

The Church of God Publishing House, Salem, West Virginia – views on Herbert W Armstrong

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Over the years we have had inquiries, from time to time, asking if Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong was ever a member of "The Church of God (7th Day) at Salem, West Virginia. We have answered these letters to the best of our ability without going into detail and looking through back files and records.

Why the concern as to whether Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong was, ever a member of our Church has been rather a mystery to us. We have never advertised the fact that he was. The only place that it appears, in print, is in our book, entitled, "A History of the True Church" which was published in 1936. Here it states that his [Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong] name was drawn for a member on the Board of seventy.

In recent months we are having so many users inquiries that it is becoming a burden to answer each one separately. For this reason it was decided to publish the following records, from the beginning, and the letters of correspondence and reports published in our papers. Following through to minutes of the study presented by Mr. Armstrong to the General Assembly of the Twelve, Seven and Seventy in the year 1937.

We trust that this will answer the question often asked, "Did Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong ever belong to, "The Church of God; at Salem, West Virginia."

Respectfully Submitted,

Elder Chris W. Royer
Secretary of the Apostolic Council.

Following are a few reports of the work of Elder Armstrong three and four years after the organization in 1933 and published in our official publication, "The Bible Advocate and Gospel Herald."

Entered as second-class matter November 10, 1933 at the post office at Salem, West Virginia. It continued under this name until we changed the name to, "The Advocate of Truth" February 20, 1950.

Bible Advocate Vol.3, No.11 March 23 1936

Evangelist Herbert Armstrong writes from Eugene, Oregon, as follows: "Two weeks ago I finished a six weeks campaign at Eldridge School House 12 miles North of Salem. We had an attendance equal to the best we have ever had. All together there are twenty-three that we are hopeful of taking a stand with us, so far. Six have come

out, five commenced keeping the Sabbath three weeks ago. One was a Catholic. I am preaching there each Sunday night, keeping the work alive. Next week we will organize a Sabbath School. Brother and Sister Runcorn of Salem will meet with this new company, and Chas. Henion from Jefferson, a young man, has been with me in this neighborhood, and I am placing him to supervise the Sabbath School. I have urgent calls for meetings in three other places." -- Elder Armstrong is also speaking regularly over the air from the Eugene station.

Bible Advocate Vol.3, No.18 - June 29, 1936

Evangelist Herbert Armstrong is in the midst of a very promising tent meeting in Oregon. At last reports he said it was the most encouraging tent meeting he had ever held and the people were really hungry to hear the Word of life. The attendance was extra good and many were already deeply interested.

Bible Advocate Vol.3, No.20 - July 27, 1936

Evangelist Herbert Armstrong writes from Oregon about replacing the big tent with the smaller one, as the large one was shipped to Idaho for the summer campaign there, but says, "All things work together for good. Six have already been added to the Eugene Church, all new converts, and one other moved to Chicago. There are 20 or 30 regular attendants who rarely ever miss a night, besides the others who come and go, and shift and change..."

Bible Advocate Vol.3, No.24 - Sept, 1936

Evangelist Herbert Armstrong is laboring in Oregon, carrying on his broadcasting work every Sunday, and conducting evangelical meetings besides. They are purchasing a portable tabernacle to be used out on the Pacific most in evangelical meetings, which can be moved and used both summer and winter in the work.

Bible Advocate Vol.4, No.11 - March 22, 1937

Evangelist Herbert Armstrong is still laboring in Oregon full time and a few new ones are being added to the church there. He is planning to begin an effort in a new field south of Eugene where an interest has been created through his broadcast. He wished a correction to be made relative to his broadcasting work, that with his recent hookup with three stations there he reaches practically all of the Willamette Valley, and the south west part of Washington, but the messages do not reach the north western part of Washington as was inferred by the recent statement that he reached most of the Pacific north west.

Bible Advocate Vol.4, No.19 - July 12, 1937

Evangelist Herbert Armstrong is conducting a tent meeting at Eugene, Oregon, which is expected to continue up until the Pacific coast camp meeting convene, there, beginning August 20th.

Portions of the Minutes Pertinent to the Subject 1937:

Taken from minutes of meeting of Twelve, Seven, and Seventy held at Detroit, Michigan May 5-10 1937

May 7, 1937 at 1:00 P.M.

Reading of Elder Armstrong's letter to the Twelve. Reading in periods of 20 minutes each of Elder Armstrong's Article on Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Passover, Pentecost, Feast of Tabernacles, etc., followed each time by discussion pro and con by the Elders.

May 10, 1937 at 10:00 A.M.

Proceeding with the investigation of Brother Armstrong's article of previous sessions which was left unfinished. Reading of the article was completed followed by discussion.

A decision was made as given in the following resolution:

In-as-much as some have troubled the Churches, teaching them they should observe the feast of unleavened bread and yearly sabbaths connected with the atonement of the Law of Moses, Be it moved, that we reaffirm the teachings of the Church of God on this point, and also the decision of the Apostles and leaders on this question as recorded in Acts 15th chapter, that we observe no such custom. By Elders W. W. McMicken and William Alexander, Passed.

It was in 1938 that he [Herbert W. Armstrong] was asked to turn in his credentials for continuing to preach contrary to the church and resolution as passed in 1937 as to Feast Days and etc.