**THE HUTTERITES AND THE RADIO CHURCH OF GOD**

**Old but Interesting History**

**by Keith Hunt (December 2007)**

Come back with me to about the middle 1960s on the Prairies

of Canada, actually to Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Most of you reading from this Website, this will be new to

you, and as the years go by, the few who do go back to the middle

1960s with the organization that was renamed as The Worldwide

Church of God, will be few indeed, time and death, has a way of

obliterating some things. So I thought I would write this for the

record of Church of God history, and the next generations to come

(if this age keeps going for a number of decades yet).

Back in the 1960s it was still very much a "radio" world.

People just listened a mighty lot to the radio. Herbert W.

Armstrong and his son Garner Ted Armstrong were very powerful

speakers for the "World Tomorrow" radio broadcast. By the middle

1960s that broadcast was the largest "religious" broadcast in the

entire world; being on more radio stations than any other

religious broadcast.

Around Winnipeg, Manitober, Canada, there was a Hutterite

communal settlement. Now the Hutterites are an Anabaptist sect

living in rural communal settlements. They hold all property in

common. All monies from their farming and selling of produce etc.

goes into one local communal bank. The sect goes back to Europe

and the man called Jacob Hutter, a Morovanian Anabaptist about

1536 A.D.

They tend to have little modern things, shunning a lot, like

TV and cars. Not sure today what they accept or not, but back

then they shunned most modern gadgets. They still dress in black

clothes. But some it would seem did have radios in the 1960s. For

this Hutterite settlement near Winnipeg, well some of them, were

listening to Herbert and Garner Ted Armstrong on the radio each

night. Soon many of them started to question their "religious"

teachings under the Hutterite theology. Soon they were agreeing

that the 7th day (Saturday) was the Christian Sabbath, and should

be observed. They soon agreed that the popular Christian holidays

came from paganism, and were not the Festivals that should be

observed. They came to see that God's Festivals are in Leviticus

23. They came to see the fact that the Bible does not teach that

humans have an immortal soul that either goes off to heaven or

hell at death, depending on how you've lived.

They came to see a lot of popular Christian theology is off

the tracks and indeed false teachings.

When I say "they" I mean about HALF the Hutterite community

in that particular settlement, began to see things differently

than they had before.

So much so, that finally this half of the settlement wanted

OUT of the settlement. They claimed that as they had worked as a

family of settlers for a generation or two, they should be able

to leave the settlement with half the bank account! Of course the

other half of that settlement did not want to give over one

single dime!

Glen White, from the USA, was at that time Pastor of the

Radio Church of God that was I believe by this time named the

Worldwide Church of God. Do not make the mistake of thinking

these withdrawn from society, modest, dressed in black, people

are always "nicety-nice" people. When the rubber hits the road,

when push comes to pull, they can be anything but nice, and are

in fact another CULT, but dressed in black, and away from the

daily converse with the world at large.

It finally got to the point that lawyers were brought in.

And then by the time it came to Court, some of the "elite"

religious leaders of Winnipeg had seen how they could make this

into a "religious battle." They actually wanted to get in the

fray of things so they could openly denounce and prove that this

Worldwide Church of God of way off base with its "theology"

especially concerning the weekly Sabbath and which Festivals to

observe.

So the "court day" came. Herbert Armstrong sent up Herman

Hoeh to represent the Worldwide Church of God. The opposing

Hutterites, who did not want to part with a dime, had some of

these "elite" clergy-men of Winnipeg on their side, in the Court

House. Some of these "elite" church men were introduced with

having PhDs.

One of them gets up and addresses everyone in the Court, and

reads 1 Corinthians 5, verse 7, "....Christ is our Passover

sacrificed for us" to prove we no longer need observe the

Festivals of Leviticus 23. He sits down.

Herman Hoeh is then introduced, as also having his PhD.

Apparently faces (especially from the elite clergymen) fell

through their pants to their shoes.

Hoeh then says to all present that Jesus truly is our

Passover sacrificed for us, BUT he continued, do not stop with

verse 7, read on...."Therefor let us KEEP THE FEAST, not with the

leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of

sincerity and truth."

On hearing that verse the elite Winnipeg clergymen ROSE UP

AND QUICKLY LEFT THE COURT-ROOM!

The judge sided with the Hutterites that did not want to

hand over one dime to the ones wanting to leave the settlement.

When the news was given to us, the members of every

Worldwide Church of God in Canada, that our new brethren would

leave with only the clothes on their back, we immediately took up

collecting all foods, clothes, money, and whatever was needed to

assist our new brethren, the now "ex" Hutterites. The response

for physical help was truly amazing, even to being able to

provide them with automobiles and of course rental housing.

Some of those new brethren did come to the town in

Saskatchewan where I lived, and I had personal friendship with

them in our local congregation.

I have no idea if any of them today are holding fast to the

basic truths of the Bible. I hope they are. If some are, maybe

down the road they will find this Website and email me.

A little bit of history from the yesterday in the Church of

God.

------------------------------------

December 2007