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Supplementary Lecture on "Creation"

=Existence of God=

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(Excerpts from Augustus Hopkins Strong's "Systematic Theology")

God is the infinite and perfect Spirit in whom all things have their source, support, and end. The existence of God is a First Truth; in other words, the knowledge of God's existence is a "Rational Intuition." Logically, it precedes and conditions all observations and reasoning. Chronologically, only reflections upon the phenomena of nature and of mind occasions its rise in consciousness. The term Intuition means simply direct knowledge. It is an acknowledged fact that the vast majority of men have actually recognized the existence of a spiritual being or beings, upon whom they conceived themselves to be dependent.

Our proof that the idea of God's existence is a "Rational Intuition" will not be complete, until we show that attempts to account in other ways for the origin of the idea are insufficient, and require as their presupposition the very intuition which they would supplant or reduce to a secondary place. We claim that it can not be derived from any other source than an original cognitive power of mind:

1. Not from external revelation, whether communicated through the scriptures, or through tradition.
2. Not from experience, whether this means the sense-perception and reflection of the individual, the accumulated results of the sensations and associations of past generations of the race or actual contact of our sensitive nature with God, the super-sensible reality, through the religious feeling.
3. Not from the reasoning, because the actual rise of this knowledge in the great majority of minds is not the result of any conscious process of reasoning. The strength of men's faith in God's existence is not proportioned to the strength of the reasoning faculty. There is more in this knowledge than reasoning could ever have furnished, and neither do men arrive at the knowledge of God's existence by inference.

Contents of this Intuition:

In this fundamental knowledge that God is, it is necessarily implied that to some extent men know intuitively what God is, namely,

1. a Reason in which their mental processes are grounded;
2. a Power above them upon which they are dependent;
3. a Perfection which imposes law upon their moral natures;
4. a Personality which they may recognize in prayer and worship.

Corroborative Evidences of God's Existence:

Although the knowledge of God's existence is intuitive, it may be explicated and confirmed by arguments drawn from the actual universe and from the abstract ideas of the human mind. These arguments are probable, not demonstrative. For this reason they supplement each other, and constitute a series of evidences which is cumulative in its nature. Though, taken singly none of them can be considered absolutely decisive, they together furnish a corroboration of our primitive conviction of God's existence, which is of great practical value, and is in itself sufficient to bind the moral action of men.

The arguments for the Divine Existence may be reduced to 4, namely:

- The Cosmological
- The Teleological
- The Anthropological and
- The Ontological

1. The Cosmological Argument (or ^πArgument from change in Nature.)

Everything begun, whether substance or phenomenon, owes its existence to some producing cause. The universe, at least so far as its present form is concerned, is a thing begun, and owes its existence to a cause which is equal to its production. This cause must be indefinitely great.

2. The Teleological Argument, (or Argument from Order and Useful Collocation in Nature.)

Order and useful collocation pervading a system respectively imply intelligence and purpose as the cause of that order and collocation. Since order and useful collocation pervade the universe, there must exist an intelligence adequate to the production of this order, and a will adequate to direct this collocation to useful ends.

3. The Anthropological Argument (or Argument from Man's Mental and Moral Nature)

This is an argument from the mental and moral condition of man to the existence of an Author, Lawgiver, and End. It is sometimes called the Moral Argument. The Argument is a complex one, and may be divided into 3 parts:

1. Man's intellectual and Moral nature must have had for its author an intellectual and moral Being.
 2. Man's moral nature proves the existence of a holy Lawgiver and Judge. Conscience recognizes the existence of a moral law which has supreme authority. Known violation of this moral law are followed by feelings of ill-desert and fears of judgment.
 3. Man's emotional and voluntary nature proves the existence of a Being who can furnish in himself a satisfying object of human affection and an end which will call forth man's highest activities and ensure his highest progress.
4. The Ontological Argument (or Argument from our Abstract and Necessary Ideas).

This argument infers the existence of God from the abstract and necessary ideas of the human mind. It has 3 forms:

- (a). Space and time are attributes of substance or being. But space and time are respectively infinite and eternal. There must therefore be an infinite and eternal substance or Being to whom these attributes belong.
(view of Samuel Clarke)
- (b). We have the idea of an infinite and perfect Being. This idea cannot be derived from imperfect and finite things. There must therefore be an infinite and perfect Being who is its cause.
(view of Descartes)
- (c). We have the idea of an absolutely perfect Being. But existence is an attribute of perfection. An absolutely perfect Being must therefore exist.
(view of Anselm)

Erroneous Explanations and Conclusion:

Any correct explanation of the universe must postulate an intuitive knowledge of the existence of the external world, of self, and of God. The desire for scientific unity, however, has occasioned attempts to reduce these 3 factors to one, and

according as one or another of the 3 has been regarded as the all-inclusive principle, the result has been

Materialism,
Materialistic Idealism,
Idealistic Pantheism.

The scientific impulse is better satisfied by a system which we may designate as Ethical Monism.

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Seven Proofs God EXISTS!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

There is a delusion gripping the minds of more ² people today than Communism! It holds them in its sway, deluding and deceiving them, making them veritable slaves! It is the concept of "no God."

Recently, Sir Julian Huxley, grandson of the famed evolutionist, stated: "There is no longer either need or room for supernatural beings capable of affecting the course of events in the evolutionary pattern of thought. The earth was not created, it evolved. So did all the animals and plants that inhabit it, including our human selves, mind and soul as well as brain and body."

Is there "no longer any need for a concept of God"? Is the Bible merely a collection of Hebrew fables, or the dynamic living word of an intelligent, all-wise Creator Being?

These questions demand an answer!...

Proof Number One

This first Positive Proof of the existence of God is so broad, so all-encompassing, so diverse in its many ramifications that it is possible only to barely scratch the surface in this brief article. However, there can be no clearer way to substantiate this proof than to quote from a typical college textbook which discards the Bible record. In the foreword material, the authors offer various explanations as to the origin of the earth:

"Our own galaxy, which we remember is but a tiny part of the universe, has probably existed a million, million years.

"But Some progress has been made in attempting to explain how and when the sun and its nine planets came into being. The study of the solar system gives us at least a clue to the origin of that part of the universe most important to us--the earth.

"The explanation commonly accepted today is called the Hypothesis of Dynamic Encounter, formulated about 1900 by T. G. Chamberlain and F. R. Moulton of the University of Chicago. In brief it suggests that our solar system had its birth when the sun was approached by another huge star. The latter, through the operation of the law of gravitation, detached from the sun great masses of flaming gas. The orphan masses from the parent sun gradually cooled and crystallized to become the nuclei of planets. These continued to revolve around the sun, held in their orbits by the gravitational pull of the parent body.

"The evolution of the earth to its present state was very gradual." (Civilization Past and Present, Vol. 1, Page 31, Wallbank and Taylor.)

I quote this statement in full for a very special reason!

Let's go back and carefully ANALYZE what we have just read!

Notice carefully the italicized words in the quotation you have just read. We have such words in the opening phrases as "probably; some progress has been made; attempting to explain; at least a clue; explanation commonly accepted; Hypothesis; and it suggests."

Here are numerous "attempts" to explain, "some progress" being made, at least a "clue," and the "suggestion" of an "hypothesis"-- the very word itself meaning "WE GUESS"!

But let's analyze further. Let's get to the very trunk of the tree of this very vital FIRST PROOF of the existence of God!

In the very BEGINNING the writers, even though beginning with many attempts to explain, clues and guesses, admit the existence of our solar system, a "sun", another "huge star," the "operation of the law of gravitation," great "masses of flaming gas," and admit that these gases "gradually cooled!"

They also mention how these gases "crystallized" and then continued to "revolve around the sun, held in their orbits by the gravitational pull of the parent body!"

Think of it! All of these myriad laws, of heat, light, energy, motion, the rotation of astral bodies, the laws of gravity, the principle of isostasy, which demands that every orbital body must gradually assume and maintain a near-round shape, and myriad other laws, entirely too numerous to mention, are admitted to exist!

Get back to the real TRUNK of the tree! Where is the place to begin? Is it an attempt to explain the existence of our present solar system? Decidedly not! Scientists and astronomers tell us that our solar system is only one of many such systems in our great galaxy called the "Milky Way." However, even our galaxy is only one of myriad galaxies, which form only a part of the vast, limitless expanse of the universe. Our planet, astronomers assure us, is merely a third-rate planet in a second-rate solar system, lost in the expanses of seemingly limitless space!

Do you begin to comprehend? By what LAW did one star approach another? By what LAW did heat gradually cool? By what LAW was there a "gravitational pull"? By what LAW was there the existence of the "operation of the law of gravitation"?

Yes, there it is. In dissecting and looking carefully into the statements of some of the preposterous hypotheses which have been advanced, you begin to see that in every case the writers have begun with an orderly, LAW-ABIDING universe, governed by irrefutable LAWS!

The existence of LAW, unchangeable, immutable, irrevocable, unseen and yet active, absolutely DEMANDS the existence of a GREAT LAWGIVER!

There is one LAWGIVER who is able to save and to destroy..." (James 4:12).

Proof Number Two

Before seeing this next amazing, irrefutable proof, it is

first necessary to state, in simple terms, the meaning of the word "evolution." Of course, there are many processes called "evolution."

The process of development of music from simple to complex is, in a sense, an "evolutionary" process. This, as is true in all technological inventions, has perhaps led many to assume such a development is also true in organic, living material!

"evolution is the gradual development from the simple, unorganized condition of primal matter to the complex structure of the physical universe; and in like manner, from the beginning of organic life on the habitable planet, a gradual unfolding and branching out into all the various forms of beings which constitute the animal and plant kingdoms." (Organic Evolution, p. 6 Lull.)

Notice it! Evolution theorizes from the beginning of organic life--already having LIFE with which to begin! It does not now, nor has it ever shown, nor will it ever be able to show how life CAME into existence!

The theory of evolution (the word "theory" means "we think") states simply, that all life forms that we know today, including humankind, all plant and animal life in all of its myriad species, have gradually evolved from the most simple life forms to the complex, intricate, interdependent species we see about us today, each having its own peculiar cyclical life character, each reproducing according to its own kind.

Evolution states that this life evolved in a "gradual process," by "resident forces" into the complexity of life today.

And herein, at the very basic trunk of the tree of all evolutionary thought, lies one of the greatest proofs of God!

There is a broad, gaping, yawning chasm of separation between life and death. The great gap between the not-living and the living is so broad, so insurmountable, so unfathomable by man, that evolutionists can only "suppose" and guess, offering vague, ethereal, nebulous "theories" as to how life "might have" begun!

However, on the other hand, there is an absolute, demonstrable law of science which comprises the second major proof of the existence of a life-giving God!

That is the law of biogenesis!

"Bio" means life! "Genesis" means beginning. This law, then, is a law concerning the BEGINNING of life! This law, simply stated, is the absolute law that life comes only from life. That the not-living can never give rise to give birth to or produce the living.

The very existence of LIFE demands a LIFEGIVER!

God states dogmatically, "And the Eternal God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul" (Gen. 2:7).

Almighty God, the Life Self-Existent, the One who has life, who IS Life, who was before all things, IMPARTED life to the first man, and set within man, the animals, and all plants, the cyclical character of life which enables them to reproduce according to certain set laws! GOD IS THE GREAT LIFEGIVER!

Proof Number Three

Many of these amazing proofs of the existence of an Almighty God "overlap."

You will notice that evolutionists, in trying to substantiate their theory, always BEGIN with an orderly universe, and the existence of matter. Notice the so-called Theory of Evolution BEGINS with matter, laws, and "simple" life!

What is matter? Matter occupies space and has weight. It is not always necessarily seen, since certain gases, and even the air which you breathe, are also classified as "matter."

Until recently, scientists talked of the law of the "conservation of matter." However, with the discoveries in nuclear physics, and following Madame Curie's experiments with radium, scientists have now found there is a certain amount of "disintegration" in matter!

This deterioration of matter is a scientific fact! Uranium (U 238) gradually disintegrates through many intermediate stages into lead (Pb 206).

Gradually, over a period of seemingly limitless years, this radioactive material disintegrates into lead! There is no new uranium coming into existence today!

This means, simply stated, that science has proved that this earth is gradually running down! The earth, and the whole universe, is like a great, giant clock, which at one time was wound up! It has been gradually "running down" ever since, and is not now by any process known or observed or measured being "wound up" again!

It is as if man has arrived on the scene in the midst of an orderly universe which is gradually "running down!"

The process of erosion is seen about you constantly. That is, that the higher and the steeper the mountains, the more rapid is the erosion, and gradually all high areas of the earth are being lowered. The sea bottoms, river valleys and low areas are gradually becoming higher, so that eventually, given enough time, the earth would, should this process continue, become smoother and smoother.

Matter must have at one time COME INTO EXISTENCE! Since matter by its very nature has had no past eternity, it had to have been, at one time, brought into existence!

Creation, then, the very existence of things, absolutely demands and requires a Creator! That which is made requires a Maker! That which is produced requires a Producer!

Matter, it has been firmly established, has been made--it did not just "happen" and has had no past eternity! Therefore, the third great proof is that the Creation requires a great Creator!

Proof Number Four

The One who is quoted in the first person as being God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind, and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and everything that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and God saw that it was good" (Gen 1:24-25).

Scientists have attempted to show the evolutionary pattern by "comparative embryology"; by a study of selective breeding, genetics, and various other aspects of biology.

However, without taking the tremendous amount of space necessary to even faintly scratch the surface of such a broad subject, suffice it to say there is an absolute, irrefutable, immutable, unchangeable LAW, which absolutely prohibits a jump from one kind to another kind!

There are hundreds of different varieties within a certain species, and while there may be small, tiny dogs, such as the Mexican Chihuahua, and also great huge dogs such as the St. Bernard or the Great Dane, they are still dogs! They are not cats, nor horses, nor are they even beginning to show a gradual trend toward developing into another species! They are all of the same kind.

Comparative Embryology tries to point out that the beginning embryos of fish, polliwogs, and humans look very much alike. This is absolutely true! But it proves absolutely nothing for the case of evolution, but does offer a STRONGER proof of the existence of God! Scientists are defied to attempt to make the embryo of a fish turn out to be a polliwog, a man, or anything other than a fish from the exact same kind of fish which laid the egg in the first place!

Scientists have attempted to prove their evolutionary theories by "selective breeding" and studies in "mutations."

These do not prove evolution! They prove, rather, the existence of absolute, unchangeable LAWS governing the reproduction

of all animal and plant life, and that those laws function within certain limited bounds that cannot be transcended or broken!

While we are able to breed and cultivate today new varieties within a great kind, they are still of the same KIND and not a new species of life!

In attempting to array the skeletons of an orangutan, chimpanzee, ape, gorilla, and a man, evolutionists assure us there is a definite pattern showing all have come from one common ancestor!

This is an absolute fallacy! And again, this merely serves to show another clear proof of God! It does not prove an evolutionary process, but it does prove, rather, if men were willing to look at the FACTS, similarity of DESIGN! It shows that the same "Architect" had the same general plan and design in mind! It shows functional similarity, NOT the evolution of one to the other.

This absolutely proves, not only the existence of a Lawgiver, but that there is, alive, acting RIGHT NOW, a Great Sustainer of all that is!

These laws are upheld, sustained, KEPT in action! How? By the Sustainer, who is God!

Proof Number Five

Look about you! You live in a highly complex, intricate and interdependent world! It is a world of GREAT DESIGN.

You have never seen an ugly sunset! You have never seen an ugly scene in the desert, in the mountains, at sea, or anywhere on the surface of this entire earth, unless it were a scene made ugly by man! All is in harmony.

Life, as we know it, is entirely interdependent upon other forms of life. Nothing lives or dies to itself.

The question to the evolutionist is: Which "evolved" first, the corn or the bee? Did the bee evolve slowly for thousands, millions or billions of years independent of the corn stalks, the flowers and the pollens from growing things which are his life source?

Did the flowers, grasses, trees, and grains all "evolve" slowly and gradually over a period of millions or billions of years independent of the little bee, upon whom they must rely for their very continuation of life?

The old question, "Which came first, the chicken or the egg?" is a question which the evolutionist feels worthy only of disdain. Why? Simply because he cannot answer it!

It is better from his point of view, to merely scoff, make fun of and attempt to dismiss such a question when he cannot answer it!

This total interdependency of all life forms--the tremendous design within this universe shows a common Beginner, one main Architect, one great Designer with an over-all framework of a plan of creation into which all life forms fit.

This great universe, and the complex, intricate earth on which you live and draw breath, is a world of great design. It is a world of such complex and intricate design so as to take the very breath in beginning to investigate even the minutest part..

The cleavage properties of minerals, the wings of a bird or a fly, the beauty of a sunset, the facets of a quartz crystal, and above all, the marvelous, tremendous masterpiece of all design, the human body, all point out that for such intricate design, THERE HAD TO BE AN ETERNAL DESIGNER!

Design in the universe proves the existence of a DESIGNER!

Proof Number Six

This sixth proof of the existence of an Almighty God is perhaps the most astounding of all! It is fulfilled prophecy!

About one full third of your Bible is prophecy--and while most of that one-third pertains to our present day, there are many, many prophecies which have already been fulfilled, and which are presently BEING fulfilled!

God sent His prophets hundreds of years ago to such major cities as Babylon, Ekron, Ashdod, Askelon, Tyre and Sidon. These prophets--simple human beings who had been commissioned with a message--foretold the decay, fall and particular type of fate which was to befall each of these ancient cities!

And without fail, in every single instance, exactly at the time prescribed, all these things HAPPENED!

The very fact that God is able to foretell the future, and bring it to pass, is a great proof of His existence!

Proof Number Seven

This last proof is perhaps the greatest proof of all to Christians. It is the proof of answered prayer!

However, since the skeptics, atheists and doubters have never prayed, and hence have never had prayers answered, they continue to DOUBT!

George Mueller is dead now, but he probably was the greatest modern apostle of FAITH. He founded five great orphanages and other charitable institutions in Bristol, England. He started out, as FAITH always does, with a very small work, without any financial backing, and absolutely No means of support, except to get down on knees and send up a believing prayer to God.

For nearly seventy years George Mueller continued that great work, and it grew into a tremendous institution until it housed THOUSANDS. Every dime for feeding, clothing, sheltering, and schooling those thousands of orphans came in only one way--as a result of believing prayer.

Altogether he received more than a million four hundred thousand POUNDS--that was about SEVEN MILLIONS DOLLARS--that was sent to him in answer to his prayers!

Real answered prayer is a direct, divine, supernatural INTERVENTION, a completely MIRACULOUS intervention and direct answer from Almighty God! It is the result of being obedient to God's laws, asking according to His will, and then BELIEVING, in faith until the answer comes!

These seven, irrefutable, unchallengeable PROOFS of the existence of Almighty God represent only the minutest beginning of the subject! They are, nevertheless, proofs! It's about time people quit assuming--it's about time they begin to really PROVE all things!

It's about time YOU should say, with Job, "For I KNOW that MY REDEEMER LIVETH, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth" (Job 19:25).

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Editors note: The above was included for comparative study for leaders in Principle work.

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COMPARATIVE RELIGIONS

(cont. from March N.B.)

The Need for Systematic Church Doctrine The issue over Arianism and other "heresies" that various sects were spreading made the Church realize the necessity for defining its teachings. Unlike Judaism, which was based upon a way of life prescribed by its Law, Christianity centered about its beliefs. Although these in general had been well established by the time of Paul's death, their precise meaning remained open to interpretation. So as different individuals and churches came forward with their own views about the nature of God, Jesus, Christian practice, and the like, confusion set in.

There was already precedent for systematizing Christian doctrine. During the middle of the second century C.E., there had appeared the so-called Apostles' Creed, the first official statement of Christian belief. Emended somewhat later on, it now reads as follows:

I believe in God the Father, Almighty Creator of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell; the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

However, even the Apostles' Creed was open to further interpretation, and various meanings were given to such terms as "Catholic Church," "the forgiveness of sins," "His only Son," "the Holy Ghost," and others. The result was so many conflicting opinions, so-called "heresies," that the Catholic Church seemed in danger of being torn apart by fierce disputes over doctrine.

The Work of Augustine It was Augustine, one of Christianity's greatest minds, who helped preserve the unity of the Church. Born in Norn Aftica about 354 C.E. to a Christian mother and a pagan father, he led a wild, riotous life throughout early manhood. However, when he ceased to find satisfaction from this kind of living, he turned to the study of various Greek philosophies. Then, for nine years, he followed Manicheism, the popular Persian faith that emphasized the conflict between the two great forces of good and evil. However, nothing seemed to satisfy his inner needs.

In 383, Augustine left Carthage for Rome and then for Milan. There after long but unconvincing study of Christianity he underwent an unusual experience that led to his conversion. One day, he tells us in his Confessions, he was terribly upset by his inability to resist temptation. He fled from a companion into the garden. Suddenly, he heard the voice of a child from a nearby house say in a singsong voice, "Take up and read, take up and read."

Augustine could not think of any child's game that went this way. Puzzled, he opened the copy of the Epistle to the Romans that he had been holding. His eyes fell upon a passage that called upon people to give up riotous living and drunkenness and take upon themselves the Lord Jesus Christ. The passage struck

home. A sense of the power of Christianity overcame him; he felt inwardly converted. Suddenly, he felt a calmness that he had not known before.

Augustine then started to study Christianity in earnest, and a few years later, both he and his illegitimate son underwent baptism. Not long after, he returned to North Africa where he was ordained a priest. Ultimately he became the Bishop of Hippo, an important North African city.

Before his death in 429, he produced many important works, including his Confessions, the story of his life up to his conversion, and The City of God. In the latter he defended Christianity against the pagan charge that neglect of the old gods had caused the downfall of Rome. Rather, said Augustine, Christianity made possible a better kingdom, a heavenly reign through which people can be saved from sin. The Church, which is the "City of God," must eventually replace all states and nations and come to rule the world so that mankind may find salvation. It was this teaching which gave the Christians purpose for living during the trying period following the fall of the Roman Empire. Later it gave rise to those political concepts under which the Church established its authority over kings and princes in the medieval world.

But Augustine's greatest work was his interpretation of the Church and its doctrines. Here he was engaged in combating the teachings of various "heretics." For instance, there were those who questioned the whole place of the Church in Christianity. It was their contention that simply by faith in Christ alone, and without the ministry of the Church, man had the power within himself to keep God's law and overcome sin. Augustine branded this as untrue. Man at birth, he said, has the tendency to evil through "original sin," the result of Adam's disobedience to God. He cannot overcome his sinfulness without the intervention of Christ through the cleansing rite of Baptism. But even then he is incapable by himself of living without sin, and he requires the saving gift of God's intervention to insure his salvation. This, known as God's "grace," is made possible to man through the Church.

Augustine also defended the Church against those who believed that the sinfulness of the clergy rendered its sacraments worthless. No, he declared, the sacraments are not human ceremonies, they are God's. As performed in the Church they are merely outward, visible symbols of God's activity. Hence, their capacity to provide salvation in no way depends upon the character of the person who administers them, and no matter what the conduct of the priest, the sacraments given in the name of the Church are always completely valid.

The Church, he maintained, is the true embodiment of Christ on earth. As such, it automatically enjoys four qualities:

unity, holiness, apostolicity (claiming true descent from Peter, the chief disciple of Jesus), and catholicity (world-wide in nature and possessing the true doctrine of Christianity).

So, by defining Christian belief and practice, Augustine succeeded in strengthening the Church. By doing so, he prepared it for a still more prominent role in the affairs of the world. Yet in the process the Church was converted into something vastly different from the synagogue. Where the synagogue sought to serve God, the Church claimed to be the living body of Christ in the world and hence to represent him. The human and humble character of the synagogue in the mother faith had given way to the divinity and authority of the Church itself.

- to be continued -

(Source: "Our Religion and Our Neighbors" by Milton G. Miller and Sylvan D. Schwartzman. Copyright 1963, Union of American Hebrew Congregations - New York, New York, Edited by: Rabbi Eugene B. Borowitz).

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NEWS REPORTS:

Portland, Oregon

Vernon & Maxine Pearson

As a result of our 40-day campaign we have had several new people attend our meetings. We are quite encouraged and hopeful. Dianne Pitts came down from Seattle the weekend of March 20th and helped in the witnessing--this gave us a good lift. We also discussed ideas on lectures, etc.

While Dianne was here--Sat. eve.--four of us visited a spiritualist church where Vernon gave a short talk on resurrection. As these people believe in reincarnation, it is hard to tell if anyone was challenged to think differently, but after the meeting Vernon was invited to come back again to give another short talk.

We were glad to be able to meet two of the San Francisco family members--John Doraski & Evans (last name ?)--who were staying a few days in Portland. As they were leaving again the next day (when they were finally able to contact us) we had time for only a short visit. We enjoyed the time we did have to spend with them.

Chicago, Illinois

Sarah Witt

(Excerpts from Sarah's letter to Mr. Kim)

There is much to report about the work here in Chicago, but I haven't wanted to say too much until I could see my way clear to making positive statements about progress in our Movement.

First, I have been in constant touch with Rita Kolody, who has recently come back to Chicago after having spent considerable time with Mr. Choi's group in the San Francisco Center....She has spent several Saturday evenings with me....

Rita is a very dynamic person, but you'd never guess it when you first meet her, because she is so quiet. She has been contacting all the colleges in this area, and thus far, has been able to arrange an appointment for me to speak at the Central YMCA College in downtown Chicago, where I spoke last Wednesday, March 3rd, at 12:00 Noon. The circumstances before and during my talk were anything but favorable, since they were preparing to run a dance right after my presentation, and there was a great deal of restlessness among the student body and the student activities staff. So, I felt obligated to make my talk very brief, and ended up by talking only about 15 or 20 minutes. But it seems that even in that short time, I was able to give them something to think about, and 11 of the student signed up for a Lecture Series on The Divine Principles.

Since I have not started a Lecture Series up to this point, I decided that now was the time to start, and Rita and I decided that we should rent a room at the Lawson YMCA, which is centrally located for the convenience of all the students, and also where I, myself, am fairly well-known, since I already gave a lecture there last year, and have gone to many lectures on various subjects, and also where Anthony Brooke has spoken several times.

This evening at 7:30 p.m. will be my first lecture of the Series, at the Lawson YMCA (this is March 12th, since I could not finish the letter the day I started it). I have contacted Martha Vertreace of the Unified Family group, and have informed her of the lecture this evening, and invited her to attend it also, with Rita and myself. I am going straight down there from work this evening, and will meet Rita at the Lawson YMCA, where we will both have dinner, and then go up to the room and prepare it spiritually for the lecture.

I don't know how many of the students will show up this evening, but I have contacted them all by phone, and sent confirming letters to each one. So all I can do now is pray that they will come to hear me. At least it is a start!

Possibly next week, I may be asked to give a talk at another college - Loop College - at which Rita contacted them and gave them literature of our movement. They have already told her that they like the literature, and that it is very likely that they will arrange to have me speak to their student body. I will let you know if and when this happens.

Oakland, California

David S.C. Kim

Still much of my time has been spent for preparation of Anti-communist lectures, and very hard to speed-up because of the problem of terminology and translation from original Korean text

as I had the same problem many years ago in our Principle text book. Very soon useful contents will be available for N.W. members for their study and lecture training on Anti-Communism based on the Principle message. This program will stir up church leaders as well as laymen in any religion, to combat atheism, also politicians, businessmen will be the target to make them aware of the threat of the false ideology and the necessity of "Victory over Communism" by free nations.

My family has started our own English Principle study hour (7:00 - 8:30 p.m.) on every Wednesday with all Kim family members. All of us learn English and also learn from English translation of the Principle.

Uncle John is working really hard witnessing to new people. Usually he goes to my ex-seminary (Pacific School of Religion), where daily I spend my time in the library. It is located at north side of Berkeley University Campus.

On Parent's Day (March 27) blessed couples met at Edwin's center, and had wonderful time of fellowship and we saw the film slides of 777 ceremony which were provided by one of 777.

Hugh & Nora Spurgin are joined to Edwin's center from the East Coast. So we have altogether 9 blessed couples in Bay Area. On the same night Mr. Chei's group had a program of "International Spring Festival" at San Francisco, and my wife and I attended there at late evening, and we are very glad to see tremendous progress and success being made by all devoted, enthusiastic young population in Mr. Chei's group.

Mr. Chei, by the way, plans to visit our Master on 2nd week of April, and scheduled to see Him before He and His party visit United States around 1st week of April which is of course tentative schedule.

On 29, March, Bong Hee's birthday (my daughter-in-law), we invited Ronald & Darlene Pepper, one of 777 blessed couple, who are running Palo Alto center for San Francisco Japanese group, and we shared many things that evening with the young blessed couple.

I am very glad to hear from Sarah Witt in Chicago, who is recently doing very active plans in that area. Our prayers go to Chicago. This morning I found out at 7:00 a.m. that the chapel car (1964 Chev. Bel Air) was stolen by someone, somewhere. I reported to Police who said they will try to find it. The car was properly locked and parked opposite side, but Devil took it away evidently.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

April 4 Vernon Pearson's birthday
April 18 Sandy Hilts & Karleen Hilts Gonzales birthdays
(March 24th was Glen Hilts birthday)