

Herbert W. Armstrong Personally Opens—

THE FIRST CHURCH OF GOD IN BARBADOS

Most unexpectedly—and as a surprise to all of us—Mr. Armstrong flew to Barbados to personally inaugurate the first English-speaking CHURCH OF GOD in the West Indies. Read in this article the firsthand report of this unprecedented event.

by Dibar Apartian

JUST HOW LONG does it take to plan a trip to Barbados—to procure the necessary papers and reservations as well as pack and make all the numerous, sundry arrangements?

Ordinarily—a few days at least.

But not so with Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong!

We were about to have lunch at the Faculty Dining Room, at the Student Center in Pasadena, when Mr. Armstrong asked me just when I planned to leave for Barbados to open God's first English-speaking Church in the BRITISH WEST INDIES.

"Tomorrow morning," I answered.

"Tomorrow morning!" he exclaimed with disappointment. "That's too bad! I would have liked to go with you if it weren't so soon." He thought for a moment, then added, unexpectedly: "But I am sure I can still make it—don't you think?"

Indeed, I did. He had in mind, of course, the leased Executive Jet which enabled him and Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong to visit all five Feast sites in the United States, last fall. "You can take your wife along if she wants to come," he added. "There is enough room for both of you on the plane. Would she like the idea?"

Would she? Even though she had but a few hours to prepare and to get over the shock, she wouldn't have missed the opportunity for anything.

Many times, in the past, I have had the privilege of being with him during various trips—short and long, both in

the United States and abroad. It is an experience I wish all of God's people could have at least once in their lifetime.

The Seven Laws of Success

Early next morning, we were on our way to the West Indies for a most memorable journey. Just imagine! Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong would open—in person—*God's Church in Barbados!* It almost seemed too good to be true! Before the Work of God entered the jet age, it would have been practically impossible for Mr. Armstrong to take time from his ever-increasing responsibilities to travel two days to open a Church for a handful of people. But today, the availability of the Executive Jet enables him to make such trips; he can travel and work at the same time. In fact, during this trip, he wrote three articles for *The PLAIN TRUTH*—mostly on the plane.

Actually, no one in Barbados expected him. Of course not, since his decision was made the very last minute.

To watch Mr. Armstrong in action is to practically witness his application of the very *seven laws* of success he has described in his booklet. He does not give up before a seemingly insurmountable obstacle as some of us are prone to do. It is most inspiring—and leaves you with a contagious feeling of drive.

While in Miami, we were told that our hotel reservations in Barbados—even though previously confirmed in Los Angeles, and despite the fact that a substantial deposit had been wired to



Simpson — Ambassador College

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong types one of the Plain Truth articles on return flight from Barbados trip.

guarantee our arrival—were *not* secure. At this time of the year, hotels in the West Indies are enjoying the height of their season and are mostly interested in tourists who stay for several weeks and not in transient travelers like us—even if this meant their going back on their word.

"Honesty and integrity are attributes that the carnal mind cannot really grasp," Mr. Armstrong said as we were sitting in his room, between urgent calls. "Business today is run on the principle of getting—not giving or serving. People do not hesitate to go back on



Simpson — Ambassador College

International Airport at Miami a few minutes before taking off on the final leg of the trip to Barbados.

their words if this will help them make more money. The difference between God's way of doing things and man's way of acting is this: *God's way is based on giving*; man's is motivated by getting."

After a moment's thought, he opened his briefcase and pulled out a copy of his Autobiography. "Here is how you can succeed in business," he said, as his fingers thumbed through the pages of his book. Then he read aloud the story of the "Sick Store" which was cured . . . (If you haven't yet read this story — or if you happened to have forgotten it — you'd better get busy and read it as soon as you can; it is found on pages 258 to 261 in Mr. Armstrong's Autobiography.)

By the time we left Miami for Barbados — and after one last long-distance call with the hotel manager — Mr. Armstrong had *succeeded* in having our reservations solidly confirmed!

"Please, Sir, May I Have Your Autograph? . . ."

Hardly had we landed in Barbados when one of the immigration officers who checked our passports gazed at Mr. Armstrong with amazement.

"Are you *really* Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong?" he asked.

"Yes, I am," Mr. Armstrong answered.

"Welcome to Barbados, sir! Welcome indeed! It is a great honor and privilege to have you with us on our island."

He turned to his colleague and whispered something in his ear. Within minutes word had spread throughout the terminal. As eyes began to focus on Mr. Armstrong, the officer who still had Mr. Armstrong's passport in his hands asked courteously: "Please, sir, may I have your autograph?"

On the island of Barbados, there is hardly anyone who has not heard

The WORLD TOMORROW program or read *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine. As I already mentioned in my article in *The GOOD NEWS*, last September, the island's unique *Rediffusion* system offers us literally a "captive" audience — seven days a week. Whether taxi drivers, hotel employees, or restaurant personnel — whether newspapermen or passers-by in the street — everyone is familiar with *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast.

Upon arriving at the hotel, even before we had time to open our suitcases, a newspaperman representing the *Barbados Daily News* knocked on Mr. Armstrong's door. He wanted a brief interview. From that time on, the phone kept ringing as people from all walks of life expressed the desire to talk to Mr. Armstrong or *just hear* his voice on the phone. Later, *The Advocate* — another newspaper on the island — requested in turn an appointment with Mr. Armstrong for a personal interview. But the most unusual — and

(Continued on page 22)

New Church in Barbados

(Continued from page 6)

truly amazing — fact was that all these newspapermen were listeners to *The WORLD TOMORROW* and subscribers to *The PLAIN TRUTH*. One of them was even studying the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course; he was on Lesson 20. They knew and understood enough of the Truth to quote Mr. Armstrong without perverting or twisting his statements.

This unique experience made Mr. Armstrong remark that these men must not have gone to "Reporters' School" because they got the facts straight. He related this in his Editorial, in the February issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH*.

When the representative from the *Barbados Daily News* was about to leave, he requested a personal favor of Mr. Armstrong. Just like the immigration officer, he asked politely: "Please, sir, may I have your autograph?"

His request was also granted.

"My Wish for All Barbadians . . ."

Here are a few excerpts from the front-page coverage in the *Barbados Daily News*, entitled "ARMSTRONG — *The WORLD TOMORROW* — IN BARBADOS":

"*The WORLD TOMORROW*, that popular radio program, will be enhanced today by the presence of the founder, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong . . . In an exclusive interview [when asked of his wish for all Barbadians] Mr. Armstrong gave the following message to Barbados:

"My wish for all Barbadians is that they will find the cause of peace, happiness, prosperity and long life, so that it will be for all eternity. This they can have as a gift if they seek it. For where one finds a wrong condition there is a cause; similarly, a good condition is indicative of a cause. Finding a way of life which brings us all the good things is assured if we accept Christ. I am happy in this way and I wish similar happiness for all the people of Barbados' . . ."

None of the islanders could have missed reading this front-page message

given by Mr. Armstrong to the people of Barbados.

Men Don't Know How to Govern

In turn, *The Advocate* reported under the heading "MEN DO NOT KNOW HOW TO GOVERN":

"Chancellor of Ambassador College in Pasadena, the world-famous broadcaster on *The WORLD TOMORROW* program, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, said in Barbados yesterday that 'as long as men try to govern themselves there will never be peace in the world but rather increased wars, human suffering and more violence' . . .

"Mr. Armstrong, an ordained minister since 1931, added: 'Men are trying to govern themselves and they simply do not know how to do it. Governments do not know the way to peace . . . What we are proclaiming is the good news of *The WORLD TOMORROW*. If we are to have a happy world, there will have to be a cause that would produce a happy world . . . The only solution to the world's ills is to have one world government that would enforce the laws that the Creator set in motion to produce peace, happiness and universal well-being . . ."

Curiously enough, not only did these newspapermen report faithfully Mr. Armstrong's words, but they even seemed to be in total agreement with them!

The Beginning of a New Church

The very first services of God's new Church, in Barbados, were held in two adjacent classrooms of the local *Washington High School*.

This too was an unforgettable experience.

That Sabbath morning, February 3, 1968, prior to services, Mr. Bass and I went to check the premises. (Mr. Bass, as you probably know, has been appointed to pastor this new Church.) Our inspection left us rather apprehensive because the two classrooms were old, dilapidated, and rather dirty — practically unfit for any assembly to be held there. But we saw in the hall some

of God's people busily scrubbing the floor and dusting the chairs.

"Don't worry," said one of the workers, "everything will be ready on time. This place will look quite different by the time we get through cleaning and straightening up things!"

I didn't know then that some of these people had been up since dawn to begin their scrubbing and clean-up work. Having heard that we needed a podium, they had improvised — that very morning — some sort of a podium made of fruit crates (yet strong enough for holding necessary books, and even strong enough to lean on if one so desired) which they covered with an attractive cloth.

Soon, a young woman began arranging flowers which she placed on a table covered with a white lace tablecloth. Yes, things were shaping up all right — and by the time the Church began, the premises had been transformed into a perfectly acceptable assembly hall.

"At the most, we may expect 75 persons," I had told Mr. Armstrong before he left the hotel for the services.

But I was wrong.

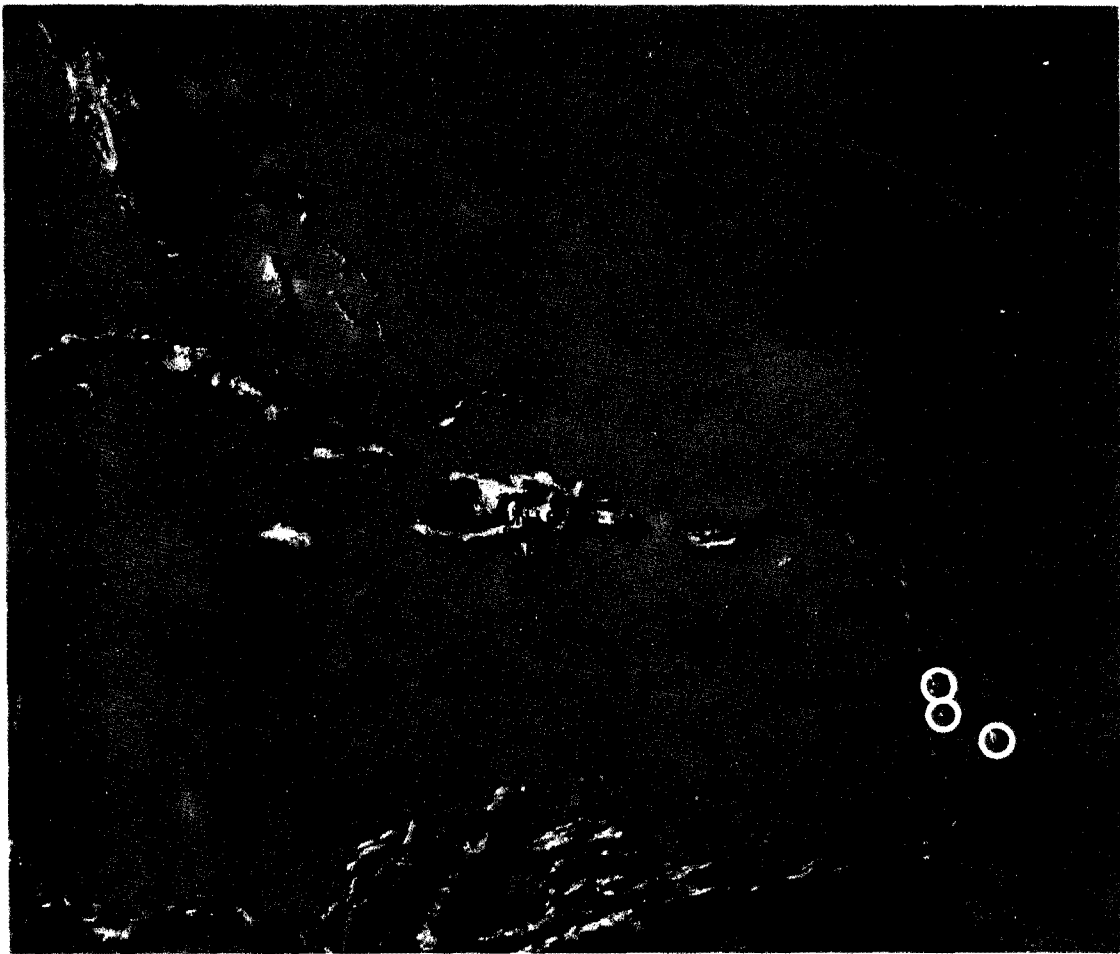
Would you believe that there were exactly 111 persons waiting for Mr. Armstrong to preach? Yes, 111 — just like our P. O. Box numbers in Pasadena and Bricket Wood. *Coincidence?* Perhaps. But in God's Church such coincidences seem to happen rather often!

"You Have Got to Work!"

Mr. Armstrong delivered his sermon with as much power and drive as though he were speaking to a large audience of thousands of people. He said, in essence:

"Today is a day that will go down in history and people will be reading about this two or three hundred years from now . . . We are in a schoolroom here — literally speaking — and I am here to teach. The world doesn't pay attention now to what we are doing on this day. People are interested in the decisions made in Washington and Moscow which will not bring peace to the world . . .

"God is not a respecter of persons. Every nation that fears Him is accepted of Him." After this, Mr. Armstrong went on describing the beginning years of God's Work — how it grew like a



Ambassador College

mustard seed, how it now covers the whole world. "We are all babes in Christ," he added, "but the question is: *"How many of us will grow up from being babes in Christ to be able to be born into God's Family!?"*

Mr. Armstrong explained what God's laws are and the reason they were given to mankind. "They will cause happiness, well being and an abundant life," he said. "But when you break these laws, you experience poverty, sickness and death. The world is full of unhappiness because it breaks God's laws . . .

"Most of you here are black. I am white — or 'pale-faced' as the American Indians called us. But when we are born of God, we will be like God. Our faces will shine like the sun in full strength . . .

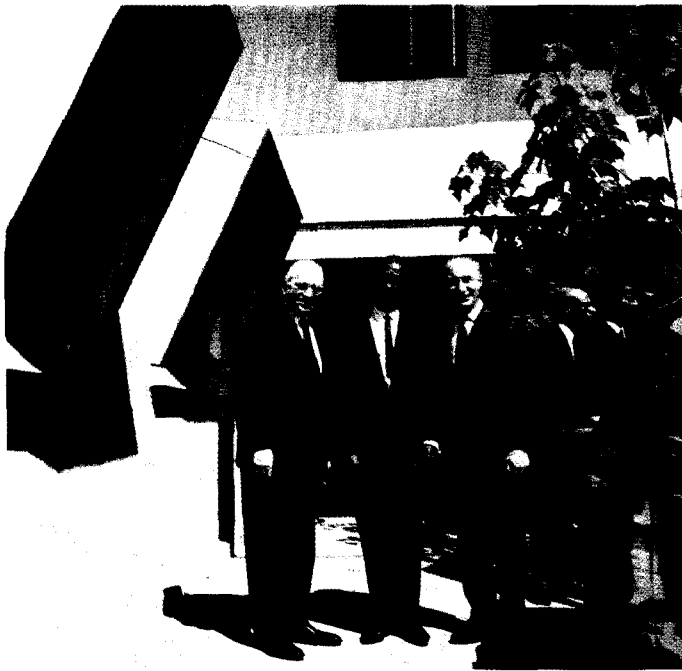
"You people have started on a way that will give you every happiness — but YOU HAVE GOT TO WORK — and grow spiritually. If you try to make others happy, you yourself will be happy. Be honest and trustworthy. God



Above: Map locates Barbados, Martinique, Santa Lucia and other islands of the Windward chain. Left: Bible Study was held the following day after Sabbath services. Mr. Bass is shown answering questions.



Our hotel was near enough to the beach to provide a very restful Sabbath Day's walk.



Ambassador College

has all the power, but He will only give us His power when we learn how to use it. You have got to learn *to share* what you have with others. You have got to learn *to help, to serve, to be patient, to be wise . . .*

"It is not easy—but it can be achieved if you work hard. That's why, *you have GOT TO WORK . . .*"

The Church of God in Martinique Welcomes Mr. Armstrong

This article on the West Indies would not be complete without a few words about our *French-speaking* brethren in Martinique. For many years now, they had hoped to meet Mr. Armstrong—even though they realized that they may never have this chance until we are all together "in the wilderness."

Nevertheless, the opening of the new Church in Barbados made the dream of our French-speaking brethren come true. Our jet flew from Barbados to Martinique in less than an hour. They welcomed Mr. Armstrong with tears of joy; they didn't know how to express their feelings. "We still can't believe it!" they kept repeating to me. "What a tremendous blessing this is!"

Our overnight stopover in Martinique enabled Mr. Armstrong to conduct a most interesting—and certainly unique in its kind—BIBLE STUDY. It was unique in the sense that he conducted

it without speaking a single word of French!

This is how we worked it out. The questions came to me written in French. I read them aloud just as they were, and then translated them into English for Mr. Armstrong. He gave the answers in English which I translated, in turn, for our French-speaking brethren. We all enjoyed our parts very much—and everyone understood each other perfectly well!

"The questions these people asked of us were certainly indicative of their good understanding of the Bible," Mr. Armstrong told me after the meeting. "It is not too often that we have such interesting Bible Studies at home."

What rewarding words for a group of people who—a few years ago—had never heard the Truth nor met a true minister of God. But today, as a result of their steady spiritual growth, they were able to ask questions that were outstanding!

How About You?

Every time I return from a tour in the West Indies, I feel greatly encouraged by the fruits Christ's Gospel is bringing forth in these tropical islands. It is an experience that makes you want to work harder and do more. This is the same feeling Messrs. McCullough, Neff and Kelly had during their previous trips; and now, it is a similar thought that Mr. Armstrong himself

Above left: Before Martinique Bible Study Mr. Jubert poses happily with Messrs. Armstrong and Aparian in front of his home. Above right: Mrs. Jubert prepares savory meal in her rustic island kitchen.

expressed upon leaving the islands.

Over there, in the West Indies, is a whole new world—unknown to most of our brethren in the U.S.A., and often neglected in our prayers. It is a world of poverty yet wealth, squalor yet happiness, ignorance yet *increasing knowledge* of God's TRUTH.

Over there, in the West Indies, are indeed people whom God has called—and *is calling*—in this age, to be the leaders of *The WORLD TOMORROW* to people of their same race. But much remains yet to be done by all of us in God's Church—much work needs to be achieved before the happy *World Tomorrow* can come. People there, in the West Indies, as well as everywhere else in the world, need our fervent prayers and every help we can give them by our own spiritual growth.

Remember Mr. Armstrong's final words to the new Church in Barbados: "You have got to learn *to share* what you have with others. You have got to learn *to help, to serve, to be patient, to be wise . . .* It is not easy—but it can be achieved if you work hard. That's why, *you have GOT TO WORK . . .*"

Will you?