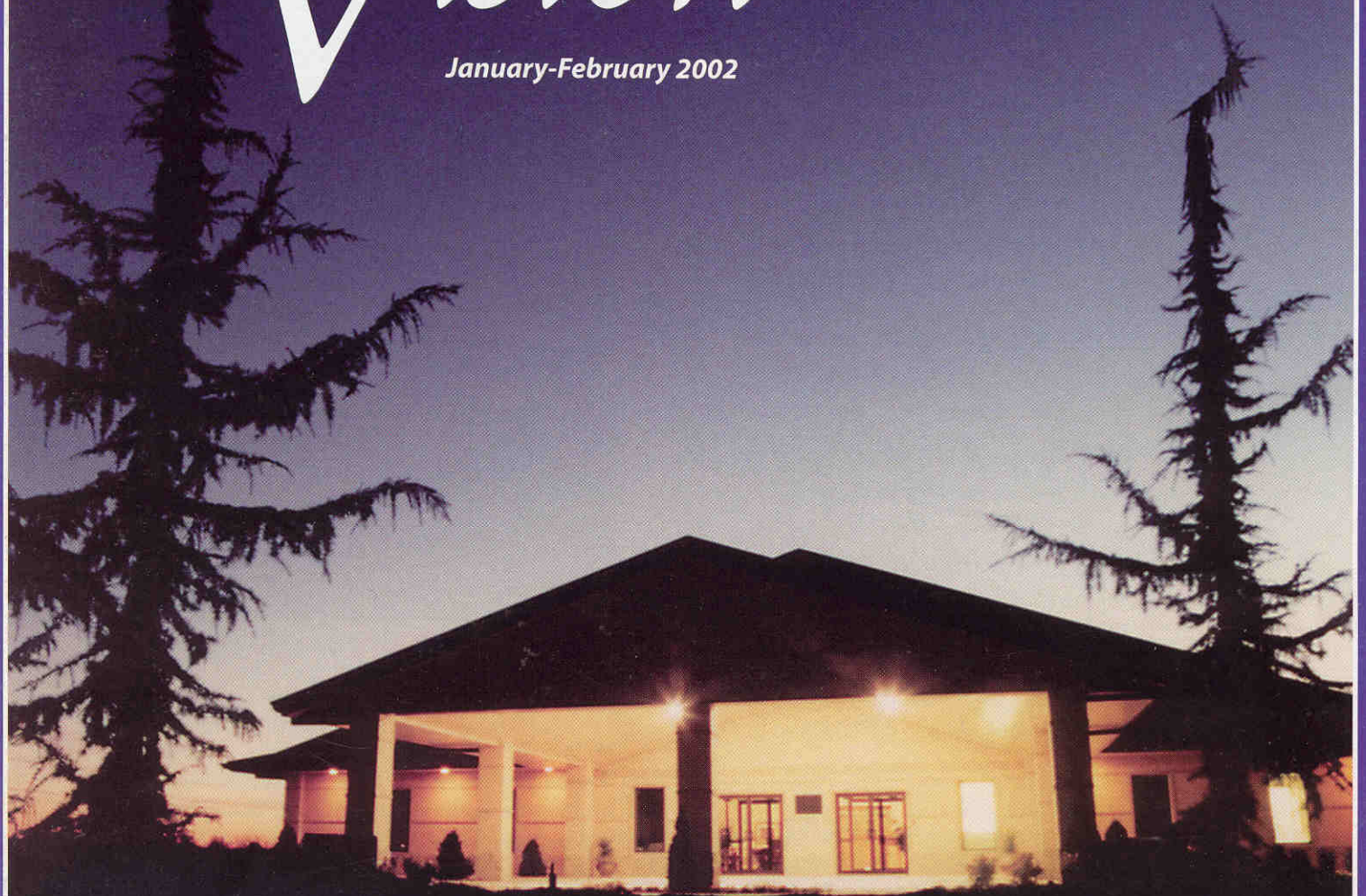


Royal Vision

January-February 2002

CHRIST IS
COMING IN THE FLESH



GOD'S WORK
A Year of Growth

ROYAL VISION

January-February 2002/Volume 5, Number 1

ARTICLES

The Epistles of John: Part Two
Christ Is Coming In The Flesh 2
by Gerald Flurry

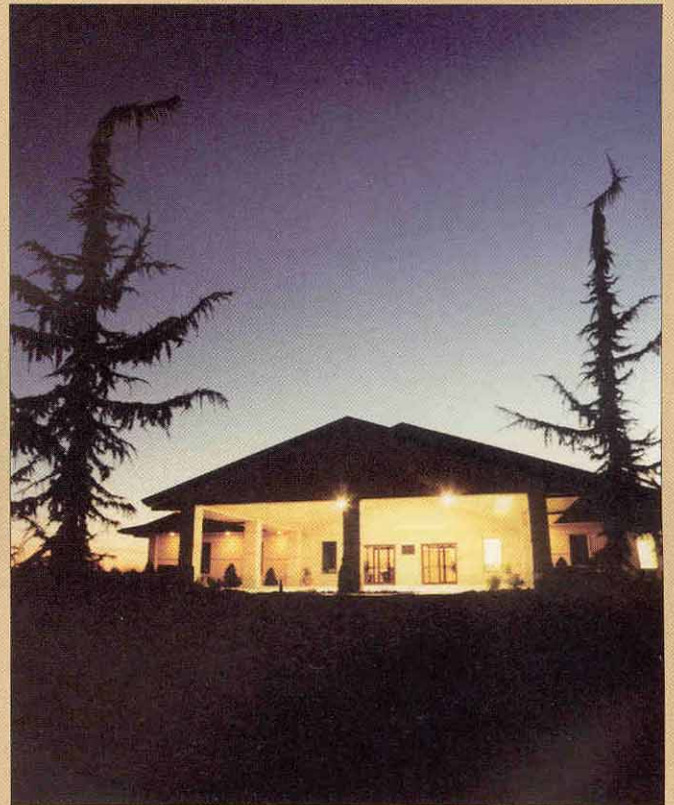
What Is True Christian Fellowship? 8
by Joel Hilliker

How to Settle Family Arguments 12
by Ron Fraser

Your Spiritual Taproot 14
by Eric Anderson

Go to the Lost Sheep of Israel 16
by Wilbur Malone

Full Time in the Work 20
by Ryan Malone



About the cover The John Amos Field House at sunrise.
(Photo by Joel Hilliker)

DEPARTMENTS

Greetings, Brethren and Co-Workers! 1

News of the Work 23
2001 in Review

Q&A 28

Letters 29

Editor in chief Gerald Flurry

Managing editor Stephen Flurry

Assistant managing editors Wik Heerma, Ryan Malone

Senior editors Dennis Leap, J. Tim Thompson

Contributors Eric Anderson, Gareth Fraser, Ron Fraser,
Joel Hilliker, Mark Jenkins, Andrew Locher, Wilbur Malone,
Gary Rethford, Wayne Turgeon

Proofreaders Donna Grieves, Melody Thompson

Prepress production manager Ryan Malone

Circulation manager Jason Hensley

Royal Vision (ISSN10979808) is published bimonthly by the Philadelphia Church of God, 1019 Waterwood Parkway, Suite F, Edmond, OK 73034. Periodicals postage paid at Edmond, OK, and additional mailing offices. © 2002 Philadelphia Church of God. All rights reserved.

Subscriptions: Subscriptions are sent free to all members and co-workers of the Philadelphia Church of God. Address all communications to the Philadelphia Church of God, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, Oklahoma, 73083.

Notice: *Royal Vision* cannot be responsible for the return of unsolicited articles and photographs.

U.S. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Royal Vision*, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083.

Greetings, Brethren and Co-Workers! . . .

Our young people sin as we all do. In the Philadelphia Church of God, we have made a few different rules for our teens and youth, because they are unbaptized—they do not have God's Holy Spirit. The Spirit is *with* them (if they desire it), but not *in* them. Apart from God's Word, we make almost no rules for baptized members. Why the difference?

Occasionally members, and even ministers, will try to get us to make and enforce specific rules to help control extreme behavior of those who are baptized. If we did so, God's Church would soon have a "tal-mud" of do's and don'ts, in addition to the Bible.

"Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart. And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward: Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; Who also hath made us able MINISTERS of the new testament; not of the letter, but OF THE SPIRIT: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life" (II Cor. 3:3-6). The Bible is not written in our hearts and minds with ink, but with God's Holy Spirit (Heb. 10:16).

God's priests today are ministers "not of the letter, but of the spirit." What damage would we do to the Church if we continued to suspend sinning members *after* they had repented? If a member has been suspended because of breaking God's law, they are welcomed back *when* they repent—not after a six-month suspension, for example. We have to be extremely careful about setting *time periods* for suspended members and for other situations.

Generally, if we set rules for offenses, we are being ministers of the letter, not of the Spirit. Our ministers must be able to discern true repentance, as God does. The Holy Spirit gives us that power.

One evangelist in the Worldwide Church of God kept trying to get the late Herbert W. Armstrong to make specific rules about skirt and hair lengths in *inches*. But no such rules were ever made.

Such detailed rules—apart from God's Word—would begin to put us in bondage. "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is *liberty*" (II Cor. 3:17). God gave the Holy Spirit that we might have true liberty—FREEDOM BEYOND HUMAN UNDERSTANDING. The kind of freedom God has! We are the only people on Earth *not* enslaved by our human nature! Satan has this whole world in bondage to carnality.

WE CAN'T DEFEND GOD'S FREEDOM UNLESS WE UNDERSTAND IT DEEPLY. That means we must know *why* we are fighting for this liberty. We want the whole world to be free, as only God can give it freedom. This vision should fill us with hope!

We must understand *why* Satan's slavery is evil and hate it vehemently. We must also know why God's liberty is so inspiringly precious and love it passionately—with deeds to support our words.

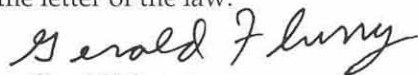
Only God can reveal true liberty to us individually. It is done by the power of His Holy Spirit—not by the letter.

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches ..." (Rev. 2:7). "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches ..." (v. 11). "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches ..." (v. 17). "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches" (v. 29). "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches" (Rev. 3:6). "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches" (v. 13). "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches" (v. 22). GOD REPEATED THIS STATEMENT SEVEN TIMES IN TWO CHAPTERS—THE NUMBER OF COMPLETION. He wants us to completely and fully comprehend this statement! It is not easy for people to grasp. And it is of supreme importance that we understand it. This is the only way we can be truly free!

In the Old Testament, parents who didn't discipline their children sometimes had to help stone them to death. Ancient Israel lived by the letter of the law. They didn't have God's Spirit. Still, God *ruled* over the nation. But today we don't even think of handling our children that way, even though God rules over the Church. We have God's Holy Spirit.

However, this knowledge should not cause us to relax. Today, Church members' eternal lives are at stake! How wonderful it is to have the Spirit. We can now think and act like God.

Today we have ministers of the Spirit. Our members and ministers must be careful not to descend into the letter of the law.



Gerald Flurry
Editor in Chief

Christ Is Coming in the Flesh

The Apostle John battled false ministers in the first century. He instructed God's people on how to discern these men from true ministers. Here is the key question we must ask: Is Jesus Christ living in these men? If He is living in us, we can "try the spirits" and know the answer.

BY GERALD FLURRY

CLAIMING TO BE A PROPHET IS quite bold. How can you know whether someone is a true prophet? How can you know whether his message is truly coming from God? "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1).

IN THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD (WCG) shortly after Herbert Armstrong died, his successor, Joseph W. Tkach, made a shocking statement. He said it was a mistake to believe that God's Church has a "corner on the spiritual market." Essentially he was saying that there is no one true Church. That is a very evil statement. Yet people followed him, and evidently didn't think much about it. We MUST think about this: If we don't have a corner on the

spiritual market, why are we here? Why not go to a different church? *Elijah* means "my God is God." That implies all the others are false.

God says we must be able to know when something is from God and when it is not. He elaborates in the next verse: "Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God" (v. 2). Do you know the Spirit of God? What does this mean?

How can you detect a counterfeit dollar bill? You can't unless you know exactly what a genuine dollar bill looks like. And you must profoundly know God's Holy Spirit to detect a false spirit.

The tense of the Greek verb translated in verse 2 *is come* actually means *is coming*. It could read "come and continuing to come," or "is now coming."

We must know that Christ *is coming* in the flesh!

But how is Christ coming in the flesh?

Try the Spirits

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5). Christ is "coming in the flesh" *through the Holy Spirit*. We must let His mind be in us. Of course He won't force it. That is why there are so few in God's true Church today! God leaves it up to you.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE GREATEST GIFT IN THE UNIVERSE. God gives it to us and then says we need to understand what sets true prophets apart from false ones. And in that same context, He says we must confess whether or not Christ is coming in the flesh. In other words, here is how to discern the difference between true prophets and

false prophets: *Is Jesus Christ in that man or not?* With the Holy Spirit, we can know.

Many false prophets are on the scene—even people who were in the Church of God and have now gone out into the world. Those are the ones we need to beware of, because we have an affinity with them from the past. We cannot look at personalities. God commands us to “try the *spirits*,” or test them. We must be extremely careful, because there are DIFFERENT SPIRITS. There is an evil spirit with great power—though mainly in the area of deceit. Many false prophets have gone out from God’s Church, and most of God’s people followed them. Now we are left with less than 5 percent of God’s people.

What do those people usually do when they leave God’s Church? They come after YOU. I believe that is somewhat of a proof that this is God’s true Church, and that they represent the devil. False prophets don’t just leave. They come back and attack. That is why we must test the spirits.

God puts the burden of responsibility squarely on your shoulders. Do you KNOW GOD’S SPIRIT? Which men are really stirred by the Holy Spirit? Which men are letting Christ live in them? You had better know! If you don’t, you will be deceived. But if you do, any counterfeit will be plain to you. God’s very elect cannot be deceived.

The test of the *spirit* is the ultimate test. No one comes right out and *says* Christ isn’t coming in the flesh. We must look at the person’s *deeds*. For example, there are leaders who served under Mr. Armstrong for years in high offices now saying they don’t believe he was the end-time Elijah. They were too cowardly to say that while he was alive. But with God’s Spirit you can absolutely KNOW that Mr. Armstrong was the end-time Elijah! And you KNOW he didn’t do that by himself—it was CHRIST IN HIM that was doing the job. HE is the One who prophesied it would be done. He then *came in the flesh* and did that through Mr. Armstrong.

We are in a spiritual war. Are we following our Commander, Jesus Christ, or are we following a false prophet?

If we follow Christ, He is coming in the flesh through us. That is the *only* way we can follow Him! This is the *only* way we can know who a false prophet is. *Only* Christ can *reveal* the

Knowing the Spirit of God goes beyond hearing the words of a man. Get to know the Spirit of God as deeply as you can. The Spirit is coming in the flesh of God’s leader, His ministry and His people.

difference between a true and a false prophet. We must follow men *only* if they are led by the Holy Spirit.

False ministers also have power behind them—the power of SATAN. They are subtle in their deceit. But they can’t deceive Christ—who is living in us.

Knowing the Spirit goes beyond hearing the *words* of a man. Get to know the Spirit of God as deeply as you can. The Spirit is coming in the flesh of God’s leader, His ministry and His people.

But there are many who *don’t know* the Spirit. Some, for example, have foolishly said, “I came into the Worldwide Church, and I proved it was God’s Church, and I’m sticking with it!” That is childish insanity when you realize that righteous men can turn evil. If you know the Spirit, you will know when they change. If you spend any time around someone like that, you will know they are not who they used to be. When God’s Spirit is not working with them, many of them get bizarre. *Most* of God’s people have left Him in this end time, so we must try the spirits.

The Spirit of Antichrist

“And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world” (1 John 4:3). Of course the spirit of antichrist is already in the world. But here John is talking about it coming *inside* God’s Church. Then these deceived members no longer say Christ is coming in the flesh.

I have written before about one Laodicean leader who said that it was a mistake to believe, as we did in the

past, that Christ directly leads His work. That is the *master* lie of an antichrist—a lie that will destroy God’s Church! We must see the depth of such evil. *Of course* Christ directly leads His Church! We experienced that for years under Mr. Armstrong. God leads His Church through one man. We were all taught that for years. If Christ doesn’t directly lead His Church, then who did “restore all things”? (Matt. 17:10-11). Christ did it *through* His end-time Elijah. If Christ doesn’t directly lead His Church, there is no true Church!

Mystery of the Ages is one example. Mr. Armstrong said of that book, “In real fact, I feel I myself did not write it. Rather, I believe God used me in writing it.” Was that true? God wrote it through him. That is how God comes in the flesh. Unlike these antichrist leaders, Mr. Armstrong was wholly submissive to God, and, because of that, we have *Mystery of the Ages*. If Christ didn’t directly lead His Church, we wouldn’t have that book. But because Christ *does* lead His work, we fight tenaciously for it. The antichrists fight against it.

Why is the Worldwide Church fighting us? Is it too harsh to call that *antichrist*? They are trying to destroy the only Church that Christ is leading to do His work. Only we are proclaiming the mystery of God. So Christ labels it exactly what it is. Even some of the judges who have ruled on our case could see the evil behind the WCC’s actions.

Joseph Tkach wrote that it was his “Christian duty to keep this book [*Mystery of the Ages*] out of print.” THAT THOUGHT IS OUT OF THE MIND OF THE DEVIL!

By making that statement, he is not just rejecting one of God’s doctrines, but all of God’s major doctrines. That book was a summary of Mr. Armstrong’s life-long work! He restored “all things.” That book taught all of the foundational truths God restored through him.

Many people want to be neutral about *Mystery of the Ages* and about their religion. But Christ isn’t neutral! What if He had said, *I don’t want to have the flesh torn off my body, I don’t want to spill my blood—I want to be neutral?* None of us would be here! Christ is *anything* but neutral. We are in a war, and Christ acts accordingly. It is *Christ’s mind* we are to allow in us.

Christ DIRECTLY LEADS HIS CHURCH, and He DIRECTLY leads a man, or there

would be no Church! Can you see how satanic it is to say otherwise? That is a more dangerous and subtle deception than the WCG taking us to court—and it is *antichrist*.

Antichrist IS ONE OF THE MOST TERRIFYING WORDS IN THE BIBLE! God's people should want to stay as far from that as possible. It speaks of one who understood the truth of God and then turned around and crawled into the ring to fight against Him! That is a fight that anyone would be destined to lose! If Christ doesn't directly lead His Church, that means that He is not coming in the flesh of each member.

That evangelist also said that God's Church has different branches. But is that what 1 Corinthians 1:10-11 says? He says that if you look at the history of the Church, that is how it has been in the past. Yes—that is how it was when churches were getting lukewarm or turning away from God and from their first love! But that is NEVER how it was with God's very elect! How can you ever be "perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" if you have different branches? How could you ever have a people act "as one man"? (Ezra 3:1).

Look again at 1 John 4:2-3. It contrasts one group that *does* confess Christ is coming in the flesh with another that does not. The word *confesseth* really means to show that you follow Christ by *words* and by *deeds*. It means faith with works, or love with deeds.

HOW DOES SOMEONE CONFESS THAT CHRIST DIRECTLY LEADS HIS CHURCH? ONLY BY SUBMITTING TO THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD. BY CONFESSING THAT GOD LEADS HIS CHURCH THROUGH A MAN. NO ONE WILL BE WHERE GOD IS UNTIL HE CONFESSES THAT.

Other Laodicean leaders have candidly spoken of experimenting with a form of government different from the one Mr. Armstrong established in the Church. That too is saying that Christ is not coming in the flesh. Did Christ not *live* in Mr. Armstrong when he taught the government of God? Did Christ not restore *all things* through Mr. Armstrong—number one on the list being God's government? We simply *remember* what Christ taught through him!

Christ is coming in the flesh. He is directly guiding His Church. Does that mean He is whipping His leader into line, forcing Him every step of the way? No—Mr. Armstrong explained it: "I believe God used me in writing it."

How does someone confess that Christ directly leads His Church? Only by submitting to the government of God. By confessing that God leads His Church through a man. No one will be where God is until he confesses that.

That is a humble man, speaking of a life of willing submission to God's Spirit. Most men would not have given God credit for such an achievement—which is why they weren't in Mr. Armstrong's position. In actual fact, JESUS CHRIST *was the end-time Elijah*, THROUGH Mr. Armstrong! That is what it amounts to. That is Christ coming in the flesh. God works through a man. We must try the spirits and find the right man.

John was fighting heresy from within God's Church—only a *type* of our battle now in the *last hour*. There is no evidence of strong persecution from *without*. As with the very elect today, the main battle was raging *within* God's Church.

The court case over *Mystery of the Ages* is only one example of that battle. The Laodicean antichrists are destroying true doctrines. That is where the battleground is.

Led by the Spirit

In 1 Corinthians 3:6, Paul says that for everything the ministry does in the work, it is God who gives the increase. What we are doing amounts merely to watering what God has planted. But you may have seen a plant that appears to be dead and then, after you put water on it, it springs back to life. That is exactly what has happened with many of the people who have come to us from Laodicean churches. Once they yield themselves to God, the Spirit—which is *typed* by water—begins to flow again in their lives. They come alive! That's the effect God's Spirit should have on all of us.

Does God directly guide *you*? "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Rom. 8:14). The sons of God are *led* by the Spirit. God directly guides them. He doesn't force them; obedient sons simply submit to their Father. Parents who love their children in the right way inspire a deep love from their children in return. That is what God is doing with us.

Christ set the example of obeying the Father. If He is coming in our flesh, He does the same in us.

It is not easy to know and obey the Spirit of God. As we battle our own carnality and our own minds, we must know the Spirit. If we have inappropriate thoughts or attitudes toward God's government or toward a decision that has been made, we must know the Spirit. When we watch television, or go to a movie, or watch sports—we must know the Spirit! We must think as if Christ is sitting right there with us. When single people date, they must date with Christ living in them—as if He was doing the dating. That will certainly influence your choices of whom you date and what you do on those dates.

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15). If we get caught up in this world, we don't love the Father, as Christ did and does.

Is Jesus Christ really coming in the flesh through you? In everything you do? If so, He revolutionizes your life. That is what John is talking about.

"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome [conquered] them: because *greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world*" (1 John 4:4). Do you fear anything in the world? God in you is greater than any threat you may face! You need to be concerned, but you don't have to fear a threat, because He that is in you is *GREATER*. His Holy Spirit of power is greater.

Where have the Laodiceans failed? Revelation 3:21 exhorts them to overcome as Christ overcame. *Thayer's Lexicon* says that means "absolutely to carry off the victory; come off victorious." Matthew 4 and other places show that Christ overcame the devil and gained the victory. THE LAODICEANS, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE NOT CONQUERING THE DEVIL! And let's be practical: If you are not overcoming and conquering this world and the devil, what is the reason? You need *more* of God's Holy Spirit. You need Christ coming in your flesh.

John wrote, "greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." If Christ is in you, He will conquer Satan through you, as He did almost 2,000 years ago! The Philadelphians conquer as Christ did (Rev. 3:21). That is how we qualify to be kings and priests.

If you want life to get truly exciting, KNOW THE SPIRIT! Again, it is the greatest gift in the universe! Get to know it—get to know the mind of God—and Jesus Christ will dazzle you for eternity.

He That Knows God Hears Us

"We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error" (1 John 4:6). We must know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. We have this greatest gift in the universe and must use it! We have this mind-boggling power!

Here is the exciting part of this verse: "he that knoweth God heareth us." We are teachers to this world, even now. When people begin to know God, they want to be taught by Him, and they *hear* us. They allow us to teach them. Obviously we don't all go out and directly teach people. But I do, and the ministry does. And those who are of God and know God *hear us*. Those who aren't of God don't hear us, and we don't worry about that today. When Christ returns, everyone's mind will be opened, and THEY WILL WANT TO HEAR US! They are about to get sick of this world's evil, and they will want to HEAR GOD!

God has a group of people getting ready to teach the whole world. We are training to become teachers. As Mr. Armstrong so often said, that is why we are here. We are not here for our own salvation. God called us "out of season" to get ready. Otherwise we would have been called in the future with the rest of humanity. To qualify for God's Kingdom, we must prepare ourselves to teach all people! What a wonderful calling! God is calling you to be a king and a priest—in other words, a teacher! Priests must TEACH God's truth! If we don't teach, we lose our jobs!

Mr. Armstrong was excited even to be able to send volunteers to Jordan to help handicapped children. He thought it was wonderful to teach them and to contribute money so they could be taught. He became so excited that he offered one of the administrators addi-

If we are to teach the world, we must have enough teachers! There must be a lot of us who can teach people to know God. All other knowledge is worthless if we don't learn that.

tional money to add more facilities. She responded, "No, Mr. Armstrong. We couldn't do that because we don't have enough teachers."

If we are to teach the world, we must have ENOUGH TEACHERS! There must be a lot of us who can teach people to KNOW GOD. All other knowledge is worthless if we don't learn that. We are about to confront a multitude of people who will have open minds but who will not know God. If we are not there to teach them, we won't be able to "expand the school," or expand God's education to the whole world. They will all need personal attention, just as you do at this time.

How well do you know the Spirit? Could you lead churches? Could you teach college classes? That is what you are called to do! God will give you a practical job.

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is [begotten] of God, and knoweth God" (1 John 4:7). If we have been begotten by God's Spirit, and know God, then we love each other. If we don't have the Spirit, we won't love each other. It all comes through the Holy Spirit.

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might *live* through him" (vv. 8-9). If you want to *live*, then this is the place to be! Without the Spirit, we are really just dead. The world doesn't have anything. But GOD GIVES ABUNDANT LIFE TO THOSE WHO HAVE HIS SPIRIT!

The Secret

Mr. Armstrong was *discouraged* when he gave his last Pentecost mes-

sage, six months before he died. He said to the Church, "Most of you don't get it. We are here to train as teachers—get ready to teach or we have no future. I could stay until 1 a.m. and I think most of you would not get it!"

Reading between the lines, you could certainly believe that he thought the Church was Laodicean. He came about as close to saying so as a person could.

What Mr. Armstrong said was a prophetic thunderbolt! A few years later, 95 percent of God's people had rejected this Pentecost vision.

Obviously, it is not always easy to hear what the Spirit says to the Church. We must be totally committed to love God's message.

Did Mr. Armstrong make even more revealing statements to some of the ministers in private?

At the September 1988 ministerial refresher, Harold Jackson, an evangelist, said that just before Mr. Armstrong died, he told Joseph Tkach Sr. a SECRET. But he was *not* to reveal it to the Church.

Perhaps Mr. Armstrong told Joseph Tkach Sr. to work at correcting a Church that had become Laodicean. And since Mr. Armstrong was dying, revealing too much to the Church could make a new leader's job extremely difficult.

Several years ago, a lady in Belgium left the WCG and joined the PCG. She was upset with the WCG doctrinal changes. Her leaving also upset the WCG minister, who used to spend a lot of time with Mr. Armstrong when he visited Belgium.

According to this lady, her WCG minister told her that Mr. Armstrong revealed a *secret* to him before he died. He said the *secret* was "that the Church was Laodicean."

She asked, "Why don't you preach that to the people?"

"It would just discourage them," he said.

In 1988, about two years after Mr. Armstrong died, there was a ministerial regional directors' meeting. Herman Hoeh, one of the top evangelists, gave a lecture and said that the WCG had entered into the Laodicean era.

This was a stunning clap of spiritual thunder. But shortly afterward he was silenced from repeating this statement.

Where did Dr. Hoeh get that idea? From Mr. Armstrong? Or perhaps it came through another leader or leaders who got it from Mr. Armstrong.

But more importantly, DID IT COME FROM CHRIST, WHO GAVE IT TO MR. ARMSTRONG?

At the 1987 Feast of Tabernacles, there was a *Behind the Work* film. It portrayed a scene with two runners. One runner was passing a baton to the other. This indicated that the Church was passing from one era to another. That could only be from the Philadelphia era to the Laodicean (or lukewarm) era.

This too was quickly hushed. Why?

Why did they make the film in the first place? Did they, at first, decide to face the Church problems and try to solve them?

After thinking about the implications, maybe they decided not to go there.

Perhaps they decided to take the easy way and call the Church Philadelphia while it was truly Laodicean.

There certainly are strong indications that Mr. Armstrong thought the Church was Laodicean. Christ could have sent a few thunderbolts and flashes of lightning to the leading ministers. After all, it is Christ's Church and He does want to awaken it without discouraging the people.

Christ did live in Mr. Armstrong and speak through him.

The leading minister who replaced Mr. Armstrong easily could have started to accept the Church-problem challenge and then have weakened. There are indications that did happen. For example, Mr. Tkach Sr. strongly rebuked the Church about the cosmetics issue shortly after Mr. Armstrong's death. He totally supported Mr. Armstrong's view. Then about one year later, there was a complete turnaround.

The Laodiceans have shown by their fruits that they don't hear God's Holy Spirit. God prophesied it would be that way (Rev. 3:20-22).

Christ is our leader. He is going to reveal what is happening in His own Church. But we must be willing to hear Him.

Read Revelation 2:7, spoken to the Ephesus era: "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." Verses 11, 17 and 29 and Revelation 3:6 and 13, relate the same command to other eras. Verse 22, to the Laodiceans, also says: "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." God repeatedly emphasizes this. The Spirit was talking to *all* these people! God reiterates it for *every* era. Hear what the Spirit says! Not what a man says!

We must conquer as Christ did. And He conquered the devil. The only way we can do the same is if Christ comes in our flesh.

That is the only way you will receive your reward!

Does Christ have something to say to *you*? Does the Father? You are His son. Is a parent concerned if a son or daughter is pursuing a disastrous lifestyle? Would he not say something to that child, to SHAKE him from what he was doing? Is our Father any different? Or Jesus Christ? Would He stand idly by while His wife wandered into adultery? No! The Spirit has something to say! The question is, *do you have the ear to hear?*

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (v. 20). CHRIST ISN'T COMING IN THE FLESH OF THESE PEOPLE. He is on the outside, beseeching them to let Him into their lives! They are throwing away the most beautiful relationship a person can ever have!

Of course, He doesn't do this personally—He speaks through a man. He doesn't want to see anyone go through the Tribulation. But they must hear *His* voice. What else can Christ do? Beyond teaching them, what can you do if your older teenaged child goes astray? God will never let you get into a spiritually fatal situation, as long as you are listening to His Spirit.

Christ is coming in the flesh. He did so through Mr. Armstrong. Christ "restored *all* things" through him (Matt. 17:10-11). Yet many Laodiceans say Mr. Armstrong was not the end-time Elijah. Some even label him a false prophet. Why? Because they refuse to see Christ coming in the flesh through Mr. Armstrong.

Here is one of the most inspiring verses in the Bible. "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame,

and am set down with my Father in his throne" (Rev. 3:21). *Conquers* is the proper translation for *overcomes*. It is a *military* word. We are in a war—the worst war ever!

We must conquer as Christ did. He conquered the devil. The only way we can do the same is if Christ comes in our flesh. The Laodiceans are not conquering because Christ is outside knocking—*not* living in their flesh.

Seducers

"Little children, it is the last [hour]: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last [hour]. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would not doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us" (1 John 2:18-19). WE CAN EASILY SEE THAT WE ARE IN THE LAST HOUR, BECAUSE OF THE LAODICEAN ANTICHRISTS. They left God's Church. Then they turned and fought against Christ.

Verse 19 says that it has all been made manifest. It will be even more clear when the Tribulation comes, and everyone will be able to see those whom God protects and those He allows to suffer. Soon the carnal attitudes will be silenced. What a stern warning from Jesus Christ.

"These things have I written unto you concerning them that *seduce* you" (v. 26). People are being seduced and led astray in this last hour. John wrote this for *you*! These antichrists are after you! That is Satan's only real passion! He is doing all he can to accuse and to bring God's people down. He is trying to prove that those who say they are the very elect really aren't—by deceiving them. He is committed to FIGHTING GOD! We must *know* our enemy. He will continue to fight until God puts him into outer darkness and shuts his mouth forever!

The tragic theme of this age is *losing* people from God's Church! Haven't we lost enough? And yet we continue to lose more because of the *antichrist* seducers!

But God's very elect cannot be deceived. God will put those who know the Spirit and who know Him in His headquarters forever!

Again, there is no evidence within any of the epistles of John that there was *external* persecution on the Church. It was all coming from with-

in—just as it is today! John said it would be this way in the last hour. That is exactly what we are experiencing today: The persecution is coming from God's own people who do not know the Spirit.

"But ye have an *unction* [anointing] from the Holy One, and ye know all things. ... But the *anointing* [same Greek word] which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him" (vv. 20, 27). You don't need a man to teach you, though Christ does teach through a man. Mr. Armstrong didn't really teach us—CHRIST TAUGHT US! *Mystery of the Ages* was CHRIST teaching us! Obviously He uses a man, but you need to see the SPIRIT that moves that man!

You must also know when Christ is not in the man! You must test the spirits. You must TEST THE SPIRIT IN ME! And then let Christ teach you.

There is no excuse for letting a man deceive us. If I go astray, you should know it. If the ministers who took over from Mr. Armstrong went astray, we should know. Verse 27 ends, "it hath taught you" The *Holy Spirit* is what teaches us.

We must have God's Spirit to endure this *last hour*! That is the only way to survive.

We must reason as Christ's kings and priests (Rev. 1:6). We have already been consecrated into the highest offices in this world! That is because we are being prepared to rule this world.

"And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it" (II John 6). God's people heard a lot of things "from the beginning," in the Philadelphia era of the Church. But how many are walking in them today?

"FOR MANY DECEIVERS are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come [or is now coming] in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist" (v. 7). Can we discern these antichrists? There are many of them, confessing not that Christ is coming in the flesh, by their deeds and their words.

Full Reward

"Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a FULL REWARD" (v.

If we only examine ourselves with our human minds, we'll never see what we are doing wrong spiritually.

8). Do you want a *full reward*? Then do not lose all that you have "wrought," or worked for. *Look to yourselves* means to take the Holy Spirit and examine yourself. See where you are sinning, and change. God wants you to have a full reward! He wants you at headquarters with Jesus Christ forever!

IF WE ONLY EXAMINE OURSELVES WITH OUR HUMAN MINDS, WE WILL NEVER SEE WHAT WE ARE DOING WRONG SPIRITUALLY. It requires taking the Spirit of God and examining yourself, on your knees, asking God for His view. Let the Holy Spirit guide you in everything you do. This is all in the context of Christ coming in the flesh.

I have to do the same thing. I make mistakes. Sometimes I'll make a decision and then God will correct me and I'll have to reverse it. I have to be humble. If we can't lead in humility, we can't lead! King David, for example, was a man after God's own heart most of all because he was so good at repenting! I believe *humility* is the greatest trait we can possess. "[T]o this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word" (Isa. 66:2). If you don't have humility, *everything* will go away, because God can't lead you. If I don't let God correct my mistakes, that could have serious consequences. Our carnal nature hates government. But with God's Spirit, we can learn to love it. I can honestly say I *love* God's government. I *want* Him to correct me. I would never be able to deliver revelation from God if that was not true.

"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son" (II John 9). What is the doctrine of Christ? It is the truth we heard from the beginning, discussed in verse 6. Truth like the 18 truths that

Mr. Armstrong restored to God's Church, with God's government first on the list. We must have both the Father and the Son—remain in the God family. We must submit to the Father's government as Christ does.

"If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds" (vv. 10-11). This is a *terrifying* warning in this last hour. John is saying, *realize—these men are coming after you, and Satan is behind them. If they don't have this doctrine, stay away from them or you are guilty of their sins!* Don't cozy up to them! If one is truly repentant, refer him to a minister. John is URGENT about this. THE WARNING IS SO STRONG BECAUSE THE DANGER IS SO GREAT! There is a colossal danger of the greatest magnitude. It concerns eternal life or eternal death!

We are running out of time. We must know how to examine these things and know the spirits. Don't let anyone take away everything you've worked for—some of you for many years. Don't let anyone take your precious reward from you.

"For whatsoever is [begotten] of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (I John 5:4). The faith that conquers comes from the Holy Spirit. We are in a war, but if we live by God's faith, we can conquer with God's faith (Gal. 2:20). That is how Christ comes in the flesh.

"Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" (I John 5:5). John is talking about *he* who conquers! He is making it personal and direct to *you*—those who know all about the family of God, with the Father and the Son.

"He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (v. 12). Only when Christ is living in us do we have life! He must come in our flesh. We must use the Holy Spirit to propel us forward spiritually, just as Jesus Christ did.

Mr. Armstrong said, "This means God injects His life—not only His life but also His mind and also His character, also His attitude of love, of cooperation, of giving, of concern for others as much as concern for self—selflessness. God is going to make us into His own children—into Gods!"

That can only happen if Christ is living in us. That is an Earth-shaking truth. Let us always remember it. ❖

News of the Work 2001 in Review

Annually, *Royal Vision* has been keeping you up to date with developments in each department of God's work. Last year we highlighted some of the new areas of the work. This year we can see how those areas grew and blossomed. We will also take a look at the first semester of Imperial College, the latest arm of this mighty work and wonder.

Television

FOLLOWING THE PRINCIPLE IN JOHN 15:1-2, 2001 WAS A YEAR of pruning back in anticipation of enhanced growth. This past year has brought many changes that have made us stronger, more efficient and more effective in distributing God's final warning message.

In November 2000, Mr. Flurry boldly made the decision to represent the program ourselves, bypassing exclusive representation by our former agency, Select Broadcasting. This action resulted in greater control of broadcast coverage, a 12 percent reduction in airtime costs, and development of many new relationships in the broadcast world. We now work directly with stations, time-buyers and other agencies to acquire new station options for the program. The transition to in-house representation has proved to work well, without any real setbacks. In fact, our latest open door on WGN might not have developed had we been represented by another agency. Today, with minimal administrative impact, we develop new station opportunities, coordinate billing, track response and expand the reach of the program.

We produced a record number of new programs during the last broadcast season: 42 new episodes. This season, given the addition of WGN and its massive audience, we are working to produce even more.

Several production changes were undertaken last year as well—a new graphical look, more animations, a more concerted effort to advertise the literature. With the new season, we plan to build upon that foundation as the editorial department works to produce more booklets. New literature ALWAYS increases responses to the program.

Mr. Flurry announced "the greatest open door for *The Key of David*" in November 2001—WGN is now carrying our program Sunday mornings at 8 a.m. EST. WGN provides the base for our coverage of the United States—reaching 50 percent of all households nationwide. We realize not everyone has access to cable, therefore we plan to maintain a complement of over-the-air stations in the large markets. Though we have had to scale the number of stations back this past year, we are working to regain many of the markets we left.

Internationally, we made few changes this past year. We are pleased with responses in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the Philippines and Caribbean, though we remain alert to new opportunities in those markets and others around the globe. There remains a gaping hole in our coverage: Britain and Europe. We are praying and diligently seeking an effective solution to this matter. Mr. Flurry has consistently identified this as one of the top priorities for this arm of the work.

Our website, www.keyofdavid.com, received a steady increase of visits every week during the past year. Multiple thousands have downloaded the program around the world. People from countries in the Middle East, Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America, in addition to many others, have visited the site, giving the message a truly global reach. Mr. Flurry has indicated he believes the Internet will be one of the primary open doors for us to warn the world in this last hour. Thus, we hope to invest more time to improve our website in the coming year.

Warning mankind during the last hour will undoubtedly require hard-hitting, well-produced programs. God's intervention at the end of 2001 shows that many big things are about to happen. The addition of WGN, new booklets to offer on the program, and a ready production team portends a most dramatic year for the television department.

Editorial

AFTER TRIPLING IN ONLY TWO YEARS, *TRUMPET* CIRCULATION leveled off at around 400,000 copies monthly. To keep printing costs down, growth initiatives including newsstand, waiting room and advertising were scaled back or stopped.

In another effort to minimize costs, the page size of the *Trumpet* was fractionally reduced, beginning with the August 2001 issue. This made the magazine the more standard size of 8 inches by 10.5 inches, which is also used for major newsmagazines such as *Time* and *Newsweek*. The new

trim size barely affected the amount of text that goes into the magazine, but it has a synergetic effect on the printing and distribution costs, amounting to between \$50,000 and \$65,000 annually.

As our youth magazine, *True Education*, broke through the 25,000 circulation mark, the decision was made to move its printing from a sheet-fed printer to a web-based printer. The Banta Publications Group of Liberty, Mo., now turns out the quarterly publication, saving \$2,000 per issue.

2001 started out with preparations for the inaugural academic year for Imperial College. The editorial department produced the application packets that were mailed to each applicant.

The year also brought about a shift in staffing of the department. As Mark Carroll and his family returned to their home in Arkansas, Ryan Malone took over the role of pre-press production manager. Imperial College also produced fruits: one of its students, Lisa Godeaux, now serves the department as a proofreader and research assistant. In October, Local Elder Wik Heerma transferred from England with his family to manage all foreign-language publications and oversee the compilation and layout of the *Royal Vision*, the *Philadelphia Ministers' Report*, and many of the Church's new booklets.

Throughout the year, a series of new booklets dominated the production schedule. *Repentance Toward God* was the first booklet of 2001, followed by *The Royal Book of Revelation*, *Jerusalem in Prophecy*, *Who Is That Prophet?*, *The God Family Vision* and *No Freedom Without Law*.

November also saw the production of a special sample issue of the *Trumpet*, which will be sent to all who request a one-off copy. This special issue is identical to the February 2000 "He Was Right!" issue, which featured history, current events and prophecy, giving the new reader a good overview of what the *Trumpet* is all about.



Wik Heerma

Mail Processing

FOR THE MAIL PROCESSING DEPARTMENT IN 2001, THE biggest advancement was achieved in a joint effort with the information technology department. Literature requests are now entered into a database, which not only saves money by processing mail in batches, but also allows us to track orders more easily. Items entered into the database are automatically sorted according to the required envelope size and their overall weight, along with other technical considerations.

Prior to this development, one person would read often less-than-legible letters before passing them to another person to process the literature requests. With the new database, one person inputs the request while the person fulfilling the order receives a standard print-out when a batch is cut. With several hundred requests a day, this small feature has proven to be a huge time saver. Also, the time it takes to prepare the *Trumpet* subscription list alone has been reduced by almost five hours for each mailing.

This came at a time when the department saw significant changes in staffing—going from five full-time workers to three full-time workers and one part-time student. One significant staff change was the hiring of Simeon Bonnell in August to replace long-time employee Suzanne Hessong. Mr. Bonnell now does the lion's share of work in the mail room.



Simeon Bonnell

The purchase of a high-speed, high-volume envelope printer in conjunction with software that certifies our addresses now allows us reap greater cost savings while managing this entire process in-house.

The newly purchased hardware and software, along with our existing high-speed postage machine, enables us to also obtain discounts on our U.S. bound mixed-weight mailings. A mixed-weight mailing is a collection of a set minimum volume of mail pieces where the packages are allowed to contain different contents. Processing like-item and mixed-weight mailings in batches will increasingly save the work money as the demand for literature increases.

In 2001, our *foreign mail* was handled almost exclusively by DHL (a worldwide freight and courier company). The high volume enables us to negotiate very low shipping rates for periodicals and other items leaving our mail room.

Belinda Hessong retired from her international accounting responsibilities on August 31. Nichole Hofer was hired May 18 to replace her to perform the accounting for the United Kingdom, South Africa and the Caribbean.

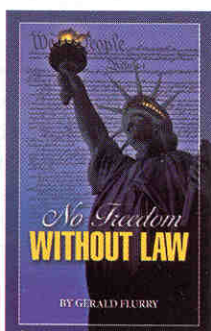
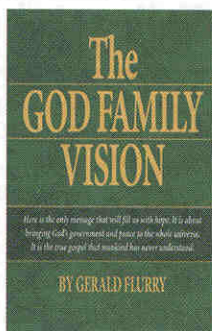
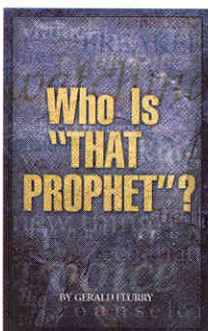
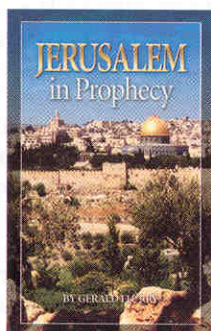
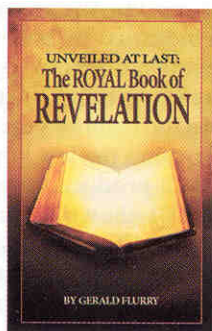
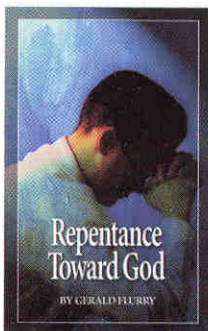
Miss Hofer has fit into the accounting staff well and has become part of a great team with Lynda Moutz in accounts

Business Office

AS THE OLD SAYING GOES, "THE ONLY THING PERMANENT is change." Once again, changes have occurred in the Business Office.

Belinda Hessong retired from her international accounting responsibilities on August 31. Nichole Hofer was hired May 18 to replace her to perform the accounting for the United Kingdom, South Africa and the Caribbean.

Miss Hofer has fit into the accounting staff well and has become part of a great team with Lynda Moutz in accounts



New books and booklets produced in 2001

payable, Rebecca Patten in accounts receivable and Melody Thompson handling PCG payroll.

All four ladies are a great help to Financial Controller Richard Williams, whose tasks include budget and cash-flow analysis and the consolidating of all international financial statements, as well as getting the Australasian



Nichole Hofer

region on headquarters Dynamics accounting software through a virtual private network.

This year, festival department assistant Patricia Carroll moved back to Arkansas and Melody Thompson began the search for a new assistant for this position. While no full-time help has been found, Mrs. Thompson has received much-appreciated part-time assistance from visiting Australian

Callie Tester and Imperial College student Michelle Klotz.

J. Tim Thompson continues to manage the business affairs of the Church, especially estates, trusts and wills. Estates are increasingly becoming a larger part of the PCG's annual income as many of God's people and co-workers leave sizeable portions of their estates to the Church, thus helping immensely to speed this work of God along.

All things considered, it has been a good year of growth and exciting changes.

News Bureau

WITH THE INCREASING LOAD ON THE NEWS BUREAU due to a dramatic increase in world events, manpower became a crucial issue in 2001. As a result, Mr. Flurry approved the appointment of Hank Spannhake as a full-time volunteer to assist News Bureau Head Ron Fraser. Since his appointment, Mr. Spannhake has refined the reporting procedures for the News Bureau and Spanish department, revived his knowledge of the German language by monitoring the *Deutsche Welle* news channel, assisted with the review of news journals and written items for the "Newswatch" section of the *Trumpet*.

It has been an exciting year in the News Bureau as we have witnessed an intense acceleration of major world events in the unmistakable fulfillment of Bible prophecy daily—particularly since Mr. Flurry announced the beginning of the "last hour" in May. Glancing over headlines from the past year, it is impossible not to notice a number of startling trends. The accelerated rise of Europe toward global dominance stands out perhaps most notably, led by its political and economic heavyweight, Germany.

Massive strides have been made, under German leadership, in the areas of European security and defense policy. European troops and monitors under German leadership have now virtually taken over the supervision of the "reconstruction process" in broken Macedonia. The next step must be for Europe to acquire a *single, strong leader* under which it can continue to unite—a major sign Mr. Armstrong warned about over decades.

The September 11 terrorist attacks were a geopolitical earthquake that shook the U.S. right out of its previously wavering role as the world's only superpower and provided the impetus for Europe to rise—also causing stirrings in

the Muslim world that continue to intensify, polarizing the north, and the east and south, more distinctly along religious lines (Christian and Muslim).

The decline of the rest of present-day biblical Israel is also notable. Britain dealt with the debilitating aftereffects of its foot-and-mouth problem, Israel faced intensified pressure from all sides to withdraw from key positions of security and leave its future in the hands of an international monitoring force; South Africa struggled with ever-worsening crime statistics and the threat of spillover from Zimbabwe's quick slide into virtual anarchy; Australia sought to stem an overflowing tide of Muslim refugees; New Zealand sunk more deeply into the liberal-socialist mire, ruled by more women in government and the judiciary than any other Ephraimite nation; Canada continued to be divided over the issue of Quebec.

The News Bureau hangs on for a further acceleration of world events fulfilling "last hour" prophecy as we enter 2002!

Information Technology

THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT HAS ONE simple goal: to magnify the talents and efforts of headquarters personnel through the application of technology. It has been a busy year for the department, preparing for Imperial College, trying to keep pace with the needs of the work and striving to find new ways that technology can be put to use to reduce expenses.

Two of the most visible areas are seen in the two new websites that came online this year. The *Mystery of the Ages* website is a forum to disseminate information about the ongoing court battle. The Imperial College website was borne out of a member's request to keep up to date on the college building project. This site chronicles the building project, provides an online presence for God's college, and even gives local Edmond weather.

Early this year we moved from a Windows NT 4.0 network to a Windows 2000-based network. Windows 2000 affords the network more stability, security and features. It provides the base for expanding the network to include the college and regional offices. The first regional office to be integrated was the Australian office shortly after the Feast.

In the database applications area, a new intra-office working environment has been introduced. The festival department now uses a web-browser interface in the Feast registration process. The call center and mail department are using the same web application to greatly enhance search and tracking capability of literature requests, allowing operators to fulfill orders faster than before and have up-to-date information on the order history of each caller. The application reduces the time to prepare the paperwork and mailing list for PCG literature.

The department has adopted an additional distribution method for headquarters sermons via the Internet, saving postage and labor costs and ensuring timely delivery. Used during the Feast of Tabernacles for isolated sites for the past few years, the Internet distribution system is increasingly becoming more critical in other areas. Since the September 11 attacks, the conventional mail system has become increasingly unreliable and slow. Sermons are now

being distributed via the Internet to selected regional areas where mail systems are no longer reliable enough to guarantee delivery of the taped sermons. This way, sermons can be delivered the same day they were given.

The building project for Imperial College has been a primary concern this year for the IT department. The network installed in the new field house is "gigabit capable," which means it is able to send real-time video, sound and regular computer network data across the campus. This means that in the future, phone calls, video of classes or sermons and regular computer networking can be performed over the same wires. The sound and video systems of the building are tied directly to the computer network. This interconnection provides the ability to digitally record, encode and archive sermons, special music and classes. Personnel were sent to Corning Cabling Systems to learn how to install the fiber-optic equipment. Fiber optics will provide the backbone for a state-of-the-art network for both the work and the college.

Also on the campus, the inter-duct system (the conduit system that holds the fiber optic and other communication cable) that has been built will provide an infrastructure for any new buildings and allow them to be quickly tied into the rest of the campus network with only the cost of the fiber optic cable. The system totals over five miles of conduit and eight manholes, and it now spans the entire campus. Building the inter-duct system ourselves has saved the work over \$40,000 and sets a "digital foundation" for God's college.

Imperial College

JUDGING BY THE FLURRY OF ACTIVITY SURROUNDING IMPERIAL this past semester, an outsider would never guess that the college started less than five months ago with only a handful of students and faculty. Already, that "mustard seed" beginning is bearing fruit.

The college offered ten courses during its fall 2001 curriculum, totaling 21 credit hours. Counting full-time students, local Edmond Church members and headquarters employees, 53 people enrolled in fall classes. Of that number, there were ten full-time students—eight singles and two marrieds. (There were four part-timers taking at least 7 credit hours.)

The course load for the full-timers ranged between 11 and 17 hours. The college offered these eight courses as the backbone of what will be its traditional freshman curriculum: English Composition, Physical Education, Fundamentals of Speech, Computer Information Systems, Western Civilization, Principles of Living, Life and Teachings of Christ and Old Testament Survey.

Added to that freshman load is Music Appreciation, a two-hour, one-semester course, which will be offered this spring.

A number of local Church members benefited from two night courses: Philadelphia Singers



First freshman class of Imperial College

on Monday night (1 credit hour) and Epistles of Paul on Tuesday night (3 credit hours). Epistles drew the largest number of students for the semester, 33—most of which were Edmond members and headquarters employees.

Philadelphia Singers, while still composed mostly of members in the local area, did take on three of our full-time students (30 percent of the freshman class!). Look for the faces in the group to continue to change in the years ahead as the student body increases.

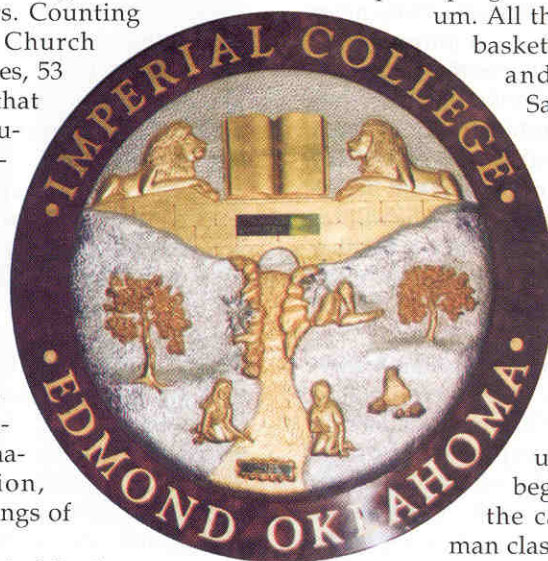
For the full-time students, time in class makes up only half of their daytime hours—another 22 or so are spent in the student-work program. Of the ten students, one student each works in the information technology, editorial, business and mail processing departments. Two students work in the kitchen and four in landscaping/maintenance. Most of the students also work in the call center on Sundays for the *Key of David* program.

In November, the college also kicked off its intramural sports program inside the beautiful, new gymnasium. All the full-time students participated in a basketball league—practicing once a week and playing a number of games on Saturday nights.

The John Amos Field House also provided the setting for the college's first dinner dance—the Thanksgiving Ball on November 18.

Served by the teens from our local congregation, college students and local singles enjoyed an exquisite meal prepared by the college kitchen crew, followed by a dance in the dining hall.

With the second semester now underway, preparations have already begun for the next academic year, when the campus will assimilate a new freshman class and the curriculum will add sophomore level courses. Chancellor Gerald Flurry is tentatively planning to teach a Bible prophecy course on Tuesday nights, making it available to sophomores and local Church members.



*Imperial College seal
handcrafted by
Norwegian member
San Abrahamsen*

Land Development

WHAT A YEAR! THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS DEPARTMENT has transformed the beautiful, but empty, 160 acres which God gave us into an increasingly gorgeous convention, college and athletic complex. And we've only just begun.

Because of God's merciful intervention and "about 10,000 miracles" as Mr. Flurry put it, a small army of construction, landscape and excavation workers accomplished what seemed IMPOSSIBLE! By God's grace, part of the 27,000-square-foot John Amos Field House was completed ON TIME for the ministerial conference in July and the rest by the Feast of Tabernacles in October. In only ONE YEAR—September to September—a massive amount of work was accomplished.

During that same year, a 2,700-square-foot maintenance building was also constructed, along with a 350-space parking lot and large outdoor swimming pool for the field house.

Also, since just before the Feast of Tabernacles, landscaping design has begun to add beauty and elegance to the field house as trees, shrubs and flowers, as well as small ponds and stone walkways, are added to adorn the front and sides of the building.

Before the Feast, the department established a huge and ongoing project to connect the campus, faculty housing, and administrative areas to county water and sewer hookups. The \$90,000 sewage lift station is presently under construction and expected to be completed by the end of January, weather permitting.

Also during this first year of construction, approximately 6,700 cubic yards of topsoil and 12,000 cubic yards of sub-



Feast of Tabernacles in the field house

soil were relocated and leveled as the track, soccer and softball fields were excavated just southeast of the field house. Much work remains to be done on the athletic fields, however, which still must be engineered for drainage and a sprinkler system. Also grass is yet to be grown on the fields and the cinder track laid.

Architectural and engineering drawings are being prepared for the new dormitory; though construction on that project has been postponed in order to build four to six faculty houses. They may also be used to house Philadelphia Youth Camp participants. Once the initial house-building phase is complete, dormitory construction will begin, depending upon finances and what God leads Mr. Flurry to do.

There is still a great need for a TV studio and administrative building which will be built on the south side of Spurlin Lake. Once offices and facilities for the entire staff are located on the 160 acres, then productivity, efficiency and effectiveness in God's work will certainly increase. Also, once the staff is out of the Waterwood properties, those assets can be sold and that money injected into finishing the campus and administrative areas.

Spanish Department

A REVIEW OF THE SPANISH DEPARTMENT'S YEAR-END FINANCIAL situation revealed that the income of 2001 was more than double the previous year's figure. This is astounding growth!

Another surprising fact revealed by recent reports, is that while two years ago 40 percent of *Trompeta* subscribers were from the United States and 60 percent were Spanish speakers from abroad, this year has seen a remarkable turnaround. Now over 60 percent of our *Trompeta* subscribers are from Spanish-speaking people in the U.S. and less than 40 percent come from abroad.

The membership of the Church serviced by the Spanish department extends to the following countries: the U.S., Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Spain, Guatemala, Italy, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Puerto Rico and Venezuela.

November saw the advent of two major projects for the department: 1) a concurrent waiting-room program for the *Trompeta* in Chile, Mexico and Chicago and 2) the translation of our first *Royal Vision* into Spanish.

There have been two key reasons why some 14 booklets, have been translated into Spanish, ready to be published next year. First, the Spanish department's pool of translators and editors has more than doubled, from 12 to 25, over the last year. Secondarily, Francisco Luna—a minister in Colombia and printer by profession—has a printing press in his garage, which he has put at the disposal of the work.

Furthermore, the assistance offered by the Dallas/Fort Worth congregation in processing mail for the Spanish department with a high level of efficiency is proving to be most useful. The added bonus of having the full-time voluntary help of Hank Spannake at headquarters is also invaluable. His working knowledge of Spanish, the upkeep of the Spanish database, collation of information and the production of graphs and reports are among his contributions to this department. ❖