

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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DWIGHT ARMSTRONG SUCCUMBS TO CANCER AT AGE 80

(The following will appear in the November 26 WORLDWIDE NEWS.)

SEQUIM, Wash.--Dwight Leslie Armstrong, 80, composer of the music in all but 12 hymns in the Worldwide Church of God hymnal used in all congregations worldwide, died of cancer Sabbath morning, November 17.

He was the youngest brother of Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong. He is survived by his wife, Karen, daughter Deborah, and his twin sister Mary Lucile Edmonson of Portland, Oregon. Dwight was born in Des Moines, Iowa, September 12, 1904.

In his early adult life he was employed in Portland. In the late 1920s or 1930, he moved to a farm near Molalla, Oregon, with his father and mother, Horace Elon and Eve Wright Armstrong. He was a violinist and also played the piano.

After the death of his father in early 1933, he continued on the farm until about 1947. After the founding of Ambassador College that year, he moved with his mother to San Gabriel, California.

At the time of the founding of Ambassador College in 1947, the pastor general recognized his brother Dwight's talent for composing music. Mr. Armstrong felt, since his conversion and entrance into the ministry, that the people of God should sing the words God inspired to be sung, such as the psalms, instead of Protestant hymns which sang primarily the praises of people rather than praises to God.

The pastor general proposed that Dwight devote himself and his God-given talent to composing the music for such a hymnal for God's Church. From that time Dwight devoted himself primarily to composing the music sung in God's Churches around the world.

Dwight Armstrong continued composing the music for more hymns up to his final fatal illness. Even during the present year, 1984, he continued his work. Several hymns more recently composed still remain to be published in a later edition of the Church's hymnal.

During 1984 the pastor general sent a letter to the Church membership telling of his brother being stricken with cancer. Several thousand letters were sent by members to Dwight telling him of their appreciation and love for his music sung in all Sabbath services.

These thousands of letters greatly moved Dwight Armstrong and probably extended his life by many days and weeks.

Dwight Armstrong's beautiful music will remain behind him to give many thousands of members inspiration and joy for years to come--and perhaps on into the wonderful World Tomorrow during the coming Millennium in the Kingdom of God. His work will live on after him.

LETTER OF APPRECIATION FROM MR. AND MRS. DWIGHT ARMSTRONG

(Following is a letter Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Armstrong prepared for publication in the WORLDWIDE NEWS. It was phoned in to Pasadena by Mrs. Armstrong on November 17, shortly before Mr. Armstrong died.)

Dear members of the Worldwide Church of God,
Ambassador College students and their families:

My wife and I have been deeply moved by your many gracious and heartfelt letters of sincere appreciation for the hymns I have been privileged to compose for the Worldwide Church of God, and for your many cards, gifts and generosity in response to my brother's letter to the brethren. Words fail to properly express our hearts, thanks and gratitude. God has been most gracious and we know He will never fail us.

Though our hearts' desire is to answer each one of you personally, with such a large response this is not possible, and so with this letter we wish to express our deepest thanks to each of you for your real concern for my state of health also.

Above all we are knowing that nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:35-39).

With love in Christ,
Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Armstrong

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICESChurch Visit Program Resumes

I'm happy to report that we are now resuming the Church Visit Program, which was temporarily postponed in mid-September due to the cash flow problem. This program, approved by Mr. Armstrong, began in late June of this year for the purpose of providing each local U.S. congregation and pastor a visit from Headquarters personnel. Two men from Pasadena, with their wives, will be sent out separately on most available weekends to visit two congregations or circuits. When combined with our regular Holy Day visit schedule, these visits will allow each U.S. congregation a visit approximately once every 15 months.

These personal visits have proven to be very valuable to the local congregations and to the local ministry. They provide pastors an opportunity for personal, one-on-one contact with the guest speaker. The visiting minister can spend time with the local minister and gain a valid appreciation of the circumstances of the local congregation, its people, its hall, the pastor's circuit, his workload, etc. Whenever it is practical, the visitors will stay with the pastors in their homes.

Over the last few years, many pastors have expressed their appreciation for this personal contact resulting from Holy Day visits. So we are all very