

HWAPP # 5046 5024

UNKNOWN

DATE -

early in a yr.,  
after 1955

— probably @  
1956 or 1957

DETAILED STATEMENT

of

activities, history, and method of operation of  
RADIO CHURCH OF GOD

**HISTORY:** This Church, with members in more than 35 states and in Britain; with 13 established local churches; two more being presently organized; and 14 fully ordained ministers, was founded in 31 A.D. by Jesus Christ under original name "The CHURCH OF GOD." The inspired name for the Church, stated 12 times in the New Testament, is "The CHURCH OF GOD," often with the qualifying descriptive identification, as: "The CHURCH OF GOD at Corinth;" "The CHURCH OF GOD at Jerusalem;" or "The CHURCHES OF GOD in Judea."

Christ foretold that His true Church would be in these latter days, not a great and politically-powerful organization, but He called it "The Little Flock." Biblical prophecy pictures it today as small in numbers but powerful in carrying Christ's Gospel to all the world.

We pick up the modern history of this Church in the so-called but well-known "Advent Movement" of 1843-44 under William Miller. Following this, those holding to the original "faith once delivered," though comparatively small in numbers, under the original name, "CHURCH OF GOD," began publication of "The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald." The songbook of the Church was dedicated to "The Church of God scattered abroad." Later, as a younger generation was coming in and assuming dominance in numbers, a meeting was held in Battle Creek, Michigan, September 28 through October 1, 1860, at which the majority voted to depart from the Scriptural name, "CHURCH OF GOD," adopting the new name, "SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS," and also adopting new doctrines. A minority, regarding the new name and doctrines as a departure from the original true Church of which CHRIST is the Head, refused to go along, remaining in the "CHURCH OF GOD," now greatly reduced in membership. In the April 9, 1861 issue of the Church paper, now called "The Review and Herald," (present organ of Seventh Day Adventists), appeared an article stating that brethren in Ohio refused to contribute their tithes and offerings for any purpose other than "the advancement and extension of the truth of the CHURCH OF GOD." Later this Church set up the publishing house in Stanberry, Missouri, publishing the Church organ, "The Bible Advocate," and known and listed in U.S. census of Church bodies as "CHURCH OF GOD, SEVENTH DAY," headquarters Stanberry, Missouri.

In 1927, upon conversion, Herbert W. Armstrong came among these people. He became elder and pastor of the local church at Oregon City. He contributed articles which appeared on the front page of "The Bible Advocate." He preached regularly before their groups in Oregon. Oregon members in 1930 formed the Oregon Conference, as a state conference of the CHURCH OF GOD, SEVENTH DAY, with headquarters at Stanberry, Missouri. In December of that year, Mr. Armstrong held an evangelistic campaign in Harrisbury, Oregon, under auspices of the Oregon Conference. In 1931 the Oregon Conference formally ordained Herbert W. Armstrong, and employed him full time as a pastor and evangelist. Evangelistic meetings were

held at Eugene, Oregon, St. Helens, Oregon, and Umapine, Oregon that year. Following a long evangelistic campaign in Salem, Oregon, in 1933, resulting in the raising up of a new church of 35 members, the Board of the Church sent Mr. Armstrong to hold an evangelistic campaign eight miles west of Eugene, Oregon. This six-weeks of nightly meetings resulted in 19 conversions and new members, who were organized into a new local Church.

In December, 1933, opportunity was offered to the Church to broadcast a 30-minute Sunday morning church service over KORE, Eugene, at a cost of \$2.50 per broadcast. Church members pledged \$1.25 per week for one year (this was the bottom depression-year), and the Church Board decided to take the other \$1.25 per week on faith. The radio Church service went on the air the first Sunday in 1934, and was called RADIO CHURCH OF GOD, since it was used to minister as a church service to our scattered members throughout the upper Willamette Valley. In February, 1934, the Oregon members of the Church started, as a local Church organ, "The Plain Truth," which has been published ever since. Beginning April 1, 1934, an evangelistic campaign was started in a hall in downtown Eugene, resulting in a number of new members. In the fall of 1934 another campaign of six weeks' nightly services was held at Alvadore, 15 miles north-west from Eugene, with the addition of 15 more members. In 1935 the Board of the Eugene Church purchased the present property of that Church.

Meanwhile the national Church (Stanberry, Mo.,) had split, about half its membership now affiliated with a new national headquarters at Salem, West Virginia. Most of our Oregon members affiliated with the Salem, W. Virginia branch. At the annual camp meeting of the Oregon Conference in the summer of 1935 a group of members near Jefferson, Oregon, were organized, under leadership and ministry of Herbert W. Armstrong, and with authorization of the Board and national leaders from Salem, West Virginia, into a local Church. During these years, and prior to August, 1937, under the ministry of Mr. Armstrong, churches had been raised up in Cottage Grove, and Portland, Oregon, and Vancouver, Washington. In October, 1937, the Oregon churches severed relationship with the Salem, West Virginia organization, adopting the name, CHURCHES OF GOD IN OREGON, although all business activities were carried on under the name of "RADIO CHURCH OF GOD."

A Church also had been established in Goble, Oregon, and one at Eldreage, 12 miles north of Salem, and, in 1942, one in Everett, Washington, and one in Los Angeles. Having expanded beyond the bounds of Oregon, the name CHURCHES OF GOD IN OREGON seemed no longer appropriate. Meanwhile the radio broadcasting program of the Church had grown to national coverage, and many members scattered abroad over the entire country were now affiliated with our Churches, rather than with either the Salem, West Virginia, or the Stanberry, Missouri, branches.

NAME: It became necessary to incorporate, as our churches and scope of activity expanded. Now the question of NAME became vital. We had outgrown the bounds of Oregon. We preferred to incorporate simply as "The CHURCH OF GOD," but were advised this was impossible due to the fact there were already many other religious bodies incorporated under that name. Since the Scriptural example does in cases show the qualifying descriptive identification with the name, and since the church service broadcast over radio had become nationally known by our members, and since many of our

members had come to consider that the Church they were a member of was "THE RADIO CHURCH OF GOD," it was decided to incorporate the Church under that name.

CHURCHES: In our original Exemption Affidavit filed with Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Washington D.C., in 1948, one of the purposes for which THE RADIO CHURCH OF GOD was formed was stated as: "to raise up churches." At that time we had been reduced to the three churches at Eugene, and Portland, Oregon, and Pasadena, California. Previously we had had other churches, as listed above, but due to a lack of a trained ministry, our churches were disintegrating. Therefore, the Church had founded Ambassador College, a liberal arts and theological institution, in Pasadena, in 1947 for the purpose of attracting, educating and training a called and competent ministry for the Church.

Today the situation is quite different. Continuous and satisfactory progress has been made. New churches, all pastored by ordained ministers holding degrees of B.A. or higher, have been established in San Diego and Fresno, California; Salem, Oregon; Tacoma, Washington; Chicago, Illinois; St. Louis, Missouri; Gladewater, San Antonio and Corpus Christi, Texas; one is presently being organized in Shreveport, Louisiana; another in Houston, Texas; and one in Longmont, Colorado. The membership of the Portland Church, under leadership of ordained ministers trained at our college, has multiplied to six times its number in 1948. Pasadena membership has multiplied more than ten times. The Eugene Church is in much sounder condition and growing, and important additions have been made to the property there. Later this year a new church is to be established in either Denver or Colorado Springs. Regular weekly services are now being held in London, England, and it is planned to organize an established church there later this year, and also in Manchester, England, with churches to be organized next year in Glasgow, Scotland, and Belfast, Ireland. We now have a strong following all over the British Isles, with two ordained ministers stationed there permanently.

MEMBERSHIP: Membership is national, with members in more than 35 states. It should be explained that strictest standards are maintained in regard to membership, which greatly limits the numbers. We do not admit members, as do many large denominations, on a mere "profession of Christ," or expressed wish to "join." We accept as members only those who have fully repented of their past lives, and who, thru this godly repentance and faith in Christ as personal Saviour, have been truly converted---that is, their lives wholly changed. Our members are, for example, required to keep God's Sabbath, commonly called Saturday; to keep God's annual holydays, which closely parallel the Jewish holidays, instead of Christmas, Easter, and such holidays; and to lead a truly godly life strictly according to teaching and precept of the Bible. This is certainly not popular. It is not designed to build big numbers or big income, but it is the policy we are commanded to follow by the living HEAD of our Church, Jesus Christ, as set forth in the Holy Bible, which we follow literally and strictly. This has resulted in a national membership which is scattered---the majority of our members being unable to attend regular worship services in local churches, as yet---due to a lack of sufficient qualified ministers. This latter situation is being remedied as rapidly as possible thru our church-connected theological institution, Ambassador College, which is now turning out qualified and competent ordained ministers each year.

Detailed Summ. of History of WCG  
ca. 1957

Meanwhile, the Church ministers to its thousands of members scattered abroad in every state and in Britain and Europe by its radio broadcasts; by television; by our Church organs, The PLAIN TRUTH, and The GOOD NEWS; by our Bible Correspondence Course; by personal letters; and by personal visits to as many as we can reach by our ordained ministers and advanced theological students, who tour the nation visiting, counseling with, and baptizing members. Notwithstanding our strict standards, 400 to 500 new members are being added every year.

LINCOLN BETWEL HWA  
+ STAN BERRY ADMITTED

**MINISTERS:** Although the Church had only one fully ordained minister, beside two non-preaching elders, on November 22, 1948, when the Commissioner of Internal Revenue notified the Church of approval of our non-profit tax exempt status, with three established churches, THE RADIO CHURCH OF GOD, as of now, has in its full-time service 14 fully ordained ministers, and 13 established churches, with more being organized each year. Its Pastor-General and President, Herbert W. Armstrong, was ordained in 1931 by the Oregon Conference of the Church of God, Seventh Day, (then of Stanberry, Mo.), out of which the Eugene Church and THE RADIO CHURCH OF GOD has grown. All of the other 13 ministers hold degrees of B.A. or M.A. in Theology from Ambassador College, except one who is to receive his B.A. June 8, 1956. A ten-day ministerial conference is held each year during the latter half of January, when all ministers are called in to Pasadena headquarters; with another annual ministerial conference held in connection with our annual fall Festival lasting 8 days held in our Tabernacle near Gladewater, Texas.

**CHURCH PROPERTY:** The Church owns, clear, some 47 acres of beautiful grounds near Gladewater, Texas, on which it built, in 1952-3, a tabernacle which is the largest building in Upshar County where national assemblies are held twice yearly with members in attendance for eight days from some 33 states. This building is also the home of the local Gladewater Church of more than 100 members, and the Church-operated parochial grade and high school. The Church at Eugene, Oregon, owns its own place of worship, free of encumbrance. The Church owns, clear, approximately 100 acres near Lyons, Colorado, on which (in a large tent) special festival services are held twice annually, and on which it is planned to build a tabernacle for these annual festivals and also to house the local church to be established there later this year. The headquarters church, in Pasadena, California, with more than 300 members in weekly worship attendance, meets in the assembly rooms of Ambassador College. This college was organized by the Church, and for the first four years operated as an activity of the Church, after which, upon accumulation of sufficient financial resources to satisfy state requirements, the College was separately incorporated and authorized to confer degrees. The college is set up so that its policies and operation are entirely controlled by the Church, all trustees must be members of the Church, and, if it should be dissolved, all assets would revert back to the Church. It is still necessary for all other churches, except those mentioned above, to rent church buildings or halls for worship services, but church buildings are to be built or purchased as means permit.

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**SCHOOLS:** In 1947 the Church founded Ambassador College in Pasadena, California, a liberal arts and theological co-ed institution, with a four-year undergraduate course leading to the B.A. degree, and a three-year Graduate School of Theology, conferring the degrees of M.A. in Theology,

and B.D. The college maintains highest academic standards, ably staffed with a faculty of two doctors, six masters, four bachelors. While the college is, of course, separately incorporated, its president and all trustees must be members of THE RADIO CHURCH OF GOD, so that it is Church-controlled, and all assets would revert to the Church if it should ever cease operation.

In 1953 the Church established the Imperial Grade and High School in its tabernacle building near Gladewater, Texas; and in 1955 the Imperial Grade and High School in Pasadena, California. These parochial schools are operated by the Church exclusively for children of members. Present enrollment, between 40 and 50 in each school. The program of the Church calls for establishment of more of these parochial schools in connection with local churches as funds and qualified teaching staffs permit. For training of future teachers, a teachers' course has been added to the curriculum of Ambassador College. Competent teaching staffs are maintained in our parochial schools---B.A. or M.A. degrees.

OTHER ACTIVITIES: RADIO CHURCH OF GOD, following the Biblical pattern literally, obeys Christ's first and great commission to His Church: "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel;" and the prophetic commission for our day: "This Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations;" and its second function is Christ's secondary and companion-commission: "Feed my sheep," --that is, pastor the flock---raise up local churches and minister to them.

Therefore, we have a dual purpose in carrying on one of the most powerful and far-reaching campaigns of evangelism in the world today, via the mass media of radio, television, and the printing press: 1) to proclaim in power Christ's true Gospel to all the world as a witness, converting such as God may call; and 2), since our membership is scattered abroad, and so thinly in most communities that local churches cannot as yet be organized or maintained, to minister by these far-reaching media regularly to our own scattered members.

In the earlier years of our reorganization as the RADIO CHURCH OF GOD, personal evangelistic campaigns were held almost constantly, of from four to twelve weeks' duration in each city, in large tents, halls or auditoriums. This year the Church has scheduled on its program the revival of this policy of personal evangelism. We now have four or five ministers sufficiently advanced to conduct four, six, or eight-weeks' evangelistic campaigns. Such campaigns now are planned for this coming summer to be held in Fresno, California, and in Longmont, Colorado, and probably in London, England. Evangelistic services were held, with large attendance, during the summer and fall of 1954, in London and Manchester, England, Glasgow, Scotland, and Belfast, Ireland.

The RADIO CHURCH OF GOD engages in no other activities whatsoever, than its work of world-wide evangelism, the raising up and ministering to local churches, and the conduct of its parochial schools, with attendance restricted to children of our own church members. No tuition or fees are charged in these parochial schools. We are not engaged in any manner, directly or indirectly, in any commercial or profit-making enterprise. Now, as from the beginning, no profit or gain accrues to any individual from any operation of this Church.

METHOD OF OPERATION: The RADIO CHURCH OF GOD, incorporated under the laws of California, is governed in all business and monetary transactions by a Board of Directors, six in number, and all expenditures are authorized and approved by the Board. In its spiritual administration the Church follows the Scriptural form of organization. Christ is the living Head of the Church. Next in authority under Christ are apostles, then evangelists, pastors, preaching elders, non-preaching elders, deacons and deaconesses. Every one of these offices is now filled by those duly ordained to these various offices.

In our radio and television programs no request whatsoever is made, directly or indirectly, for contributions. Gospel literature is offered free. If a listener or viewer does send money as payment for any literature, that money is promptly returned to the sender. The Church returns an average of approximately \$100. a month to radio listeners who voluntarily send money as payment for requested literature, and not as a free-will offering. We sell nothing. We accept only bonafide tithes or donations. No advertising is carried in our magazines. No collections are taken up in our weekly worship services, or in any evangelistic campaigns.

All income is derived from tithes and offerings (contributions or donations). 60% of the Church income is derived from tithes and offerings of members, all of whom have been baptized--nearly all by our own ministers--and most of the other 40% of income is received from regular "Co-Workers," as we designate them, who, in the looser sense, might be called members and who regularly support the Church and its work. The Gospel we preach is not an easy or popular one, but the "strait and narrow," --certainly not designed to attract either large numbers or money. Therefore the growth of the Church has been conservative, but steady, consistent, and sound.

CONTRIBUTIONS