know it won't be long before our Lord will return. I just want my family to be ready. I know my God is real because He has taken care of me for nearly 70 years.

I will remember you in my prayers. I know God has blessed you, and He will continue.

E. P.  
(Seffner, FL)



TELECAST VIEWED BY CHANCE

March 9, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Never will I forget that day, back in 1955, when I requested my wife to find a Buck Rogers-type of TV show, and she read in the log where it said "World Tomorrow." It sounded just like what I wanted but did I ever have a surprise. Not unpleasant, though. Actually, before you were finished interviewing Ambassador Bullit, who had been the United States ambassador to Russia, I was convinced that at long last God had answered my prayer. I had been asking God to direct me to His true Church.

In Christian love,

W. B.  
(Wichita, KS)

POLICE OFFICER TUNES IN TO BROADCAST

March, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Could you please send me the booklet WHY WERE YOU BORN? as offered in your recent radio broadcast? I am a police officer and was on patrol listening to a faint radio station coming into Canada from somewhere in the U.S.A. I believe it was the Mutual Broadcast or something similar in name. There was quite a snow storm blowing at the time, and the voice of the preacher came intermittently but I heard enough of the message to interest me in hearing the rest of it. Could you also advise me what are the times of your broadcasts and from where that would be beamed into the West Kootenays, in British Columbia, Canada?

B. B.  
(British Columbia, Canada)



BROADCAST REACHES PRISONER

June 10, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

At present, I am an inmate at a correctional facility in New York state. I have been studying religion for quite some time now. One evening while reading my Bible, I had the radio on WHAM, Rochester, New York, and heard "The World Tomorrow" program start to come on. When I started to change the station, I had this strange urge to listen to what you had to say. So I did. I was so moved by what you said that I stay up every night and listen to your interpretation of the Gospel....

T. K.  
(Attica, NY)

"THE KIDS CAUSED IT"

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

My wife and I have an alarm radio that we always wake up to. A talk show comes on at that time. One day one of my children messed with the dials of the radio and the next morning, to my surprise, the program was different! It was your program on WMAQ out of Chicago.

C. B.  
(Trevor, WI)



GRANDMOTHER'S REQUEST FULFILLED AFTER 31 YEARS

September 10, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I want to thank you for the pleasure of your teaching I have been receiving on Sunday mornings since dialing your program by accident. In 1950, my grandmother, while visiting me in Baltimore, Maryland, asked me to write to you for guidance in studying the Bible. I misplaced the information while moving from Baltimore to Pennsylvania. Meanwhile, my grandmother returned to her home in Florida and died from cancer. I am grateful that after 31 years, I have fulfilled her earnest request. I am learning the true Gospel with the correct understanding which has been impossible for many years.

W. K.  
(Philadelphia, PA)



## Changed Lives

WAR VETERAN'S OUTLOOK ON LIFE CHANGING

January 5, 1982

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I want to tell you in my own humble way that I believe you are the Lord's prophet.

I did not arrive at this conclusion overnight, nor do I mean to imply that you are infallible, for you are still but a mortal man. Having received your PLAIN TRUTH for several years and reading it from cover to cover upon its arrival, I have become convinced that you indeed speak with the sound of trumpets and truth. You have enlightened me, and, in some cases, astounded me. You have opened my mind to thoughts that I know have brought me closer to my Maker.

Being born and raised a Catholic, which included twelve years of religious schooling, tempered my mind to a limited degree with knowledge of my Lord and what was expected of me. Becoming an infantryman in World War II at eighteen brought me to combat in Europe. I lost all faith in humanity and religion because I had become a killer of my fellow man. The medals I earned then hold no special meaning for me now. Rather, I see the ravished faces in the concentration camps and the horror of a war no man should witness.

Later, as a policeman, I saw much that further destroyed my faith in man. I became cynical, cold and impersonal to the plights of those I dealt with during my tours of duty. I did not know why I was on earth or what would become of me after I died.

You helped me so much with your excellent articles and books to gain understanding.... I still cannot say I comprehend everything in the Bible. Either I am too stupid or it is much too involved and complicated, but I have gained insight by and through you. Thank you so much.

WAR VETERAN'S OUTLOOK ON LIFE CHANGING

I sit here typing this letter and I think of my problems which really are quite inconsequential in comparison to those of many others. A disability pension from the police department doesn't go far, especially in these last days, but I do want to give. It isn't much to compensate for your generous gifts to me.

May God bless you and keep you with us until His glorious return.

Yours sincerely,

C. G.  
(Sarasota, FL)

TURNING FROM SATAN'S WAY TO GOD'S  
AS A RESULT OF MR. ARMSTRONG'S PREACHING

March 2, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I truly thank you for all the booklets you have sent me. Through you, I have for the first time come to know the true Gospel that Jesus preached. Before I started listening to you, I would read the Bible once in a long while, but it would seem boring. I didn't obey the Bible as I should have. One evening I was just turning the dial on the radio about 10:20 p.m. when I heard you. I checked the Bible to see if the things you were preaching were right, and they absolutely were. That's when I started learning more about the Bible and how to obey God. By listening to you and reading the Bible more, I started gradually turning from the way of deception to the truth--from Satan's way to the way Christ lived and taught. However, there are still a lot of wrong ways I have to overcome with the help of the Bible and prayer.

I hope I am not making it sound like I am worshipping you, but I have now come to the place where I can say that you are a true minister of Christ. I truly thank God for you because if I had not heard you, I probably would still be going the way of this world and not even trying to go the true, happy but hard and difficult road that leads to eternal life and much, much more.

Thank you, with love,

J. R.  
(Jackson, MS)



GOD BECOMES FATHER TO A SUICIDE CASE

January 10, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

When I first heard you over the radio, I was a seventeen-year-old suicide case. My parents were separated and my father, whom I lived with in a cramped trailer, wasn't much more than a poor provider, having no concept of raising children.

I was a fool, unable to build friendships and quick to destroy any that began to develop.

In His great love, God opened my ears to your message and one night, in utter desperation, I fell to my knees and asked God to be the Father I never had.

Since that prayer in 1964, I have never lacked parental guidance, punishment and reward. Every word from your programs and literature is, to me, the word of my own father--and I cherish it.

Through you, God has remade me. I love people --and people love me because I take after my Dad.

Thank you for your loyalty and dedication to God in carrying out this great commission.

I love you and you are, every day, in my thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

E. M.  
(Hanford, CA)



FROM HELLISH EXISTENCE TO AN ABUNDANT LIFE

March, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Thank you for showing my wife and myself God's way of life and true happiness.

A few years ago, life was hell. We were fighting and on the verge of divorce. There was not enough money and bill collectors were always calling. The children were unbearable. During that time we tried different religious organizations--things changed but it did not last.

Today, things are different. There had not been enough money to pay bills, so we filed for bankruptcy. Six months later, we were able to buy our own house, which is unheard of. We now also have money in a bank savings account--something we never had before.

I've asked for God's help in our weekly food shopping. Forty to sixty dollars have been trimmed off our weekly budget and we are eating better than ever. Daily problems just disappear. The money we save on our daily needs by finding unadvertised sales in the department store is almost unbelievable.

The children are angels and behave very well. For the first time I enjoy making love to my wife.

I could go on and on counting my blessings. I owe all this and more to God. I find most people ask God for help only when they are in trouble. Well, I thank Him several times a day for all the small graces.

I am still not perfect. I do not drink or swear and no longer eat pork. If someone should ask, I feel like I am living in heaven.

Sincerely,

S. F.  
(Huntington, CT)



GOD TURNS AROUND LIFE OF  
EMBITTERED, GUILT-RIDDEN WOMAN

November 28, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Eight years ago this month I walked out on my first husband and three young children. I spent most of those years being bitter, resentful, guilt-ridden, and blaming you and your teachings for the state of affairs my life was in. I hated you. The mention of your work and name sent me into a rage, and more often than not on a drinking binge that would last for weeks or until I ended up in a de-tox hospital or mental ward.

Last January, after an overdose of pills and being in a coma for five days, I realized that my life must go on. There was some mysterious reason why I lived through seven years of torture and hell. During that period of time, I had brought two more children into the world and had another broken marriage. My children were in a foster home and I had no one.

I started attending A.A. meetings several years ago but never let anything soak in. Finally, one saying I heard there hit home, and I've been trying very hard to apply it to my life. It was "Let Go and Let God!"

It must be working as I have put my life back together. My second husband and I, both sober alcoholics thanks to the grace of God, are working out our problems and putting our marriage back on the right track. My two children, ages five and six, are home with me now. And at long last, I feel a sort of peace in my life. I know I can't go back and undo the wrong I did eight years ago, but I can make the present and maybe the future a little better.

Why am I telling you all this? Well, I guess in a way I felt I owed you an apology for all the bitterness I had for you. I know you didn't destroy my first marriage. I just didn't want to hear the truth at that time.

Recently, I found the newsstand edition of The PLAIN TRUTH in a grocery store and have already sent the card I found inside for my subscription.

GOD TURNS AROUND LIFE OF  
EMBITTERED, GUILT-RIDDEN WOMAN

I want to make my life better, and I believe I need your help to do it.

I am sending for some of the books mentioned in the newsstand edition, and also some that I remember seeing eight years ago. I hope they are still in print.

God bless you and your work. Some of us are just slower to listen than others.

Sincerely yours,

L. B.  
(Richmond, IN)

FROM NEAR SUICIDE TO A LIFE OF

FULFILLMENT

July 23, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I would like to take a moment to show you the direct impact you had on one person's life....

Several years after you obeyed God's calling (1941), a girl child was born. Totally carnal and determined! No one could tell her what to do. For 25 years she had it her way--and pity anyone who tried to subdue her! Financially, she and her good-looking husband were doing okay. Socially, all was peaches. Physically? Well, she would have liked to have children but was a habitual aborter. She also was under continual doctors' care for ulcers, nerves, headaches, chronic kidney ailment, iron deficiency anemia, chronic tiredness, breathing difficulty, weight problem, etc. But pills took care of all that.... Twenty-seven pills a day! All prescribed by the god of medicine--the specialists, O.B.'s (kidney specialists), urologists, etc. The medicine bill alone took a full day's wage every week. But no one was going to tell her what to do....

Mentally? Again she was fine...except for a bad case of insecurity, insane jealousy, selfishness, self-centeredness, pride in everything she chose, etc., etc. But she wasn't going to be told what to do!

We were entering a new non-morals era (1966), which included wife swapping, heavy drinking, drugs, etc. I could go along with a lot of broken laws, but this was a little too much. My "perfect" husband was leaning in that direction but given time to adjust, I could re-gain control of him, too! Even he wasn't going to get in my way and start doing all those things as long as I had anything to say about it. And say plenty I did.

Well, I woke up one day and took a long hard look at what I had accomplished in a quarter of a century

FROM NEAR SUICIDE TO A LIFE  
OF FULFILLMENT

plus a year. It included:

1. Eleven miscarriages
2. A very sad excuse for a husband
3. Extremely poor health (I felt like 60)
4. Mental instability and insecurity
5. Wrecked nerves
6. Mountains of debt
7. No goals or desire to live in an existence like this

Suicide seemed the best way out.

But, Mr. Armstrong, you listened, you searched, you learned and you taught. As a result, I am still alive and now hope to see Christ usher in a more desirable world to live in. I have three children, ages 12, 13, and 14. Physically, we are all healthy--I threw away the pills 15 years ago. Mentally, I'm at the peak of health. Spiritually, still pretty weak. Socially, I have an abundance of really loyal friends. Emotionally, I haven't taken an ulcer pill in 15 years. Financially, God is my partner--we aren't "in the chips" but He supplies all our needs. My marriage ended a couple of months before my twelve-year-old's birth.

God delivered me from all the negative forces in life and when He stopped my hand at suicide, blessed me with a sound mind and three children, and returned (or I should say--gave me) good health! What more can we say? Through your obedience, God has dealt with me very patiently and lovingly. He used you to straighten out a desolate life and give it happiness and purpose. Instead of dead matter, I expanded, reproduced and you caused four people to share the hope of God's plan.

You learned and then indirectly taught me health laws. Exactly nine months after studying THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT HEALING and repenting, I gave birth to a girl. Thirteen months later, another girl. Kill myself? Thanks to you--no thank you!

The children are all very obedient and reared according to God's instructions through you. They trust and depend on God's laws of happiness and health. They were taught "from the cradle" and none of them will suffer such desolation as I did. Yes--someone will tell me what to do--thankfully!

FROM NEAR SUICIDE TO A LIFE  
OF FULFILLMENT

This is just one story of one family whose life was turned around. You are a modern Abraham--the father of a new nation. The stories are as varied and as many as there are individuals who have ears to hear and eyes to see. Through one man's obedience (yours), the many have heard and seen. How many broken lives your hearing, seeing and teaching has mended!

You are a great man in the truest sense of the word--someone very special. From our hearts we thank you for not turning a deaf ear to God's calling. There is a cause and effect. You caused my three children to be born and have the opportunity to take a part in God's Kingdom and the new world. You caused me happiness, sanity and health in place of death by my own hand before my children were conceived.... I know that without the hope you taught me, life isn't worth the struggle.

B. F.  
(Covington, KY)



HUSBAND CHANGING AS A RESULT OF GOD'S CALLING

February 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I want to share a little something with you for a moment. I am witnessing a miracle! My husband, to whom I've been married for nearly 13 years (nine of which I've been in the Church), is in the process of being converted! For nine years I have experienced the life of a spiritual widow! I've gone through the hostile antagonism, turmoil and uncertainty of living with an unconverted mate. I've had to deal with resentment and bitterness on both sides. Misunderstandings, lack of communication and hurting barbs all play their part in such a union. How wise is our God when He warns us not to be unequally yoked....

I can't express in words how good it feels to have a leader, a head that I can look up to! A woman was not made to be the leader of a family, and I can honestly say I never ever wanted to be. But sometimes I had to do things for my children that a father and head should do. Sometimes I had to make decisions that I really should not have had to make....

It is a relief to see my husband begin to take over his role. It is comforting to know that now he is consulting God about his family--not just me! He put away his cigarettes, turned from breaking the Sabbath, is learning to read, plays a more important role in the family and is, in one word, repenting. He had never in his life worn a suit and tie but always ran around in his old work clothes with dirty unkempt hair. Guess what! He now has six beautiful suits which were given to him and wears them proudly! A miracle no less!...

I do at this time feel that a big responsibility has been handed to me. Not only is he my husband, but he will soon be my little brother. I must not only be a submissive wife but also learn to be a sister to him. He will be a tender little one that I will have the priceless privilege to help nourish and care for.

There is now also such a difference in the children.... For example, the TV program comes to this area through cable TV. We can't pick it up as we only have an aerial, but my Dad does have cable. My little

## HUSBAND CHANGING AS A RESULT OF GOD'S CALLING

eleven year old hit me square between the eyes when he begged me for next Sunday morning to get up early and take him over there to watch you. Wow! Is God blessing our family!

In the evenings, instead of glaring at the TV, under my husband's leadership we read the Bible or The PLAIN TRUTH and discuss the Work, the Kingdom and our roles in it. What joy it is to see the shine of excitement in my family's eyes as we talk of our Father and all the happiness that will soon come to this earth!

This has turned into a lengthy letter, but I wanted you to know of some of the wonderful blessings God is pouring out on His beloved Family.

We are with you and I know God is! So we will continue to pray for you always.... We love you!

Love,  
from a sister in Christ,

T. R.  
(Hamilton, AL)

## Coming to Conversion

MR. ARMSTRONG'S BOOK OPENED EYES TO TRUTH

September 8, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I am writing to thank you for the exciting and wonderful book THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY. I want you to know that both my sister and I wept in repentance to our wonderful Lord after reading the book. It literally blew us both away to think that all these years we have not only worshipped on the wrong Sabbath but were partaking in pagan holidays as well.

You have no idea how your book has changed my whole concept of what is being taught today by numerous ministers. God has given me an open mind to His Word, and that makes me a listener, watcher, and seeker. Whenever I have searched for the truth, He has led me to it.... I am so happy to know that He loves me enough to teach me the truth and guide me into His Holy Word.

It is both sad and sickening that so many so called Christians today are caught up in false doctrine, believing that the Old Testament is washed away, and that Jesus is going to jump out of the sky and rapture everyone. All I ever hear is that God loves us too much to let us go through any great tribulation. One never hears about His other side, the side that does get very angry.

My sister and I have tried to tell others the truths in your book and, of course, you know the flack we got. We've been told that not only are you possessed by a bad spirit, but we are too. That's fine with me, our day of worship is no longer on Sunday, and we have given up Christmas, and other pagan

MR. ARMSTRONG'S BOOK OPENED EYES TO TRUTH

holidays, as believe me, we do want to be counted worthy to escape these things that are so near in coming. I can see now why Jesus said, "Many are called, few are chosen." I am at present reading the Old Testament in the Jerusalem Bible, and it is like reading an excellent novel. I now understand about the tribes, etc., as I read your book first....

I would like you to accept this gift toward your ministry, and once again I thank you for your excellent books of truth of the Word of God. As far as I know, you are the only one that is preaching on the whole Bible and the whole truth. It's a shame that so very many will not heed....

Thank you again, Mr. Armstrong, and God bless you in your travels and in preaching the Word.

Yours in Christ,

C. H.  
(Butte, MT)

GOD'S CALLING BRINGS HUNGER AND THIRST FOR UNDERSTANDING

October 30, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

For several years, I had occasionally heard you on the radio and had seen The PLAIN TRUTH, but no matter how right the messages sounded, I couldn't seem to absorb their true importance and change my life. I had been to many so-called Christian churches but never managed to get anything right. I thought God was calling everyone, and I was really miserable because I kept failing.

God finally did call me one week ago. There really isn't any mistaking His call. I have been overwhelmed by what I see with my eyes, ears and heart open. I have an older brother who was called exactly six years ago to the day (the Sabbath after the Last Great Day). You can perhaps imagine how we both feel now. I start crying whenever I try to find the words to describe these feelings.

Tonight is the beginning of my second Sabbath. I have three different translations of God's Word, several of your booklets, a PLAIN TRUTH issue and two taped sermons and am beginning to understand what it means to hunger and thirst for an understanding of God's Kingdom.

God has given me a job with a Church member, a man who has his own business and is running it according to God's laws. He didn't even tell me, but as I began to work for him I noticed the similarities between my job and God's Work and Christ's teachings. Now, everything I do at work helps me to think about the Bible. Every new member should have this blessing.

I just spoke of myself as a member, but I have never actually been to Sabbath services. I have only

GOD'S CALLING BRINGS HUNGER AND THIRST FOR UNDERSTANDING

just met the local minister, but the members here are already treating me as one of their own, or more accurately, one of God's own.

I could write for days about this new me, but I'm sure you understand already after the many times you've seen those whom God has called.

Since God may not enable me to thank you in person, I decided to write instead, and I plan to thank you in person in the world tomorrow.

S. B.  
(Central Point, OR)

STILL PROVING ALL THINGS AND OVERCOMING DOUBTS

September 2, 1980

Dear Sirs,

I have been a subscriber to The PLAIN TRUTH, as well as other literature, for the last year and a half. I have found many of your teachings to be in direct contrast to what I used to believe, but after comparing them with the scriptures, I was amazed.

About two years ago, I had an experience which humbled me and made me aware of God's presence. I realized that I was a sinner and asked God to help me change. I started reading the Bible and other religious books to learn what God wanted of me.... Slowly God has been correcting me, weeding out the traditions of men. I know He wants me to prove all things.

As much as I loved God, accepted His Son, Jesus Christ, and wanted to do His will, I still had doubts about where His true Church was. I stopped sending contributions to the Worldwide Church of God because of the "Sixty Minutes" interview a few months back. It made me wonder if I too was part of Satan's deceived world. I earnestly asked God, on my hands and knees, to lead me to truth. I know that the Lord commands a tithe of my income and I have been laying it aside and saving it.

Some time ago I wrote to you that I wasn't quite sure where to look for God's true Church, and you sent me the address of a congregation of "true Christians" in my area. Finally, after putting it off many weeks, I went and sat through the entire Sabbath meeting. I found it very sober and non-fanatical. I have since attended the last four Sabbaths. Talking with members and the pastor, I found them very warm and open and was surprised that not one person tried to get me to join.

STILL PROVING ALL THINGS AND OVERCOMING DOUBTS

I earnestly look forward to the day when God shall live among men with His anointed Bride. I know that this is not the only day of salvation and that mankind has the opportunity to eventually be born of God. Life now has a reason and purpose. My heart has its anchor in Christ and His message.

Finally, after my last doubts have been cast out, I look forward to being baptized into God's family--to become a begotten son of God, a seed of Abraham and co-heir of the promise.

In closing, I ask for your prayers that I may be given the strength to do what is necessary to overcome. You have my love, thanks, and prayers.

Sincerely,

W. Q.  
(Flushing, NY)

FIRST DAY IN CHURCH

1979

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Last Saturday my husband and I went to the Worldwide Church of God for the first time. We enjoyed it very much and intend to go every Sabbath when able to. One of the ministers found us transport to church with a couple of men from our area which we appreciated very much. I sure wish we had a church right here in our local town so we wouldn't have to travel so far, but if we can get to church once in a while, it is better than not at all.

One thing I noticed in the Worldwide Church of God is that everyone was very happy. I have never seen people in any other church happy like that. I never really thought that we would ever get a chance to attend the Worldwide Church of God, but thank God we are able to now.

G. T.  
(Brainerd, MN)

FOUND MEMBERS TO BE A RARE BREED

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

A charming young lady from the Church asked if I would be interested in attending the Bible lecture series. I took advantage of the opportunity and met the most charming young couple and their children, who live only blocks away from me. I don't think I can ever say enough about the people. I've met so many more at the lecture series and at Sabbath services and you have every right to be proud of the members of your Church. They are a very rare people indeed. I have been attending Sabbath services for several weeks now and at last, after all these years, feel I am at the right place.

I have expressed this so many times but am unable to put down exactly how I feel about what I've found. You just don't get turned around after all these years of disappointments and disgust with everything....

Since I was small, I have envied people who could belong to a church and have something they could dedicate so much of their lives to in such a firm belief. I had given up hope of ever finding what I had found should be the true teaching of Jesus, until the day I heard you say that Easter had nothing to do with Christ. I headed the next day for a used bookstore and found the February, 1971 issue of TOMORROW'S WORLD magazine. It will be forever treasured, I can assure you.

Thanks again for all you have given.

P. A.  
(Milwaukie, OR)

THRILLED TO FIND TRUE CHURCH AFTER YEARS OF SEARCH

1974

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

My previous letters to you indicated an urge to obtain more of God's Holy Word by attending one of your churches within a 50-mile or more radius from where I live. As you know, I hunted high and low and everywhere to find a church but to no avail. I also searched telephone books in every city that I have been in, but always no soap. This had been going on for approximately seven years until, to make a long story short, one of your ministers visited my home and, lo and behold, advised me after an interview that Church of God services were being held in a fire hall right around the corner from where I live! I can hit the building with a stone from my house. No need to waste time telling you of my surprise.

My wife and I are so very happy about this; I can't find proper words to express the happiness it has brought to us. We have attended approximately twelve Sabbath services and about six Bible study nights and now we are looking forward to baptism.

The ministers in this church are in my opinion the best I have ever had the pleasure of listening to and I have heard plenty. The whole atmosphere in the services seems to just radiate God's Holy Spirit. There is no way to describe it.

We are very thrilled and excited that God should be calling us into His Church at this time. What a beautiful future to look forward to.

My humble thanks for your assistance in finding God's true Church--I was ready to give up trying to find it after all those years. May God bless you in your extensive work.

J. F.  
(Monroeville, PA)

NO RELIGION COMPARABLE TO GOD'S TRUE CHURCH

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I am very happy to be included in the membership of the Worldwide Church of God. It is even so much better than I anticipated. Other churches or religions cannot even be compared to this true Church of God. I am so glad to be a part of it. I feel a real joy like I have never before experienced because I know this is really of God and because we are doing God's will.

The members of the Church of God are the finest people I ever knew. I was an outsider in school and elsewhere--I am a quiet, country type and don't take part in too many activities. But in the Worldwide Church of God I have never been an outsider nor an outcast.... I have more really good friends than I ever thought I could have. I love the Church, I love God, and I want to do all He wants me to do.

F. H.  
(Greenfield Center, NY)

COUPLE EXCITED ABOUT AND GRATEFUL FOR GOD'S CALLING

December 28, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

My husband and I would like to let you know how much we enjoy reading your literature. We have also just completed the first lesson of the Bible Correspondence Course and really enjoyed it.

I read many of your articles years ago but never really understood all that I read. However, since I have started reading the booklets that we recently wrote for, and studying the Bible, I am totally amazed at what I now understand. I know that God has given me the wisdom and knowledge needed to understand His Word. Now we both know how to live by God's laws and how to keep His Sabbaths and Holy Days. You were right, the Bible plainly tells us that God made the Sabbaths, they are His and He made them for us.

We have started paying our tithes again. You cannot understand how guilty I feel for not having tithed. I have asked God for forgiveness.

We wrote to Pasadena for the address of the local Worldwide Church of God congregation, and in about one and a half weeks we received a letter with the address and the minister's phone number. We called immediately and went to church that very day. We cannot begin to tell you how much we enjoyed that afternoon. The people were so friendly, we could hardly believe it. That was four Sabbaths ago and we have not and will not, except in emergencies, miss any of these very important days. We also have started going to the Bible studies.

The local minister with his wife came to our home and talked to us for a long time. He answered all our questions. This very day they visited us again to discuss baptism. And again all our questions were answered. The minister loaned us his book THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL and also called from our home a toll free number to Pasadena for the book TOMORROW...WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE to be sent to us immediately. I am also sending for more literature and for our own copy of THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL. Mr. Armstrong, we want you to know how thankful we are

COUPLE EXCITED ABOUT AND GRATEFUL FOR GOD'S CALLING

to be able to talk to a minister and have him help us with any questions.

We hope you don't think this letter is too long, but we had to let you know how happy we are that God has given us this opportunity to get to know His Church and to be a part of it.... We are giving ourselves to God--after all, we do belong to Him, He made us. We are His at His asking and are to live by His laws and standards....

I have been getting on my knees every chance I get and thanking God for what He has given us. I have also asked Him to forgive me of my sins and to help us as we undertake this 180 degree turn. I know that He will provide that help.

We hope you will be around for a long time to come to continue to bring us and this world the good news.

Our love,

T. L.  
(Colorado Springs, CO)

NEW MEMBER--AFTER 21 YEARS OF CONTACT WITH GOD'S WORK

January 6, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I felt strongly at this time that I should write and say "thank you" for your tremendous lifelong example to all of us. Thank you also for your absolute honesty, perseverance, and determination to get God's great Work done.

I realize that God has raised you up and that the power of God works through you. No man--apart from God--could possibly have achieved even a third of what you have achieved. I know that none of this was because of selfish motives or a desire for wealth but, on the contrary, because the great God revealed to you that the only way to true happiness, contentment, and success is through what you term "the give way".

I have only been a baptized member for four or five months after originally reading The PLAIN TRUTH back in 1960. Apparently, I needed 21 years to get certain things out of my system, to experience certain things, and to gain full maturity (I was only sixteen in 1960), but God has been very merciful and patient with me. I have been shown clearly and unmistakably that man's ways only lead to--even under the most favorable circumstances--unhappiness, despair, misery, and ultimately death. If only the world realized what it is missing!!

I can't describe the happiness and joy experienced by my wife (not yet baptized but on the right road!), my two young children and myself since we have attended

NEW MEMBER--AFTER 21 YEARS OF CONTACT WITH GOD'S WORK

God's Church.... How thankful to God I am that I was born at this time and allowed, together with many others, to come into contact with this great end-time Work. What a privilege!

In coming to the close of this letter, let me once again say thank you for everything you have given over the years and, I pray, will continue to give for years to come. I ask God to grant you the strength to carry on the great Work until the job is completed. You may be assured that I am but one of thousands who constantly pray for you.

With love in Jesus' name,

R. A.  
(S. Wales, United Kingdom)

EX-PARATROOPER FINDS CHRISTIAN LIFE MORE

EXCITING THAN FIRST AIRPLANE JUMP

September 9, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

It is always refreshing to receive news, by way of letter, from you. My wife and I pray daily for your health and eyesight and for God to enable you to progress with the Work. We know how deadly serious times are now; so near the end of the age....

Until recently I was a paratrooper in the army's elite "All American" 82nd airborne division. I left the military as a conscientious objector with a clean record and an honorable discharge. My wife and I were baptized in March this year.

It is a joyous and exhilarating experience to actually be a member. For nearly two years I was only a co-worker. I thought that my first leap out of an airplane at three thousand feet was exciting. This is like one continuous jump for over six months. Nothing can compete with the good feeling and peace of mind which comes from God's Holy Spirit. Sharing these feelings with brethren in fellowship is an immense thrill.

I want to thank you for now having a church in this area. I am a relatively new member with the opportunity to grow along with a new church. The blessings we have received are tremendous. Thank God and praise Him.

We have also been receiving the Ambassador College Correspondence Course and enjoy it greatly. The first twelve lessons have been completed. We were tested on them and look forward to more. We still review occasionally....

May God bless you, sir, and keep you always. You are the voice that cries out to a world that heeds not, except for the chosen few.

With Christian love,

K. M.  
(Cambridge, OH)



RECENTLY BAPTIZED MEMBER SEES GOD'S HAND IN HIS LIFE

January 20, 1982

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I would like to tell you of the good that God has done in my life in the last one and a half years.

I attended God's Church as a teenager, but then married and joined the Air Force, basically letting all my training as a youth go by the wayside. I left the Church because of tiredness and discouragement.

In five years my house burned down, my income dwindled to almost nothing, I was mistreated by Satan's government in the military, my marriage became a nightmare and my child didn't know me. My life was totally shattered! When I ignored God, He ignored me.

Gradually I learned that I cannot, under any circumstances, live my life without God. Repentantly, I took of the tree of life God offered me and was baptized a year and a half ago. Talk about a change in my life!

Firstly, my wife has been reconciled to me by God! He offered her repentance also, and she was baptized four months ago. My son and I love each other in ways I never thought possible. God is causing me to grow tremendously in attitude, service and faith.

Because of G.I. bill benefits, I can go to college, even though it is a worldly one. I am able to progress materialistically which does have limited values. I know I couldn't attend any college unless God aided me and wanted me to.

RECENTLY BAPTIZED MEMBER SEES GOD'S HAND IN HIS LIFE

Just within this last month, God has delivered me from several problems. For example, my son's hand was slammed in a car door. He was immediately anointed. Although three fingers should have been broken, the hand did not even so much as swell up.

I had been severely afflicted and thought I would be forced out of college. However, God has intervened in three ways, enabling me to continue. Also, He blessed me with a good understanding of the lessons He is teaching me by these problems. God rules in my life, and I know it....

Keep up the fight! I pray for you daily, even at the blessing of the meals.

Love,  
one of your  
spiritual children,

C. M.  
(Binghamton, NY)

GOD'S CHURCH FULFILLS DESIRE FROM CHILDHOOD

December 21, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

When I first started attending church, I found something that I had been looking for ever since I was a child. I always wanted to be able to put both the Old and the New Testaments together but didn't know how. My family sent me to Sunday school, but I never really wanted to go. I didn't like the way the ministers joked from the pulpit, read some scriptures and then talked about everything but those scriptures. I went on like this for years.

When I got married, I quit church and didn't attend another for many a year. I was so discouraged by what had happened to me as a child. I also had always dreamed of going to church as a family but that never happened while I was married.

God allowed some drastic things to happen to me before I realized just how much I needed Him in my life. I started climbing out of my deep dark pit ever so slowly. It took me almost three years before I started attending church services.

One of the first things God did for me was to heal my back. I also watched many of my prayers being answered. I can't explain the wonderful feeling that gave.

I have now been a member for almost two years and love every minute of it. My blessings are so many, and I am so thankful to God for His love and care for me. I thank Him daily for the Church, the revelation of His truths, and for sending us an apostle like you.

May God give you health and strength and bless His Work. I love you very much and have a deep respect for you. I look forward to the return of Christ and pray that it will be soon.

Loving you in Christ,

P. V. (Woman)  
(Rock Falls, IL)



GOD'S CALLING BRINGS HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY

November 10, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I would like to write to you about the calling received through your work under Christ and the effect it has had on my life.

I first began receiving literature at age eighteen and was eventually baptized at age twenty-one. In those three years my life was turned around, away from the ways of this world and pointing to a different goal altogether. Now, at age thirty-four, I shudder to think where I would be and what I would be doing were it not for the changes brought into my life by forces entirely outside my comprehension at that time. I now understand that even back then, in the 60's, you had already been laboring many years to edify and serve those God would call to back you up.

I eventually married a lovely girl, a church member, who has now been my faithful, loyal, serving wife for ten years. We have been blessed with three sons. Again, your writings on marriage have done more than just make ours work. Our union is enjoyable, scintillating and exciting even after ten years.... Had I not been a recipient of this precious knowledge, I doubt my ability to have a successful marriage at all.

Financially, we have also been greatly blessed. Even though Australia is prosperous, I know that we have been blessed way above what we would have been without God's calling. Despite the extra outgo that tithing represents, we have had freedom from financial worries. Our last third tithe year was in 1973, and God refunded the full third tithe amount to us in a miraculous way before we had completed the year. I got the impression that God wants us to obey his laws for our benefit, not for His....

Our three children have been a blessing and have inspired us with their tremendous open enthusiasm for God's truth. For example, when my 62-year-old mother confided to my seven year old about the inevitability of sickness and death, he proudly proclaimed the second resurrection to her and said that there was nothing to

## GOD'S CALLING BRINGS HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY

worry about. My four year old first learned what idol worship was from Mr. Wolverton's illustrations in the Bible Story. He wanted to know more so I explained the First Commandment to him and showed him inside our neighborhood churches where children his age were kneeling before idols and praying to them. Now his chosen vocation is to be an idol smasher when Christ's Kingdom is instituted!

I have taken both children through large cemeteries and talked about the time when all the dead will be brought back to life. I also explained that they can help rebuild the earth ready to receive these people. There is no place for fairy stories, magic tales and the like when God's truth can be told. It humbles me to realize that all this knowledge was revealed by God to one man....

I guess my purpose in writing to you is to express gratitude. You have labored many long and hard years, while we have received, been edified and blessed through your labors. You have thousands of sons and daughters through this Work. One day this one wants to give you a great big hug and say, "thanks Dad."

With love and regards,

H. F.  
(Griffith, Australia)

God  
Guides and Provides

GOD'S PERFECT TIMING  
IN WORKING OUT CIRCUMSTANCES

February 27, 1982

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I have attended God's Church for over eleven years and have been a member almost nine. Sometimes I like to look back and meditate on how God guided circumstances in my life. To see His perfect timing and intervention in many situations gives me confidence for the future, which I know will not be easy for God's people till Jesus Christ returns.

God has blessed my husband and me in wonderful ways. At the moment, we both have the privilege to work in one of the Work's departments in Pasadena and find our jobs very rewarding and fulfilling.

When I first started attending God's church in Australia, one of my dreams was to have a direct part in God's Work. However, since my unconverted parents did not allow me to even apply for Ambassador College, I gave up on the idea of it ever being possible. Yet years later, God made it a reality through an amazing set of circumstances!

When I began attending services, I was eighteen and in my last semester of high school. Since my parents wanted me to continue my education at a local university and since God provided the way and finances, I went ahead and completed a degree in biological sciences and a diploma in teaching methods. Then for a year, I taught in an elementary school. God perfectly provided for my needs by enabling me to teach one of my favorite age groups at a school close to home.

Almost exactly a year after I started attending services, I met my husband-to-be on his first day in church. He only spent one year in the local congregation and then went to Ambassador College. When I got to know this man, I began to feel that if there was anybody in the church I could marry, he was the one. He truly stood out among the other men I dated. However, his

GOD'S PERFECT TIMING  
IN WORKING OUT CIRCUMSTANCES

greatest desire at that time was to attend Ambassador College. When he went to college, I was convinced that he would marry an A.C. graduate and end up in the ministry. Yet God had other ideas!

When we both finished our education and were ready for marriage, God stirred up our feelings for one another. After asking God to guide him toward finding a wife, my husband-to-be got the idea to invite me to Pasadena for my school holidays. When I received his letter, I didn't know what to think! Was this for real? Was this man interested in me in the same way that for several years I had been in him?

I counseled with the local minister, who then in a letter mentioned to my husband-to-be how I felt toward him and requested that if he didn't feel the same way, to let me know. Soon we were both thrilled to find out that our feelings toward each other were mutual.

Shortly after I came to Pasadena, we knew we were meant for each other. In less than four months we were able to be married in the grand lobby of the Ambassador Auditorium and by the minister from our local church in Australia, who at the very time came to Pasadena for a Sabbatical program. Also, since I didn't know very many people in Pasadena, my matron-of-honor was a former pen pal whose address I got years earlier from the W.N. personals. God literally poured out His blessings! This, by the way, happened in my third tithe year.

For the following five and a half years, God has given my husband and me the opportunity to work together as a team, assisting in God's Work in various capacities. We often thought that this must have been like you and your first wife working together.

A year and a half ago the department we worked in was reorganized and we both lost our jobs as a result. Yet, with no work time lost, my husband was hired by his former Leadership Training Club director in another department. About a month later, just as my work was running out, the same man hired me, originally for a different job to that of my husband, but then he put us together to again work as a team. This department has been very inspiring to be a part of. It is truly run in love and on God's principles.

GOD'S PERFECT TIMING  
IN WORKING OUT CIRCUMSTANCES

My husband and I are nearing the end of another third tithe year, which again has been filled with amazing blessings. Some of these included for me to be able to graduate from Ambassador College with the Diploma of Biblical Studies, a Feast trip to Europe during which I met some of my relatives for the very first time, being able to purchase new furniture, paying off a block of land in Australia, opportunities for growth and much more.

I wanted to share these experiences with you as I thought you may find it interesting and inspiring to know how God works in the lives of His people. My husband and I continue to pray for your health, strength, inspiration and success as you go about doing God's Work.

Sincerely,

E. P.  
(Pasadena, CA)



GOD REMOVED OBSTACLES THAT STOOD IN WAY TO MARRIAGE

March 8, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

My wife and I feel that perhaps you might be interested in the wonderful miracles which have completely changed our lives.

Only a few years ago, my life was a complete mess. After the breakup of a former marriage, I had ended up in such a financial situation that even when I became a Christian, it looked impossible for me to ever be out of debt or contemplate marriage again.

However, after a very humbling illness, almost all of those debts (partly unjust tax debts) were swept away. I then began to think of looking for a wife and through the "Personal" columns of The WORLDWIDE NEWS obtained several pen pals around the world. One of these particularly interested me--a widow in the U.S.A. --and the merciful God inspired her to be interested in me also. He then enabled me to meet some Americans at the Feast here in Britain, who were able to help her to come here.

Other wonderful things happened to help her afford the fare and she came at Passover time two years ago. We had written and sent tapes regularly, so soon after she arrived, we were able to decide on marriage.

We did not plan on a honeymoon. The severe winter had hit me badly as I am a self-employed gardener, and we had no cash to spare. Again God intervened. A member persuaded her non-member husband to provide us with a caravan in one of the most beautiful places in Britain, and transport to and from it. I would need a book to tell of all our blessings.

When my friend said she could come, I was broke after the winter, and even had to arrange a small loan to meet her at the airport! But I had asked God to only allow her to come if she was the one He had chosen for me. I was not about to tell Him that He was three months too soon! A friend gave her accommodation without charge--another big saving--and she stayed there until the wedding.

GOD REMOVED OBSTACLES THAT STOOD IN WAY TO MARRIAGE

God is now prospering us. My health is better than for the last five years, and we are through the winter and looking forward to a busy summer period. We hope and pray for a good year, with the aim of visiting U.S.A. this autumn, to see my wife's relatives and other friends.

We hope the above story of a happy marriage, built totally on trust in a fellow Christian's word and the promises of God, will be of interest to you. Thank you again for all you have done for us all.... We pray for you daily, and thank God for you.

With deepest love  
and gratitude,

M. W.  
(Leeds, England)

MEMBER'S CHILDREN RECEIVE FAVOR AT SCHOOL

November 5, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I was told you like to know of things that affect our lives as we strive to obey God.

Recently, we moved into a new school district and all the teachers and principal had to be told of the days our children could not observe. The day after I sent notes to them all, the principal paid me a visit. I was expecting some kind of trouble, but he surprised me. He first asked what church we belonged to, and after we had talked for a few minutes, he said that he would not tolerate any of his teachers or students teasing, mistreating, or making our children feel out of place in any way. He then added he was behind us 100% in the teaching and rearing of the children and if anyone gave us trouble, they would have to answer to him.

He has since been extremely supportive of what activities the children can be in, and he seeks them out daily just to speak to them or encourage.

In another school, one teacher openly criticized our oldest son when he refused to color a Christmas tree. The whole class began to tease him, and it was hard to get him to go back to school. He lost respect for his teacher and his classmates lost respect for him because he was "different."

Now the children are happier at school than ever before. There is room for their difference, and no one seems to care that they don't observe traditional holidays. They are liked and are encouraged by their teachers and principal to follow their religious upbringing above their school work. Obeying God is a blessing for everyone.

Sincerely,

M. M.  
(Georgetown, OH)



TRUST AND OBEDIENCE LEAD TO A  
PERFECT HOUSE PLUS FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

January 2, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I am pleased to be able to write to the physical leader of God's Work here on earth. You are always busy feeding God's Church and giving us much needed spiritual meat. I thank you for this and pray for you always....

My wife and I continue to grow in God's ways.... A circumstance developed which led us to the decision to sell our house. My father-in-law asked me if I had considered where we would move, to which I replied that when God decided the house would sell, He would also make another place available....

My business is selling Electrolux sweepers.... One of my customers had a problem with her sweeper so I gave her a loaner and took hers in for repair. After returning her repaired sweeper and taking back the loaner, I found that she had left her dust brush attached to it.

The next day when I brought it back I learned that she and her husband had bought a house in my town--a retirement property to be used in the future. The house was already rented to a young couple who had paid two months' rent in advance but had not moved in yet. I told the owners that I wished I had known about this house because it would have been nice for us and my business. It was located on the main street of the town, while our old house was on a quiet side street.

The next day, the owner called and offered us the house for rent. She said that the young man, who was originally interested, wasn't going to get out of military service for nine months, therefore the couple couldn't take it. So we took the house and were soon able to move in. The rent is low and the house, which in the past had been a Baptist parsonage, is great! If I had my choice of any house in our town, I could not choose a better one.

TRUST AND OBEDIENCE LEAD TO A  
PERFECT HOUSE PLUS FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

Just to show how well God works things out, I will continue. The owners painted the inside of the house for the young couple who originally planned to rent it, and the colors they picked just "happened" to match our furniture. My unconverted father-in-law could not believe our "luck," but we didn't call it luck, knowing that God answers prayers....

I have also learned that being obedient to God is important. God reveals to each of us where we need to change. I had to make some changes in my sweeper business. My father had been selling Electrolux sweepers for twenty-seven years. When I took over the business after his death, we continued to keep many sweeper supplies at my mother's house. Some people still came there and I felt that my mother enjoyed talking to friends of my father. The problem was that she would sell sweeper supplies on the Sabbath. This bothered me very much, but I didn't want to take away her chance to visit with old friends. God was telling me to make a change, but I was reluctant to do so.

From the beginning of that year until February the seventeenth, I had not sold one sweeper. My business was down, to say the least. The following week I finally listened to God and became obedient. I told my mother that I was taking all the sweeper supplies out of her house. She felt I was going to hurt my business, but God didn't think so.

For the first forty-eight days of the year I had no sales. During the next forty-nine days after my decision to remove all sweeper supplies from my mother's house, God gave me an eighteen hundred dollar increase in earnings!...

Our prayers are always with you in God's Work.  
Thank you for your obedience to God.

In God's love,

L. E.  
(Bluffton, IN)

GOD PROVIDES FOR FAMILY'S NEEDS THROUGH A LARGE TAX REFUND

December 15, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

We are enclosing an offering, which is ten percent of a tax refund we received this Sabbath.

We had our first child three months ago. Before that I had been working to help make ends meet. However, soon after we knew of the baby, we decided that it would be best for me to quit working when the child was born. The only problem was meeting our expenses on a single salary.

To make things worse, we received notice of a tax audit. We thought we would have another bill to worry about. Instead, we found the IRS had made a mistake of over \$1,000 in our favor!

This money has enabled us to pay off several bills and make one of the larger payments several months in advance. We will now be able to make it on a single salary for quite a while thanks to a loving Father who foresaw the needs of His children anxious to raise children His way.

We just wanted to tell you about our blessing which enabled us to even make an offering.

Your children in Christ,

R. C. and family  
(San Antonio, TX)



LONG TERM UNEMPLOYMENT--YET GOD PROVIDED FOR NEEDS

October 2, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

God has blessed me with a good pay raise and even a bonus, so I want to give an extra offering.

My husband was without work for a whole year until six months ago, but we were never without our basic needs. Sometimes we even had some extras. Every time a bill came in, there was money to match it. It got to the point that when I was given extra work hours, I knew there was a larger bill coming, such as fuel or electricity, and we were again being blessed.

We pray for God to continue to bless you in every way, Mr. Armstrong.

Sincerely,

C. K.  
(Bryan, OH)



A JOB JUST WHEN NEEDED

September 12, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

A few days ago, my neighbor and I went to a nearby unclaimed freight store. I picked up a couple of things and mentioned to the owner that it looked like he could use someone to help him straighten the place up. The man told me he had been trying to find someone but without success, to which my neighbor responded that I was looking for a job. (I have been out of work for nine months and was to pick up my last unemployment check on Friday. This happened on Tuesday.)

The store owner asked me to come and talk to him later. I did and he hired me.... I started work the next morning. Thursday was God's Holy Day, and I worked Friday. The man was very understanding of me taking the day off. When he paid me at the end of the week, he said I had done such a good job that he would raise my pay by 25 cents an hour.

I am very thankful to God that the job came at just the right time, and that my pay was increased.

Sincerely,

C. D. (Woman)  
(Grand Rapids, MI)



GOD PROVIDED BLUEBERRIES AS A FUTURE SOURCE OF INCOME

September 12, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

About 10 years ago, my dear husband planted many blueberry bushes in the back of our acre of land.... I think God had me in mind when He inspired him to do it. My husband died three years ago, and since then I have made quite a few dollars from selling those beautiful blueberries. There are about twenty bushes, taller than me and literally covered with huge berries--the size of the large glass marbles we had when I was a kid.

Two of the ladies from our church come out every three or four days during the berry season to help me pick them.... This summer we picked 135 quarts. I gave many to friends and still made a total of \$117.50 from selling them.... God has really blessed me with these berries! They are on bushes so I don't have to bend or stoop to pick them, and also the bushes do not have any thorns like other berry bushes....

God bless you with good health, and keep you safe in your journeys. Thank you for your love and concern for the Church.

E. W.  
(Freedom, PA)



## Answered Prayers

HELP ARRIVES FOR STRANDED MOTHER AND CHILD

January 30, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Like so many of my brethren, I have to stand alone in my marriage, family and social life as a representative in God's Church. It has not been easy to make a complete about-face in a very sophisticated society and as the wife of a man high up in the business world. To be "in this world, but not a part of it" is my challenge every day. It has been a long, lonely struggle and perhaps that is why God has often intervened for me.

My first Feast of Tabernacles comes to mind. I travelled with two other ladies and our children in a very old Rover car which my Dad had given me. The car virtually hiccoughed its way to its destination-- something was terribly wrong. We made it "on a wing and a prayer" as it were.

I was staying a few miles from the Feast site with my three-year-old daughter. The first night on the way home from services the old Rover was coughing alarmingly. It made it up the hill and then came to a standstill on a very lonely, dark road. I went to the nearest house for help only to be met by two ferocious dogs who were ready to eat me up. Back to the car--utterly despondent.

There I was at God's Feast without my husband, and look what has happened to poor little me! I was ready to quit. I said to my daughter, "What do I do now?" Her reply was, "Pray, Mommy, pray," which I did right then. About five minutes later a jeep stopped next to me.

## HELP ARRIVES FOR STRANDED MOTHER AND CHILD

"Good evening. Can you please help me? My car has come to a standstill."

"Can I help you? Sure," he said. "I'm the owner of the local garage."

He told me I was very lucky to find him out at that time of night--something he very seldom did, but something compelled him to go and see his partner about a matter which he felt could not wait until the morning. How I longed to tell him who had sent him to help me! This was my daughter's and my first experience of our loving Father's intervention--something which established faith in that little girl. She knows to this day that God answers prayer.

T. L.  
(South Africa)

FATHERLESS FAMILY RECEIVES NEEDED FINANCIAL HELP

August 22, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

God has really blessed my family in the past two weeks! It all began like this:

My Mom began having excruciating back pains for the second or third time. This time it caused her to lose her job because she was unable to work. Her doctor then put her in the hospital.

Only a week prior to this I lost my job because the funds for the school program I was on ran out. My pay from this job practically supported Mom, my sister, and me this summer. It seemed like the "red carpet" had been pulled from under our feet. I am only sixteen but still felt like it was part of my burden as I have always helped Mom when I could. Now suddenly, we both felt helpless.

So we turned to God and asked Him to pull us through this state of affairs. We also asked Him to correct us if need be. I just can't tell you how wonderful He has been to us!

Last month, my Mom got a job in a cafe just eight miles from home, while before, she had to drive sixteen miles. She is also getting paid more. Her boss, who also gave me a job, refuses to let her do any heavy work. If any low bending is required, the rest of us are called to assist her immediately! She is loved and constantly commended for the good job she is doing....

On top of both of us getting new jobs, suddenly, out of the wild blue yonder, my Dad, who has been divorced from Mama since I was five, calls and says he is putting a check for \$200 in the mail to buy our school clothes. This is something he has not done in four or five years, and we didn't even ask him for it! That is a blessing in itself!

FATHERLESS FAMILY RECEIVES NEEDED FINANCIAL HELP

I really feel God is responsible for all of this. And this feast season I intend to thank Him by giving the biggest offerings I can. I feel that since He has looked upon us so favorably, why not return the kindness!...

I just thank God and pray that He will bless others who are just as unfortunate as us at times. I know for a fact that He hears our prayers. I pray that He continues to keep you in good health to guide us in His way.

Sincerely,

L. C.  
(Lumberton, MS)

GOD PROVIDED NEEDED FINANCES

AS WELL AS OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE IN THE WORK

March 15, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Recently, I asked God in prayer for an opportunity to back the Work, that He is doing through you, more financially. I mentioned to Him that my room and board had increased twenty-five dollars a month and that I had to begin repayment of a student loan of thirty dollars a month--both starting in two weeks! I asked Him to take care of my increased bills which I could barely afford to pay and also claimed God's promise in Malachi 3:8-10 regarding opening the windows of heaven and pouring out abundant blessings on those who tithe and give offerings for His Work and purposes.

I did my part by going to the personnel manager of the company I worked for and asking for a salary increase. Nothing happened. I had an interview with another organization regarding a much better paying job. I still haven't heard from them. I talked to one of the men of the Church's Personnel Department here at Pasadena. Still nothing.

Finally, last Thursday I was offered a position that I did not even apply for at the Communication Services office in the Hall of Administration. It was a full-time job on a two-month trial basis, at a starting hourly wage 43% higher than what I was currently making.

After additional prayer and counsel, I accepted the offer. What a blessing! It will give me an opportunity to serve in the Work as well as to give more in every way to back you as God's apostle. I thank God for opening this door for me to help support you, Mr. Armstrong, in completing the great commission.

A. M.  
(Pasadena, CA)



HOUSE MIRACULOUSLY SPARED FROM HURRICANE

September, 1980

Dear Editor:

I read with great interest in The WORLDWIDE NEWS how God our Father may just possibly have intervened to help Corpus Christi hotels that would later house brethren for the Feast.

I, too, experienced such an answer to prayer last summer.

As a resident of Palm Beach, Florida, we waited--rooted in fear--for hurricane David which, we were told, would hit the Gold Coast.

Our property has ocean frontage and we have seen the sea, without hurricane winds, year by year diminish our coast. We had been told to evacuate because just days earlier the Dominican Republic had experienced 50-foot waves. Prudence led me to figure that height was about 10 feet higher than our house!

Just before we left our home, I went down to the beach and called out to the sea, charging it, in the name of Jesus Christ, with His authority given me as a child of God, not to intrude onto the beach and take out the sand.

Miraculously, the eye of the storm actually came ashore three miles north of our house. Twenty miles out in the ocean, when it was straight out from our property, it suddenly opened up into a 20-mile eye. I believe this was God directing it in that manner. It meant that the wind would reverse direction and instead of blowing from east to west (from sea to land), after the eye passed, it blew from west to east (from land to sea).

## HOUSE MIRACULOUSLY SPARED FROM HURRICANE

God had allowed the off-sea wind, before the eye came, to bring up the waves for a short time, and, as a result, the sand and beach were cleaned and innumerable tons of new sand were brought in and deposited. The beach was replaced by 50%. After the eye and the wind direction changed, the waves could not come up high anymore and we were left with a new improved beach.

Also, God blew off all the mite and fly infections in our citrus trees leaving them undamaged and free of pests.

One reason why God doesn't seem to answer prayer is that often we don't bother to ask Him. Try it, He listens.

In Christ,

D. S.  
(Palm Beach, FL)

LOST KEY FLOATS ON WATER

December 11, 1981

To whomever is interested:

I just read the latest GOOD NEWS articles about prayer and something that happened before the Feast came to mind. I thought you might be interested.

It seems that always before the Feast anything that can go wrong, does around our house. In less than two weeks' time my sewing machine malfunctioned, my tire went flat, the freezer and washer both went out of order, the dryer door hinges broke, etc., etc. Just a lot of irritating things that you simply fix and "keep on trucking."

I had taken it all in stride and just kept hoping to go to the Feast. Then, one day while preparing supper, I went to the freezer, which was working again, and reached on top to get the only key we owned to it. Somehow the key just bounced right out of my hand. I tried to catch it as it fell and watched in total surprise as it bounced across the cement porch and down into an open drain.

I looked at the freezer and at the drain and back at the freezer with my mouth open. Then I just burst out laughing--somehow it seemed hilarious. After two weeks of disasters, this was the topper. I guessed I'd have to go to the store.

While I was laughing and plans for supper were going through my head, I said, "Oh, please God, give me a break." For some reason I looked at the drain and there saw my key come to the top of the standing water, big side up! With two fingers, I reached in to retrieve it. I said, "Thanks, Father!" and finished cooking supper.

Love,

L. W.  
(Cleveland, OK)



FAMILY PET FOUND

June 30, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I would like to tell you about something that began two or three weeks ago. I feel it certainly is evidence that God does hear and answer our prayers. A small puppy that my family and I had grown quite attached to suddenly disappeared one morning. My mother was quite upset and grew more anxious each day as almost a week passed.

I prayed earnestly that God would send the dog home again safely, or let us know what had happened to him. Tonight, nearly two weeks after his disappearance, I came home from Spokesman's Club to find him back. It surely was a miracle that my parents were able to locate him!

Had I not known it before, I certainly would know now that when Jesus Christ said that whatsoever we shall ask, believing, it shall be granted us. He surely meant it, and, as in all things, He is keeping His promises.

With much love in  
Jesus' name,

D. B.  
(Plain Dealing, LA)



SELFISH HUSBAND MAKES REMARKABLE CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

May 19, 1980

Dear Sirs:

A few months ago I asked that you would include me in your prayers. I had a problem with my husband who too frequently drank too much. Also, I prayed and asked your prayers for my family in general.

I am so happy to say that my husband has made a remarkable change. Although he still has a beer occasionally, he does not get drunk like he used to. There is now so much more harmony and love in my home. I thank God continuously, and I know you must have indeed included me on your prayer list.

In the past, my husband would not listen to Bible discussions. Now we sit and learn together. He is not strong yet and loses patience quickly, but it is a start. Thanks be to God he has made a change for the better.

God bless all of you who give of your precious time for the benefit of humanity.

Sincerely,

F. J.  
(Friona, TX)



HUSBAND AGREES TO RESUME TITHING

December 11, 1979

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

When we were first married, my husband allowed me to tithe from his income. This went on for a few years and all of a sudden he didn't want to pay tithes any longer.

This really bothered me, because I didn't feel that I was involved in God's Work the way I was before. I knew God understood my situation, but I still felt awful.

One morning I prayed that God would see my desire to support His Work. I asked Him to touch my husband's heart and to put into his mind willingness to pay tithes, knowing God blesses us for it. Guess what? My husband said he knew that I had been wanting to tithe and he even mentioned that he had noticed how God had blessed us more while we were tithing. I could have jumped for joy!

Thank you for being so loyal and so faithful and so devoted to God. It is wonderful to know God's truth--it is such a blessing and comfort. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

M. D.  
(Shreveport, LA)



DIVIDED FAMILY REUNITED

November 13, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Eight months ago, a man was brought to me needing to rent a room because his wife put him out of their house, took all his money, changed the locks on the outside doors, and was suing him for divorce. They have triplet girls three years old who are quite lively and bright. I took him in.

Towards the end of the first month he was talking to his wife over my phone, yelling at the top of his voice for a full two hours. (I timed him.) I told him that nobody else would stand for that.

Instead of putting him out of my house, I prayed that he and his wife would make up and live happily together. My prayer was answered, and the whole family called on me two days later and showed me how happy they were. And they have been very happy ever since.

That was a miracle!

As ever,

H. R.  
(Hesperia, CA)



FAULTY MICROWAVE TRANSMISSION  
QUICKLY RESTORED THROUGH PRAYER

November 10, 1981

Dear Sir,

I had a most wonderful Feast of Tabernacles at Mt. Pocono. We were especially blessed in that we saw the mighty hand of God manifested.

Shortly before your first-day message was to come on the air, we had no picture. The minister in charge asked us to pray for God's intervention. Two minutes later, a man was seen to come and touch the transmission equipment. Immediately, the picture came on.

It must have been an angel sent from God, for the minister asked the person who touched the equipment to raise his hand and no one did. God had answered our prayers.

I personally felt that God's hand was upon you as you spoke at the first and last service. To me the power manifested in you and the words of wisdom you send forth as you speak are a definite proof that you are God's true apostle. Keep up the good work. I am praying for you day by day.

Prayerfully yours,

H. D.  
(Chippewa Lake, OH)



PRAYER ANSWERED IN UNEXPECTED WAY

November 28, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

How true it is that God answers our prayers His way and in His own time.

I learned that lesson a few years ago when I was with my nephew. He had lost both kidneys and had to be on a kidney machine three days a week for four to five hours at a time. He was only 18 and did not accept his illness very well, which added to his hardship.

At the time I was with him in the hospital, he was very depressed and feeling sorry for himself. I was trying to show him that the situation was not as bad as he thought it was. What he needed to do was to accept it and trust God to help him.

After about an hour of trying to convince him to trust God, I gave up and turned to God myself. I asked Him to give my nephew a reason for living--to help him develop a talent that would give him something to live for. During the time I was praying, I was thinking about his ability to grow things and wanted God to help him find enjoyment using his green thumb.

I had to learn that God is much wiser than I. He did not do what I was thinking. Instead, he helped my nephew by first having his mother give him one of her kidneys, and then leading him to take interest in photography. This was the kind of work he could do because of his limitations. It's much easier for him to take pictures than to grow things. I would have never thought about photography as a way to give him a purpose in life.

PRAYER ANSWERED IN UNEXPECTED WAY

He is now off the kidney machine and training in picture taking so he can someday make a living in that kind of work.

I just thought I would write you about one of the many prayers God answered for me. Every time He answers my prayers, it is different to how I thought He would do it. His ways are always wiser than ours. I have learned to just pray and trust that God will somehow make it all work out for our good.

Sincerely,

J. R.  
(Galliano, LA)

# Healing

CO-WORKER TOTALLY HEALED OF BONE CANCER

March 6, 1981

Dear Brothers in Christ Jesus Our Lord,

I am writing this note thanking God for His healing and you for your prayers. I am asking you to continue praying for my health.

One year ago, I was told that I had cancer of the bone and that my bones were deteriorating. I decided not to have an operation but trusted God for my healing. I wrote Mr. Armstrong a letter and received a prayer cloth. I did what was instructed.

At that time, I could not bathe, dress, or even shave myself. Now, one year later since God has touched my body, I can claim a complete healing through Jesus Christ. By His stripes I am healed. Not only can I do the necessary things for myself but can also cut wood, split logs and do mechanical work as well as anything else that comes up.

I want to thank God for His wonderful healing power and the Worldwide Church of God for their prayers.

With God's love  
to all of you,

J. H.  
(Dalton, GA)



HEALED OF LUNG CANCER

December 6, 1977

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I want to share some good news about myself. When I came out of the hospital about six months ago, I was told that unless I had an operation, I had only two months to live. I had the worst and fastest-growing type of cancer--lung cancer. I did not want an operation so I asked God to take me in His hands....

I was anointed by the local minister, and the next day I felt much better--so much so that I was able to attend Sabbath services the following day.

Now I feel as if I had never been sick a day in my life. I am strong and have lots of energy. The doctors can't get over it. My family and the people at church are really happy about it for they know how sick I was. I never took any kind of drugs while in the hospital. I give God the credit and praise Him and thank Him all the time for what He has done. I also thank all of God's people for their prayers.

May God bless you with good health.

Respectfully,

M. C.  
(Cincinnati, OH)



CANCEROUS TUMOR DISAPPEARS

July 3, 1979

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

For the past two years, I was very sick with cancer and unable to work. Ten months ago, I was given three months to live. The tumor in my stomach was eleven inches in diameter, and my right kidney was crushed. I had lost 45 pounds. But with a change of diet and God's help, I have survived.

Two and a half years ago, when this cancer was first diagnosed, I refused to go into the hospital for treatment. I changed my diet and was doing fine, holding my own until almost a year ago. When I could no longer stand the pain, with coaxing from my family, I was admitted to the hospital.

Because of the tumor's huge size, the only thing the doctors could do was treat it with radiation and chemotherapy. They could not operate. I was anointed by the local minister.

The radiation treatments began. The doctors could not tell me how many treatments I would have to endure. The night before the 19th treatment and then during that treatment, I prayed to God: "Father, you know more about radiation than any doctor could ever know. If it be your will, please help me to get well for I have not learned enough about your ways. I have only been in your Church a very short time. I would like some time to learn more."

When the day came for the 20th treatment, the doctors found after checking me, that the tumor had disappeared. After three x-rays and four ultra-sound tests, they found no tumors, and my right kidney was back to normal as if nothing ever happened!

To date, I have gained back 40 pounds and am no longer under a doctor's care. The cancer is gone. The blood count is okay.

Sincerely,

R. W.  
(Springfield, MA)



HEALED OF TUMOR ON EYELID

July 21, 1977

Dear Sir:

My main concern in writing this letter is that it might encourage or inspire someone.

I believe in the healing power of God now more than ever and the experience I am about to describe will explain. I recently had a chalazion (tumor) come up near my eye. I have had several of these before, all removed by surgery from the eyelids of both eyes. I was not looking forward to surgery again. One day while relaxing completely and meditating on God's greatness, I asked Him to help me and heal this tumor from my eye. At the same time, I had a complete feeling of love for God in my heart and soul. I also felt a strong trust, knowing that God knew my problem and would help me.

Immediately, I felt a very light feeling of pain directly on the tumor. It was as if God had gently plucked it out in those few seconds. Looking in the mirror after, I could see the redness and swelling beginning to go away. They disappeared completely in a few days.

I know that God does answer prayer. He can and does heal our wounds. But, could it be that one needs to have love and trust in God in order for Him to heal us?

Yours very sincerely,

S. F.  
(Barre, VT)



SEVERE STOMACH PROBLEM HEALED

June 7, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I had been suffering for the past few years with discomfort and pain in my back, sides, and stomach. However the day after Passover, I was really struck down with severe pain, having to miss the Night to Be Much Observed, as well as the Holy Day services of the Days of Unleavened Bread.

I was anointed by our pastor. The local elder also prayed with me and spent time with me into the late evening comforting me. For a while the pain became unbearable but was alleviated enough in the next few hours to allow me to get some sleep. The next day my wife and I were able to make a planned trip to California. There our son, a minister in God's Church, wanted us to seek medical advice from doctors he knew, who had helped some of the local brethren find answers to their problems and help themselves.

While there, the pain again became so intense that I was rushed to the hospital. After tests and x-rays, the doctors told my family they thought I had cancer of the stomach. That evening, just as the Sabbath began, my son anointed me. Afterwards, being alone in my hospital bed, I prayed. Word had been given to our minister back in Miami requesting that the brethren there pray for me.

The next day, on the Sabbath, I was relaxed, comfortable, and knowing I would be healed, as I no longer had any pain. A few days later the doctors

## SEVERE STOMACH PROBLEM HEALED

advised us that the biopsies were benign but recommended that part of my stomach be removed because of a very large gastric ulcer which they did not think would heal. We asked them what the chances for healing were, and they said, maybe 10%. I told them that I would take that chance. They consented but recommended that when I got home, I should have careful monitoring by a stomach doctor for six to eight months to see if any healing had occurred.

The doctor in Miami after hearing my story, expressed surprise that I did not have any pain since first being admitted to the hospital. After viewing the original x-rays, he was convinced in his mind that I did have cancer of the stomach. He took new x-rays and tests, and afterwards expressed amazement that all he could find was scar tissue where the ulcer had been.

Sincerely,

A. S.  
(Miami, FL)

TEENAGER GETS TO KNOW GOD  
THROUGH HEALING OF THYROID CONDITION

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I am fourteen years old and will soon be fifteen. Around four months ago my parents wrote to you requesting a prayer cloth for me because I had a thyroid condition. I had a large mass in my throat that kept growing and growing. The doctors told me I could have only three radiology treatments, then an operation would be required.

When my parents requested the prayer cloth, I really was not willing to go along with it. I wouldn't let them use it on me. I had one treatment, the mass disappeared for awhile, then returned. I had another and the mass returned again. I had only one more left and was getting worried. After the last treatment, the mass never left at all.

My parents went against my will one night while I was sleeping and placed the prayer cloth on my head. Right after that my neck slimmed down, and the mass started getting smaller. Now it is completely gone. Since this has happened, I have found pleasure in God.

I have found that He listens when no one else does. He always has time for me along with everyone else. He also can answer many questions and solve problems no one else can. I very often go to my room and just talk to Him, and I know He hears my every word. I also feel more free and open with God. I consider Him the most understanding and very best friend. I know now that I can love and serve God and still have fun. I wish more kids my age and people of all ages (but especially kids my age) could get to know God like I have and become friends with the most important Person in our lives!

A. B. (girl)  
(Morgantown, WV)



HEALED OF INFECTION, PNEUMONIA AND STOMACH BLOCKAGE

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I am writing this letter to tell you of my experiences in the last year, of God's mercy and the many times that He healed me.

I suffered a compound fracture of the left thigh bone. In order to set the bone and keep it in place, it was necessary to insert a metal rod inside the leg from the hip to just above the knee and fasten it at the break with two screws. A severe infection developed as a result of the operation. I stayed at home for three months when I had to return to the hospital for physical care. I had been anointed, and God healed me and stopped the infection just short of reaching the bone. If the infection had reached the bone, I would have been in very serious trouble.

While recovering from the infection, I contracted double pneumonia, and the doctor didn't have much hope for my recovery. Again I was anointed, being almost unconscious at that time. The next day, I was wide awake, and in another day or two, the pneumonia was practically gone. God had healed me again, almost instantly, and saved my life.

About a week before the pneumonia developed, I began vomiting on and off for days at a time. The reason was unknown. The doctor inserted a tube down my nose to continually pump out my stomach. The only nourishment I received was from intravenous feeding. After four weeks of this and many x-rays, the doctor said my stomach was very distended due to a blockage and felt that without an operation I would die. My wife and I chose to trust God and told the doctor we would never agree to surgery. We prayed earnestly for God to heal me and make it possible for me to attend the Feast of Tabernacles.

During this time, I was also healed of a blockage which prevented me from urination. Having diabetes, I was almost put into a diabetic coma on two separate

## HEALED OF INFECTION, PNEUMONIA AND STOMACH BLOCKAGE

occasions by the doctor. God prevented this from happening by guiding a nurse into my room shortly after I became unconscious....

A week after saying I would die without an operation and two days before the Feast, the doctor had more x-rays taken. They showed my stomach as completely normal. God, in His great mercy, had healed me and saved my life again.

The doctors could not believe what had happened. All they could say was, "unbelievable--fantastic--are you sure this is the same man--the same stomach?" My weight was now down to around 100 pounds. Being 6'4", I was skin and bones and extremely weak. At this point, I wanted to leave the hospital, but the doctors wouldn't let me, saying I was still too sick. So on Thursday, to the great dismay of the doctors, I signed myself out. Friday morning I was on my way to the Feast with much help from friends. During the Feast, the only way that I was able to get around at all was in a wheelchair.

My weight is now up to about 175 pounds and has been for the last two and a half months. I have been able to attend Sabbath services for four months.

This last year has been just unbelievable because of all we have experienced. It certainly has proved to me that God is extremely merciful and generous with us. I am thankful to Him for having called me into His great Work and for the tremendous blessing of being able to call on Him for healing and to know that He will heal according to His promise.

A. R.  
(Peekskill, NY)

EIGHT YEAR OLD HEALED OF MENINGITIS

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

As members of God's Church, we received a wonderful blessing recently which we would like to share with others. Our eight-year-old son was miraculously healed.

One evening, he began running a temperature and not feeling well, so in the morning we called the minister for an anointing. After I left for work, his fever shot up and he went into a convulsion. His body became rigid, his eyes rolled to the back of his head, and he became blue all over from lack of oxygen. Screams of agony convinced us that he was dying. Nothing my wife did seemed to help so she called the fire department.

They were very helpful but, of course, insisted that our son be taken to a hospital. After my wife and I talked on the phone, we decided not to admit him to the hospital but to trust God completely for his healing.

About two hours later, my wife called again, this time saying that our son was dying. He had gone into another convulsion, much worse than the first. Again the fire department came and revived him with oxygen. This time he was rushed to the hospital. I immediately left work to meet them there.

When I arrived, the boy was still unconscious and muttering incoherently because of the high fever. After telling the doctor we would rather no drugs be given, he wondered why we had brought him. We allowed the hospital staff to make blood and urine tests. The tests showed his white blood cell count to be so high, the doctors were convinced he had meningitis and wanted to do a spinal tap. After discussing the procedure, we

## EIGHT YEAR OLD HEALED OF MENINGITIS

decided not to submit our son to a spinal tap. With that decision, the doctor left the case and the hospital would no longer assume liability.

After this decision was made, the boy revived, became coherent and seemed almost completely normal, as we left the hospital with him. However, that evening his temperature once again rose to 107 degrees. We set him in a tub of cool water to bring it down and prayed for God to stop any more convulsions. He lay like this five days and six nights losing ten pounds.

The following Sabbath he attended Sabbath services with us thanks to God and the many friends who prayed for his recovery.

We are thankful we know the great living God, who does care. God is our Healer and daily Sustainer.

D. D.  
(Oceanside, CA)

PNEUMONIA AND CIRRHOSIS OF LIVER HEALED

March 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Last year in June, I had the misfortune to contract hepatitis and became weak and unable to work. I asked our local pastor to anoint me for healing.

About two or three days later, I came down with a flu which turned into pneumonia. I was very ill and called our doctor who diagnosed the pneumonia. The following day, however, he was taken back and very mystified when he called, as both the flu and pneumonia had completely disappeared! Nevertheless, the hepatitis was still there and this turned into cirrhosis of the liver. The specialist, who confirmed the cirrhosis, gave me some pills. They made me feel worse so I decided to leave my fate in God's capable hands.

It was doubtful whether I would be able to make it to the Feast of Tabernacles. Yet I did go and felt really good and thoroughly enjoyed myself. On returning home, I went back to work the first time since June but only for four hours per day.

Thanks to God's healing power and blessings, I am now working full-time again and have been for a month. I am completely healed of the cirrhosis, much to the amazement of my doctor.

C. N.  
(Nelson, New Zealand)



BROKEN NECK HEALED WHEN FAITH PUT IN GOD

May 25, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I am 24 years old and a mother of a five-year-old girl and a one-year-old boy.

Two years ago, I found out that I was walking around with a broken neck. I really have no idea how it ever happened.

Last year, I had surgical fusion on my neck. I put my faith in doctors, not totally in God. After the surgery, I went through a year of misery. The doctor said that the operation had made my condition worse, as it did not heal properly. A second surgery would have been required if my next checkup didn't show improvement.

I started reading the literature on healing and was anointed three days before the checkup. The doctor could not believe the results. My neck was healed! All he could do was stare at the x-rays.

My family and I thank you for your faith and the truth which God has brought to us through you. We pray for your health, wisdom and strength every day to finish the Work God has given you to do.

With love,

L. R.  
(West Branch, MI)



HEALED OF APPENDICITIS--LEARNS MANY LESSONS

December 15, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

God has just worked a most wonderful miracle in my life! About a month ago, I was suddenly beset with intense stomach pains followed by vomiting and more pain. I could not even stand up. We immediately called for an anointed cloth to be sent. The pains increased, and I was only able to drink ice water. The signs read appendicitis.

I decided to put myself in God's hands and not go to the hospital. It is easy to say that now, but at the time I was often weak and had doubts, especially when my appendix burst and the pain was so great that I was delirious. But our merciful Father strengthened me and gave me faith.

It was two weeks before the pain quit and I was able to sleep at night. A week later I was out of bed. God healed me of a most serious illness that generally causes death when left untreated! This truly is a miracle, but there is much more.

This has been both my most difficult trial and my greatest blessing. God has opened my eyes to so many things! I can never again doubt His mercy and love or question His will. Sure, I knew before that God would take care of our needs, but now I really know. There is so much difference between book knowledge and knowledge pounded home by the experience of trials.

I have always led a very hectic, busy life and was constantly pessimistically worrying. The worry is all but completely gone. The Almighty has increased my

## HEALED OF APPENDICITIS--LEARNS MANY LESSONS

faith several fold and helped me to take a look at my life. What a difference there is between putting in an appropriate amount of prayer and Bible study and really being wholeheartedly behind the Work! Working almost full-time and going to college full-time makes it too easy to put many false gods before the true one. I am quitting the worldly college I was attending and will try to really follow Christ's example and draw close to God. It will be a long hard battle, but the rewards are eternal.

During my illness, it was proven to me beyond a doubt that the love of Christ is in the Church. I received several dozen cards and twice as many calls. I deserved nothing, but hundreds of people, whether they knew me or not, knelt down and lifted up their voices to God because I was a sister. These were the prayers that God answered.

R. C.  
(East Lansing, MI)

HEALED FROM PARALYSIS THE HOUR THE CHURCH PRAYED

September 14, 1981

Dear Brethren in Christ:

I have been a church member for almost a year. About two months ago, I had a stroke that paralyzed my complete left side. I was in a veterans' hospital when six days after the stroke, my left arm, leg, and hand began to return to normal. As the stroke had been caused by a blood clot on my brain, the doctors were amazed. I was not in the least surprised but was very thankful.

Later, I found out that on the very day, almost to the hour of my healing, an announcement had been made in church concerning my condition. God answered the prayers of my brethren that same day. I thank each and every one for cards and letters I received. I am also very thankful to our Creator.

Sincerely,

J. B.  
(Beaverton, AL)



DROWNED SEVEN YEAR OLD BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

During the summer of last year, our seven-year-old son had gone swimming in a backyard pool of one of the brethren during a Boys' Club outing. He is not a swimmer and where he jumped into the pool, the water was too deep, plus he was on a downgrade which made it impossible for him to walk out into more shallow water.

As the brethren were observing the boys in the pool, they suddenly realized that our son, with his head barely above the water, had been in this position a little longer than normal.

To try and make a long story short, I was told by one of the brethren that from the time the boy was pulled from the pool to the time he started showing signs of life again, after their frantic efforts to revive him, he had to have been literally dead. His lungs were so full of water that it was almost impossible for the men to get any air into him by mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Each time they attempted to get air into his lungs, nothing but water and blood gushed from his nostrils.

I understand that after our son's revival, he passed out again several times--once at the house before the ambulance arrived and then again on the way to the hospital which, according to the ambulance attendants, was almost fatal again.

In short, God in His mercy and ever loving kindness intervened and gave us our son back. He heard and answered the prayers of the brethren who prayed while others worked very hard to try to save his life.

W. W.  
(Baltimore, MD)



CRUSHED FINGERS HEALED

May, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Last Friday morning, one of our employees working on the machines in Postal Services had an accident, and his left hand was caught in the machinery. When he withdrew his hand, the fingers were crushed and the little finger was fractured. One of the ministers immediately anointed him, and he was taken to hospital. However, on reaching the hospital the fingers (including the little one) had filled out, the bruising had gone, and all that remained was a small cut on his index finger.

He wrote in a letter afterwards: "I am just writing this note to you, to tell you how thankful I am to a loving and gracious God, who healed my hand which had four fingers crushed in one of the Press's machines. The only way I can describe it is that it was a miracle. God has shown to me that the prayer of faith really does come true. It has increased my faith in God and Jesus Christ by 100%. We hear of many miracles being performed, but when it actually concerns yourself, it means so very much more..."

Reported by:

Mr. Paul Suckling  
(Radlett, England)



MASSIVE INJURIES FROM CAR ACCIDENT HEALED

September, 1974

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Two years ago our then 15-year-old son was struck by an 86-year-old man travelling between 70-75 miles per hour in his car. While waiting for the ambulance and seeing his blood drain out of his lips, I knew only God could save him. I put him in God's hand as I could see he was dying.

When the ambulance arrived, I rode along. On the radio, I heard the attendant report the case. According to the surgeon on duty, there was no hope for him. His chances for survival were zero. He had a bruised left lung, head fracture and concussion, both legs snapped off above the knees at the growth plate, fractured left hip and pelvic area and ruptured bladder and spleen. The doctor said it looked as if someone had taken a hammer and beat the bones.

He spent seven days in an intensive care unit and the seventh day ate whole food. He was placed in a cast the third week. We then took him home and cared for him. The doctors figured he was healed, but for their own feelings put casts on him.

Two months to the day he was up walking. The doctors said it was just a series of miracles. He has maintained his schooling plus went to the barn to help. He will graduate this coming June and is strong and healthy. We are just so grateful he is alive. I still sit and shake my head whenever I think about this.

K. H.  
(Rochester, MN)



GIRL SPEEDILY RECOVERS FROM SLEDDING ACCIDENT

March 6, 1978

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Five days ago, our 12-year-old daughter was sledding down our steep driveway and ran head-on into the tire of our one-ton truck which was parked at the end of the drive. The impact was strong enough to break the welded joint of one of the braces on the front of the sled. She came into the house with a great deal of pain in the kidney area and soon began vomiting and passing blood in the urine.

We called the local minister and asked him to pray for her and to send an anointed cloth. Not long after we all prayed for God to intervene, our daughter quieted down and went to sleep. Several other members had also begun to pray for her about that time.

About 4 a.m. the next morning, the pain and nausea returned much worse than earlier. Again we called an elder to pray for her and discussed taking her to a hospital. Because of the hour and the snow-clogged roads and especially because we were earnestly praying that it would not be necessary, we kept waiting, praying for the pain to pass. We spoke to the elder a few minutes after 6 a.m. and by 7 a.m. the nausea and pain had eased, and she went back to sleep.

About noon, the local elder visited and anointed her, and since that point, her recovery has been dramatic. She has run a slight temperature which peaked the evening of the third day after the accident. Today, it is almost back to normal. She has some stiff, sore muscles but is recovered to the point when it is hard to keep her in bed. The urine is now only faintly discolored.

We are extremely thankful to our loving Father who has been so merciful to us. We just thought it might encourage you to know about this and share our thankfulness and joy.

Sincerely,

R. B.  
(Newland, NC)



SEVERED TENDON PAINLESSLY HEALED

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I would like to relate what happened to me and tell you how God healed me.

I was repairing my oldest daughter's car. I had some screws and bolts in a glass jar by me and accidentally broke the jar. I asked my daughter to clean up the mess, which she did, but left the base of the jar there, thinking I might need the screws in it.

While putting on the brake shoe return spring, I slipped and lost my balance. In falling, I put my hand down to stop the fall and cut my right index finger from the middle joint to the bone and on up to the top of the knuckle. The cut severed one of the tendons. It required plastic surgery on the inside and fourteen stitches on the outside.

You know how dirty and greasy one gets while working on a car. I was quite dirty, and the doctors didn't even clean my hand before or after sewing it! I asked one of God's elders to anoint me for three things: complete healing, no infection and that there would be very little pain.

I didn't have much pain. In fact, there was very little at all. When the doctors removed the bandage ten days later, there had been no infection whatsoever. My writing to you is testimony of the healing and complete mending of a tendon.

D. B.  
(San Antonio, TX)



BABY CONCEIVED AFTER WAITING 17 YEARS

July 3, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I am writing to tell you of the great miracle that God has performed for us. We hope this letter will encourage others with similar problems.

My husband and I have been married for 17 years but could never have children. We went through many tests but in the end were told that we would never be able to have children. It really hit us hard as we had such hope and have always wanted a family.

However, we knew God's promise that He was our healer. I was anointed three or four years ago and a little later my husband was anointed also. We left it in God's hands. We started taking in foster children and have considered just being able to care for them a blessing.

Recently, I went to the doctor for a general check-up as I have been feeling very tired. To our surprise and total shock I am now five months pregnant! I am feeling great, and we are so happy.

Nothing is impossible for God. We are thankful to be a part of this great Work, to know the truth, and with this blessing on top of that, wow!

Mr. Armstrong, we are totally behind you and pray for you always.

With much Christian love,

F. R.  
(Fresno, CA)



BABY HEALED OF SEVERE DEFORMITIES

December 12, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I wanted to tell you personally of a healing miracle that has occurred in my family. My eldest daughter went into labor to give birth to her first child, my second grandchild. The following morning, I was called to the hospital. The unborn child had expelled its bowels prior to birth, which is a sign of a distressed fetus. The hospital staff placed a monitor on its head to measure the heart beat. They said there was something wrong with the baby, but they couldn't tell what, till it was born.

The boy was limp at birth. His respiratory system failed, and he was put on machines to keep him alive. His head was grossly malformed--his skull from the front hair line to the back of the head, about ear level, was missing. The skin was there but no bone. The doctor felt that part of his brain was undeveloped and scheduled a brain scan for the next morning. He said, "Even if his brain was intact, it would take years for his head to look like a human skull." His jaw was pushed back and sideways, and his nose was flattened to one side.

Things looked bleak indeed, so I called the minister in my church area and requested prayers for the baby... One hour after the request went out, he was removed from the machines as his respiratory system had stabilized.

I went home that evening to rest and when I returned the next morning, the head R.N. said, "Come and see our miracle baby." The boy's head was

## BABY HEALED OF SEVERE DEFORMITIES

perfectly formed, the skull intact, his jaw line normal and his little nose straightened out. He was kicking and yelling, telling us he was fine! I told the nurse of the church's prayers and she said, "It could only be an act of God," and she sure believed it!...

My daughter is not in the Church, but God has used this situation to inspire this whole church area. My dearly beloved brethren's faith has increased as a result of this miracle. Loving people that they are, they even gave the baby a shower as he and his mom had little to go home to.

I thank God many times daily for that beautiful little boy and for His people. This Church is so full of love and compassion.

Sincerely,

C. G.  
(Kennewick, WA)

FROM 45% HEARING LOSS TO PERFECT HEARING

November 19, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I want to share a beautiful experience our family has had this last week. Seven months ago we were told that our five-year-old daughter had a 45% hearing loss. This could be repaired by having tubes implanted in her ears and letting the fluid drain out. However, my husband was laid off and his insurance cancelled, so we couldn't afford an operation. Four months later, we were directed to an organization called Crippled Children. We were told it would take two weeks to find out if our daughter qualified for aid. Six weeks passed with no word.

One night our daughter woke me up complaining that her ears hurt. I sat with her for a while, then I knelt down and asked God to heal her ears. I told Him that we couldn't afford an operation and that I knew He could heal her if He wished. I put my hands over my daughter's ears and heard a popping sound in each ear. I had no way of knowing if her ears had been healed.

One week later we received a letter from Crippled Children saying that our daughter qualified. We were to take her to the hospital in two weeks to have her ears retested. She had her ears tested and guess what? She could hear perfect! Not average, but perfect. We were told she could hear better than a normal child her age. The doctors were baffled trying to explain why her ears were all right now. Yet I knew why.

God heard my prayers and the prayers of my friends and family. I love our Father in heaven and His Son, Jesus, more than anything or anyone in this world. I will forever give praise to God for the many blessings He bestows upon us everyday. May God be with you.

With love,

P. S.  
(Frankton, IN)



## God's Protection

CHILDREN IN ROLL-AWAY CAR MIRACULOUSLY PROTECTED

December 8, 1980

Gentlemen:

I would like to relate something that happened in our family recently which certainly made us feel that we had been recipients of special protection.

I had gone into a country roadside store to purchase some apple cider for friends. Knowing I would "only be a minute" and that I'd be carrying out quite a bit, I left our two preschoolers, ages 1 and 3, in our VW bug out front. While paying the cashier, a lady there said, "Your car just rolled out of the parking lot!"

The 3 year old had come up front and shifted the floor shift into neutral, causing the car to roll down the gentle incline on which it was parked, all the way across the highway until it stopped in the grass on the other side. The astonishing thing was that this was at 5:15 p.m. rush hour on a very busy highway, plus it was dark, with a black, unlit VW travelling broadside across the highway! The real miracle, however, was that the car didn't just stop on the road, but kept going to the other side, since the street really was the "valley" of the slight incline there.

This experience certainly provided a real lesson to me and our family and filled us with great appreciation for God's mercy and protection, and we wanted to share it with you.

Sincerely,

S. F.

(Mundelein, IL)



TRAPPED UNDER A TON OF STEEL SHEETS--YET SAVED ALIVE!

July, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Please find enclosed a money order from my husband for his tithe.

Earlier this year, my husband suffered an accident at work when a ton of steel sheets slid from an upraised fork-lift. He had tried to run but, suffering from Parkinson's disease, he couldn't move quickly enough. The load caught up to him, pushing him to the ground and falling on top of him. Only his head remained uncovered. He felt positively sure his legs were gone because he couldn't feel them at all. The sheets had to be raised singly, by hand. His colleagues felt sick as they thought his body would be squashed flat. However, with the last sheet removed they discovered he looked all right. With surprise, they helped him to his feet and drove him to the hospital. When he fell, his legs and body had landed between stacks of four-by-fours on the ground which had taken the full weight of the steel.

Only his right hand, arm, leg and foot were squashed, and he had a few deep abrasions and a cracked bone in the elbow. He knew right away who had saved him, and when I drove him home, the first thing he said was, "Can I tithe?" followed by "Can I be anointed?" so our minister came right out.

It only took eight weeks before he was able to return to his job, which was a surprise even to us, because besides being partially crippled, he is in his 60th year.

With love,

E. W.  
(Lethbridge, Canada)



WIDOW'S LIFE SPARED IN ARMED ROBBERY

June 23, 1981

Dear Sirs,

I was listening to a sermon tape when my "hell on earth" occurred with two men breaking into my house.

After tying me up, they ransacked my bedroom looking for money. I heard them empty my tithe jars and thought, "God will get you for that!" After taking my current house expense money and finding my cache of two dollar bills which I was saving for a car license and a pair of shoes, they wanted silver. I laughed and said they had the wrong house.

One threw a cover over my head and when I complained I couldn't breathe, he stuck something at my head and said, "You won't need to lady. I'm counting to ten and blowing you away!"...

Just then the other person called and suddenly all was quiet. I lay still, very still, for about ten minutes, having freed a hand so I could hold up the blanket for air. Then I got up, found some shoes and coat, and went to the neighbors for a phone as mine was ripped from the wall.

My spoon collection on the wall had also caught their eye, so it was gone. They were just gift spoons from travels of my friends, so had no monetary value but were valuable in memories to me.

By now, the money taken in the robbery has been replaced by my Church family, and already I have another spoon to hang on the empty wall! All in all, it was quite an experience.

I also learned that "one really can pray hanging upside down in a well!"

Sincerely,

J. D.  
(Stillman Valley, IL)



ATTACKER OVERPOWERED BY INVISIBLE FORCE

March 31, 1981

Dear brothers in Christ,

I would like to share with you an incident which happened at work, at a coal mine, several days ago.

I received word from my foreman to go and repair the roof-drill for a new employee. When I got there, the employee informed me that he had already repaired the roof-drill.

As I was leaving him to return to my job, he started throwing questions at me, such as: "They tell me you don't work Saturdays. Why?"

My reply: "Religious reasons."

"What religion?"

My reply: "The Worldwide Church of God."

His question: "Armstrong, right?"

"Yes!"

His question: "What do you think of this Armstrong character?"

My reply: "I am very much aware of the fact that he is God's apostle for today!"

He then grabbed me, and threw me on the mine floor. With the cold edge of his knife at my throat, he said, "Take the words back that Armstrong is an apostle for today!" All the time he was cursing Mr. Armstrong. I refused to take back my words.

I managed to get my hand on his forehead and push him off but knew that if he got me down again, without a hand from God, he would kill me. I uttered a silent

## ATTACKER OVERPOWERED BY INVISIBLE FORCE

prayer, and immediately he started fighting something other than myself--and something I could not see. He began to vomit and cry violently and kept it up for several minutes. Then he crawled to the other side of the mine.

From this experience, I learned that any man can bring on the wrath of God by speaking evil against His apostle! The way God saved my life, I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that He is faithful in keeping His promises in Hebrews 13:5-6 and II Thessalonians 3:3. I was also reminded of Paul's words to Timothy in II Timothy 3:11 and yes, brethren, out of all persecutions we can be delivered!

S. K.  
(Pikeville, KY)

MEMBERS ESCAPE MOMENTS BEFORE DISASTER

April, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Recently, some of the local brethren were witnesses to God's divine protection when the mining site where they were panning gold was fired upon by the rebels. A policeman and three CHDF (civilian home defense force) men were hit. Stray bullets killed a woman and seriously injured another. Moments before one of the CHDF men was felled by a bullet, a Church member was talking with him. Had it not been for the timely arrival of another member, who took hold of his hand forcing him to leave, he could have been hit also.

Another member almost became one of forty casualties when the cave, where he and others were mining for gold, collapsed. Moments before the accident, he was right there in the cave together with his forty companions (not members). He was sent out on an errand by their team leader and had not yet gone far when he suddenly heard a big explosion that killed all his co-workers.

From a report  
by local elder,

Mario Dulguime  
(Philippines)



HOME SAVED FROM FIRE

August 10, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Recently, I have quit my job. Though it was only part-time, it took up much of my time. I wasn't devoting enough time to prayer and Bible study as I should have been. I feel God has told me I was drifting from Him because last week my house almost burned down.

When I came home from work, the smell of gas was very strong in the house. I ran to the basement and found the hot water heater on fire with flames five feet high. I remember saying, "Oh, Lord, tell me what to do," and in a split second the idea of dousing the fire with water came to my mind. I went to the sink there in the basement, got a pan of water and poured it on the water heater putting out the flames. When the firemen came, they said if I hadn't acted, the house would have blown up before their arrival because the gas was very concentrated throughout the house. I know God saved my life, my home and my three animals. I just want to tell you He still helps us and hears our prayers. I know I must get close to Him again like I was. As you told us, we all need to pray and study more.

Love,  
your sister in Christ,

R. W.  
(West Chester, OH)



ANGELIC PROTECTION WHILE DRIVING

November 19, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I sure do believe in guardian angels. I know God intervened and protected me many times while I was driving. I had some very close calls, and the miracles I have seen--there was no other answer....

On the way to the Feast, I stopped at a red light, and a big truck hit me full force in the rear. The impact broke the truck's headlight and caused an oil leak. Glass was all over the rear end of my car. I got out and started to clean the glass off the rear lights--none of which were broken!...

The truck driver admitted that it was his fault as he wasn't paying attention. Another man came running over and asked if I needed a witness.... He said, "Lady, you have a mighty tough car!" I have a 1975 Plymouth Valiant. A lady from church said God must have made the car rubber at the time of the accident--it had no damage at all.

Last winter, when I was coming home from my mother's place in a heavy snowfall, the car started to slide, then went over a bank and almost turned over. Then, all of a sudden, it went back on all four wheels. It was still running, and I continued on my way home with only a little grass on the bumper. Another time while it was raining, the car started to slide, probably because of oil on the road. I hit the guard

ANGELIC PROTECTION WHILE DRIVING

rail full force--yet there was no damage! But I was very frightened.

I know that God has intervened for me more than once and protected me. I always pray for God's guidance and protection before I drive. There are all kinds of people out there--drunks, people on dope, impatient people, people that do not respect you or even care about themselves. They would just as soon run you down.... I always try to obey the traffic laws and have respect for other drivers. My driver's license is a privilege, not a right....

Well, I must close. Keep up the good work.

All my love,  
your daughter in Christ,

H. C.  
(Harrisburg, PA)

FAMILY UNINJURED DESPITE SEVERE ACCIDENT

December 3, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Who said the days of miracles have passed!!

The 1980 Feast will always remind our family that God and His angels are indeed watching over the elect.

It was a fine sunny day when we set out from Auckland, heading south to spend the Feast at Christchurch. We had our little granddaughter, age two, with us. Everything was going according to plan....

We were planning to spend the night with brethren en route. That day the weather in their area had been wet and windy, and it became dark earlier than expected. We missed our turnoff as the signpost was not easily seen in the dark. It wasn't long before we realized that we were driving along a wrong road, but soon came to a crossroad, found our directions and set off. From then on strange things began to happen....

My husband drove up a hill, but as he was going to round the corner and go down the other side, the wheel didn't respond; it was locked. Instead of turning, the car remained on a straight course. We both knew what was going to happen as we could see a fence looming up in front of us. My husband quietly said, "Oh God save us," and as we crashed through the fence, he looked at me and said, "Hang on, honey." Nothing more was said, and we left the situation in God's hands. Both of us later remarked we didn't feel afraid and our little granddaughter was quiet also. She was sitting on my knee with my arms loosely around her, and they were the same when the car came to a halt....

At the angle the car was, it should have rolled many times down the eighty-foot drop, destroying itself and killing its passengers. Instead, it turned and went straight down the hill. It felt as if the car was being held down at the back. Instead of gaining speed as we went down, we slowed up. Finally, the car came to a stop with the front in a creek and the wheels on the bank....

## FAMILY UNINJURED DESPITE SEVERE ACCIDENT

My husband tested the car and everything was functioning. He only had some difficulty opening the front door.... Also, we had in the car some large bottles of fruit and jam, as well as other things. The miracle was that nothing was broken or even chipped. Everything was in perfect order. The only thing was, there were lemons spilled everywhere as we had two cases for the brethren in the south.

As it was dark, we didn't know where we were and how far away help was, so before my husband left, he asked God to direct him.... Once he got to the road, he was able to stop a car which took him to the nearest farmhouse. He called our friends with whom we were going to spend the night and they came over very quickly to pick us up.

The next day the two men returned to recover the car and mend the fence. When they saw where the car was, how it had gone down and where it stopped, they shuddered at what could have happened. Yet the three of us had neither scratch nor bruise, only aching bodies....

After minor repairs to the car, we were able to continue our journey as planned.

With all our love,

G. R.  
(Auckland, New Zealand)

GOD PROTECTS LIVES, PROPERTY AND REPUTATION

October 27, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I've been told by members that God doesn't work miracles in our time. Well, I believe He does. I would like to briefly relate three miracles that God performed for me immediately following this Feast of Tabernacles.

On the trip home from the Feast at about 9 o'clock at night, my two young sons and I were traveling east on I-70 which, being an interstate highway, has a fence between the eastbound and westbound lanes. We were watching the speedometer to get the time when we hit the 700 mile mark when I noticed up around the canyon an approaching pair of headlights. Since our attention was on the speedometer and no traffic was behind me, there appeared to be no danger. Coming around the next turn, I saw that the pair of headlights was in my lane! I was traveling about 55 m.p.h., and the truck coming at me was probably doing the same. It was about 300 feet away, and we were closing at 160 feet per second.

I swerved to the left lane and hit the car brakes which caused the trailer I was towing to go into a jackknife position. I released the brake, and we straightened out and missed the truck. Scientifically, I should have wrecked, but God did not allow that to happen.

A few miles later, on a two-lane section of the same highway, I started to pass a slow-moving semi-trailer, lost control and went off the left side of the highway, then regained control and continued on. I believe, that except for a "Strong Hand from Someplace" keeping me from going down into a ditch, I would have wrecked everything.

That wasn't enough miracles to show me that our God is truly a wonderous God. Friday, I went back to work. I manage and operate a Phillips 66 bulk plant for a jobber, Blackwell Oil Company.... While I was at the Feast, a stand-in was to make any necessary deliveries.... One customer had ordered regular gas and unleaded gas, and the delivery was made during the Feast. When I picked up the key to the truck where the

## GOD PROTECTS LIVES, PROPERTY AND REPUTATION

delivery came from, there was a message that there was unleaded gas in the truck. But when I checked, the fuel smelled like aviation gas.

I called the customer and asked if he had used any of that gas. I was hoping he had not because I feared it was aviation gas. It had been a whole week! He said, no, they had not used any of it yet. On Sunday, when I went out, drained his tank and put in real unleaded gas, I asked him why they hadn't used it. He and his wife and son said they didn't know. They thought of it but just didn't use it. God does not only protect one's life and property, but also one's job and reputation through miracles.

God's miracle in this situation saved my employer thousands of dollars. Had the gas been used in a car, it would have ruined the engine and catalytic converter, and the people had two vehicles to use it in!

The miracle also enhanced my reputation because I caught the error. I could have very easily drained that gas into the storage tank for unleaded and ruined thousands of dollars worth of gas. I also believe God caused me to check the fuel for smell which I would not normally do.

I constantly stand in awe of our God. He is absolutely, unbelievably incredible!...

I could go on and on, not because I'm bragging about being the recipient of God's blessings, but because I stand in awe. I just like to tell people what a fantastic, overwhelming, awe-inspiring, incredible God our God really is. And, just think, if I keep trying, keep studying, "keep the faith," someday I will become HIS SON, and meet Him face-to-face! Then I will thank Him again for all the wondrous things He did for me here on this earth....

D. M.  
(Granby, CO)

## Blessings

PROSPECTIVE MEMBER BLESSED WITH WORK,

FRIENDSHIP AND FAVORS

December 11, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Let me tell you how I've been blessed since coming to this area!

It was going on two and a half weeks and I couldn't find a job. I was praying, studying the Bible and fasting. Then I came across your article in the January, 1980 GOOD NEWS entitled, "The Time Has Come For Fasting and Prayer." After reading it, I said to a friend, "Maybe I should fast until I get a job and God answers my prayers." The very next day I went to a local charitable organization which helps people find work or gives them breakfast or a place to go for Thanksgiving.

There were all kinds of people looking for work. A really nice man said he might have a job for me if I had a driver's license. It so happened that I did. It was a minimum wage job right on the other side of town.... I decided to take it. I was told that someone else was supposed to get this job, but I would know if I could have it by ten o'clock that morning.

Finally, I got the job! Then things really started happening!... While washing a car at work, I saw a lady and her daughter who needed help. Their truck had an overheated radiator and a dead battery. I borrowed my boss's truck to charge the battery. The lady thanked me and put five dollars in my hand. I was about to say, "No, thank you," when I remembered that article in The GOOD NEWS, the part where you were in similar circumstances, and took the five dollars gladly. It was enough for bus fare for the rest of the week.

Then that first week, a sweet elderly lady gave me a gift certificate for a turkey for Thanksgiving. Another blessing! There were eight of us and a 25 pound turkey. Later, I found out that a friend of mine, whom I met at the Feast of Tabernacles in Spokane, worked within a mile from where I worked and lived close to my home on the other side of town....

PROSPECTIVE MEMBER BLESSED WITH WORK, FRIENDSHIP AND FAVORS

And that's not all! This week the owner of the place where I work, while dropping me off where my friend works, commended my work and said that he was going to give me a raise, and a bonus for not being able to attend the dinner they were having for Christmas. (It was on the Sabbath.) He would also help me get my car back from Montana! So he gave me a 50¢ per hour raise, a \$25 bonus and is going to loan me \$500 so I can get my car back. He is also giving me an extra day off, if I need it, so I won't have to rush getting back!

God Almighty has blessed me so very much, and I thank Him daily. Being involved in God's Work is the most important thing in my life. Attending the Feast of Tabernacles for the first time brought me out of the spiritual lethargy I was drifting into. I thank you for all your encouragement in the uplifting, to-the-point articles which I find so helpful. I am not a baptized member of God's Church yet but am studying diligently in anticipation of being ready by Passover 1982. I'll be praying for you, Mr. Armstrong, and may God dwell in you always.

In deep outflowing love,

J. K.  
(Seattle, WA)

MANY BLESSINGS IN ONLY A FEW MONTHS

June 5, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I just wanted to tell you that Almighty God has really poured out blessings on our family.

One is His Holy Spirit; then, our second eldest daughter has been accepted by Ambassador College for the 1981-82 school year; third, the coming birth of our fifth child in August (my wife had two miscarriages within the last year, but after the minister anointed her and we prayed to God for help, this pregnancy has had no complications); and fourth, a job for the next six weeks (I am a teacher and during the summer my regular job ends). There are many more blessings, but these have occurred within only the last several months!

Respectfully yours,

W. B.  
(Tampa, FL)



LIFE TURNED AROUND IN ONE YEAR THROUGH BLESSINGS

May 19, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I would like to say that it is a delight to serve God, for His promises of blessings are sure as the rising of the sun. The events in my life are an example of this. Just over a year ago, I was down and out--no job, one eight-year-old suit of clothes, a one-room basement apartment shared with my nephew, no automobile, a diet consisting mostly of soup and crackers and no one to turn to except God. As a result of my prayers, as well as those of the local church brethren, God turned things around. In one year's time, I had a job, several suits, a nice apartment, a small car, and good food.

I was also asked to furnish transportation to and from Sabbath services for a family of four adults and two children. However, with a small car, it was impossible. Then, on one of the Holy Days last year during the Feast (which I was not able to attend), I was taking a short nap, and a young lady came over a slippery hill, ran off the road and hit my small car. The insurance company totalled it and gave me enough money to buy another car--which just happened to be a larger one, with four doors, a six cylinder engine, and economical to drive. I have also been saving my second tithe and will attend this year's Feast!

And there's still more. My mother just sold her house and told me she was going to give each of her children three thousand dollars.

I still make a lot of mistakes, but the thing different in my life now is that I constantly repent of them. I am more aware of my mistakes and pray more, as well as bathe in the spiritual food God gives us through you. I always thank God for you in my prayers and ask that He will give you the strength to fulfill the commission for which you were called....

Sincerely, in Jesus name,

L. W.  
(Roanoke, VA)



MEMBER BLESSED THROUGH INCREASING INCOME

December 21, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I am writing to let you know just how glad I am that God has called me to be a part of His great final warning to mankind.

With the enclosed offering, I have reached a personal milestone in my ability to support God's Work. I have been paying God's tithes and giving offerings for about ten years, and throughout that time God has always taken care of my needs and provided me with a comfortable standard of living. But this check is greater than all the tithes and offerings I paid in my first two years of tithing combined!

God has always supplied me with an income adequate to provide all the basic necessities as well as few modern conveniences, but last year He increased my earnings by more than forty percent over the previous year. And this year, just after the Feast, I entered my third third tithe year and started a new job in mid-November. I will earn over fifty percent more than I did! So when I say that God has blessed and greatly prospered me, it is no exaggeration.

Although inflation has raised the cost of living, I am making almost three times that of five years ago, and we were far from starving then!

MEMBER BLESSED THROUGH INCREASING INCOME

Since God has always provided me and my family with a comfortable standard of living, I have only slightly increased our household budget. We have everything we need and more already, so the rest of the great increase God has blessed me with can go directly into the Work.

I have been very encouraged by the power and growth in all facets of God's Work. And I am elated that God has blessed me so that I can have an even bigger share in supporting the Work financially.

Sincerely,

R. S.  
(Hanover Park, IL)

BLESSINGS FOLLOW TWO ROBBERIES

March 2, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Some time ago there was a WORLDWIDE NEWS article about a Pasadena deacon who was robbed twice and then blessed. I am that man. We have been so thoroughly blessed that, instead of suffering substantial loss, I am able to include an extra \$100.00 offering this month with my normal tithe check! God does give blessings we have not room enough to receive, if we are faithful!

Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for teaching us the way of tithing--God's insurance program for His sons!

Sincerely,

J. R.  
(Pasadena, CA)



BLESSINGS COME AUTOMATICALLY THROUGH GIVING!

December 16, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I am so happy to be able to send this money. I received a one-hundred-dollar check in the mail last Monday, which I consider a blessing. I wish I could give more, but it thrills me so much just to have a small part in helping to get the Gospel out. With every dollar I get I'm going to do my part for God's Work, for this gives me great happiness.

God has blessed me so much that words are inadequate to describe it. He has many different ways to bless us. When I give, I am not concerned about getting anything in return. I don't have to. The blessings have come automatically, and at times I'm stymied at their frequency. I praise God's powerful name forever, and give Him the glory for His ministers and you, His apostle, who, at your age, is working ceaselessly to complete the commission given to you.

I could go on and on praising our God for the truth, His Church, etc., but He knows how I feel.

With this letter I also want to express my gratitude for all the articles in the GOOD NEWS and PLAIN TRUTH, as well as the booklets. What a glorious opportunity we have....

In deep Christian love,

M. O.  
(Childersburg, AL)



MAN BLESSED IN COUNTLESS PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL WAYS

February 17, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

God has blessed me in so many ways!! I have a darling wife who has a very keen mind in dealing with household matters and money. God has given me two boys (ages 10 and 13) who help me become a better Daddy every day. We have a place to live, food to eat, clothes to wear, money for tithes and bills, fun activities and many, many good friends.

God is also blessing us with increased spiritual knowledge through hearing and reading His Word. We have an awareness that our family is increasingly becoming a part of God's family. We know we have a part to do, and are learning how to fulfill it.

Of course, we thank God for you, Mr. Armstrong, His evangelists, ministers, administrators and all the brethren and co-workers here in the States and worldwide, who are working daily to bring the precious Gospel of Jesus Christ to a dying world.

Our ministerial assistant has given us sermonettes and sermons on how we can make it into God's Kingdom by giving our lives to God and living God's way--and someday, not only rule with Jesus Christ on earth, but later each having a galaxy to rule.

Hoping and praying that God continues to use you and us, we remain,

sincerely yours,

R. S.  
(Houston, TX)



SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS AFTER 10 YEARS AS A CHURCH MEMBER

September, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I thought I would take a few minutes to write a letter of appreciation for all your efforts in this great Work over the years. I can see some pleasant improvements in my lifestyle. Actually, this is a letter of appreciation to our heavenly Father for all that He's given me down through the years. It seems appropriate, however, to send it to you since God has worked with all of us through you.

This letter is being composed at a very appropriate time. I have just recently marked my tenth anniversary as a baptized member in God's Church. People commemorate all sorts of days in the world. But is there any day that should mean as much as that which marks being begotten into God's family?

During these past ten years, God has blessed me greatly. I haven't been blessed with an abundance of physical, material, or even vocational success--though I have always had enough to get by. But God has richly blessed me with His truth and understanding. He has been very patient with me--taking the time to teach me. I am sure He has had "students" much easier than me to work with, so I certainly appreciate His patience.

Just one example of the help God has given me over the years has been improved Bible study. I remember that when I first came into the Church I enjoyed reading the booklets, magazines, Correspondence Course, and the Bible. But that was essentially it. It was difficult to actually study God's Word. But over the years this has changed. Now I find that I approach Bible study zealously and tenaciously. Sometimes I find it hard to actually pull myself away from the study of God's Word to engage in other activities which I used to think so much of, such as eating, sleeping, playing, etc.

In this regard also, I have enjoyed some tremendous moments when I have come to an understanding of some aspect of God's Word I have been struggling with for many days, weeks, or months.

SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS AFTER 10 YEARS AS A CHURCH MEMBER

I mention this example of improved Bible study not to attempt to elevate myself, but to point out one specific way in which God has blessed me. I feel in this area I have gotten a little bit closer to that point you mention so often--where we have less of the world's mentality, and more of God's Spirit working in us.

Yes, I am thankful for these ten years in the Church. Though not easy, and not prosperous in the way that the world sees prosperity, I would not trade them for anyone else's.....

Sincerely,

T. B.  
(Minneapolis, MN)

## Tithing Blessings

STORE PROSPERS AS A RESULT OF FAITHFUL TITHING

November, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

In early 1973, I learned that we are supposed to give God a tenth of our income; and so, in May of that year, I began to tithe. The results were simply astounding!

I was working as a clerk in a store owned by my father, who paid me a small salary as well as a percentage on sales. My monthly earnings were very low and barely sufficient for me, my wife, and three children to live on.

I paid my tithe at the beginning of May, and at the end of the month, when my father totalled up the sales, he was amazed. Never before in his many years as a storekeeper had he experienced such an extraordinary month!

"What a month!" he exclaimed. I did not want to tell him I was tithing because my father would never have believed that the month's sales were the result of God's blessing for tithing; and besides, if I had told him, he would have persecuted me because he wanted to have nothing to do with the Church of God.

The following month I again paid a tenth of my income to God, and we experienced another month of incredible sales. My father again commented: "What an extraordinary couple of months!" He was astounded--he couldn't understand it. Nevertheless, I realized that God was intervening as He promised in His Word.

In August--four months after I began tithing--my three brothers came to town for their vacation. They

## STORE PROSPERS AS A RESULT OF FAITHFUL TITHING

noticed the changes at the store immediately, commenting: "You're selling more than before." "You have more customers." And so forth.

I continued to tithe and saw clearly how God intervened in all our affairs. In November of 1975 I was baptized, and by then I owned the store. My father had sold it to me in January of that year, granting me easy repayment terms.

The first time I had to pay third tithe, it seemed impossible. I felt overwhelmed by the many payments I had to make for stocks, taxes, etc. I got down on my knees and prayed to God with all my might, imploring Him to help me set apart the three tithes that year--I really wanted to do it. God helped me in such an incredible way that not only my wife and I, but also my relatives were amazed! It was the greatest year we had ever witnessed!

My store sells footwear and gift items. During that third tithe year, I sold an incredible number of pairs of hiking boots, which is the costliest footwear item I stock. Something else that was unbelievable and had never happened before, either to me or to my father in his many years as a storekeeper--I sold more crockery and china that third tithe year than I had in several of the previous years put together! (Tableware is the most expensive item I have for sale and the one on which the greatest profit is made.) Both my wife and I were so amazed, we just could not figure out what was happening before our very eyes because we had never before sold so much tableware. It was something completely out of the ordinary. When I finished paying my third tithe, I also stopped selling china, sales of tableware went way down, and from then on they sold as they had always sold--very few and far between.

There were other third tithe blessings. The first year I faithfully paid my third tithe, my father gave

## STORE PROSPERS AS A RESULT OF FAITHFUL TITHING

me a considerable amount of money from a lottery prize he had won. During my second third tithe year, I received another sizeable sum from an inheritance.

With regard to the Sabbath, I could also mention many things but will just mention one. I live in a small town of some 4,000 people. When I first started to keep the Sabbath, there were three stores (including mine) which sold footwear, and everyone thought I would lose all my customers by closing on the busiest sales day of the week. Well, one of the shoe stores closed down about two years ago and the other one is about to follow suit; and we--the ones everybody believed would fail calamitously--are doing better than ever, with more and more customers all the time.

We have seen very clearly that God truly blesses those who trust in Him and put His precepts into practice.

G. E.  
(Spain)



GARDEN PROTECTED FROM HAIL

July 31, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

This year, we have worked hard on two large gardens. Recent weeks have been filled with terrible thunderstorms--bringing more than three inches of rain and leaving the ground completely soaked. Last Wednesday, another storm passed through sprinkling hail one and one-half inches in diameter. It was too muddy to go into the garden till Friday evening--and then I saw it! The soybeans in the fields around our garden had the leaves all chopped up and full of holes, but the hail had not damaged our garden things at all!! Our garden was skipped and the damage resumed on the other side!

Does God bless His people for tithing? Yes, in living ways that can't be counted in dollars.

H. K.  
(Chandler, IN)



DESPITE TRIALS,  
GOD PROVED A FAITHFUL BUSINESS PARTNER

October 21, 1974

Dear Sir,

We feel honored to give this special offering to the Work.

Last year, we took God up on His promises and made Him a 50/50 partner in our job. Since His half amounted to the largest offering we have ever made, we expected big returns. In fact, we joked about expecting manna from heaven!

Then a tragedy hit our family--a severe car accident during the Feast. We still had faith that our partner wouldn't let us down--and He didn't. Besides being saved alive from a death-defying wreck, we received full wages, two bonuses, and two raises (the first beginning the very day of the accident) during the months of pain and stress. Medical insurance paid off all the nearly \$10,000 of doctor's bills. And most of all, our Father healed us so we are all leading completely normal lives. To the utter amazement of all, absolutely no surgery was needed to help our shattered bones and organs heal.

When we finally realized the severity of the injuries (13 days in intensive care) we had survived, we could only thank God and laugh at the fact that He still must have a lot more to teach us. Death would have been easy for me.

This experience has aged us ten years and has emotionally and spiritually matured us, which is the greatest blessing in itself. But as if healing and maturing weren't enough, we received more. Just three

DESPITE TRIALS, GOD PROVED A FAITHFUL BUSINESS PARTNER

weeks before this year's Feast, God put the icing on the cake. He gave us, in the form of an insurance settlement, over 100 times what we gave to Him in our offerings last year. In fact, the settlement was to the penny what my wife had expected in faith from the beginning. Our faith was increased by seeing God give us exactly what we had prayed for.

We are certainly overjoyed with the financial blessing, but the responsibility of deciding its proper use has mellowed the joy. We know God expects us to share these blessings with others. So we are now forgetting the horrible trial of the accident and looking forward to sharing all we've learned and "earned."

We hope this account might inspire and encourage others to be a little bolder in their faith. There is no way to outgive our wonderful Father.

In Christian love,

R. S.  
(Enid, OK)

LIST OF BLESSINGS COULD FILL A BOOK

May 23, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

The blessings I have received since deciding to faithfully pay tithes have been enormous.

Some time ago, at Sabbath services, I heard one of the ministers mention in a sermon to put God to the test. He challenged us to try obeying God's law and pay tithes and then see what kind of blessings we will receive. I decided to try it.

If I listed all the blessings that came, it would fill a small paperback book--and that's only in the last four months. God has fulfilled my every need.

Just last week my boss told me that he would have to lay me off for about three weeks. I was a little worried but relied on God asking Him to open a door and provide me with some work. Within half an hour of speaking with my boss, I found a place that was hiring. I went there first thing the next morning and was hired on the spot. I did not even lose one day's work from the layoff, which is a blessing.

Sincerely,

D. S.  
(Fontana, CA)



EXCELLENT NEW JOB PROVIDES FOR FINANCIAL NEEDS

June 13, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

In writing this note to go along with my tithe check to God's Work, I hope to be able to inspire and/or encourage someone.

Does tithing pay?

I found God's answer to this question in a very meaningful way a couple of weeks ago. For two years now, I have been making \$10,000 per year--a very low salary in today's inflationary times. My wife is hostile toward God's Work and has harangued me constantly about "giving my money away." After a while this became like water off a duck's back, and I ignored it! However, with a baby to take care of, things were beginning to get tight. It came to the point where I felt that I had to change from a gross tithe to a net tithe, and this frustrated me a great deal.

Finally, in a humble but bold and straightforward way, I came before God in prayer. I told Him that I had organized a budget the best way I could to conserve what He had given me and just couldn't squeeze any more out. I also mentioned my desire to give to Him and to His Work. Then I sincerely asked Him for help, reminding Him of His promises to tithers and to His Church.

I now knew that God was aware of my needs and would fill them. Needless to say, He did!! I was hired for a new job at what I supposed was a salary of \$2,500 more per year than my present one. The actual salary turned out to be \$1,200 higher than that. Then, to cap things off, two other things happened! First, because of a re-classification procedure, they had to give me an extra \$700 per year on top of that. Then, they decided that because my present job and the future one are both college grant jobs, I should be able to carry my leave over to the new job. This cancelled any problems I might have had in getting off for the Feast!

EXCELLENT NEW JOB PROVIDES FOR FINANCIAL NEEDS

There are many factors I have not even listed. In my former job, I was the proverbial "square peg in the round hole" and stagnating. This new job opens up many other career possibilities for me. It will provide new challenges and opportunities. And, it fits right in with my former work with disabled students at college level. On and on it goes!! All this was accomplished through the action of our mighty Father and Jesus Christ who love and want to help us.

In closing, I'm just thankful for God's blessings and grateful that I will now have a chance to give even more to God's great Work.

Sincerely,

P. K.  
(Jacksonville, FL)

BLESSED FOR TITHING DESPITE HARDSHIPS

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Recently, I started tithing. The first week tithe just took a few dollars out of an ample check. The next week, I cashed my check and again bought a money order for the tithe. However, this time my freshly cashed ample check was stolen! But, I paid my tithe anyway. The following week's check was short. Apart from the tithe, I had to pay a bank loan, rent, and light bill. I just paid the tithe and rent and let everything else slide. Then, I was laid off work! One check had to last three weeks before I had a job again. To make a long story short, I had a \$100 fine to pay plus my regular bills. That made that month a real struggle! Despite the crisis, I tithed on every check.

Now only two months later, my fine is paid off, the bank loan has been paid five months in advance, and I am moving out of my little apartment, where I had to pay \$100 a month plus electricity, into a house where the rent is only \$50 a month and all bills are paid.

To put it mildly, I have been blessed! Please take this money order--I can afford it.

S. B.  
(Irving, TX)



BLESSING FOLLOWS LESSON IN PATIENCE

June 15, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I have enclosed my tithe and offering with this but had to take a minute to tell you about the wonderful blessing God gave me on Friday the 13th.

I had really been disheartened by our financial situation of late even though I had continued to tithe. I had even had to miss a few Sabbath services because I couldn't afford the gas to drive the more than 140-mile round trip. So finally I went boldly to God's throne and asked why I wasn't getting the blessings promised in His Word. The windows of heaven seemed shut to me. I asked Him to show me if there was something that I had left out or was doing wrong, so I could change and do what He wanted.

Well, God answered my prayer in a big way. On Friday the 13th, I received a check in the mail for \$300 from the Reader's Digest for a filler I had submitted to their "Life in These United States." I had sent the piece to them in January and, after eight weeks, had given up on ever hearing from them.

What a thrill it was. After ten years of occasionally sending in contributions to various markets and ready to give up on my writing all together, I am again encouraged as well as elated.

Don't ever tell me Friday the 13th is unlucky or that tithing doesn't work. Anybody who did would be wrong on both counts. God does bless us when we work to obey Him and keep His commandments even though He may teach us a little patience in the interim.

God bless you and thank you for being His willing servant.

With love,  
in Christ's name,

P. Y.  
(Lexington, NE)



WOMAN IN DIRE FINANCIAL STRAITS

CLAIMS GOD'S PROMISE OF MALACHI 3:5

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Yesterday, I sent in my last money as a tithe. My husband left me months ago, and I had let the bills pile up as I had been working at a low-paying job. I had checked the want ads, the employment agency and an on-call work agency. Nothing!!

I have been tithing right along, except this week. The amount of money I had left was the exact amount of what the tithe should have been. I remembered Malachi and the widow in her penury (Malachi 3:5) and sent in my last money. Then I got on my knees and reminded God of His promise.

Today, I received a job offer at a 25% increase over what I'd been earning. Day shift, five days, weekends free--all the things I wanted. On top of it, I can pick up my pay at payroll three days before payday, which will enable me to take care of the phone bill before service is turned off. Also, I will be able to catch up on other bills threatening. In one month my finances will be straightened out. Thanks be to God! I am indeed grateful and humbled.

I am using my last stamp to send this, but there is a smile on my face.

D. H.  
(Garden City, MI)



CO-WORKERS LEARN THEY CANNOT AFFORD NOT TO TITHE

August 17, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

My husband and I were married in February of this year. Just before that I felt forced into quitting my job, so when we married, neither of us were working.

In March, we received our income tax return. We thanked God and immediately paid our tithes out of it. About a week later, we received another check for more than we expected. Again we paid our tithes and were thankful for God's blessings. In April, God gave my husband a job. An opportunity also arose to buy a mobile home. After praying about it, we decided to go ahead with the purchase. Here is where the story changes because of a stupid mistake on our part!

We reasoned that we could no longer afford to tithe because of having to make payments for the trailer, lot rent, and extra gas for my husband to get to and from work. We got away with withholding our tithes for three weeks. Then my husband lost his job!

After letting us wallow in self-pity for about four months, God showed us where we went wrong. Immediately we started correcting our mistake. This month we have started paying our tithes again, and already God has poured out blessing after blessing! Only this past week alone, my husband got his job back; some people we don't even know gave us a big bundle of almost new carpeting; my old boss called me to come in next week to talk about getting my old job back; and money has come in from people I have never dreamed of.

Believe me, from now on I am going to faithfully pay my tithes. I don't care if it is only 50 cents. That money belongs to God before anyone else! I used to say "I can't afford to pay my tithes." Now I say "I can't afford NOT to pay my tithes." So you see, God has taught me well!

May God bless you and keep you every day in this wonderful work you are doing.

J. W.  
(Muncie, IN)



CO-WORKER CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY BEFORE TITHING--

BLESSINGS WITHHELD

December 28, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I thought you might find this interesting. I received my pay December 24, which was also my birthday. However, instead of paying God's tithe first, as I have always done, I went with my mother shopping for holiday goodies and booze. I had to celebrate, you see!

Well, that very day I was dead broke! I had spent all my money buying a lot of things we didn't really need. Then my credit card wouldn't work in the machine, so I couldn't get any money out. Worse yet, the machine took my card and wouldn't give it back!

Also, I expected a friend from Texas to visit her two eldest children in this area, and was looking forward to seeing her. However, I still haven't heard from her....

I believe that at least part, if not all, of the above bad news is directly attributable to my not paying God's tithe first. I've always paid God first! This time I didn't. And I can't afford not to tithe as I am out of work--my job ended December 22. So enclosed find a small amount which includes an offering.

Bye for now. Take care.

Sincerely,

L. J.  
(Manitou Springs, CO)



## Third Tithe Blessings

A SERIES OF MIRACLES LEADS TO HOUSE PURCHASE

March 10, 1981

Dear Sir,

I would like to share the events leading up to the purchase of our home unit, which can be explained in no other way than being a blessing from God as a result of complying with the new third tithe directive....

Runaway inflation was eroding away our invested money, therefore, it became necessary for us to once again consider purchasing property.... We started looking at different houses but were not able to find anything suitable due to either the inadequacy of what was offered or the price being way out of the range of what we could afford. We had only \$14,000 to invest and on that basis could not afford a home unit at more than \$28,000. Every time I mentioned to a realtor what price range we hoped for, I was literally made to appear foolish for persevering in my thinking.

About this time, the new announcement was made regarding third tithe. I decided to go back to the Feast of Tabernacles time the year before, which was the beginning of our third tithe year, and pick up the tithes I had not paid; I had been in the habit of prorating the tithe each year, which the new understanding showed me had been in error....

Two days after mailing my check, on an impulse I called the real estate company and found out that a property had just come on the market that day and was as yet unlisted. The man I talked to insisted we should see it as he felt it would be ideal for us....

We sighted the property and immediately fell in love with it. It was exactly what we had been looking for and the price was \$2,000 less than we had expected to spend. In fact, the property was so suited that we couldn't have asked for more had we built it ourselves.

At this point I was in a quandary as I had no job and needed one to get a loan. So, once again on impulse I explained my situation to the realtor and asked for a three day binder on the property while I got my act together. He reluctantly agreed....

## A SERIES OF MIRACLES LEADS TO HOUSE PURCHASE

That night my next door neighbor showed me a local newspaper advertisement for a position in my field. I went there the next day, was interviewed and got the job the following day. On Monday, I started work, and on Tuesday, I was at the bank asking for a loan for 15 years, even though I knew that the bank only likes to lend money to people in our age-bracket for a term no longer than 10 years....

The bank required life insurance which was almost impossible for us to get due to our individual health problems. Also, the settlement on the property was such that we needed to have occupancy within three weeks or the deal was off. On top of all this, the trading banks had decided on an industrial action which further complicated the issue. So we desperately beseeched the Eternal for help in this matter.... I could feel His hand moving things along, for no sooner had we started negotiations than the blessings started coming in.

First, the valuation was excellent; secondly, the bank waived the insurance; thirdly, despite the industrial problems and long weekends, the loan was okayed in two weeks, with the repayments being less than we had been paying in rent; and finally, the solicitor wound things up in a record time of four days, having got the check from the bank between bank closures. In short, the whole thing was wrapped up in the three weeks....

My new job was extremely pressure-filled, and I could only stand it for three weeks, which was all the time I needed. In fact, I needed a week off to take care of the settlements, lawyers, moving, etc., and that's the way it worked out. Just as an aside, the old couple from whom we were hoping to purchase the property felt so strongly that we would get the loan that they started packing almost as soon as we had placed our deposit!

I must admit that even though we were stepping out in faith and God was with us every step of the way, it was still a knife-edge situation, as this was my first experience at having the Eternal completely take over a situation and bring it to a conclusion in our favour. It seemed that whatever we did was the right thing, even though half of the time we were just stumbling

A SERIES OF MIRACLES LEADS TO HOUSE PURCHASE

blindly along. The blessings continued in many, many ways--from the moving bill being less than it should have been to getting discounts on various items we needed for the house. I can only say that this whole experience has strengthened our faith tremendously and shown us that if one walks with God and tries to do His will, God keeps His promises. We look forward to continuing to keep God's tithing laws as they are written in the Bible with the sure knowledge, that if God says He will bless you for obedience, then He will.

In conclusion, I might mention a final blessing. Our previous landlord, who was considering selling our rental property, became quite upset when we asked for consideration in terminating our rental lease at a short notice and was prepared to bind us for three months, which would have been a catastrophe. Once again we beseeched the Eternal, and within a few days the agent had found a prospective tenant to take over the lease. We were only penalized for two days' rent and received our bond back in less the two days. This I quite happily and gratefully recycled into an offering.

My wife and I have been overwhelmed by the whole series of events and can only stand in awe at the power of the Eternal when it works in our lives.

Your respectfully,

F. H.  
(Auckland, New Zealand)



BLESSED WITH A HOME AND FURNITURE

February 27, 1973

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I wanted to write and tell you about our third tithe year--in other words, our year of blessings.

We were living in a city apartment on the second floor. It was nice but too small, noisy and not having enough privacy. Also, we were not allowed to have any children there. It was quite discouraging sometimes.

I prayed that God would bless us with a house that we could afford and also kept looking for a nice, but cheap house. Finally, I gave up. I decided to put it in God's hands.

That same week, at Sabbath services, I happened to talk to a woman and mentioned that I was looking for a house but gave up. She said, "Oh, I know of a house. And it is nice."

She gave us directions how to get there. It was way out in the country where it is beautiful and very quiet. We fell in love with the house when we saw it. It was only \$48 per month!! We decided to take it and move in, but when? We had a furnished apartment but didn't have enough money to buy a whole house--full of furniture. So we prayed and asked God to help us find the furniture we needed.

In one week's time we had all our furniture. A woman happened to be moving and sold us some furniture at an incredibly low price and even gave us some things. Others pitched in and gave us things, too. So now we are in a nice house with nice furniture, having plenty of space to plant a garden in the spring. And a great place to raise a family!

We have so much to thank God for. I am enjoying this year. There certainly isn't anything to fear when you are just beginning your third tithe year!

C. T.  
(Greensburg, PA)



A JOB GAINED, A JOB LOST--  
JUST AT THE RIGHT TIME TO BUY A NEW HOME

November 17, 1981

Dear Sirs,

I would like to share our story concerning this past year--our third tithe year.

Shortly before our third tithe year began, I received a call from a national cable television network, which specializes in educational programming. The caller said they had received my application for the "Curriculum Development Specialist" position, and could I come for an interview? I must have sounded silly because I never knew a thing about the application or the position! However, they convinced me to come for the interview.

Once there, I found out that 35 applications had come in, and many of the applicants had Ph.D.'s. Also, the job description listed degrees in curriculum development or journalism as a must. Both of my degrees are in home economics!

In spite of that, they offered me the position and a salary of \$12,000 per year which was more than I had earned at my previous job. Before I began, the starting salary was raised to \$14,600, and six months later, it was \$16,000 per year. My husband and I were able to send in more tithe money than we ever dreamed would be possible!

In April of this year, I found out that I would soon be losing my job because of cutbacks in federal grants. The first of May was the original date for the termination, but I stayed on until the first of September. About that time our local minister was transferred and his home would be temporarily empty.... It worked out that we are able to stay in the house for free and take care of it till it sells.

A JOB GAINED, A JOB LOST--  
JUST AT THE RIGHT TIME TO BUY A NEW HOME

But that's not all. A week before my job ended, we saw an ad in the paper for new homes for people with moderate incomes. We can qualify on my husband's income alone. So, in a month we're moving into a new home with house payments of only \$147 a month! I lost my job at just the right time.

I wanted to share our story with you. We had heard and read the stories of others and were encouraged by them. Now we know for ourselves that you really cannot outgive God!

Sincerely,

E. J.  
(Winchester, KY)

GOD PROVIDES A FRIDGE AND STOVE  
AND TEACHES SPIRITUAL LESSONS

April 21, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

This has been our third tithe year. We have had trials but have grown as a result of them. We have been learning what it means to count it all joy. Our third tithe year has been full to the brim with spiritual blessings.

My health has not been what it once was, so I was forced to quit a caretaking job which provided us with free rent, as well as a fridge and stove. We had to take a low rent townhouse with no fridge or stove in it. We prayed and fasted, asking God to show us how we could provide for ourselves these two items, but all our efforts came up dry. We then decided to move anyway, and started thinking of how we could do without. I have had much experience with this in my past, so I knew how to go about it. If only I would stop worrying and just let God's will be done!...

Shortly before we moved, a man who was taking an apartment in the building we were leaving, talked to my husband as we were getting his apartment ready for him. He asked if we would take and use his fridge, stove, washer and dryer, mentioning that even if he could find a place to store these items, it would cost him money. He much preferred that we take and use them as long as we needed.

We learned another lesson. We knew God could provide but wondered, "Will He?" He will! Once again the greatest blessing was spiritual. We can have these blessings because of Christ, but also because you put us back on the right track. We are so happy and thankful to be able to tithe properly.

GOD PROVIDES A FRIDGE AND STOVE AND  
TEACHES SPIRITUAL LESSONS

We pray for you everyday and so do our children--  
they also love you. God will bless you and give  
understanding and wisdom as you and we finish the  
Work....

In much love,

M. J.  
(Wainwright, Canada)

P.S. I might add that the man who was so generous has  
been very blessed. He had to sell his home and  
was near bankruptcy because he wasn't making any  
sales--he sells compact homes. The week he gave  
us his machines to use, he made \$7,000 in com-  
mission, and in the last two weeks he has sold  
nine more homes. The give way works for anyone.

GIFTS OF FREEZER, CHINA, CLOTHES, FARM ANIMALS AND MORE!

February 27, 1973

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I have never written to you before, but I feel as though I am writing to an old friend. Anyway, our minister thought you might be interested in how we "survived" our third tithe year. (This was our first one.)

The first day back from the Feast last year, we were given a freezer, which, with five children, we could certainly use. Shortly after, we received a set for twelve of very expensive Bohemian china.

After we tried to balance our budget, we panicked, and my husband decided that either I had to work two days a week, or he had to find a part-time job. The week I began work, he started working overtime, and we really didn't need my job. But I am paid well, work any two days I please, and get my hair done on company time, so I stayed. Since the Feast, my husband has been earning \$20 per week more and received \$370 in bonuses, with one more due in September.

We were also given an older model Chevy car with four new tires on it. Since it didn't survive the miles we put on it, we are now driving a more modern Buick with air conditioning which we will pay for after the third tithe year is over.

Last winter we purchased no coats or boots, only two pairs of shoes and one pair of trousers for our boys. I was given a couple of dozen dresses, some with coats to match, and 18 pairs of shoes which matched the dresses! My husband was given two new suits and a pair of new shoes. Naturally, I had to have a washer and dryer to take care of these clothes, so they were given to us too.

About this time, it dawned on me that the freezer I wanted so badly and was given, was empty. Shortly after that a friend moved, and filled my freezer from hers.

GIFTS OF FREEZER, CHINA, CLOTHES, FARM ANIMALS AND  
MORE!

We were also given a pair of lovely geese, five ducks, and a baby billy goat to go with our baby nanny, so now we can raise things for our freezer. We live in an old farmhouse which the landlord wanted to burn down two and a half years ago. We have fixed it up, and it is worth much more than \$60 a month. Our lease was up in July, but the rent was only raised to \$65 with two months' rent free for all the work we've done. This spring the landlord also put on a new roof.

Our children all found jobs this year--paper route, baby-sitting, etc. Now they are pulling weeds in a field of beans for \$120, which after three tithes is enough to purchase a four-foot swimming pool!

All I can say--with seven weeks to go--what next! These were just some of the physical blessings--things you can hold in your hands. The spiritual ones have been even greater.

I. H.  
(Manteno, IL)

HEART'S DESIRES FULFILLED FOR ENTIRE FAMILY

August 20, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

This letter may be a little premature as there are still eight weeks to go until the Feast and the end of our third tithe year. However, there have been so many blessings in this past year that we would like to share them.

To begin with, we were able to enjoy the 1980 Feast at Vail. Though it is just a day's drive from Wichita, where we live, we had never been there before and were struck by the magnificent beauty of autumn in the Rocky Mountains and the quaint charm of the village of Vail. We have enjoyed attending the Feast in Squaw Valley on five different occasions before and have often wondered what it would be like to see the mountains in winter and try some skiing. About two weeks after we returned from the Feast, my husband's boss mentioned that he had just bought a condominium in Vail, and if we were going there again this year, we would have free accomodation....

Just before the first of the year, my husband was informed he would be going out of town to work. It was only 80 miles from home, but far enough that he would be home only on weekends. This was the "thorn in the rose" you have spoken of so often in the past. My husband is in construction, and while many others in this field have not had very good working conditions because of the economy, my husband has been very secure in his job, working overtime and getting a raise. In fact, the extra money he was earning each week with the raise and overtime added exactly to the amount we were sending in for third tithe!

It was getting a rather long winter in-between weekends for myself and our three teenage sons when, in the middle of February, my husband was told by his boss to take a week of his vacation to go to Vail and use his condominium so he could be with the family and go skiing. Because of school and work schedules of the boys as well as a crucial point in my husband's job, we were not able to get away until the last week of March, instead of the first week as we originally planned.

## HEART'S DESIRES FULFILLED FOR ENTIRE FAMILY

Other people were cancelling ski trips in the first part of March because of lack of snow. Then, the week before we left, they started having snow in Vail. In fact, it snowed on us all the way from Denver to Vail. (By the way, even our married daughter and her husband were able to make the trip with us, so we had the entire family there.)

In Vail, the local people were telling us that this was the first time all year there had been enough snow for good skiing. We arrived the day after the off-season rates started for ski rentals, lift tickets, etc., so everything was almost one third cheaper than when we were first scheduled to go. It was such a beautiful trip, and we finally fulfilled two dreams we almost thought would never come about while all of our children were still at home or close enough to go with us. We got to be right in the heart of the Rocky Mountains in winter and were able to go skiing.

For Mother's Day, my husband and children presented me with something I had wanted for a long time, but never really expected to have--a microwave oven. Even here God worked out circumstances so that my family was able to get the largest and best model with the most extra features for less than the lower priced model they originally planned to buy.

Even though the out-of-town job is finished, my husband is still getting more overtime than we ever anticipated, although not on such a regular basis as before.... I am sure there are other physical blessings I am leaving out simply because they have been so numerous that I couldn't begin to remember them all or take the time to write them.

But there is one other I will mention. As soon as we heard of Squaw Valley again being open as a Feast site this year, we wanted to go back but would not have the time to drive, since we had already taken that one week of vacation. Only a week later, Frontier Airlines began a new route from Wichita to Reno and announced an introductory fare of \$210 round-trip. This means we can fly to the Feast cheaper than we could drive, and be there in less time than if we were attending the closest site to us!

## HEART'S DESIRES FULFILLED FOR ENTIRE FAMILY

Now for the most wonderful blessings of all--the spiritual blessings. We have had the opportunity to be in charge of the waiting room campaign for the PLAIN TRUTH in this area. We are also involved in newsstand distribution. It is such a thrill when statistics are read in church about the number of subscriptions coming as a result of the newsstand and waiting room programs. Although we know it is only a small part, it is very gratifying to be involved in getting the Gospel to the world.

Three weeks ago, our daughter and son-in-law were baptized into God's Church. What a thrill and blessing that was.... And now we have just been through another one of the most exciting weekends of our lives. Our oldest son has been applying for Ambassador College for the last three semesters. The first letter he received this summer said he was on a waiting list for Big Sandy, but it would be another year before he could be considered. He had almost given up. Then this past Sunday our local minister got a call from the Registrar's office saying there had just been an opening for a boy to attend in Big Sandy--could he recommend someone? In a matter of thirty minutes it was all settled that our son would be going. We really had to act fast and get finances taken care of as well as shopping, packing, etc., but by the time I started this letter, our boy should have arrived in Big Sandy to begin to fulfill a desire to attend God's college!

Our third tithe year blessings have come so fast and furious that it has been unbelievable. If just one of these examples can help someone who is about to experience their first third tithe year, it will be well worth the time it has taken to write the letter. I know it has certainly helped to increase our faith, and, it isn't our first third tithe year, as we have been members since 1965.

God is so loving and merciful, and we are so undeserving of the many blessings he literally pours out on us. We thank Him for His love and pray we will never forget that He is the source of all that we have.

Sincerely,

H. G.  
(Wichita, KS)



TRAVEL AND OTHER BLESSINGS

November 15, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I was one of the lucky brethren that went to Jerusalem for this year's Feast. Mr. Armstrong, it was truly the best Feast ever. Each day was more inspiring than the day before. The sermons were tremendous and the fellowship wonderful. I wish all the brethren could visit Jerusalem and feel the excitement of being there and especially at God's Feast.

This Feast ended my third tithe year, and it was a wonderful year. God has blessed me and my family so very much. So many things (dishwasher, heating boiler, sewing machine, swimming pool motor pump, refrigerator) were broken, and now they are all repaired or new.

I also got the opportunity to visit Florida, Alabama, Texas, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and best of all, God's college in Pasadena.

My daughter was baptized one and a half years ago, and now my son-in-law was just baptized in the Jordan River in Israel this past Feast.

God is so good to me. I just had to write and tell you.

I pray God blesses you always, Mr. Armstrong, and keeps you healthy, happy and vigorous to do His Work.

Love in Jesus name,

D. C.  
(Bayonne, NJ)



BLESSINGS INCLUDE NEW BABY,  
BABY SUPPLIES, CAR AND MUCH MORE

May 9, 1981

Mr. Armstrong,

We have been in our third tithe year and want to tell you about our blessings.

A new baby arrived during the year, and God also provided for his necessities. A new stroller was given to us, as well as a used port-a-crib bed, baby pajamas of all descriptions, baby socks, underwear, shoes, pants and many other clothes. We also received a baby bathtub, a combination high chair and seat and some money.

Also, during this year, we were able to buy another car. It is a 1977 Plymouth wagon with only 60,000 miles on it. The monthly payments are low and extend over two years.

Then there was a time when I got back over \$100 on insurance and \$100 or so from another area. This was just when we needed the money.

I could continue for another page or two but don't want to wear you down. We are 100% behind you and are praying for the Work and also that you will continue to be in good health.

Sincerely,

W. M.  
(Monroe, LA)



COMPANY AND FAMILY BLESSED

July 1, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I work in construction, which has its ups and downs. The owner of our company and the whole crew (of which I am the foreman) are in the Church. This year three of us are in our third tithe year. The company has been tremendously blessed, and we have just had our best June in the last ten years.

This is my family's third third tithe year, and I must admit that we have never lacked any necessities in any of the previous third tithe years. Even our thirteen-year-old car, with 169,000 miles on it, has (just like the soles of the Israelites' shoes while they wandered in the wilderness) not worn out. God's giving way really works!

There is a true story which perfectly illustrates the fact that you cannot outgive God. It goes something like this:

There was a wealthy philanthropist who made it his habit to continually donate large sums of money to worthy and charitable organizations. He was asked one day by a reporter how he could manage to give so much away and still have so much left. He answered: "Well, as I shovel out, God shovels in, and God has a bigger shovel than I do."

Keep up the good work. We will pray for your health and vitality, and do our best to back you up. You are a real inspiration to us all, and we love and admire you very much.

All our love,

P. C.  
(Northport, NY)



BLESSED BEYOND BELIEF IN FIRST THIRD TITHE YEAR

November 26, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Today is Thanksgiving, so I thought I would take time and give both you and God thanks. I thank you for having the courage to time and time again speak the "plain truth," and I thank God for giving me the gift of His Holy Spirit.

The Feast of Tabernacles 1981 ended my first third tithe year, and I must say that I have been blessed beyond belief. I began the year not knowing how the bills would be paid, yet two pay raises later everything was paid and my savings were higher than ever. Also, to my amazement, I was able to give freewill offerings for the first time since baptism.

During this past year God has added greatly to my understanding and knowledge of His way of life and also gave me the strength to step out and do, as much as possible, what is right in His eyes. This is by far His greatest gift to me, but gifts don't stop here.

At the Feast I met that special someone. It has been two and a half years since my divorce, and I expected to enter God's Kingdom not knowing the joy of a loving marriage. We are not yet married, but the hope is there, and it is real.

These are but a few of the more obvious gifts or blessings coming from paying third tithe. I now understand why some of the brethren wish every year could be a third tithe year.

With love,

P. B.  
(Chicago, IL)



DESPITE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP,  
FAMILY IS UNBELIEVABLY BLESSED

December 2, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I recently finished my third tithe year. The economy has been very poor. At the beginning of my third tithe year, our house payment increased by forty dollars. Financially, things looked very shaky for our household, but we remembered God's promises and knew that we must be faithful in our tithes. The outcome was tremendous!!

As we got a few months into our third tithe year, things began to happen. We found that we were able to have more brethren over for fellowship as our food budget seemed to go further. Our little four-year-old daughter was hit by an automobile but miraculously survived it. Then, on Pentecost, I was ordained a deacon, giving me greater opportunity to serve in God's Church.

To top my third tithe year off, I was able to take my family to Pasadena for the Feast. We had always wanted to go but never were able to. Needless to say, it was the greatest Feast ever. When I returned from the Feast, I found out that the company was laying some employees off. My boss called me into his office and asked me to shut the door. He said the company was giving me a 15% raise immediately!

What I am telling you is true, Mr. Armstrong. Many people in the world would not believe these blessings possible. Our great Father has kept His promise and has been very merciful to my family and me. We are thankful to be in His Church. We will continue to pray for you. Please continue to "fight the good fight." We pray that you will never compromise on God's truth and that you will continue to lead us right up to the end.

In Christian love,

K. H.  
(Battle Creek, MI)



STOLEN VALUABLES RECOVERED OR REPLACED

February 10, 1982

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

May we share an exciting moment with you--a miracle that happened to our family in our third tithe year!

While parked along an ocean front highway, our car was broken into and the thieves managed to take almost all our valuables. This included a purse with wallet and keys, my husband's wallet, a cassette recorder and a number of other small items. A total of forty dollars cash was also taken. A wedding ring with eight diamonds, stashed away in a straw basket, was narrowly missed. I am sure God protected it!

The night after the theft, I dreamed I saw my wallet and keys. The next day, almost immediately after a quick silent prayer to our Heavenly Father asking for the items, the phone rang. A man on the other end said he would bring my purse to me that evening after work. The second miracle came two days later when the same man brought my husband's wallet. Slowly, over the months, our belongings have returned or been replaced by other blessings.

Many blessings keep coming to us in this third tithe year. God loves us so much. He even cares about the little things in our life that mean so much! Thank you for sharing this experience with us. May God continue to bless you each and every day as the Work is done.

In Christian love,

S. M.  
(Pasadena, CA)



WIDOW GRATEFUL FOR THIRD TITHE ASSISTANCE

January 19, 1982

To whom (or whatever department) it may concern:

In this letter I would like to let members, who may not fully understand about the third tithe, know what it is used for, and who gets the benefit of it.

I know first hand. I have been a member for nearly thirteen years, and a disabled widow for nine of those years, and have been a recipient of third tithe assistance for a long time. For two and a half years, until I began receiving my widow's pension from Social Security, the Church supported me totally. Know of any other church that would do that? I don't either!

The check I now receive each month (\$20) arrives exactly the day it is supposed to and, believe me, it helps! Then, there's another great thing the Church does for me. Social Security wouldn't allow the Church to give me more money--it would cost me part of my pension. So the Church buys my groceries every month! And anyone knows that is no small thing these days. The Church has also sent me to the Feast twice since I lost my husband.

I've never written about this before. Not many even know about it, but I suddenly began to feel maybe I should write and tell my brethren that even though third tithe years can be hard, the money is a great blessing to people like me!... We don't hear about the third tithe too often in sermons or sermonettes, so I thought if brethren understood it from the point of one of their sisters, the sending might be a little easier. After all, we're still human enough to want to know where our money goes.

Thank you for obeying our Father and being faithful, and I thank Him for calling me and providing for me.

With deep and  
sincere love,

Member  
(Ohio)



Trial

SEVERE TRIALS DURING FESTIVAL PERIOD

REDIRECT MEMBER TO GOD

October 28, 1981

Greetings:

If I were not in God's Church, I really do not know what I would do in response to the series of events of the last six weeks.

Acting upon the advice of my local minister and three professional organizations, as well as my own convictions, I stood my ground on a very important principle and was promptly fired from my job a few weeks before the Feast. I was planning to quit anyway but not until the Feast, so for a month I was out of work.

The day after I lost my job, on a Saturday, my telephone went out of order, and I was told by the telephone company that repair crews did not work in my area on weekends. Twelve hours later, partly due to no telephone service, my foster father died in my wife's arms in our car on the way to the hospital. Within fifteen minutes of being notified of the death, the telephone company suddenly found a way to take care of the problem and my phone was again in order. Because of later problems, this issue is still not resolved. Two weeks later, the same problem occurred.

Before the Feast, I wanted to try out my homemade camper which had been parked out in the weather and, because of lots of high winds, had been somewhat the worse for wear. I reattached it to a utility trailer and took it out on a trial run to see how it fared. I drove a few miles in high traffic on an interstate highway without a problem, but as soon as I turned off onto a service road, where no one was behind me, the body blew off and smashed on the road into a "million" pieces. No one was hurt or involved, and there was no real loss. I got home and worked feverishly on doing something with the trailer frame in order to be able to haul the camping equipment to the Big Sandy feast site. However, the tow car broke down so I had to use a loaner.

SEVERE TRIALS DURING FESTIVAL PERIOD  
REDIRECT MEMBER TO GOD

While at the Feast, we experienced flooding rains in the area, so I called home to find out if any damage occurred in my home town. I learned that a tornado had passed within a thousand feet of our mobile home without touching it, but created considerable damage to at least three neighbors.

Later the same day, I had sent my wife off to town for a luncheon with other ladies. While she was gone, I received a message relayed from Salt Lake City via the Tucson feast site that one of my wife's nine children--her 26-year-old son--had been almost fatally injured in an accident. By the time I was able to call Salt Lake City, he had already lost both arms to the mid-forearm and the use of his right lung, and had less than a 10% chance of survival.

I took my wife to the airport and got her on a plane to Salt Lake City, where she still is, and I've been "baching" ever since....

After my wife's arrival in Salt Lake City, things changed slowly. Only two days ago, her son's mind returned to awareness and memory of the present. He lost more of his right arm to halfway to the shoulder. His right lung is totally destroyed and his right rib cage completely exposed. He still has only 10% chance of survival, with at least six months in the hospital if he does survive.

Your prayers for my wife's emotional, physical and spiritual state are urgently requested because, at the same time, one of her four daughters is in the last few weeks of a very difficult pregnancy and she, too, is in Salt Lake City and looking to my wife for help....

The Feast is over and, for at least some reasons, I cannot say it was the best ever as far as pleasure and enjoyment are concerned, but because it has directed my mind more to where it should be, I suppose I have to say that for more far reaching reasons, this Feast was the best one yet....

Here's hoping this finds you all no less well and happy than I am.

L. Z.  
(Alvarado, TX)

SURGERY BROUGHT HER CLOSER TO GOD

April 13, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I want to thank you for your prayers for healing after my recent hysterectomy. When I came home from the hospital, your letter was there with an anointed cloth. I was so happy to hear from you....

All the brethren here prayed that God would heal and guide me. I later learned that one woman friend even fasted for me on the day of the surgery. All that love has been so special and wonderful. You should see the stack of cards and letters....

This surgery or trial was one of the best things that ever happened to me in terms of what it accomplished spiritually (and to a lesser degree, physically). I had been too busy for adequate Bible study and prayer. I am grateful to God for putting me on my back and making me call out to Him for help, healing, and sustenance. My priorities were wrong. I am still human and need God's help in putting sin out and overcoming. I am grateful that He is working with me.

What really got me through the surgery was asking for more of Christ's faith and being thankful; also thinking about others and realizing that I was in God's hands like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego when in a fiery trial. I don't mean to compare myself with them, but I have drawn from that example in God's Word for strength. I also think there was an angel at the foot of my bed watching over me.

After the surgery, my family was amazed how well I could move as there was hardly any pain. Even now people are surprised by my getting around. Because I have gotten well so quickly, I have to be even more grateful and remember that God is the giver of such good gifts. Praise be to such a loving Almighty Creator God who intervenes and hears our prayers!

In Christian love,

D. H.  
(Onalaska, WI)



GOD'S TRUTH HELPS MOTHER FACE DAUGHTER'S DEATH

November 16, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

This is a very difficult letter for me to write, yet I must.

Very recently, my 25-year-old daughter died of cancer. Almost a year ago, she was being treated for hemorrhoids until they did a minor surgery and found cancer. (We had two daughters--the other is twenty-eight and divorced with a two and a half-year-old son. They are living with us and I take care of my grandson.)

My younger daughter was baptized four months ago. She was very happy about being baptized and studied and attended Sabbath services when able to. She was in a great deal of pain and suffering to the end, but still had faith that she would be healed.

From the time she was little, she was always a happy, loving child--opposite of my older daughter. She was always giving, thoughtful, thinking of others first. She gave us a lot of joy and happiness. I couldn't have wished for a more perfect daughter. I miss her presence, but I know that she is sealed until Christ's return, and I have that to look forward to. I have to work hard so that I can also be with her.

My husband is not in the Church, but he was impressed with our minister, and the support, prayers, and phone-calls of members asking if they could help in any way. He couldn't get over all the gifts, post cards, letters, flowers, etc. He has been going to Sabbath services with me, thanking everyone and listening to the sermons.

My own relatives helped some, but mostly stayed away during my daughter's illness. If it wasn't for the frequent counseling and prayers of our minister and the concern of the brethren, I don't know what we would have done. I can't thank our minister enough. He kept me from falling apart and helped me keep my sanity through all this!...

## GOD'S TRUTH HELPS MOTHER FACE DAUGHTER'S DEATH

It hadn't rained in a long time, but the day of the funeral it rained as was forecast.... However, it stopped long enough for the people to get into the chapel. Then it started to pour, but as soon as the services ended, the rain stopped, and we went out to the burial site which was only a few feet away. As soon as that part was over and every one got in their cars, it started to pour again. We received so many comments on the rain from non-members, and many were also touched by the minister's words....

My daughter touched many people. They loved her and will miss her like we will. But we know that we will see her soon and that she is only asleep. I have much to look forward to, but I know that I must really work hard so that I can be with her again. Even in the hospital, when she could walk for exercise, she would go and see other patients and cheer them up. The nurses and others would go to see her to get cheered up themselves.

To the very end she held on to her Bible and her faith and fought a good fight. God did not choose to heal her, but I think it was to perhaps keep her from further pain and suffering. I know He will tell her why when He returns. We have been blessed in other ways, even though our daughter wasn't healed. She left a good example to remember and follow and so much love. She was so precious. People would say that she lived a full, happy life, even though it was short. She graduated from U.C.L.A., did water-skiing, swam like a fish, made her own patterns and sewed--you name it, she could do it.... I feel my daughter lived her 70 years crammed into 25 years so to speak.

I want to thank you for the truth. It is giving me a lot of peace of mind which I need right now. I don't know what would have happened to me if I didn't know the truth--I would probably be a hospital case. God gave me the strength and courage to go on. It's not easy, but the truth makes it easier.

M. K.  
(Hacienda Hts., CA)

HAD ONLY GOD TO TURN TO AFTER HUSBAND'S DEATH

January 14, 1982

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I feel happy to be helping God's Work in some way, however small, as I don't have much of this world's wealth....

Some years ago, I was left a fairly young widow, and penniless, when my husband died after a long illness. I was not old enough to get any kind of assistance, so I prayed for help. Soon I got quite a nice job, after I had sold everything in my house to pay bills and debts. I didn't even have a chair to sit on when I came home from work. But I really got my legs in good shape getting down and up on that floor. I am sure I could have run a country mile or more.

This is a small town, and everyone knows the kind of life others are living. So I was whispered about--no one could understand why I had sold my house furnishings, pots and pans, etc. I have replaced all these things now, and I suppose people have forgotten, for I have a lot of good friends.

But only God knew what I was going through at that time. I was scared and needed help from somewhere, and He was the only one I ever asked for help. I know He heard me when I prayed because He has blessed me in so many ways. I could have never gotten to first base on my own. I held my head high and never lost my faith.

HAD ONLY GOD TO TURN TO AFTER HUSBAND'S DEATH

I thank God for my good health and every door of opportunity that was opened to me. I don't ever want to get my head so high and my neck so stiff that I forget that without Him I am nothing. I desire to do something for Him and obey His laws.

I have been listening to your radio program for a number of years. I thank God for you--you have had such an impact on my life.... And I thank you for allowing me to be a co-worker with Jesus Christ, in the Worldwide Church of God....

I love you, Mr. Armstrong. Thank you for helping me.

Sincerely,

L. J.  
(Fletcher, OK)

GOD SAW THEM THROUGH HEALTH AND FINANCIAL TRIAL

May 5, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

Two years ago, my husband suffered a massive coronary attack while at work. He stayed in an intensive care unit for almost four weeks, which ran up an immense hospital and doctor's bill. But because of answered prayer, he made it and is doing well now.

We tried to get the company he worked for to pay his medical bills and compensation since he was permanently disabled, but they refused, so we hired a lawyer to persuade them otherwise. Even the doctors agreed that his job definitely brought on the heart attack. Well, to make a long story short, after two hard years the judge ruled in my husband's favor, and we received worker's compensation retrospectively. Here is our offering to God.

God watched over us, fed and cared for us through some rough times and we give Him thanks. We had a lot of medical bills (approximately \$12,000 worth) and are also supposed to get some of that back. We had to borrow money to pay these bills at the time. People--both in God's Church and outside--were moved to help us. If it wasn't for that, I don't know how we would have made it with four children.

We pray for you to have good health and continue to lead God's Work here on earth.

Sincerely,

C. H.  
(Waynesboro, MS)



GOD STRENGTHENS PT SUBSCRIBER IN BATTLE WITH CANCER

May 21, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

For the last five months, I have been going to the hospital for cobalt treatments. To put it mildly, the 90-mile round trip each day has been very tiring. But God has been with me every step of the way!...

I have no car and depend on a few kind people to take me. If one has no money, like myself, one has to go for treatments daily. Although the doctor is kind, this predicament of mine was nothing to him. But God has shown me in no uncertain way that He was there. Though I have been in an organized church (Catholic), I have only found God and His Christ the last three years. Oh, I thought I knew Them, but I really did not.

During these thirty-nine awful trips, God held me up to walk the long stone corridors. And may I say that He literally pulled me along. Sometimes I said, "God, I can go no further. No, no more! I simply cannot." But immediately, although I heard no audible voice, there would come a surge of strength that I could hardly contain it. There I was clinging to a wooden railing which stretches along the corridors and had anyone noticed, they would have seen me propelled along in spite of myself.

And do you know that God has a splendid sense of humor? For at times this sudden push would strike me so funny! I always have a bubbly humor and tend to laugh at so many things. And God and Christ would laugh with me! For They know me so well. What a timid coward I can sometimes be.

In spite of the other side of the coin--pain, fright and horror--I never found God so near. I found myself praying for the other victims of this dreaded disease and consequent treatment. I had a supernatural compassion for them that I never knew existed in me.

GOD STRENGTHENS PT SUBSCRIBER IN BATTLE WITH CANCER

Thank you for the beautiful and relevant literature without which I would never have known my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, nor my God! God pulled, hauled and pushed me through the thirty-nine treatments and trips. The doctor says all looks promising to him. Thank God. I am now to have a biopsy and then more check ups.

Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for your prayers. Please keep on praying for me as I do for you.

Yours in Christian love,

P. S. (Woman)  
(Dexter, ME)

FAMILY REJOICES AFTER A SEVEN-YEAR-LONG TRIAL

January 19, 1982

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I wanted to take this time to thank you for your willing obedience and servitude to our Lord Jesus Christ and God, our loving Father. It has been through your concern and faithfulness that I am blessed to know the true God and to have a personal insight into His tremendously loving mercy! At this time my wife and I would like you to join us in the thankfulness and rejoicing at the recent death of our little girl of eleven years.

Why would anyone rejoice at the death of his child? Sir, her entire life and personality were molded after the instruction of our God that we received through you.... I had the wonderful experience of having been baptized into God's Church as a single person and later being married to a lovely young lady in the Church.... One year or so after our marriage, we were blessed with a beautiful little girl and followed God's instructions through you to train her. Those methods certainly paid off, for our daughter didn't become the "brat" that so many children turn into. This alone was a tremendous blessing.

At the age of three she was so beautiful in action, that we could not take her anywhere without receiving some comment from people both in and out of God's Church. Then, suddenly, this beautiful child was stricken with severe convulsions and symptoms of a terrible illness. Immediately, she was anointed per God's instruction and three days later was swinging on her backyard swing with a great big smile. About a month or so later, at the Feast, she again became very ill. Again we asked God to heal her and He did. The brethren rejoiced with us at God's intervention.

Then, when she was a little past four years of age, she went into extremely severe convulsions. I've never seen a child so ill. To have a child with convulsions is very scary. We certainly knew she was

## FAMILY REJOICES AFTER A SEVEN-YEAR-LONG TRIAL

close to death. Again we called on our Father, trusting Him to take care of the situation. The next morning she was nearly in a coma and her temperature was 105 degrees. We called the assistant minister, and he advised us not to let her die at home, for the authorities had only a year ago attempted to take the children from a church family after the death of one of their children at home.

I've not had any trust in the false god of medicine since I became a member of God's Church, or maybe before. Knowing the possible consequences, I had refused to take my daughter to a doctor, even with increased pressure from without. But after having talked with the elder, we thought it wise to act on his advice. The doctors knew we had waited a long time to admit her. They refused to even speak to us and looked on us as some sort of monsters. The only way we could find out what was going on was through a family member who worked in the hospital.

We were increasingly of the opinion that God's answer to our request for healing was "not now," as our beautiful little girl died five times that day! Each time they revived her until she finally could breathe without the aid of manipulation. A week later, the doctor transferred her to another hospital 75 miles away--one that was supposed to be better equipped. It made me shudder. After the doctors' statements, we began to prepare for a funeral, but she remained alive. They still had not found what source of infection had caused all the trouble--for she had spinal meningitis, a dreadful disease.

The doctors were about to give her back to us without knowing the reason for the disease, but just before they released her, she became ill with chicken pox! It seems that a nurse failed to wash her hands after leaving a patient with the disease. So while the girl was being treated for the chicken pox, they decided to look at the mastoid bone behind the right ear. When they opened the inner ear area, they saw a hole behind the stirrup in the ear and this aroused their curiosity. They checked the inner ear fluid and found it to be spinal fluid. This was the source of the infection. After patching this little hole, which was a birth defect, our daughter was not ill again until last year

## FAMILY REJOICES AFTER A SEVEN-YEAR-LONG TRIAL

when she caught a cold. This she quickly threw off after being anointed.

However, the daughter the doctors returned to us was no longer the beautiful little girl she had been, for now she was blind, extremely thin, and screamed nonstop at the top of her lungs with an eerie cry that sounded totally inhuman. The doctors call it a "brain cry." Her little body was so deformed from paralysis that you could not pull her arms from tight against her chest. She was stiff and bending in a backward arch.... The drugs given to her did not seem to help much at all. Her little brain was badly damaged all over the surface. ("Profuse brain damage" they called it.) This caused her muscles and organs inside the body to lock up or function sporadically.

Needless to say, our whole life style centered around the little girl, her therapy and care. Through the next seven and a half years, she inspired many people in and out of God's Church....

Recently, we again asked our Father to make her well, but this time His answer was definitely "not now." I really don't think that God caused her condition. It was simply a birth defect, and He did not intend to heal her completely back seven years ago. I truly believe that since the doctors had revived her, God decided to use the condition as a chance for us to build some badly needed God-like attribute, patience.

Two weeks ago, our little girl went to sleep for the last time in this life. Her heart stopped--there was no apparent pain. We were sad only for a moment for we know God's promise, and we certainly do rejoice in that both our trial and that of our daughter is over. A thousand of our years is no more than a day to our Father--so how long is almost eight years to Him? God is not limited by our time, and in the very next instant in the consciousness of the little girl, she will be healed. It is as certain as Christ's return! If that's not a quick healing, nothing is.

So now you see why we rejoice! Isn't it something? The world celebrates birthdays, but we can celebrate death days, thanks to God's love and mercy. We feel this is the best possible answer God could give.

FAMILY REJOICES AFTER A SEVEN-YEAR--LONG TRIAL

What was His answer? "Certainly, I will heal the little child instantly." She is no longer ill and her next thought will be "Wow! I can walk! and run! and jump!"

Mr. Armstrong, I think you can imagine what an eleven-year-old child can and will do when in her next thought she looks down and sees a new body. I am sure she will want to climb every tree around and swing in every swing she sees for at least a year. Won't that Last Great Day also be wonderful? It certainly will be for us.

Love,

H. C.  
(Edmonton, KY)

TRIAL OF UNEMPLOYMENT TEACHES GRATITUDE

August 28, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I have been through a long period of unemployment, but as always, God made ways to go through the trial. I have learned lessons you wouldn't believe, including thanking God more often for things I took for granted.

I almost had to leave my family to search for work, but then my employer called me back after 27 months. I can thank God now for even the weeds in my lawn because I can be with my wife and friends. I can lay down at night and thank God I am in my own bed in a country setting.

So thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for teaching God's laws in a time of global unrest and uncertainties in life.

S. L.  
(Isabella, TN)



AN UPHILL STRUGGLE TOWARD A BETTER LIFE

January 29, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

This is a letter that I have been meaning to write for a long time.

I have been a baptized member for a couple years now. My first contact with the Church was as a teenager back in 1966 when I first attended services in Wisconsin on my way to SEP. When I graduated from high school in 1970, I had decided to move to California to live with my father. I was turned down from Ambassador College and my memories of church were not enough to even consider attending services once I arrived in the San Francisco area.

Like many I grew up with, I went out into the world and tried all that it had to offer--all the things that I had been protected from for years. Only after a rocky marriage, numerous mistakes, and beginnings of a divorce, did I once again start to read The PLAIN TRUTH. The magazines had piled up in the closet for years, unread. After reading The PLAIN TRUTH for about eight years, I wrote and asked for a minister to visit me. This was the first time in my life that I have sought a minister's advice.

One of the first things I asked was, "May I go back to church? I've been gone for almost nine years. How soon can I come back?" The very next Sabbath I restarted attending services and a couple of months later, I was baptized. Since then, I have been very thankful for the truth.

Even though, since the day I was baptized, there have been some real trials and tests, God has always come through for me. At times I feel, however, that He pushes me to my utmost limits. When things get very bad, I still would like to just give up and get myself out of things any way possible. But after a time I can see how all things do work out for the good.

Right now, God has been putting me through one of the hardest tests I've ever dreamed of having. For the

AN UPHILL STRUGGLE TOWARD  
A BETTER LIFE

first time in my life I had a proper dating relationship with a man--following all the rules and guidelines in the dating booklet. When the book on the "new morality" first came out, I had ordered a copy, but for years it sat in a closet. Now the result of ignoring your booklets and God's way is etched deeply in my mind. I am divorced with two children. I have had a number of relationships that have led to affairs--even men in the Church are not always able to follow God's way of dating.

It had felt good to try God's way--to take time to sit and talk and get to know each other. Having eight hundred miles between us helped. We were able to talk and visit and not get physically involved with each other. For me it was a very different way of doing things.

Last summer, we were able to spend time with each other--dating, and doing it God's way. By the time the Feast arrived, it looked like God was really blessing us and we would soon be married. Then we broke up, and since then I have been really tested.

For the last couple of months, I have been trying to find a place to live. The minister has been very helpful, and so have the brethren in the local church. A family has taken me and my two children in, for which I have been very thankful, as well as for all they have taught me. I have seen how needed a father is to properly raise children. How badly mine need to have a man around ruling. My three-year-old son has never had that.

Having had to deal with welfare lately has given me an active hate for Satan and his society. When women struggle to stay home and be mothers, Satan will do everything possible to get to them. There are times when I fear he will succeed--when there are car problems, a lack of money, no housing in sight, rebellion from the children (encouraged by their father), and when it looks like that even doing things God's way doesn't work. It can be hard to see how God will work things out and how all this is for my own good.

AN UPHILL STRUGGLE TOWARD  
A BETTER LIFE

Yet having read your books, your experiences have given me hope that God will prove to me that proper dating and coming to love without physical involvement was all worth it. I hope that it will eventually lead to marriage and God's blessings will dim any memories of past "pleasures" that have come from doing it Satan's way.

I hope and pray that young teens will not have to go through what I did in order to learn that God's way to marriage is best; that they will never incur the punishment for doing things the wrong way; and that they will at no time have to wonder, as I do now, if God will bless for having done things His way, or if past mistakes may not make it possible.

There are times when the hardest thing to do is to wait for God to work things out, as it is hard for me not to try and do something.

I thank God for you and the truth and knowledge I have received. I pray that you will continue to lead us and provide the teens and young people with the knowledge desperately needed to attain a good marriage.

Thank you again. May God help you to help us.

K. W.  
(Sunnyvale, CA)



YOUNG TEENAGER WOULDN'T COMPROMISE

ON GOD'S WAY DESPITE PERSECUTION

February 2, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

My parents used to be dedicated members of the Church but were disfellowshipped in the sixties. When I was fourteen, I decided to return to the Church. I could see the bad direction my parents were headed. I had to come back against their will, but was determined to put God first.

A year and a half later, I truly repented, and wanted to be baptized. However, my minister said I was very young and should wait awhile. I was baptized when I had just turned seventeen. It was a real blessing to have God deal with me since the age of eleven, later adding me to the Body of Christ....

I chose the Church, even though my parents were against it. I knew at a very young age what it was like to be persecuted because of God's way. Before I even started attending services, I was beaten, whipped, burned, choked, and cut for what I believed and for even believing in God. My older brother-in-law, who lived with us at that time, contributed to much of this. However, God moved us away from the violent part of Chicago to my home state, Tennessee, where this could no longer take place. Shortly after that I was able to attend services....

I wish all teenagers in the Church could hear my life story and realize how fortunate they are to be in the Church, with their parents in it to look up to. Unfortunately, I was cheated of this blessing....

I sincerely want to thank you for your help. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,  
in Christ's name,

K. S.  
(Kenton, TN)



PROBLEMS OUTNUMBERED BY BLESSINGS

September 4, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

We must be nearing the end because Satan has lately been causing all the trouble he can to try to discourage God's people. We have had a rash of things happening to our brethren here--health problems, family problems, etc. My wife and I came home from grocery shopping in the middle of the afternoon recently and found burglars ransacking our home. They tore out the back when they heard us, ripping out our big sliding door screen without taking the time to slide open the door.

But we have no complaints, for our blessings certainly always exceed our problems. We are most thankful to be together and in God's Church. We quietly and thankfully passed our golden anniversary a few months ago which, in itself, is a blessing few seem able to experience these days--and what a mess the world is in, partly as a result of family breakdowns!

Our only hope is the coming Kingdom, and we are trying hard to be prepared and accounted worthy to help teach the world the "way" when that day comes.

We pray daily for you and all of God's faithful ministers to keep up the good work--and speed the day for the coming of His Kingdom!

With love in Christ,

J. S.  
(San Antonio, TX)



## Returning to Church

PRODIGAL SON RETURNS

March 5, 1982

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I am writing this letter in the hope that I may be of encouragement to you as you have greatly encouraged me.

I grew up in God's Church, attended services and went to Imperial School, but all the time I detested it. I resented my parents for making me go. I resented the school, the Church and even you. I wanted so badly to be a part of this world. I caused much strife and problems at Imperial School, breaking every rule I could think of. All I wanted at the time was to be a part of the world and the fun I felt it was having.

Well, I discovered that it wasn't as much fun as I thought it would be. I found myself so wrapped up in the world that I could not escape. I had sprung a trap on myself. I found the wages of this world to be worse than swimming in a cesspool of filth. I was a wretched, filthy, burned out piece of flesh.

Mr. Armstrong, I am now a member of the Church that I once hated so much. I have asked the great God to forgive me for the trouble that I caused in the past, and I know that He has. I thank Him that He is working through such a dedicated man as you. I thank you for the dedication to the Work and people like myself and for the love you have shown us. I could not have removed myself from the bonds of this world without the help of God through you. I thank you and ask you also to forgive me for the damage I have caused. Mr. Armstrong, I love you and the Work we stand for.

I am still in bonds, but now I am willingly in the bonds of Christ as His servant. Thank you again for your steadfast dedication to a Work that sometimes must seem one hundred percent against you. We are with you, Mr. Armstrong, and your work has a great effect.

T. J.  
(Corpus Christi, TX)



CHILDHOOD TEACHING BEARS FRUIT IN ADULT LIFE

July 1, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

My parents brought the Lord's words into my life as a child, however, I haven't affiliated with those teachings for eleven years. I am just now beginning to learn again of those laws and beliefs. Since returning to the Worldwide Church of God, an entirely new and wonderful life is opening for myself and my family.

My father is still teaching God's way to other family members. I thank God for giving me such a father on earth and for the opportunity to become a true Christian. I didn't understand what started happening to me, but I know I need Christ in my life and in my children's lives.

The Church has become my family for they genuinely care about each other. Looking into those two or three hundred faces, it is apparent that everyone has the same goal and the same true understanding of God's Word. They are all as one. They represent strength, love, compassion and more important, God's Work here on earth.

I wish to become baptized into the Church of God very soon and, with God's help and many prayers, be a servant in God's Work.

Respectfully,

K. E.  
(Orrville, OH)



LEFT CHURCH AS A RESULT  
OF SPIRITUAL WEAKNESS AND MARRIAGE PROBLEMS

September 22, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I wanted to write to you and tell you all that's in my heart.

I left the Church about two years ago when my husband and I started having marriage problems. I was very weak spiritually and could not stand the persecution my husband directed toward me. He got very paranoid about my leaving the house and was suspicious about everything I did. As a result, I became very depressed and could not think clearly. I felt God and the Church were against me. I was not against Church doctrine, neither was I unduly concerned about the trouble with the receivership. However, I felt that the Church didn't want me and that I did not deserve God's grace.

Two months ago I talked to the local minister and again started attending services. I am so happy to be back in church and love to hear the Word of God and the good news of His coming Kingdom. I feel so much stronger and I want very much to grow in the faith....

My husband now sees a doctor on a regular basis and is doing much better. I pray that God will direct him toward the Church.

I will support the Church in every possible way. And I promise you that I will never allow myself to become that weak again. If I have another crisis in my life, I will depend entirely on God and not try to handle the situation myself.

Thank you so very much for the opportunity to write to you. I pray for God's Kingdom to come soon.

Thank you,

D. S.  
(Independence, KY)



DISSIDENTS REPENT AND RETURN

September 18, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

My husband and I recently returned to God's Church. We left a year ago. My husband was in a state of confusion. He had been sick for some time and when all the problems in the Church came out, he left.

Well, I left after a few months of trying to do it on my own. I was not staying close enough to God and couldn't choose God over my husband--so I gave up and quit attending too. Not because this wasn't God's Church, but because it seemed I could not face it all on my own.

We had a filthy, sin-filled year. But somehow, God in His mercy decided we had had enough. He snapped us out of our filthy sins and allowed us to repent and return to His Church. It was not for anything good on our part that He brought us back, but only because of the great love and tender mercies He chose to have upon us. Why?, is my question in my prayers. I don't deserve this kind of gentle, yet firm love.

It has been difficult coming back. The whole church seems to know our sins. We hurt the brethren when we left. My husband was marked and disfellowshipped. But God has given us strength to endure the snubbed attitudes a lot of members have given us. (After all, we do deserve it. Why should we expect open arms of love?) Still it hurt!

Slowly now, the brethren are beginning to change their attitudes toward us. I'm not writing this to put anyone down. I only told you these things to show you we have sinned before God. Yet, He brought us back!...

We love you and your family and pray that God will protect, guide and direct you--until He sees fit to stop this sin-sick, lusting world from destroying us all.

With much love,

L. H.  
(Tempe, AZ)



YEARS SPENT OUTSIDE GOD'S CHURCH

WERE THE WORST IN HER LIFE

October 14, 1981

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I was baptized in April of 1965 but, unfortunately, left the Church in October of 1976. In the last five years, I have been living in the cesspool of Satan's world. The only good thing I can say about those years is that I can really see how this world desperately needs God's Kingdom.

I was nineteen years old when I was baptized, and all those years in the Church I never really thought the world was all that bad! I had never really seen or understood just how much happiness God's laws bring compared to the pain, suffering and unhappiness breaking God's laws can cause. The last five years have been the worst years in my life.

About a month ago, several things had happened and I found myself wanting to flee from this world and have nothing to do with it. Thank God it happened because it made me turn back to Him and His Church. I called the local minister and asked him to visit me. However, I was very concerned, having the knowledge I had had in the past, if I could commit myself to obeying God in every way. So we arranged another meeting for one week later.

During that week, I prayed at least three times a day, asking God to help me. I knew for the first time in all these years that I was nothing but a piece of dirt and that I could do nothing without God's help. And He did help me!! When the minister came back one week later, my whole attitude had changed. God had created in me a clean heart. It really amazed me!

YEARS SPENT OUTSIDE GOD'S CHURCH  
WERE THE WORST IN HER LIFE

The first service I attended again was the Day of Atonement. Very appropriate, don't you think? I have been reading the Bible and literature, and understanding it as never before. I have felt so happy, peaceful and content within myself. I have a thirst to read and hear God's truth.... I was so excited to see you at the Feast on the large screen and hear you again after all these years. I wanted to tell you how wonderful it was and how powerful you still are, even at 90 years of age!

God be with you and continue to give you His strength.

Sincerely from my heart,

D. R.  
(Plano, TX)

IMPRISONMENT LEADS TO REPENTANCE AND RETURN

December 8, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I was baptized into God's Church almost four years ago. Since then, I have forsaken God's way until recently. Upon entering prison eight months ago, I repented and started once more seeking the Kingdom of God. Our wonderful God has again opened my mind, and undeservingly enabled me to work toward a better calling.

My story is long and confusing. Satan enticed me away from God's Church. Worldly pleasures, instead of the Kingdom of God, became my goal. Later, drugs came to be a problem. My wife and two children suffered greatly. Then, I broke the law in such a way that I couldn't keep from being caught forever. I turned myself in to the law enforcers and started paying my debts.

I knew all along I was wrong but didn't seem to have the guts to change. My friends were actively involved in my ending up in prison. However, since being here, my only friends are in God's Church.

My mother is also a member and has kept me up-to-date on Church activities. Recently, the local minister paid me and a friend here a visit and arranged for us to attend Sabbath services. Our first Sabbath with God's people was yesterday.

It's exciting to start living again. I will probably be out of prison in two months as prison officials seem favorable toward my making parole. I look forward to supporting God's Church and His apostle in whatever way I can.

IMPRISONMENT LEADS TO REPENTANCE AND RETURN

I work outside the prison on a public job now and am able to send tithes regularly. God has blessed me abundantly. He is indeed a merciful, wonderful God!

Please, sir, remember me in your prayers. I need prayer now as never before. The gift of faith is such a wonderful gift. Daily I ask for more faith and God has helped me greatly.

I love the Church and hope to become active in it. Thank you, sir, for enduring and letting Christ guide you.

Deepest admiration,

J. D.  
(Hazelwood, NC)

NEW LOVE FOR CHURCH LEADS TO RETURN

December 3, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I just have to tell you my story. It is not special, but I cannot tell it to anyone here yet as I want to surprise my mother.

My mother just had her thirteenth anniversary in the Church. My father has always been cooperative but only attends church on special occasions.... I have gone to church with my mother from the very beginning since I was nine years old.

I was a model child (or so everyone thought), spoiled, but not a brat. I always had a Bible which, ironically, had been a Christmas present a couple of years before. I paid attention, and took notes. I was a hit with the old ladies since I was raised around adults and knew how to converse at their level. I was far more mature than others my age....

I even had a boyfriend in the Church for a while. I sent in offerings, was a member of the local youth group and then YOU when it was created.... I knew as much or more about doctrine as anyone my age. My mother never doubted my sincerity.

My best friend for the last ten years or so has been a Catholic, but that never hurt my beliefs. If anything, it strengthened them. The fatal blow, however, came when I was introduced to my boyfriend of the last four years. He wasn't and isn't in the Church and as we became closer, God and the Church, on the one hand, and I, on the other, grew farther apart.

I attended services only rarely just to keep my mother from nagging me, and I threw my morals out the door.... Yet, all the time something kept me from ever hitting the alcohol, cigarette, or drug scene, although it was around me all the time. If we went out to a party, I would drive home since I always consumed less beer or whatever.

## NEW LOVE FOR CHURCH LEADS TO RETURN

In all this, I had one quality that should have been a fault. My boyfriend continuously dated other women, even when we were engaged. He even went to bed with some of them. My quality/fault was the ability to forgive him for anything he did. Wow--was I stupid! I suffered much unhappiness, but always thought the good times made up for the bad. Now that I think about it, what good times? Oh well, he dumped me this year anyway.

Strange things started happening this summer. I had an urge to take time off for part of the Feast of Tabernacles which I hadn't done for three or four years. The Feast was right here in my home town so I attended services on Saturdays and Sundays but kept working the rest of the time....

Shortly before that, one of the men at work was reading the Wall Street Journal and started making fun of your advertisement in that issue. I was in an adjoining office and heard everything. Finally, I couldn't stand it any longer. I got up, walked out to him, and said, "That's my Church!" He promptly stopped the ridicule. After answering a couple questions, I departed for the lounge where I sat down and recovered. Before this incident, I haven't had any really strong feelings about the Church. I was literally shaking from the event....

I went to church on the Day of Atonement, which I kept for the first time in several years and then went to the Feast of Tabernacles the afternoon of the second day. I have never been at a Feast quite like this one. The entire atmosphere was different. Since then I have been to church every Sabbath even though I don't get to sleep in and it is a three hour round-trip drive. This time it is my decision to go....

Thank you for lending an "ear" to my story. Oh, by the way, I forgot to tell you what I want to surprise my mother with. I plan to be baptized prior to the spring Holy Days!

Sincerely,

S. L.  
(Bainbridge Island, WA)

RECOVERING FROM A LONG SPIRITUAL ILLNESS

December 1979

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I wanted to share some of my happiness with you. Four years ago, my husband and I were baptized by one of God's ministers and for some time grew in the spirit. After a few years, however, we separated ourselves from the Church. We stopped tithing and soon didn't even attend Sabbath services. Needless to say, we cut ourselves off from God's blessings and left ourselves open for everything that Satan would sling at us. Just as you have said for years, Satan would like nothing better than to see the "family" shot to pieces.

At the time I came to realize how wrong I had been to separate myself from God, my husband decided that he wanted a divorce. I went before God and repented of having gone a path that I knew was wrong. I am sorry to say, however, that my husband went through with the divorce.

It hasn't been easy disciplining myself when it comes to Bible study, prayer and fasting. Sometimes, I have actually had to force myself to kneel and pray, but I am now on my way back to recovery from a long spiritual illness. I ask for your prayers for my children and myself. It's really hard being a single parent.

F. G.  
(Texas)



MEMBER REJOICES AFTER RETURNING TO CHURCH

October 2, 1980

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I just got home from my first Feast of Tabernacles. It would take several pages to tell you how wonderful it was. I am already thinking about next year.

Mr. Armstrong, I left the Church two and a half years ago. I look back now and can see that Satan was behind it. It no doubt pleased him when I left. While I was gone, I was never content or happy. Many times I wanted to pray, but I knew that unless I was willing to do God's will, He would turn a deaf ear to me.

At the beginning of this year, I realized I wanted to come back. Yet, it took me until April before I actually did. Again, Satan was shooting poison darts at me. I was convinced that I wouldn't be welcomed back. I was ashamed to face everyone.

But God was with me and one morning I woke up and realized that God's people would rejoice, and they did, at my return.

Now it's as if I never left. Once again I am fulfilled, content and happy. My pastor compared me to the prodigal son, which reassured me greatly, because I was so afraid I was forever lost.

Today when I came home, I found a check in the mail for almost \$3,000. God has really blessed me, and I feel so undeserving. Our God is a merciful God, and I not only pray continually for you, the ministry, and God's people, but also that I will be able to answer my high calling.... This is the true Church of the Living God, and I never want to leave it again....

May God be with you always.

S. W.  
(Cincinnati, OH)



REGAINED FIRST LOVE AFTER RETURNING TO CHURCH

February 22, 1982

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I have put off writing this letter for a long time, but I have much to tell you.

God truly works in mysterious ways. My husband and I became members of the Church of God twelve years ago. We were baptized together. I still remember that first love--how wonderful it was and how zealous we were. It was a total change for us as we had lived as teenagers through the 60's and the so-called hippie generation. We were in many ways rebellious against the (so-called) establishment and wanted a non-materialistic life of peace and love. This, we found out later, is totally impossible without God's Spirit.

I was nineteen and my husband twenty-three when we became part of God's Church. The first three years were great. We were condemned by friends and some family members, but it didn't matter. I could picture no other life for us and couldn't understand how anyone could leave the Church. In those years we had three children.

Then we let Satan step in. We allowed what's been called "people problems" bother us, let down in prayer and study, and after four and a half years we left. Although we were out of the Church, I taught my children Church doctrine, and I guess I thought we'd be all right. But God thought different.

After a while, what I thought was a happy marriage, fell apart. We really reached the bottom of the barrel. God let us go our own way. As the true, patient, merciful, understanding and loving God that He is, He knew what trials we needed.

Well, my husband and I came back together and through a hard year and a half, we began to get back down on our knees. It wasn't easy at first because of the damage that had been done, but it worked.

Four years ago, we came back to Church as a family --four kids now. I can really see that we had to go

REGAINED FIRST LOVE AFTER RETURNING TO CHURCH

through those experiences to come to where we are today. We have a very happy family. Our children are thrilled to know the truth. They love you and are really excited when they receive their tithe report. They feel you personally wrote the letter thanking them for their contributions, which in a sense you did.

We have learned so much in the past years, and I am very excited because the first love has returned and I intend to keep it. We share our experience with other brethren because we realize it happened for a reason. My husband spoke about it in club. It brought tears, rejoicing and many thanks as it helped each person in some way. At first it was hard to thank God for those trials, but now it is easy. I feel we have helped other brethren with similar problems.

We are 100% behind the Work of the living God. I thank Him for His loving kindness and for not giving up on us. I see a parallel in the Work--how even though it has gone through hard times with men trying to water down God's truth, Satan could not prevail because Christ is the almighty living Head of this Work.

We truly respect you as Christ's apostle. You are doing a wonderful job and are truly inspired by God. We pray for the Work and you daily. We also pray that very soon Satan will not be allowed to deceive humanity any longer and that Christ will return to bring total peace and love throughout the nations and to all people who have ever lived on this earth. What a glorious time that will be!

Love,

L. N.  
(Hamburg, NY)