

AUGUST

Youth 85



**Take a Walk
in the Wild**

This Is the Life!
By Herbert W. Armstrong

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In this personal article, Youth 85's editor-in-chief tells why he has called himself "the most blessed man on earth," and shows how you may taste the joys of real abundant living.

Like the apostle Paul, I feel that I have been the chief of sinners — yet God's marvelous grace has so richly abounded that it seems He has simply *lavished* on me *every* blessing that even the loving GOD can bestow!

Business associates, not quite comprehending the spiritual significance or real reasons, admit and marvel at the really happy and enjoyable life I have been granted. They *seek* the full joys of life. I did, too — once. And as long as I tried to GET and TAKE them, I somehow never had them.

Back in my preconversion days in the magazine and newspaper world, I fought and strove energetically for that pot of gold at the end of the rainbow — the *money* that would buy happiness and all the good things of gracious living. I sought and struggled valiantly to attain the vanity-pleasing status of being considered important by businessmen.

Yet, somehow, I never quite caught up with the end of that rainbow. For a few years — in my middle and late 20s — I enjoyed considerable financial success — for a young chap under 30. Even

so, I never seemed to get out of debt. My heart was set on material things and on plain vanity — and they just never seemed to *satisfy*. Neither, incidentally, did the brand of cigarettes whose advertising claimed "they satisfy."

You say you couldn't imagine me smoking cigarettes? Well, I couldn't either — NOW more than 60 years later. I remember

But did I ENJOY it? Never! What an idiot I was! In my mouth the saliva flows freely on the slightest provocation. A cigar in my mouth started the saliva glands flowing. I was forced to use the napkin for a cuspidor — and even then, it usually made me slightly sick at the stomach. Enjoy it? No!

Those were days of ambition and hustle and striving — but



with almost a pang of stomach-sickness, the many times I sat at a banquet table, smoking a fine cigar. Why? Vanity. I was a "sheep." Others did. I followed.

Many people struggle to get sleek new automobiles and other nice things that money can buy. But do these things bring real happiness? (Photo by Warren Watson)

I wish all people, everywhere, could realize the real source of true happiness!

they also were days of frustrations, fears and worries, and an underlying sense of insecurity. Carnality and this world's ways simply *never paid off!*

Then two successive major business depressions, and circumstances beyond my control, brought three successive total business failures. It was then that a Bible-believing woman, neighbor of my parents in Salem, Oregon, convinced my wife that the Bible enforced observance of the seventh-day Sabbath in this New Testament time of grace! The facts of my outraged reaction at this "religious fanaticism" have been published many times.

I was unable to talk, reason, argue or threaten her out of her newfound conviction. I was literally angered into my first STUDY of the Bible — to *prove* to her that

I sought, wrote for and obtained at the public library every book or booklet possible, purporting to refute seventh-day Sabbath observance. I searched every nook and cranny of the New Testament to find the sanctification, making holy, or command to observe Sunday. It was like hunting for the needle in the haystack — the needle that isn't there! Like the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, I never found it!

Instead, I found that Jesus Christ always kept this day "as His custom was," and the apostle Paul kept it "as his manner was." I found Jesus gave us an example that we should do as He did, and that we were commanded to walk in His steps — to walk as HE walked. Also that it is "Christ IN us" who gives hope of glory (by

find it interesting, as well as surprising and eye-opening. Remember, it's FREE, as Christ's Gospel is free, of course.

Well, Satan may have "opened" the eyes of Adam and Eve to evil — and then **BLINDED** the eyes of all of us ever since — but in that study the true Creator **GOD** *opened* my eyes to His TRUTH! There it was, staring at me in the Maker's own **INSTRUCTION BOOK!**

What would people say?

I didn't like it — at first.

"What would my business associates say?" was the question that came automatically to mind.

That's the question that chains *most* people to the darkness, the curses and frustrations of this world. They seldom give a thought to "What would **GOD** say?" They *ought* to ask, "What is **CHRIST GOING** TO SAY, when I have to face Him in the judgment?"

To me, God's truth meant **GIVING UP!** It meant giving up associates and friends — at least, so I supposed. It meant giving up **MY OWN WAY!** It seemed like **GIVING UP** everything I had ever held dear or lived for. It was like **GIVING UP** my very life.

But then, with God's **BIBLE** before me, I came to realize that Christ had bought and paid for my life — and it wasn't mine, anyway. God had made the giving up easier by repeated defeats — by reducing to economic poverty. I was only a "burned-out hunk o' junk," anyhow. Finally, I did make the surrender — **UNCONDITIONALLY!** I told God He could have my life, and if HE could make anything out of it, He could have it — I had made only a failure out of it! And I *did* mean that!

To me, it meant giving up everything I had valued as worth living for. But, you know, we have to die to **LIVE** — to **LOSE** our
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New clothing and stereo equipment are desirable — but does just having them bring real satisfaction? (Photos by Warren Watson and Hal Finch)

the Holy Spirit), and that He is a changeless Christ — the *same* today as when He walked the earth in human flesh. I found that the New Testament *commands* Sabbath observance.

By the way, we have a booklet explaining in detail what I found on this question in the Bible. It is entitled *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?* I think you might

"all these churches couldn't be wrong" — and that the Bible commanded and enforced the observance of Sunday, in this New Testament period.



Moving Experience

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were back in your old neighborhood playing baseball with Jack and Tom or riding bicycles with Sara and Veronica.

"It's so lonely here!" you tell your mother when you get home. "How am I ever going to find any friends?"

This can be a big problem. Not only do you want to find people like yourself to hang around with, but you want to find the right kind of friends: those with similar interests, who are responsible but fun to be with. Not those with bad reputations or whose main interests are drugs and alcohol. When you're the new kid in town, it's easy to be deceived — and you don't want to find out later that you've joined up with the town delinquent!

One place you'll meet a lot of people your age is at school. With the new school year, you have a golden opportunity to start fresh. Look for students who are accomplishing things. Try out for a sport or join a club — not only will you meet people, but you'll also enjoy the activities.

Our closest friendships develop with those we share common beliefs and interests with. Don't forget that church can be an ideal place to find and develop deep friendships.

Don't wait for others to come up to you or to invite you over — break the ice yourself. Talk to your parents about inviting your new friends over to your place. Snacks and games, hobbies and family activities can help build your new friendships and even strengthen your family ties.

Moving into a new neighborhood can be a time of great stress. If you enlist the support of your parents and take your mind off yourself by helping them as much as possible, much of this stress can be eased.

Then, by getting involved, breaking the ice and having people over, you can make your new home an exciting and fun place to be. □

This Is the Life!

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lives in order to FIND THEM! Perhaps, then, I never expected to really ENJOY LIFE anymore. I had sought hard to ENJOY LIFE — and failed. So now I gave it up!

But, actually, that was precisely when I really FOUND IT!

Happiness begins

THAT was when truly ENJOYING LIFE first began!

I remember many a happy, blessed, really ENJOYABLE hour spent in the bare kitchens of financially poor people, studying the Bible with them. It seemed as if the angels were there with us — as, indeed, they were! It was as happy as if the bare, poverty-ridden kitchen had been a gilded king's palace. No — that's wrong, it was *not just as happy* — it was a thousand times more so!

I began to learn that happiness did not consist of material possessions. Happiness is in the MIND. And, somehow, I had found happiness — real, full, abundant, deep-down HAPPINESS! We didn't have money — but we had inherited the TRUE RICHES!

I was literally plunged into the very work of God. I didn't seek it — God PUT me in, once I yielded wholly to be faithful to His Word. Having a part in God's own work was the greatest joy I had known.

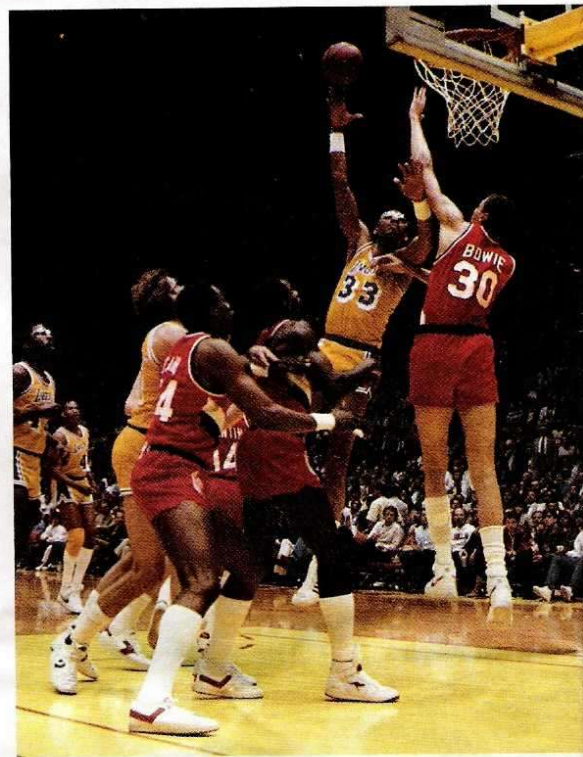
The *change* came early in 1927. Almost night-and-day Bible study continued. My wife was miraculously healed — even a dumbfounded doctor was forced to admit that. Then I was blessed with my first son. Years later, God tried me to see whether I would be willing to give *him* up. Struggling in prayer, I told God I was willing — not for a moment believing He would require it of me. But He did.

The first conversions through my preaching came in December, 1930. NEVER had I experienced

such joy. Talk about THRILLS! I had experienced thrills at football games, and worldly entertainments — but never *anything* like THIS!

Blessings piled up on blessings. God opened the powerful DOOR of radio — and the printing press — and finally television in the very smallest manner, at first. But the work grew and grew. More and more conversions followed — dozens, then scores, then hundreds, then THOUSANDS! I expect to have a lot of COMPANY in God's Kingdom, where we shall live FOREVER!

After 28 years of economic poverty — 21 of which had been spent in the joys of God's true blessings — God allowed even a



measure of material blessings! This, however, came only after I had learned NOT to set my heart on economic prosperity.

The best is yet to come!

Best of all, we in this great work have the matchless knowledge that we are HEIRS of GOD — and joint heirs with CHRIST — to be BORN INTO GOD'S OWN FAMILY AND SHARE HIS HONOR AND GLORY forever!

But meanwhile, our minds are



free from fears and worries. There are never any frustrations! We have been given abiding FAITH, which never fails — and never will! We have ABSOLUTE security! We are allowed high position and authority in GOD'S work, directed personally by the *living* Jesus Christ. I am privileged to work directly UNDER HIM!

We are kept BUSY. We are privileged to enjoy the physical BEAUTY of (we believe) the two most beautiful college campuses in the world!

We are privileged to ENJOY seeing the almost incredible transformation and character-development spiritually, mentally, morally, emotionally and physically, in hundreds of purposeful college students. We are privileged to lead them, counsel with them in their problems, serve them in many ways.

I wish men of position, and growing success in the world, could realize the REAL SOURCE of

true happiness — of real, enjoyable, interesting, happy and abundant LIVING!

Yes, I wish ALL PEOPLE, *everywhere*, could really *enjoy* life as much as we do.

And I rejoice in the sure knowledge that, in the very imminent future, Jesus Christ is going to return to this earth in all

the supreme POWER and GLORY of the Great GOD, and literally *force* this whole world to see the TRUE VALUES, and learn the way to all we enjoy now — and MORE!

SURE I'm happy — just brimful and running over with it. I've tried to share a little of it with our *Youth 85* readers. □



Professional sports bring excitement and thrills for a while. But real, long-lasting happiness comes from God — by learning and following the way of life that produces full, abundant, deep-down happiness. This is the way taught at Ambassador College. (Photos by Hal Finch and Warren Watson)