



CHURCH of GOD

News

VOLUME III, NUMBER 12

BIG SANDY - MINDEN

DECEMBER, 1963

Plain Truth Subscription Grows Nine Thousand Every Month!

NINE THOUSAND NEW SUBSCRIBERS were added to *The PLAIN TRUTH* mailing list within the last month! *Nine thousand people*, or almost twice the population of Gladewater, Texas, received their *first copy* of *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine.

Now *The PLAIN TRUTH* is nudging the *four hundred thirty thousand* mark and is continuing to spiral upward by leaps and bounds. At the present rate of nine thousand new subscribers per month, one year from now, the mailing list will number *approximately* five hundred eighty thousand persons.

(Continued on page 4)

Mr. Lochner Visits Imperial

Mr. Floyd O. Lochner made his annual visit to Big Sandy during December 8-12. As superintendent of Imperial Schools, his purpose was to discuss pending developments, to view the

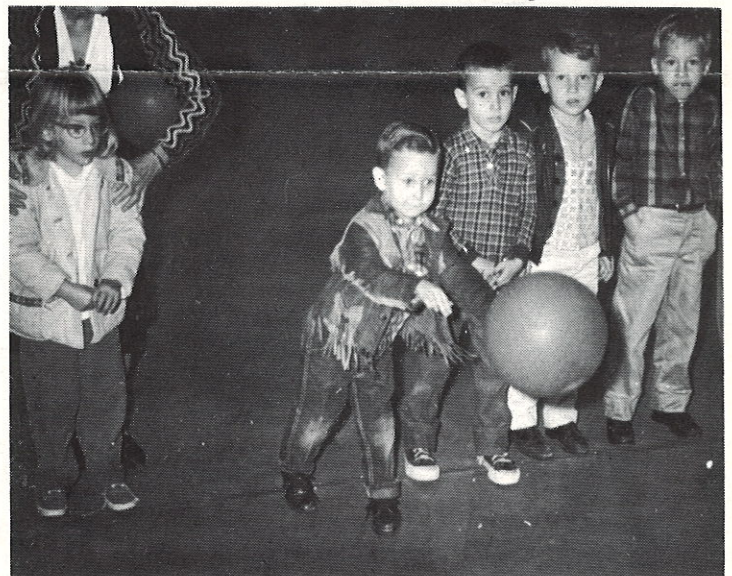
(Continue on Page Two)

500 HERE FOR THANKSGIVING

Although the cold showers came and ominous clouds hovered above, there was no gloominess among some 500 brethren who gathered in the Tabernacle Thanksgiving Day. Brethren from Dallas and Minden joined with those of the Big Sandy area and participated in the many planned events of this delightful day.

A well planned schedule of events was begun at 10 o'clock. The vigorous activities included *volley ball*, basketball, ping pong, and various games for the children. The Dallas volley ball team proved to be quite adept. However, in a basketball game, the Big

(Continue on Page Two)



BRETHREN of the Dallas-Minden-Big Sandy congregations gathered together for delightful "Thanksgiving Day" Festivities on the grounds deeded in God's name.



CHURCH of GOD

News

EDITOR

FRANK WILSON

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CHARLES BLACK

STAFF REPORTERS

Cleo Merk	Norvel Pyle
Evelyn Powers	Avon Pfund
Charles Black	Kenneth Frasier
Cecil McCormick	Jesse Bair
Wiley Black	Leo DuBry
Vernon Carrico	Curtiss Harrist

MINISTERIAL ADVISORS

KENNETH R. SWISHER

RICHARD RICE

The Gladewater - Minden newspaper is published and sponsored by Gladewater-Minden Spokesman Clubs and affiliated members of the Gladewater - Minden Churches of God. © 1963, by Radio Church of God.

Mr. Lochner

Continued from page 1

progress of the school, and above all, bring inspiration to students and faculty.

During the course of his visit, Mr. Lochner's "jam packed" schedule kept him moving. Tuesday evening, he held a meeting for the faculty and wives at the Salad Bowl Restaurant in Longview. His days were spent visiting and observing the elementary grades in session. While touring the Imperial Administrative departments, he and Mr. Carnes discussed the need for redecorating and rearranging classrooms and offices. Work to accomplish these things, is now in progress.

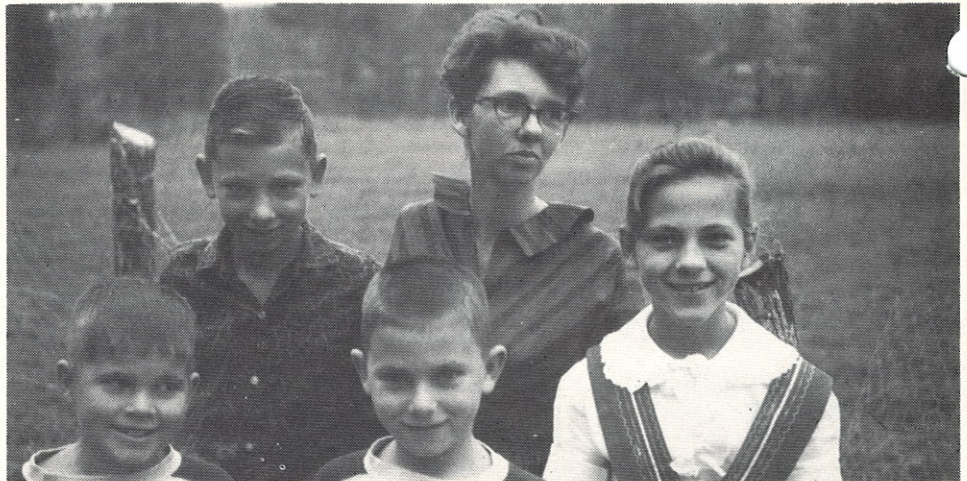
Having spent a short, but successful stay, Mr. Lochner left Thursday afternoon by jet for his home in Pasadena.

The man who's waiting for something to turn up should start with his shirt-sleeves.

Wackey Verse:

They told him it couldn't be done.
With a smile, he went right to it.
He tackled the thing that couldn't be done,
And he couldn't do it.

New Faces In Big Sandy Church



From the beautiful state of Florida comes Mrs. Joanne Dupree and her four children, Jimmy 12, Monette 9, David 8, and Ivan 7.

Mrs. Dupree is actually coming back home as she is a native Texan. However, she has spent most of her life in Florida.

Mrs. Dupree is an excellent seam-

stress and makes most of the clothing for her family. She plans to accept some outside sewing in the near future.

At present the Duprees are living with Mr. and Mrs. Fain, Mrs. Dupree's parents, in Pleasant Grove. They all love company, so when you have the opportunity, stop by and visit this new family.

Thanksgiving

(Continued from page 1)

Sandy basketballers trimmed the Dallasites. For those who preferred the quieter activities, checkers, cards, dominoes, etc., were available.

A scheduled turkey shoot was replaced with a basketball shoot, and live turkeys were rewarded to the "Sharpshooters." Charles Green won the gobbler in the high school class and Mr. Lelon Jackson bagged the one in the men's class.

At 2:00 P.M., the activities were terminated and everyone moved to the dining hall. The beautifully decorated tables contained an abundance of roast turkey and dressing, and giblet gravy, accompanied by other savory dishes and desserts. After leisurely enjoying the meal, the tables and chairs were cleared to make room for an old-fashioned square dance.

The square dance ended at 5:30 and everyone left for home. No doubt everyone had been reminded on this day of the numerous blessings we have—all for which we can thank God.

CHOIR HAYRIDE

Mid-afternoon, November 24, forty-nine choir members, including mates and dates, climbed aboard a school bus and headed for the Westerner, a restaurant noted for its fine food and western atmosphere, located a few miles west of Shreveport. Their objective—a hayride and dinner.

The bus arrived on schedule—5:00 o'clock. Shortly afterward, everyone climbed onto two hay wagons and took off on a journey that led them eventually to the far side of a nearby lake. The ride afforded a view of the beautiful sunset and the rising of the harvest moon. The night air was brisk, but no one seemed to mind. Everyone was singing and having a wonderful time.

Arriving at the camp site, a fire was started and everyone gathered around to get a glimpse and to absorb a little heat. A western band provided entertainment while the group feasted upon a delicious barbecued chicken dinner—western style.

Singing, dancing and joyful conver-

(Continued on Page 4)

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article presents a brief history of the life of our minister, Mr. Kenneth Swisher. In appreciation of his many services, this issue of the Church of God News is dedicated to him.

"Go ahead and go to electronics school, but this world will be blown to bits in a few years." Startled and perplexed stood Kenneth R. Swisher. Those shocking words were the words of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. The year was 1952. This short conversation by phone was the beginning of a new life for Mr. Swisher—a revelation of the purpose and destiny in life—a life beyond every figment of his imagination.

Born in a log house near Tuscola, Illinois, 1928, Kenneth Russell Swisher was the only son of a farmer and carpenter. Being an only child, he learned to handle responsibility at a young age. Throughout his high school career, he worked in a dairy seven days a week. Commencing his duties immediately after his afternoon classes, he often worked late at night. Aside from these responsibilities, he led a typical boy's life.

Going to church was a rare occasion in his boyhood. He recalls about the only time that he did attend was during Christmas and Easter seasons. Then he felt he had a good reason for doing so.

From early boyhood, Mr. Swisher's ambitions pointed to the field of electronics. Electricity and machines held a special fascination for him.

After graduating from high school, a job opportunity came in radio electronics work, and he readily accepted. Shortly afterwards, in January of 1949, he enlisted in the Army.

While in the service he attended two trade schools—a radio school for technicians and a sheet metal school.

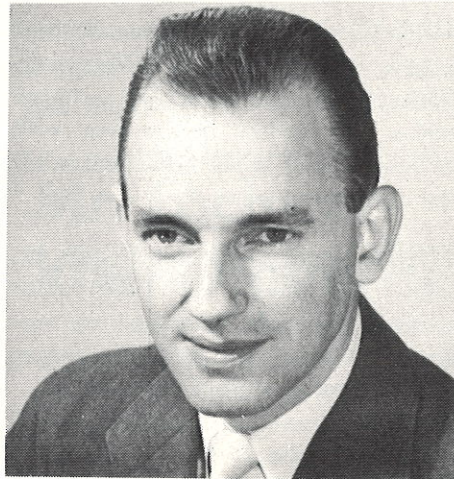
After his discharge from the armed services in December of 1951, Mr. Swisher continued his electronics study by working in a TV shop. At this time, TV was comparatively new.

He heard the World Tomorrow first in 1948 and as a result started receiving the *Plain Truth*.

After the service interruption, Mr. Swisher wanted to continue his education. Still wanting to fulfill his interest in electronics, he applied for acceptance

to Milwaukee School of Engineering. In the meantime, he began analyzing the importance of education and the type that would be most valuable. His analysis resulted in an application to Ambassador College in Pasadena, California.

Time was running out . . . the fall school term was near commencement. Word had not yet been received from his Ambassador College application, but acceptance to the engineering school had already been granted. Due to last minute circumstances, he prepared to enter the Milwaukee School of Engineering.



About four or five days later, Mr. Swisher received a long distance telephone call. The voice on the other end said, "This is Herbert W. Armstrong calling."

As a result of this crucial call, Mr. Swisher entered Ambassador College—a few days after the beginning of the fall term in 1952.

In college, Mr. Swisher experienced various responsibilities. His first job was gardening. The second term found him in the radio studio due to Mr. Richard Armstrong's being scheduled to leave immediately for Europe. During his third year in college, he worked as an assistant to Dr. Hoeh, helping produce the *Plain Truth*. He also assisted in the Letter Answering Department. The next two years, Mr. Swisher taught Bible in grades three through

eight of Imperial School.

His accomplishments brought him many school responsibilities such as that of class president (two years), several offices in the Ambassador Club, head of the assembly committee, and several others.

It was during his third year that a much needed help meet was acquired—she being the former Miss Beverly Battles. Mr. Swisher says he has never regretted his decision, and continually grants Beverly the full share of credit for their success.

During the summer of '54 Mr. Swisher was sent on a baptising tour with Mr. Raymond McNair. In the summer of '55, his wife took a tour with him which ended in his pastoring the Tacoma and Portland churches for several weeks. The summer of 1956 was spent pastoring the Houston Church.

Also during the year of 1956, Mr. Swisher was ordained local elder, and the following year he was promoted to the rank of preaching elder.

Graduation for both Mr. and Mrs. Swisher came in June of 1957, and they were immediately sent to Gladewater, Texas. Presently he is pastoring the Gladewater Church and the church in Minden, Louisiana as well as fulfilling the duties of District Superintendent. Most of you readers know the history that has continued during the ensuing years.

In behalf of the Gladewater and Minden Churches, we salute you, Mr. Swisher, God's servant, for so faithfully ministering to us; for setting an unflinching example; for sharing your personal love and concern for us, a small portion of God's flock.

ATTENTION

No Sabbath Services in Big Sandy, January 11, 1964.
No Spokesman Clubs A & B, January 8 & 15.
No Bible Study, January 10.

MINDEN

No Sabbath Services in Minden, January 11.
No Spokesman Club Jan. 4, 11
No Bible Study, January 12.

Minden Club Dinner Meeting

A different atmosphere was welcomed by the Minden Spokesman Club on December 7, when they held a dinner meeting in the upstairs lunch room of the Thad Cafe in Minden.

The Table Topics Master, Mr. Duane Corley, sparked lively discussion on the subjects of how working hours could be improved, driving a Model T Ford, the F.B.I. report of the assassination of President Kennedy, and other thought-provoking ideas.

After the speeches and evaluations, Mr. Kenneth Swisher, Director of the Club, gave constructive criticism. He reminded the Club of the importance of having speeches well-organized for delivery within the allotted time.

The dinner meeting was an enjoyable event in the history of the Club.

Hayride

(Continued from page 2)

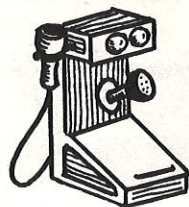
sation completed the evening in the rugged outdoors. By wagons the group returned to the bus and they were shortly on their way home.

PLAIN TRUTH

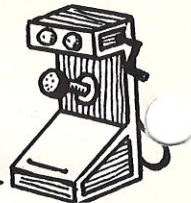
(Continued from page 1)

For every person who receives *The PLAIN TRUTH*, four others read it also. How many then are reading *The PLAIN TRUTH* right now — every month? The total is an amazing two million persons!

Figuring at the growth rate of *thirty per cent a year*, what will *The PLAIN TRUTH* list total in three, five, eight, or ten years from now? Here is an approximate glimpse. In three years there would be seven hundred ninety-one thousand; five years, one million three hundred fifty thousand; eight years three million; and in ten years there would be the *staggering* total of five million *directly on the mailing list*. With four persons reading each issue, ten years from now twenty million people will be reading *The PLAIN TRUTH!*



Party Line



Word from Miss Frances Richmond says she is working for Sears-Roebuck in Dallas and is too busy to write.

Our young at heart Miss Mary Boyd has been temporarily "under the weather," but we hope she will soon be seen at church again.

Doralene Blakeney is currently employed in Longview at Juanita's Health Food Store. Doralene finds it very interesting work with a variety of experiences involved.

If it isn't one thing, it's two—yellow jackets, that is, picking a fight with Emma Jans last Wednesday near her trailer. She ended up the loser with an injured back as she attempted to kill the critters.

While playing Foursquare with his third grade class, Mr. Paul Smith sprained his ankle. After wearing mismatched shoes for a week, he is now able to appear normal again.

Deer hunting is for the birds, so Mr. Carnes went to roost in the trees. Imagine the surprise when Mrs. Dawson and Miss Flatt rode by on horseback and *spotted* him! Or was it the reverse?

Mrs. Helen Greeson and Miss Jeanette Raetz were co-hostesses Saturday night a couple of weeks ago for a "pizza-charade" party for nine guests at Helen's home. Everyone enjoyed an evening of laughs at the antics of those participating in the lively games.

Mrs. Dorothy McKenzie has proven to be an excellent "substitute mother" and practical nurse for Mr. Frank Brackin, handicapped by an infected broken leg which resulted from a motorcycle accident several months ago. He welcomes visitors anytime at 710-B West Upshur Street, Gladewater.

We are happy to see Bill Miller around again. He's been on vacation in Missouri and Mississippi, where he visited friends and relatives, and we're not quite sure what else he's been up to, being an eligible bachelor as he is.

Mr. Barker is now working as a carpenter in Dallas and drives home on weekends.

Mr. & Mrs. E. C. Phillips are now living in their mobile home on the Tabernacle Grounds. Mr. Phillips is custodian of buildings and grounds.

Announcement from Pasadena just off the press: Miss Patsy Patterson, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Patterson of Tyler, is engaged to Mr. Paul Zapf from Festus, Missouri.

Temper gets you into trouble, and pride keeps you there!

There's no limit to the height a man can attain by remaining on the level.

We've been saving some good news: Mrs. Lelon Jackson is now appearing in charming "hatching jackets." After a number of years of marriage this will be an extra special event!

Mrs. John Printz, who suffered a brain hemorrhage November 29, is showing steady improvement at her home, 1205 N. Olive St., Gladewater. Since she will be confined to bed for some time, why not cheer her up with a card?

Mrs. Sherman Morgan, on her way to California, rode as far as Farmington, New Mexico with Mrs. Mary Flint. Mrs. Morgan plans to visit her daughter in Bakersfield as well as going to San Diego to visit two sisters whom she has not seen in some twenty-five years. A tour of Ambassador is also on her itinerary.