



SDA Congregation “Converts” to UCG

DAVAO CITY—Through the work of the Holy Spirit and the calling of God, an unprecedented event recently took place in Mindanao wherein almost an entire congregation shifted affiliation in one day to the United Church of God! This is how seemingly unrelated events led to this development.

After the funeral for her late husband, recently widowed member Mrs. Hermogina Barrientos (formerly with the Jerusalem Church who now resides in Leyte) advised all her grown children residing in Compostela Valley to invite Edmond Macaraeg for a Bible Study. (With their parents, these children grew up as Seventh Day Adventists.)

One of the siblings who attended that Bible Study was the wife of the SDA church leader in Pantukan. Convinced of all the things she heard, she asked Mr. Macaraeg to conduct a similar study the very next Sabbath right in their local congregation. Because of prior commitments, Mr. Macaraeg said the earliest he can schedule one for them was on February 16. This said congregation is located in Upper Lahi, Pantukan, Compostela Valley, about 60 miles (90 km.) northeast of Davao City.

The Morning Bible Study

While waiting for some to arrive in the morning, Mr. Macaraeg did a preliminary Bible Study on the differences between the KJV/NKJV and the NIV. It was an eye-opener to all of them. But more than half-way through the morning Bible Study, two leaders from their mother church unexpectedly arrived. Mr. Macaraeg went and met them at the entrance and politely invited them in, but they preferred to stay outside, so he continued conducting the study. After talking lengthily with their local church leader there who is the husband of the one who invited Mr. Macaraeg, the two leaders left.

The Afternoon Bible Study

With everyone expected now present, Mr. Macaraeg started his Bible Study by saying that he does not intend to add to what

is written in the Bible, nor would he take away any from it. Also, in matters where further interpretation is needed, we should allow the Bible to interpret itself. And since the Bible is the Word of God, there should be no contradiction among the verses and its teachings. All agreed to such standards.

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Church members in Upper Lahi, Pantukan (Photo by Charles Macaraeg)

Mr. Macaraeg commended them for being on track on two doctrinal points: the Sabbath and the food laws. But he reminded them that we are admonished to “grow in grace and knowledge” (II Pet. 3:18). One of the problems of humanity and of religions is the lack of true and correct knowledge. Compounding this is deception.

Then he asked them to read Revelation 12:9 where it says that Satan has deceived the *whole* world—which of course includes all the great and well-established religions.

But what if these proclaimed the name of Christ? He asked them to read Matthew 24:4-5; where it says that many will do that in the end time and deceive many (the majority). What if they are able to do great, even miraculous religious works? He asked them to read Matthew 7:21-23 where Christ said, “I never knew you.”

If a person claims to really “know” someone—he will no doubt know the details of that person’s life. The most important personality in Christianity is none other than Jesus Christ Himself. Now, he led them to *test* whether the popular Christian religions of this world really “know” Christ as they unequivocally claim. Mr. Macaraeg covered two basic topics to begin with: Christ’s birth, and Christ’s death.

When was Christ born?

He asked them when Christ was born? They unanimously answered December 25! Then he asked them to read Luke 2:8 where it says that shepherds were out in the field on the night of Christ’s birth. He explained that such would be impossible in the middle of a winter night in Judea. Other verses and historical facts conclusively showed that Christian religions do not know the real birth of Christ, the true Messiah.

(See *SDA...* on page 4)

Editorial: What Does Passover Mean to You?

By Edmond D. Macaraeg

Sometimes when all is well with us, we often carelessly take for granted God's gracious and magnanimous goodness. This includes Christ's own sacrifice symbolized by the Passover emblems. To some, it is just a routine, no big a deal.

But these are times of serious reflection on the meaning of Christ's sacrifice for us. In answer to the question posed above, please allow me to relate what Passover meant to me starting 30 years ago through a personal experience.

I had been mostly bed-ridden then for 16 months due to acute and chronic bronchial asthma. (While continuing to stay in Makati, I remained sick for another six months, until my wife and I with our first child went to Bonn, Germany.) From the relatively glowing successes and achievements in my earlier life, I was reduced to a helpless, hopeless, useless, nobody. God was then ridding me of pride and making me learn the lessons of humility. Like Job, I finally came to see myself as God saw me and I loathed myself and wanted to really repent in dust and ashes if that can help.

Reading our church literature, I learned that true repentance is not just being sorry for what one has done, or an academic admittance of wrong done. It goes beyond that and involves being sorry for what *one is* (what you are). It involves a transformation or change of one's mind. Repentance in Greek is "*metanoeo*." It is derived from *meta* = change + *noeo* = mind as in Acts 2:38; 3:19; etc. Most people who claimed to have repented were just sorry for what they did. That is just normal, mental, physical, human repentance. But true repentance goes beyond that to the spiritual aspect.

Thus, one of the earliest lessons I learned was the meaning of true repentance. This understanding is essential if we have to partake of the Passover symbols in a "worthy" manner. The Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 11:27-30 continually refers to being "worthy" as a condition for properly observing the Passover. This means recognizing our desperate and personal need for it because of *what we are* (still sinful humans) - not just for what we have done, for which we may have already repented. But God wants to remind us yearly about our mortal state and our ultimate goal (John 6:53,54). This human state makes us subject to sin (I John 1:7-10) for which we are to confess.

It is somewhat difficult to condescend and empathize with people who are severely afflicted and depressed if one has not been in such similar situation. The experience helped me understand why Christ had to also divest Himself of His great glory and honour and take the lowest form of mortal man to suffer extreme ignominy in the type of death He patiently endured (Phil. 2:5-8). We have to appreciate His doing it for us so that we can have a High Priest who fully understands and is very familiar with all our sufferings as humans (Heb.2:10; 4:14-16; 5:7-10; 7:25-26).



The type of asthma I had was characterized by extreme agony in every breath. If I ever gave up on the agony, that would have been the end of me. Therefore, patience and endurance were required. Thrice I was in the twilight of death, and I had to beg God for my life each time, offering to be used in His Work as He sees fit. Each bout lasted for about two weeks. The first three to five days of each attack were the most severe characterized by sleepless days and nights of extreme agony. Not being able to sleep or eat for that duration, while at the same time profusely perspiring because of the excruciatingly painful and laborious breathing required to survive, I was reduced to skin and bones and usually lose about five pounds of body weight after every attack.

That experience helped me understand a little bit of the bitter and painful "agony" Christ had to go through. He was willing to suffer to the extreme because of His love for us. His sufferings provided the way in which we can be healed (Isa. 53:4,5; I Pet. 2:24). In my desperate need of healing, I was willing to crawl (if need be) just to be able to partake of the Passover symbols. I valued it so much and made no excuses.

Completely trusting God for divine healing as taught by the Church then, I have not taken any medication nor have I allowed myself to be confined in any hospital for the duration of such illness. We do not of course endorse that teaching now, but leave it to each individual to decide for himself or herself what he or she will do based on their personal faith in God. But for me, the valuable lessons learned and experiencing God's loving hand and care for me was well worth it (I Pet. 1:7).

Now, what does Passover mean to you?

Whatever it is, may it eventually be an intimate and personal loving relationship between you and God. May it once more be a renewal of your faith and bonding with God the Father and Jesus Christ our Saviour, Redeemer, Shepherd and Friend. *

United News Philippines

United News Philippines is published monthly except April and October by the United Church of God, an International Association-Philippines. The purpose of this publication is to inform, inspire, and unify the Church of God.

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Why United Youth Camps?

By Edmond D. Macaraeg, Camp Director

Next month United Youth Camp 2002 starts on April 14 and runs until April 25 to complete a 12-day camp this year. Why does the Church sponsor and organize these camps? Are there biblical reasons or mandates for doing so? What are expected of those wishing to participate in this year's camp?

A mandate from Christ

Developing and nurturing our youths in the Church is actually a mandate from Christ Himself! In fact, it is the very *first* among the three mandates given right after His resurrection concerning the Church! Please notice that in John 21:15-17, His first mandate was "Feed my *lambs*," and only later did He say, "Feed (and tend) my *sheep*" twice.

Why? These young people are our very important resource—the very ones who will succeed us in carrying the torch of truth into this dying world and even into their own generation. It behooves us parents therefore to give them as strong and as solid a foundation as we can make it. The tangible benefits we can give them may not be immediately visible in some cases, but we know that good seed has been planted in their minds and hearts—just waiting for the nurturing of God's Holy Spirit to bring it to life at the right time.

Counter-balancing the evils of society

With the constant negative pressures and influences our young people receive around them in school, the neighborhood, and through various media, it would be a good counter-balancing factor to likewise expose them to as rich an environment and in a company of other teens like them where positive and godly values prevail as the norm. Hopefully, that refreshingly different environment will fully impact them with the stark realization that they have not been alone in their stand and struggle for upholding truth, right values, and righteousness.

Some of them live in isolated areas, or they may be the only church kid in their entire school or community. With their exposure in camp, they will always remember that they are not alone. Let us remember that there is strength and confidence in numbers. In our country, the slogan, "*hindi ka nag-iisa*" (you are not alone) has become a politically oriented slogan—but in their case, it could give them greater reason for spiritual strength in their lonely stand and battle to do what is right.

It is hard to quantify in terms of money the amount spent or invested now for our youths, in relation to their ultimate value as a potential sons and daughters (2 Cor. 6:18) of God who will eventually rule in great majestic power and glory in the Kingdom of God! Our comparatively little material investment now will forever shine in God's Kingdom—out-lasting and out-shining all the stars of the heavens combined. As parents, we should therefore not be "penny wise, but pound foolish" (equivalent to saying centavo wise but peso foolish) in these matters. Besides, we have had numerous reports from parents and personal knowledge where camp has become the turning point in their life for good. One cannot buy that transformation—it is priceless.

With God's help, we are working and hoping to provide just such an environment—and more. But even the most nutritious meal is of little benefit or value if only few come forward to eat or benefit from it—just like in the disappointment of the king (God) in the parable of the great marriage supper (Mat. 22:1-14).

Financial obstacles to attending camp?

It is also a recognized fact that finances could be a major obstacle for some, and there are always those who are considered economically poor among us. Those concerned may discuss these with their pastors who have been given guidelines in such cases.

Is camp also a reformatory school?

While the Church and the ministry would like to do its part in helping socially "dysfunctional" kids, we also realize our severe limitations in terms of time, specialized training, and resources. Mixing them with normal ones may have the effect of the proverbial bad apple corrupting the good ones, or exposing a contagiously sick person among healthy ones. As the contagiously sick is normally quarantined, the care for such kids belong in another forum. Thus, summer camps are not equipped and qualified to be a reformatory school.

On the other hand, among normal kids we need those who are good examples and highly motivated ones. They can be a positive influence to the rest in the camp. We need to spot potential leaders, and the opportunity to further develop them now.



Staff opportunities for service

To run a summer camp, we accept volunteers who are morally upright and qualified to serve in the position they have applied for. In return, we offer to provide round-trip transportation expense for them, plus food and lodging costs. Because of this heavy investment, we naturally prefer those who are multi-talented, and qualified to work or serve in at least two or more departments. To do their job well, UYC provides prior additional training in relation to their camp responsibilities.

When a person contributes to the service of others, an automatic universal law comes into play. While by policy they are not compensated in terms of salaries, they experience a much greater joy than what money can pay. In life, this immutable law created by God comes into effect simply because it reflects what He is—a giving and serving God. Moreover, they also have a reward stored up for them in heaven.

Physical fitness requirements

Because of the nature of summer camps, all applicants should be reasonably healthy. If there is any question regarding one's physical fitness, a physician's physical fitness certification (See *Why United...* on page 4)

(Why United... from page 3)

should be obtained. Candidates for the Mt. Apo climb (which is not required for all) will have to pass a fitness test at camp. To ascertain cardio-vascular fitness, it is hoped that applicants should be able to cover (jog-walk) a distance of 1.25 miles (fives laps around the athletic oval, or about 2 km) in about 12-15 minutes. To determine leg muscle power, the applicant should be able to do at least 100 squats.

Unless one has been in regular physical conditioning, one should not suddenly do these tests lest muscular strain, cramps, or injury may occur. It is suggested that those above 35 years old who have not been in regular physical training should check with a qualified physician first before undertaking such strenuous activities.

Physical fitness should be pursued in a gradual manner—regularly building-up cardio-vascular and muscular fitness through a patient workout at least three times a week. Progression should be increased on a weekly basis, and should not be overdone. It is a fact that physical fitness cannot be done overnight.

Highlight in one's life

As a Christian oriented camp, most of those who have participated in our youth summer camps (either as a camper or staff) have always come away physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, and spiritually fulfilled. They feel that such activity had been a highlight in their life. Why not find out for yourself by joining? *

(How to Receive... from page 6)

Next morning my wife's cheeks were red. The doctor was shocked! How did she get all that iron in her blood so suddenly- The morning mail brought a letter from my wife's uncle with a settlement on her estate from her mother's death—which paid the hospital bills in arrears and in advance for the immediately expected child delivery. That day my brother insisted he buy me a new overcoat, and late in the day a deal broke supplying money to pay our back house rent. The next day my other brother drove up, saying he was leaving his car with me to use until my wife was in the hospital. She might have to go in the middle of the night, and I did not then have a car. A day later my sister came over with a robe for my wife to wear in the hospital. I had not thought to ask for that.

Brethren and co-workers, we need to fast and pray, to be sure we are IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE GREAT GOD OF LOVE! Time is short. Christ's Bride shall have made herself READY!

Yes, when our ways please God, He blesses us. Be sure we are all close to GOD and faithful in each one, our own part in His Work! He is prospering His Work! So much so, right now, that Satan is sure to STRIKE against it! Pray for the Work, and thanks for praying also for me.

With deep love in Jesus' name,

(SDA... from page 1)

When did Christ die and resurrect?

He asked next when Christ died? Again they unanimously answered, Good Friday! He asked them to read Matthew 12:40 where it says that as in the case of Jonah, Christ will be "three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (tomb). It is not a combination of days and nights because Christ Himself defined how long is a day. He therefore asked them to read John 11:9 where Christ stated that there are 12 hours during the day when man can work, and the night comes when man cannot work.

Christ's being the true Messiah of God was at stake in what He said. If he failed to fulfill it, He was a liar and therefore a sinner; and if He was, then we have NO Savior. Also, if what He said failed, we have NO God who has the power to bring it to pass. After covering the verses related to the topic, they were convinced. Again, it was amply demonstrated that popular Christianity never knew the real Christ, our Savior.

Coming to a major decision

The afternoon Bible Study session was followed by an open forum. When all their other questions were answered from the Bible, they concluded they have long been blinded from the truth and locked in deception even starting with the knowledge about Jesus Christ; now they have found the truth and the Church which has the truth.

They wanted to make a drastic move to simply sever relationship with their previous church. Mr. Macaraeg advised them to make it formal. To give them time to decide individually, he did not return the next Sabbath (February 23). But he received a



Crossing the streams of Upper Lahi, Pantukan

long-distance phone call from them later and thus visited them again together with some Davao City church leaders to arrange for upcoming regular Sabbath meetings with them.

Doctrinal defender also convinced!

Since this unheard of event reached the upper hierarchy of their previous church, unannounced they sent a defender to their original teachings. It happened that on that day, Daniel Macaraeg (Ambassador graduate and son of Edmond Macaraeg) was assigned for the Bible Study. Expectedly, he attempted to challenge the Church of God teachings. But with the answers he heard, at the end of the study he confided that he also wanted to learn more of God's truths, and has come back for more Bible Studies!—UNP

UNITED CHURCH OF GOD, IA-PHILIPPINES CONGREGATIONS

(As of March 2002)

Editor's note: As a Spiritual Body, we would like to update our membership on the location of our congregations nationwide so we can help pray for one another. And if anyone is near a Church or Bible Study area on a Sabbath, he/she knows where to go.

LUZON:

LA TRINIDAD BIBLE STUDY

Binos Residence, La Trinidad, Benguet, (10am every 3rd Sab.)
Pastor: Serizalinio Dizon, Tel. (075) 523-4313 (Hm)

SAN FABIAN CONGREGATION

Milven Malbog Res., San Fabian, Pangasinan, (3pm every Sab.)
Pastor: Serizalinio Dizon, Tel. (075) 523-4313 (Hm)

METRO MANILA CHURCH

Shalom Center, 1660 M. Guerrero St., Malate, (2:30pm every Sab.)
Pastor: Epifanio Rey Evasco Tel. (02) 728-5952 (Hm)
Deacon: Mamerto Evangelista

VISAYAS:

BACOLOD CITY CHURCH

Benjamin Hall, Lacson Ave., Bacolod City, (9am every Sab.)
Pastor: Florante Siopan, Tel. (034) 708-3005 (Hm)
Asst. Elder: Norman Julag-ay Tel. (034) 434-0573 (Hm)
Deacon: Beltran Sison

LEYTE CHURCH

UCG Church Bldg., Sabang, Baybay, Leyte, (9am every Sab.)
Pastor: Florante Siopan, Tel. (034) 708-3005 (Hm)
Loc. Leader: Raul Villacote, Cphone # 0910-352-4965
Asst. Leader: Candido Merino

MINDANAO:

A. BUTUAN PASTORAL DISTRICT:

Pastor: Edmond Macaraeg, Tel. (082) 241-0150 (Hm/Of)
Coord.: Paul Cebrian, (Deacon) Tel. (085) 341-4352 (Hm)

BUTUAN CITY CHURCH

Cebrian Res., Emily Homes, Libertad, Butuan City, (2pm every Sab.)
Loc. Leaders: Paul Cebrian, Jaime Dagani, James Presbitero

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY CHURCH

Harbor Lights Hotel, Gusa, Cag. De Oro, (8am every Sab.)
Loc. Leaders: Paul Cebrian, Felipe Arceo, Felix Raut.

JABONGA OUTLYING BIBLE STUDY

Bermudez Res., Jabonga, Surigao del Norte, (8am, Sabbaths)
Loc. Leaders: Paul Cebrian, Jaime Dagani

SAN MIGUEL / TAGO CHURCHES

Baylon Res., Brgy. Tina, San Miguel, Surigao Sur, (9am, alt. Sab.)
Pilapil/Acevedo Res., Tago, Surigao del Sur (9am, alternate Sab.)
Loc. Leaders: Paul Cebrian, Sony Baylon

B. PROSPERIDAD PASTORAL DISTRICT:

Pastor: Edmond Macaraeg, Tel. (082) 241-0150 (Hm/Of)
Coord.: Paul Cebrian, (Deacon) Tel. (085) 341-4352 (Hm)
Asst. Coord.: Elbert Gargar, Tel. (085) 343-7469 (Hm)

BUNAWAN CHURCH

Mantalaba Res., Market site, Bunawan, Agusan Sur (8am every Sab.)
Loc. Leaders: Elbert Gargar, Asst. David Obsequio

DIATAGON CHURCH

Mahinay Res., St. Christine, Surigao del Sur (2pm every Sab.)
Loc. Leaders: Elbert Gargar, Asst. Wilfredo Salvador

PROSPERIDAD CHURCH

Gargar Res., Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur, (2pm, every Sab.)
Loc. Leader: Elbert Gargar

TAGBINA OUTLYING BIBLE STUDY

Declaro Res., Brgy. Soriano, Tagbina, Surigao Sur (8am every Sab.)
Loc. Leader: Elbert Gargar

C. KIARA PASTORAL DISTRICT

Pastor: Edmond Macaraeg, Tel. (082) 241-0150 (Hm/Of)

KIARA CHURCH

Valdez Res., Kiara / Bocboc Nat. High Sch., Bukidnon (10am every Sab.)
Loc. Leads: Arcadio Gargar (Deacon), Pablo Rico, Manuel Valdez, Gomer Ayong

BANISILAN CHURCH

Zarate Res., Wadya, Banisilan, North Cotabato (10am every Sab.)
Loc. Leaders: Francisco Basilio, Timoteo Basilio, Sr.

MARAMAG CHURCH

Maramag Central School, Maramag, Bukidnon (10am every Sab.)
Loc. Leader: Osias Eturalde

D. DAVAO CITY PASTORAL DISTRICT:

Pastor: Edmond Macaraeg, Tel. (082) 241-0150 (Hm/Of)

DAVAO CITY CHURCH

Apo View Hotel, Davao City, (10am every Sab.)
Assts: Rodrigo Florencondia (LCE)
Reynato Balugo (Deacon)
Alvin Abrau (Deacon)
Daniel Macaraeg (Ministerial Trainee)

ISULAN OUTLYING BIBLE STUDY

Domingo Res., Isulan, Sultan Kudarat, (10am-3pm every 3rd Sab.)
Loc. Leaders: Rodrigo Florencondia, Merlito Tonog

PANTUKAN OUTLYING BIBLE STUDY

Upper Lahi, Pantukan, Compostela Valley, (8am every Sab.)
Assts.: Daniel Macaraeg, Alvin Abrau, Concepciano Bacor

TAGUM / STO. TOMAS CHURCH

(In the process of selecting suitable hall), (2pm every Sab.)
Assts: Alvin Abrau, Concepciano Bacor

How to Receive Answers to Your Prayers

By Herbert W. Armstrong

Editor's Note: The following is a member and co-worker letter written by the late pastor general Herbert W. Armstrong, dated September 20, 1981. Although he describes things that happened in the past, the principles of prayer he mentions are very much applicable to us today. It also helps us understand the development of God's work some 20 years ago.

Dear Brethren and Co-Workers in Jesus Christ:

Another month has almost rolled by, and I have GOOD NEWS for you. Of course, there is the usual "good news and bad news." You get all the bad news in your newspaper and on your TV and radio newscasts.

For the three years Jesus Christ, the living Head of this worldwide Work of God, has been working through His servants to get His Church back on the track and ready for His comparatively soon return to earth. The Church will be His BRIDE meeting Him in the clouds as He comes—and His Church shall have made herself READY (Rev. 19:7). But will each one of us in the Church be ready?

Thank God, we are getting ready! And God is PLEASED. I have found in 50 YEARS in Christ's ministry, that when we please Christ, He BLESSES US! And He is blessing His Work now!

The September issue of The PLAIN TRUTH has brought its circulation to the highest point in history, climbing toward FOUR MILLION COPIES—now 3,792,171. As of two days ago, income for the month to date is 33.7 percent above a year ago. This brings the year-to-date increase up to 19.2 percent.

New radio and television stations are opening to us. The powerful CBS Seattle, Wash., station KIRO has opened to us, the time, 7 am. Sunday mornings. Only one other religious program is accepted on that station—a Seventh-day Adventist program.

As a result of a religious broadcaster being unable to pay his bills, we have been offered the half-hour slot beginning 9 a.m. Sundays on the leading Cleveland, Ohio, independent station, WUAB.

Just this morning, I viewed a most pitiful religious program. It was an entire half-hour desperate appeal to the public for money. The program was having to go off the air. The program repeated a segment of a similar appeal for money some three weeks before. It had brought a slight response but not enough. The television evangelist had done everything in his power. He had cut all expenses to the bone. He had beseeched GOD. He had prayed his heart out for financial help. It had not come. And now, he said to the PUBLIC of this world, "You people are now my last resort."

It is certainly true—God does not always answer prayer. "And," He says, "whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight" (I John 3:22). This minister was not keeping all God's commandments.

Let me tell you two personal experiences. They may help you receive answers to your prayers. In the fall of 1948, I faced a desperate financial emergency to save Ambassador College. I had purchased the original block of campus property on a lease-and-option contract. The conversion date into a purchase contract was December 27, 1948. I had been making all lease payments on time. But on December 27, interest for 25 months was to come due, besides taxes for the 25 months. This Work

was still comparatively small at that time—but GROWING at the rate of 30 percent annually. Its income was averaging \$500 per day. Committed operation expenditures also averaged \$500 per day. I would need an additional \$50,000.

I had never appealed to the public over the air—or in any manner—for money. But I did appeal to members and coworkers. I had done all I knew. But the extra \$50,000 did not even begin to show up. Shortly after Thanksgiving Day, I sent out an appeal just as heartrending as this TV evangelist did this morning only I sent it to GOD, not to the public over the air. And I was keeping His commandments! The next day \$3,000 came in the mail, instead of the usual \$500. The second day another \$3,000. This continued until the entire \$50,000 had come in prior to December 27.

Another incident I have written of before. But I'm sure most of you have not read it, and it may be helpful.

It was in early January, 1930. I had given my SELF to Jesus Christ almost three years before. I was keeping His commandments. I had experienced some miraculous answers to prayer. But now we had come to a time of serious need. I was not yet in Christ's ministry. My business had been swept away by forces beyond my control. I was out of work, out of money. My wife was expecting our fourth child in a week or two. She was excessively anemic. The doctor was fearful. She would have to go to the hospital, he said, and the doctor bill for delivery of our third child had not been paid. Our credit was not good at the hospital. I had prayed for my wife, but she had not been healed. We were without food, without fuel even for cooking. What to do—God had not answered my prayers. It was Saturday morning. I began to fast and pray. I did not fast and pray to induce God to answer. I fasted and prayed for one reason—to learn WHAT WAS WRONG WITH ME that prevented God from answering.

All day long I alternated between a solid hour of prayer, an hour of Bible searching to find the answer and then an hour of thoughtful contemplation. Then another hour of prayer, and so on. This continued until bedtime that night. It continued early next morning. By about 1:30 in the afternoon one of our daughters cried out, "Grandpa and Grandma Armstrong are driving into our driveway!" By this time I KNEW what had been wrong WITH ME! I had been letting up too much on prayer. I had had my mind almost wholly absorbed on the physical problem of earning some money, and I had begun to neglect God and prayer. Now I KNEW I was in contact with God. I KNEW He was hearing me, and would answer.

Hurriedly, in a prayer lasting less than 20 seconds, I asked God for the first time in two days to heal my wife's anemia. I asked Him to take care of the hospital bill for both deliveries. I asked for food. I asked for fuel. I asked for money. I asked for a new overcoat. The only one I had had a 4- or 5-inch hole in the hip area. Then I quickly added that God knew whatever we needed, even before we asked, and for Him to send whatever else He knew was a need. I rose and ran out to meet my parents

There was part of the prayer answered immediately! The back seat of the car had been removed, and it was loaded with wood fuel. My mother had a large covered pan with a cooked dinner, which needed only a warming over.

(See **How to Receive...** on page 4)