

"WHAT IS THE CHURCH?"

Glenn Willhelm

(A continuation of the study carried in the February Bulletin, beginning on page five.)

A Holy Church

Why is God's church "called out," and from what is it called?

This is answered in the writings of the apostles. In Ephesians, first chapter, we find an answer. Beginning with verse four, we read, "He (God) hath chosen us in him (Christ) before him in love." Then God wanted His church, His children, to be holy. Why? In Leviticus are several passages in which God told Israel of old, "Ye shall be holy: for I the Lord your God am holy" (Leviticus 19:2). "And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the Lord am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine" (Leviticus 20:26). God is a holy Being, and He wanted Israel to be holy like Him. He severed, or separated them from other people in order that they might be holy like Him. To be holy as God is holy, a person cannot be of the worldly throng.

No Change in Requirements

God has made no change in His requirements in the days of the apostles. Peter wrote, "As he which has called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, 'Be ye holy, for I am holy'" (1 Peter 1:15,16). From these pages it is evident God did not want His people to be like the people around them. Such people were not holy, and Peter indicated their conversation was not pleasing to God.

In Exodus 19:5,6, God said, "If ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me: for all the earth is mine: and ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation." There are other Old Testament passages along this line, and the same thought is in apostolic writings, for Paul stated requirements of Christians in Titus 2:11-14. In this we are to deny ungodliness, worldly lusts, and "live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world," while looking and waiting for the "glorious appearing" of Christ, "who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

When a person attains these characteristics he is regarded as a peculiar person by those around him. It is in this respect that God's people are to be peculiar. Christ prayed to the Father, "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil" (John 17:15). It is because the world is full of evil that God has called His church out of the world. God wanted to take out of the Gentile world "a people for his name" (Acts 15:14).

Fallen Man and the Way of Death

At creation man was made upright (Eccl. 7:29), made in God's image and likeness (Genesis 1:26,27), and crowned with glory and honor (Psalms 8:5). Man was predestinated to a status conforming to the image of Christ (Rom. 8:29). He was made a free moral agent, and therefore had the right to choose the course he would pursue in life. Influenced by the tempter man chose a way that may have seemed right to him, but the "end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12). And if angels who kept not their first estate are reserved unto judgment (Jude 6), man, made a little lower than the angels cannot escape judgment unless he accepts the plan God has provided for his salvation (See John 3:18; 5:24; 8:51).

The antedeluvian world was warned by righteous Enoch and Noah. But as men did not "like to retain God in their knowledge," God let them have their own way (Romans 1:21-28), and that way led them to destruction in the flood, the way of death. Following the flood, men again chose their own way of living. They again forgot God, who wanted them to live by faith. But doubting God's word and fearing there might be another deluge, they devised a plan to save themselves (so they thought), a man-made way of salvation, demonstrated in their building the tower of Babel "whose top may reach unto heaven...lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth" (Genesis 11:4). Ever since, man has sought ways of saving himself, (Continued on p.3)

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ways that are contrary to God's plan.

(Continued from page 2)

Israel as God's People

Within a few centuries men were again so wicked that God did not have many who revered His name. He called Abraham out of his native land to the land of Canaan, to make of him and his descendants a people for His name. Later He called Israel out of Egypt to make of them His peculiar people. But they failed through lack of faith in God's promises. Israel as a nation failed because they desired to be like the nations round about them (See 1 Sam. 8:19,20), and in this way rejected God and His plan for them (See 1 Sam. 8:7). And in rejecting God, they chose a way that led to death and captivity.

The Jews Failed

After the captivity the Jews became very zealous. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves to the righteousness of God (Rom. 10:2,3). Their choice and zeal led them into darkness so dense that they did not recognize the true light, Jesus Christ, when He came to show them the way of life (See John 4:5). The Jews were warned, but they ignored the warning and rejected their Messiah. In doing this they lost their right to the kingdom, which right would be given to a nation or people who would "bring forth fruits thereof" (Matt. 21:43; 8:10-12).

Privilege Extended to the Gentiles

The Jews were given a chance to repent. Peter, speaking to them said, "Unto you first God, having raised up his son Jesus, sent him to you to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities" (Acts 3:26). Paul and Barnabas, speaking to the Jews at Antioch in Pisidia, said, "It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judged yourselves to be unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles" (Acts 13:46). And later in Rome, Paul told the Jews that because they rejected the Gospel, "the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and they will hear it" (Acts 28:23-28). James, speaking of Peter's experience with Cornelius, said, "God at the first did visit the Gentiles to take out of them a people for his name" (Acts 15:14).

In the Ephesian letter, Paul described the natural Gentile as one dead in trespasses and sins, walking (or living) "according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience; in which their conversation was in 'the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath' (Eph. 2:1-3). He further stated that they were once "without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world" (Eph. 2:12). But by accepting the Gospel, they who were once far off from God were made "nigh" by the blood of Christ" (Eph. 2:13). And since they were quickened, "therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God" (Eph. 2:19)

The Church--God's Household

By this household of God is meant the church, which has as its foundation the "apostles and prophets," and as Christ is both prophet and apostle, He is the "chief corner stone." On this foundation those called out ones, "as lively stones, are build up a spiritual house" (1 Pet. 2:5), "fitly framed together groweth into an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit" (Eph. 2:20-22).

This is what Paul and Peter described as God's Church; members of which a "chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people," whose duty is to "show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Pet. 2:9).

The Jews fell into darkness so dense by their attempt to gain favor with God in their self-righteousness, that they did not recognize Christ as the true light. The Gentiles, by their fleshly, carnal nature were strangers to the true light. The church is composed of those who are called out from darkness to (Continued on page 6)

FIVE REASONS

(Why the Church of God, 7th Day, Needs Reform)

The Church Needs Reform to:

- I. Restore Its Spiritual Heritage
- II. Restore Its Honesty
- III. Restore Its Legality
- IV. Restore Human Rights and Christian Dignity
- V. Restore Its Message, Fellowship and Government

Five principal, general reasons why reform is needed in the Church of God, 7th Day, are listed above on this page. In order that every reader might clearly understand these reasons, we shall explain them in this article, in the order given.

First, however, we wish to assure every reader that these reasons are from basic causes, which shall also be set forth. The causes which establish these reasons, inevitably led to a serious, organized reform in the church.

Were these causes not genuine, there would have been no cohesion of brethren for reform, and no growth or endurance in the reform movement.

We also wish to assure the reader that there exists verified and documented evidence, besides witnesses and signed petitions, as proof of causes set forth herein.

I. Need to Restore Church Heritage

By heritage is meant that which is inherited by the Church, as her birthright and Bible legacy; as well as her heritage in a state of existence--historical legacy.

The American (United States) existence of the Churches of God, in the 1700's, emerges as local, congregational bodies--autonomous churches. They were bound together spiritually by their common identity, that is, their particular teachings which differed from other Protestant Christian bodies. Before this time, the background of the Church of God, 7th Day, is only traceable through the generally established history of the 'Sabbatarians' through the centuries. This is therefore, the common history, or heritage, of the Sabbath-keeping bodies. The message of the Churches of God, in early America, was unique in that it embraced all these practical and fundamental truths, in the one faith, besides its general belief in the common Gospel. Among these basic truths is belief in (a) the Commandments of God, including the seventh day Sabbath, (b) the conditional immortality of the soul and opposition to eternal torment, (c) the coming One Thousand-Year, Earthly Reign of Christ--second phase of the Kingdom--the "times of restitution," and (d) the two sacraments--Baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper as instituted by Jesus for the Church Age.

Now, in the past 30 years especially, the Church of God, 7th Day, has lost its historical, Biblical heritage as a congregational church--local church rights and entity. As a result, its ministers have been forced into being pawns of a hierarchy of a few leaders; this, in turn, has compromised and defeated the spirit and message of the Church.

In the above doctrinal areas (c and d especially) there has been grave loss of unity, which has spoiled and watered down the message to a weak whisper. For example, how could the Church prosper when its main message carried these old, established teachings, while some of its top leaders taught and even published and practiced other wise? In the Ministerial Council meetings of 1958, it was deemed necessary for some of this basic truth be defended against divergent opinions of Executive Board members. Some members of the General Conference Executive Board were (and are) guilty of holding to doctrines contrary to our essential teachings; expressing and defending alien and strange theories or doctrines not accepted by the main body or Ministerial Council. In this they were evidently engaged in dissimulation and causing brethren to be divided. In regard to these matters then, these conference officers were and are standing in violation of coded ministerial qualifications; and thus are disqualified in the offices they hold.

It was required of new ministers that they qualify, by leaders who did not qualify themselves!

We do not present this with intended disrespect for the (Continued on page 5)

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Five Reasons for Church Reform (Continued from page 4)

conscientious beliefs of these officers. We would defend their right, in America, to believe whatever doctrines they wish. However, we criticize (and rightly so) their holding ministerial credentials and offices in a church which requires them to uphold and defend its main message, while they violate the ministerial pledge which requires practice and teaching of church doctrines--obedience to codes and requirements.

We do not advocate narrow and forced "eye to eye" restrictions. We believe in the liberty of the minister to preach the Gospel. Now, in a group which has long represented certain, essential, basic truths, established over the centuries, there must be this common message of strength which the power of truth gives.

There has been very little done in Ministerial Council meetings to resolve these matters. This has been most unfortunate.

We believe that local church rights (which actually strengthened the message of truth in the Early Church and early America) were enjoined by Christ, and that he gave each local church its entity. We believe these principles were later established by Paul, as he set the churches in order.

Such an order will not destroy us, but will give new birth to the Church! Such an order, practiced by other Christian bodies (in essence), has proved it to be a sound, successful order. Such an order of local rights contains superlatively just discipline, the most effective production, and reaps the most cooperative kind of blessed fellowship. In this order, each church simply respects the rights of the others. Best of all, such an order has the spiritual tendency to retain or envision the purity of the Gospel.

Truth suffers violence and is made less attractive and effective in a setting of extreme, unnatural force and narrow views.

In a Christian democracy, ministers promote the Gospel, or the commonly accepted message of the church. This however, does not need to prevent avenues for pursuit and exploration of truth in an orderly manner, or to prevent views for adoption by the churches, in a way that will not create confusion or disorder. Certainly, our past and present hierarchical system has not tended to preserve the established truth, or to allow for exploration of truth together.

Thus, in the restoration of our heritage of church rights, we shall observe the return to our spiritual and doctrinal heritage, through orderliness. From the restoration of our lost heritage will come a united, strong message, to enable us to carry out the Great Commission.

II. Need to Restore Church Honesty

The honesty of any church claiming to be a Christian body, should be reflected in its principles, its acts, and its operation and conduct of affairs.

A Christian church will be truthful in its statements, reports, and writings; honest and open in its dealings and operations; honest in following its own laws, proper procedures and legislation; honest in its management of funds supplied by its members, and never claim that the people should ask no questions, or that the responsibility rests only on the men spending same; and will be blessed when it publishes true financial reports, and makes its budgets and expenditures a public record--where the members help to determine the use of funds.

Now, for some examples of wrongs which are causes for reform in the area of honesty:

In the May issue of this RPA Bulletin, it was demonstrated by reported statistics, that the General Conference Office (whether through purpose, ignorance, or incompetence) has not been truthful in reporting its membership. It has reported a recent membership (1957) to the Yearbook of American Churches, as high as 4200. Yet, the 1959 reports in the Harvest Field Messenger reveal the truth--that our true membership (in the Merger) is approximately 2000 (probably less).

In the "Handbook of Denominations" (1956 Edition), by Frank S. Mead, a book recommended as having up-to-date, official statements by church organizations, we also find it reported that our membership in foreign lands (including Old Mexico) is 45,000. This book is also in our file. However, reports of General source vary from 10,000 to 16,000 in Old Mexico. A representative of our personnel, having had personal, on-the-scene experience in all these fields, gives a liberal report on all other of the foreign fields as about 2,000 baptized members. (Continued on page 7)

The Time of Reaping (Continued from page 1)

cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth" (See Matthew 13:30,41,42).

So will it be at Christ's return (at the end of the age), that the children (least) of the kingdom (those least--too small to be admitted into the eternal kingdom of God) will be cast out. "But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 8:12).

Others of Christ's Parables Cry out on This Subject

Remember also that Jesus said the kingdom of heaven was like five wise and five foolish virgins who continued together until the Bridegroom returned for the harvest (separation); that at the Master's return the unprofitable servant is separated from the profitable ones; and that the kingdom of heaven is like a net cast into the sea and gathered of every kind, and when drawn to shore the good was placed in vessels and the bad cast away, "And so shall it be at the end of the world" (See Matt. 25:1-30; 13:47,48).

Therefore men and women should not take upon themselves a work so decisive and so final as that of judgment which only Christ and His angels are to do when He returns at the completion of the age.

The Day of Judgment

Doubtless, there are many in this church phase of the kingdom who judge themselves to be "great," who at Christ's return and in their defense will say, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name?...and in thy name done many wonderful works?" But here is the answer they will get: "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (See Matt. 7:21-23). So great in their own eyes! So little in Christ's judgment! Too little ("least") to enter the eternal phase of God's kingdom.

Today, it is apparent that in the "Church of God, 7th Day," attempts at excommunication by the "great???" are more and more being promoted--actions formerly frowned upon and rejected because of Christ's teachings and that of His apostles, relative to the "kingdom." Real Christians continue to reject such an innovation in the Church of God, 7th Day. --CEA *should

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light, be they Jews or Gentiles--regardless of nationality--for God is no "respector of persons." Every one who fears or reverences God, and "worketh righteousness, is acceptable with him" (Acts 10:34,35).

Church Members as Lights

Such called out ones show by their daily living and conversation they are no longer of the carnal world, but have been delivered "from the power of darkness" (the world), and translated (brought across) "into the kingdom" of Christ (Col. 1:13). This kingdom is the spiritual kingdom, or the church phase of the kingdom. (This brings up another topic that requires further study).

There are other passages that show members of God's church are a special people, dedicated to the task of enlightening those in darkness, showing them the way to eternal life through Christ. This makes the Church the light of the world, every member being a light (See Matt. 5:14). And as such, the Church is to be "blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world" (Phil. 2:18).

Then as church members are to be lights to those in the darkness of sin, they need to heed the words of Jesus: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16). This is also as Peter wrote: "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation" (1 Pet. 2:11,12).

This would be setting a good example in both words and deeds. Also the Church needs to speak to others, as Peter stated, "Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15). By giving a reason for faith and doctrine to an (Continued on page 7)

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honest inquirer, he may be won, especially if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will" (2 Tim. 2:25,26).

To live the blameless life, to be an example of faith and trust in God, to be ready to answer questions of those who do not understand the truth as presented in the word of God, is a challenge to the child of God. But as a child of God, a member of God's church, or household, the Christian has accepted Christ as his Lord and Master, and he is to listen to no one else in regard to spiritual matters. "No man can serve two masters.... Ye cannot serve God and mammon." As Christ is the Christian's master, the voice of Christ speaking through the Scriptures, or by the Holy Spirit, is the only voice that appeals to him. The Holy Spirit will bring to remembrance the things Christ has said (See John 14:26).

A group of believers may assemble together for worship, for fellowship, or to consider ways and means of presenting the truth to others. But a member of one local church cannot be a member of another church at the same time. There may be fellowship with members of other churches. And wherein two or more churches have similar problems they may plan to solve such problems in a united effort. This could include assisting a worker or workers in a certain field of endeavor, at home or abroad, each local church knowing its respective duty in such a plan. Such local groups can thus cooperate with other groups with a common understanding, and not be under the direction of a supervisor or an executive body, other than the direction of the local church officials.

Every local church, and each of its members are accountable to God alone for duties undertaken, and not to someone else. When the work is finished may every one be worthy of the Master's praise in His words, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Five Reasons Why the Church of God, 7th Day, Needs Reform (Continued from page 5)

Thus, there is an enormous error of some 27 to 33 thousand in such a report as found in this statistical book. From this "Handbook of Denominations," we quote: "Their foreign work is so heavy that it is supported with real difficulty by the church at home. It is true, that the foreign work was supported by the U.S. with 'real difficulty,' but not because of the thriving, flourishing magnitude of the work. Now notice that this support of 'real difficulty' to all foreign fields, did not run more than approximately what the financial claim of one General Conference official or minister was.

Let us remind you that truth is important and though it may be crushed, it will not die, but will rise again as witness against its enemies.

These false reports are noticed by others not of the Church of God, 7th Day, and it is not good for the record. To illustrate how such things destroy our reputation as a church, we quote from among letters received from a Secretary and Editor of another denomination. After having commented on misrepresentation in membership statistics, the following statement was made: "There are other things in the Bulletin that interest me. One of them is your effort to promote greater honesty in reporting statistics of the Church of God. I judge that along with this you will also promote greater honesty in future publications tracing the history of the Church of God. I think you are aware that misleading information has been printed in the past in books and pamphlets by reputable authors because they depended on historical statements written by some of the leaders of the Church of God." Among other things, this writer points out the very grave thing, that whenever church officials report erroneous statistics or untrue statements concerning church history, authors of church, statistical books are caused to err. They quote church authorities because they presume they represent Christian bodies qualified and responsible in reports and writings.

Such errors then cause other churches to have to try to correct matters, and in turn our church loses its reputation which could result in losing recognition as a church. We therefore request that General Conference officials correct these errors before others are forced to do so. In our writings we must be honest, giving proper credit to any authors or books quoted.

In our history we must give an accurate picture of our own church. We have also, as a church, used other denominational history to our advantage, whereas, we have never seriously worked on historical research. 'It is' certain (Continued on page 11)

ATTEMPTS AT EXCOMMUNICATION! ROBERT'S RULES INVOKED

Parliamentary Law Versus the Bible, Church Constitution, and By-laws

We come at this time of urgency in consideration of General Conference membership (general membership in the Church of God, 7th Day), as a voice crying out in the wilderness. We stand in defense of membership rights, now being threatened, preparatory to General Conference business sessions to convene August, 1961, in Denver.

In the political world, politicians vie for position and scheme against each other. But in this, there is regard for truth, facts, and the rights of men. By the successful process of political science emerges the secular leadership of our nation.

In the Christian world however, we should expect something different in the behavior of men and women, for the cause of Christ is sacred--not secular--not material. But in many areas gates have been left unguarded, allowing political, material and secular interests, methods and techniques an entrance. Such is smuggled into so sacred a cause under the guise of Christian leadership. This afflicts the General Conference of the Church of God, 7th Day.

General Membership--Church of God, 7th Day

Membership in the organization (Church of God, 7th Day) is defined in its own constitution (Art. 1, Aec. 4) and was set forth in the May RPA Bulletin. Qualifications so defined for its members are clearly presented and no other part of the Constitution and By-laws voids them. This section of Article 1, was of much concern to us in preparation of the "Merger," and in getting the constitution approved. Are we to forget this so quickly? Many of us answer, "No!" But I repeat that there is a proposal sponsored by General Conference officials to change it to fit into their own scheme of dictatorial church government. This is to be considered in the August conference. Your vote will count.

True Character Revealed in Official Activity

At the time, and soon after the "Merger" we were encouraged and had visions of a world-wide movement, not realizing that soon men in officialdom would intentionally or unintentionally begin to racketeer in the area of sacred trust, returning to the same old habits and practice of previous years.

Being elected at the beginning of the "Merger," as a general official of the conference, I was inside and could detect (to my displeasure) this selfish development for the benefit of the few, and an absence of vision for the sacred cause. In resisting this trend within the ranks, I came to be in disrepute and sometime later was relieved of the duties of an Executive Board member. But long before this relief came, and as irregularities came to be more and more evident, I warned the board that if we did not discipline and limit ourselves as a board, the people would do so. This I have repeated in Ministerial Council when it was so upset by the 20 Whys. Again I came into disfavor along with others, to which group many have been added. We continue our quest for incorrupt practice, the Bible plan of church government, and Bible principles of conduct. And now, most recent events are quite revealing concerning their work.

Membership Tampering

Since there is nothing in the church constitution and by-laws that General Conference officials can justly use in taking membership from us who oppose them in their irregular practice, apparently they have reached far without church regulation in an effort to find some kind of basis for taking the membership of some of us, as the General Conference business sessions are drawing near. But they are clever in this sense, that they are using others (local church boards where they have maneuvered into control) to do their work for them.

What are they using in efforts to take membership?

Robert's Rules of Order Invoked

Two known local church boards, dominated by the Executive Board, recently sent letters to some of us in a most absurd effort, indicating their action would affect general membership. (Continued on page 9)

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Attempts at Excommunication! Robert's Rules Invoked (Cont'd from p.8)

Of these letters we would like to quote from one, for example:

Mrs. Charles E. Adams
 1851 So. Dale Court
 Denver, Colorado

June 2, 1961

Dear Mrs. Adams:

...it becomes necessary that action be taken in regard to your membership.

In the large edition of Robert's Rules of Order on page 329, concerning Duties of Members, we quote the following:

"It is the duty of every member to obey the rules of the society, whether he approves of them or not; to try to further the objects of the society; to attend its meetings with reasonable regularity; to pay respect to its officers in their official capacity as its representatives; to abstain from acts or remarks outside the meetings that will in any way interfere with the work being done by the officers or committees of the society and by its authority; to pay attention to the speaker during debate and to the business of the assembly at all times....; to attend faithfully to any duty assigned to him, and, when it is impracticable, to ask to be excused."

"...After the question has been decided it is the duty of the defeated party to acquiesce in the decision and to refrain from further criticism. They have no right to talk outside in a way to interfere with the carrying out of the policy adopted, and such a course makes them liable to having charges preferred against them for improper conduct."

Charges against Eileen Adams: Inasmuch as it is the duty of every member to "obey the rules of a society, whether he approves of them or not to attend its meetings with reasonable regularity" and since you have violated these basic principles by: 1. Lack of fellowship with this local church during the past two years, and 2. By your lack of cooperation and support of this local church and state conference, and 3. By your action in supporting the West Denver Church, which was organized and is being operated independent of the Colorado State Conference, we do hereby challenge your position as a member of this organization.

It is felt that a continuation of this present situation is not good for the best interest of the church as a body. It is therefore necessary for us to drop your name from the membership list of the Church of God (7th Day) with headquarters at 1510 Cook St., Denver, Colorado.

A hearing on your case will be held in the church office at 44th & Clayton St., Denver, Colorado, on June 22, 1961, beginning at 7:30 P.M.

You are invited to appear at this formal hearing and state your reasons as to why your name should not be dropped from the membership list.

Your failure to appear at this hearing will not prevent your case from being tried. Sincerely, Church Board of The Church of God (7th Day), 44th & Clayton. Signed: Delvin L. O'Banion, Chairman.

Please notice the following about the letter: 1. The salutation, 2. Quotation from Robert's Parliamentary Law, 3. The charges, 4. Announcement of a hearing (trial) after membership had already been dropped, 5. Signature, as representative of the accusers.

1. The salutation indicates a withdrawal of fellowship as brothers and sisters. (Continued on page 10)

Attempts at Excommunication! Robert's Rules Invoked (Cont'd from p.9)

2. The quotation from Robert's Parliamentary Law! We ask sincerely, "Where in the Bible or church constitution and by-laws was Robert's Rules of Order ever set forth as qualifications and restrictions of church membership?" Nowhere! is the answer. This quotation has been badly misused and misapplied (ignorantly or otherwise).

The purpose of Robert's Rules of order is to help in the orderly conduct of deliberative assemblies or business sessions, and not for imposing restrictions on church membership. Those who are well informed know this, and if honest, will admit it. They also know that in Robert's Rules and Parliamentary Law it is specifically pointed out that any obligations and privileges "peculiar" to a particular society (such as our church) should be found in its by-laws.

The instigators of these letters are glaringly guilty of violence to General Robert's ... Parliamentary Law, through misapplication of the passage quoted. Should they have continued the quotation, misapplication would have been unmistakably evident. The very next words explain that the society to which their quotation applies is one such as a lecturing or debating society, wherein there are members opposing the sale of tickets for attending the lectures etc.--whatever the program might provide. Varied types of secular and cultural clubs, orders and societies are such, to which their quotation from Robert's Parliamentary Law might be properly applied.

It should be noted that jurisdiction of a local church board does not extend to other local churches, nor to authoritative restriction in general.

3. The charges were based on a misapplied quotation from Robert's Parliamentary Law (which in the first place was never set forth as qualifications for church membership) and support of the West Denver Church of God, 7th Day, where we attend and worship.

4. A hearing (trial) was announced after the decision to drop name from membership list (See paragraph 7). Since the four of us here in Denver who were sent these certified letters have no argument with the North Church Board, 44th Ave. and Clayton St., about membership in their local church (we don't claim any there), and inasmuch as they have no jurisdiction over membership elsewhere, we feel there is no good reason to attend said "hearing" (trial). Even if it were legitimate, it would be useless to engage in a hearing where the decision had already had been made by the accusers who were to sit as judges and jury. Such, for example, would be like that of a judge and some of his friends who become offended at certain individuals and got charges preferred against them. The accused are subsequently brought into court for trial before this same judge, and his friends as jury. In this setting justice wouldn't have a chance.

We however, continue to demand fair hearings in getting at the root of difficulties in which General Conference officials as well, will be compelled to stand before the judgment of a jointly approved or neutral jury--a hearing in which time and opportunity will be given for all evidence to be presented.

We must conclude that the reason for such an attempt to use Robert's Rules of Order in such a way, is because there is no basis for their desired excommunication of opposition in either the Bible or our church constitution and by-laws.

5. Notice who signed (Delvin L. O'Banion) representing the church board at 44th Ave. & Clayton St. (location of the North Denver Church).

In view of basic considerations above, please read and study Matt. 13:24-30, 38-44, 47-50; 25:1-30; Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 12:18; Rev. 14:14-16 and related texts.

--CEA

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Five Reasons Why the Church of God, 7th Day, Needs Reform

(Continued from page 7)

that we have a historical background, and a beautiful heritage, but there needs to be competent research of our own, as well as cooperation with others to whom we are indebted for so much historical research on the history of "Sabbatarians" (Sabbath-keepers).

We should compare any of our research and records with theirs (other Sabbatarian denominations) in order to establish truthfully an accurate and dependable Church of God history.

In regard to the restoration of honesty (in the official area) in the Church of God, 7th Day, we are concerned with all of the foregoing. But honesty also is involved in legislation (law-making) and other matters in the following areas also.

(To be continued in the July RPA Bulletin. The next issue is to reveal the illegal operation of the Conference in the past 10 years--a grave matter that cannot be endured.) --Lois Merriam

FROM INDIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Our church in India has a membership of 300, with eight gospel workers--two full-time workers, three junior workers, and three part-time workers.

We are able to pay, by your love and sympathy, \$10 per month to each of the full-time workers; to the junior workers \$8 each per month; to the part-time workers, \$4 each per month. This can be estimated at \$56 per month.

Regularly our treasurer is receiving \$40 per month from (treasury of the Southwest Denver Church of God, 7th Day), and \$25 from the RPA. With this additional help we bought a light and a drum and some musical instruments to be used in the Gospel Crusades....

Under the scorching heat of the sun (114 degrees) in the month of May, we traveled 135 miles by foot, preaching the truth in 22 villages. We are facing the idol worshipers and the Pagan Christians. The Pagan-minded Christians are trying their best to hinder our work--more than the Pagans. When we enter a village they say, "Sabbatarians! hypocrites!" But I am very glad to inform you that the mighty Lord is with us...12 souls were baptized....

In the Harvest Festivals (gathering of offerings) the faithful brothers and sisters gave \$300 for the Lord's work. \$300 collections is a great thing in India in the 30-year history of the Church of God. We spent this amount for the three general camp meetings....

Brother and Sister W.A. Stucker are helping \$32 per month with the literature. We are publishing a 16-page, monthly magazine in our mother tongue...many educated people are coming to the light through this magazine.... I am editing the paper in behalf of the Church of God in India. I am spending \$18 for paper and \$14 for postage, traveling expenses and maintenance.

Recently Sister Lula Moore Haffner and the Harrisburg Ladies' Club helped our workers \$40, to have clothing. May the dear Lord bless them all who are helping...to save dying souls in this benighted country....

--Jalli Prakasam

From the Philippines

Next Sunday, June 18, I will be going to Kiokong, Bukidnon for special committee meetings, for another movement in the Lord's work. I want to present to the church committee a new plan of increasing the force in the field, by calling four able young men into the colporteur work...doing missionary work with a little compensation every month for their family expenses while they are out in the field. This is a new plan for the Lord's work. My purpose is to train young men in the church to do missionary work. Another purpose of the meeting is to encourage our people to (Cont'd on p. 12)



Reform and Planning Association
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NOTE OF THANKS: The family of Elder Burt F. Marrs wishes to express heartfelt thanks to the many friends who sent beautiful cards and letters of sympathy and encouragement. It seems impossible to give a personal response to each one, but we want all of you to know that we especially appreciate your thoughtfulness at this time.

Flossie A. Marrs

From the Philippines (Continued from page 11)

*one school teacher for their children.... I want to let them understand the importance and the necessity of having a church school. If this plan will be approved, I want to open the school in August.... *support --H. C. Rosell

A T T E N D C A M P M E E T I N G S

There are several camp meetings of Church of God groups to convene this summer. Since we feel that in all these meetings, there will be honest efforts to promote the Cause of Christ, we urge you to attend at least one, if you can.

The camp meeting and conference of the General Conference of the Church of God, 7th Day, is to be held in Denver in August. In the conference meetings, you should have opportunity to speak out on issues affecting publication of the Church of God message to the world. You should have the privilege of standing up to be counted in matters you feel and know are right and just--that would mean advancement for the Cause of Christ. Your membership has not yet been by the constitution which defines it, since it has not been changed, and your example has not been in violation of it.

The camp meeting of the Bible Church of God, 7th Day, will be in progress in Meridian, Idaho, by the time you receive this Bulletin. We are not aware of the dates of the other meetings. We would like to be helpful in bringing about a greater degree of spiritual unity and cooperation among all Church of God groups.

The times in which we live are perilous, fulfilling the Prophecies of the Bible given so long ago. The signs of Christ's soon return are appearing before us. These times and the great need demand the fulfillment in our lives of Hebrews 10:25, "Not forsaking...the assembling...together; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." *altered