

WORLDWIDE NEWS & GOOD NEWS ARTICLES

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CHRIST PUTS CHURCH ON BIBLE FORM OF ORGANIZATION

**Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong announces organization of
God's Church on Biblical pattern**

*by Herbert W. Armstrong
page 1 Good News June 5, 1978*

THE LIVING JESUS CHRIST, Head of God's Church, has set God's Church in order - setting it back on the track of God's form of organization.

To understand WHY and HOW, all members need to read carefully, *and seriously*, every word of this article - starting at the BEGINNING of the present era of the Church of God.

God began revealing His TRUTH to me over 50 years ago. But He did not reveal it all at once. First He opened my eyes to the fact that the churches calling themselves Christian did not take their teachings from the Bible - but in many, perhaps most - instances were teaching precisely opposite to God's Word.

For example, I had been reared in a respected Protestant denomination to believe I was an immortal soul, and that on death I would "pass away" either to hell, where I would be tormented by burning forever, yet never being burned up - or I would go to heaven.

Rude awakening

It was a rude awakening indeed! God was calling me for a PURPOSE, and He started at the outset by erasing from my mind all the false teachings I had accepted without question.

But God did not reveal to me ALL of His truth at once.

At the time we were living in Portland, Ore. - 1926-27. I had answered my wife's challenge by saying, "All of these churches can't be wrong - and they get their teachings from the Bible." Therefore I assumed that the Bible said, "Thou shalt observe Sunday." But I soon learned, on looking into the Bible for myself, that the Bible taught the very opposite - and that all these churches *were* wrong!

God brought me through the most traumatic experience of my life up to that time. I was brought to see that everything I had been taught about God and His truth was false. God swept my mind clean of all these false teachings.

In-depth study

My original six-months' *in-depth* study and research proved to me: 1) the existence of God, and 2) the infallibility of His Word as originally inspired.

It also brought me to complete repentance and FAITH in Jesus Christ. At that time, the spring of 1927, I made the complete surrender to God and gave my entire life, literally, to God - as I then said, "*IF* He could use it." He did use it, and for this past half century my mind and attitude has been subjected to God, as He has used me as His instrument.

However, this six months' study that led me to conversion and baptism, brought some questions. I was SURE of God, of Christ and of the authority of the Bible.

"But," I asked myself, "where is God's own TRUE Church?" I read that the gates of the grave would never prevail against God's Church.

Of all the writings I could find, the one church having the most biblical truth was the Church of God, Seventh Day, with headquarters in Stanberry, Mo. My wife and I began fellowshiping with their Oregon members, but not joining their church. I was ordained June, 1931, by the Oregon Conference of the Church of God, which had broken off from the Stanberry-based church.

In 1933 - or it might have been later, 1932 - the leader of the church was ousted by one vote. His name was A.N. Dugger. He then "reorganized" the church with what he called "the BIBLE form of organization" and started a new church with headquarters at Salem, W. Va. About half the Stanberry-based members went into this new Dugger church. But we in the Oregon Conference, with whom my wife

and I were fellowshipping, knew that definitely the new Dugger-type organization was *NOT* the Bible form of organization.

Church in Eugene

It was in August, 1933, that the present Worldwide Church of God was formed in Eugene, Ore. It resulted from an evangelistic campaign of six days a week for six weeks, which I held just outside of Eugene. God had called me as pastor - a fact never questioned. As proved "by the fruits" of the past 45 years, God had committed to me THE GREAT COMMISSION - to take Christ's Gospel Message of *the Kingdom of God* to ALL THE WORLD.

But though God had called and chosen me as His apostle, I was nevertheless HUMAN, and, as I said above, I did not learn ALL of God's Truth at once. I had, before this, come to understand the basic "roots and trunk of the tree" of Truth, but God has continued, through the years to reveal more of His truth, even up to the present.

But in the matter of *GOD'S form of church organization*, we all, in 1933, had become confused. We in Oregon knew that what A.N. Dugger had devised was *NOT* the Bible pattern of church organization. This I *did* know definitely: that God's form of organization was from the TOP down. The top authority was GOD, the Father. Next under Him was the living Jesus Christ, the HEAD OF THE CHURCH OF GOD. Next under Christ was the apostle whom HE CHOSE and used. It was the living CHRIST who built God's Church of today, and GOD'S WORK, using me as His human instrument. That fact IS UNQUESTIONED IN THE CHURCH TODAY, AS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE FRUITS.

As to Church organization and government, I appointed, in Eugene, Ore., *under me*, an elder and two deacons, this was strictly according to God's biblical form.

Work started

THE WORK of God, which the Church had been added to back up and assist, was started by myself, with only my wife as full time assistant. I started the radio broadcasting program in January, 1934, and *The Plain Truth*, in February, 1934. *The Good News*, as the organ for our members, had started earlier in 1933.

The Work GREW. God continued to ADD to His Church such as *HE* called to back up the GREAT COMMISSION, and to develop the godly, holy and righteous CHARACTER to qualify them to be made kings and

priests UNDER CHRIST after His return to earth as KING of Kings at the beginning of the millennial rule.

For 35 years the WORK OF GOD grew steadily at the rate of approximately 30 percent a year. I do not know of any organization, secular or of God, that has shown so remarkable growth, starting from NOTHING financially (though we started with something greater - FAITH in the living Christ HEAD of the Church and the WORK). This Work was built literally on FAITH. The living Christ blessed it richly, even though there was carnal opposition and persecution from the beginning.

UNMATCHED Growth

Read carefully now. As the Work grew, so did the human organization to work *UNDER me* in getting God's Work done. Then, after this 35-year unmatched GROWTH with God's blessing, I made a basic mistake, which I did not then realize was contrary to GOD'S form of organization. It was a detail that NONE in the Church realized was unscriptural.

It happened this way: As the work continued growing and growing, especially after the foundation of Ambassador College, my younger son, Garner Ted, had become converted. Mr. Roderick C. Meredith had entered Ambassador College as a student beginning its third year, fall of 1949. He was developing as a leader under me. He saw the rapid strides my son Garner Ted was making at the time, spiritually. My elder son, Richard D. (Dick), was growing spiritually too, but at a slower more steady rate.

Mr. Meredith began to urge me to make Garner Ted vice president under me, in the Work. I thought it a good suggestion. Along about 1956 and thereafter, Garner Ted showed aptitude for broadcasting and began occasional broadcasting.

Meanwhile I was going in person, with our advertising agent of that time, to managers of radio stations all over the United States, especially the major 50,000-watt stations, obtaining time for a DAILY half-hour program. This is what, more than any other physical means we used, BUILT THE WORK - kept it growing 30 percent a year!

Style of delivery

In those days Ted followed his father's style of delivery, and listeners could not tell whether it was Garner Ted or myself speaking. He always, in those days, ended the program by saying, "This is Garner

Ted Armstrong, speaking for my father, Herbert W. Armstrong." At first, Ted did only a few of the programs. But, as more and more of my time was consumed in visiting station managers, I turned more and more of the broadcasting over to my son.

Meanwhile, my elder son, Dick, had grown spiritually and in ability until I thought within myself that perhaps I should have made him vice president instead of Ted. Dick died in the summer of 1958 as the result of an automobile crash while on a baptizing trip. Meanwhile I had made Mr. Meredith second vice president.

In 1973 I wrote a revised introduction to the sixth edition of my autobiography. After 1969-70 the income had begun to fall off, and the membership had slowed significantly. Also we were beginning to cut back on the number of radio stations. Garner Ted was producing documentary, secular and political-oriented telecasts. Nevertheless, writing of the first 35 years of this latter day WORK OF GOD, ending 1969, I wrote *some astonishing FACTS of that 35 years*.

State of the Work

Read this carefully. It is IMPORTANT, if you are to understand the STATE OF THE WORK as of TODAY! Here are excerpts from it:

Quotes from that astonishing FACTUAL introduction: "From beginnings humble and small without parallel, to the magnitude of today's worldwide impact is the story of GROWTH UNBELIEVABLE - it is the incredible story of something never done before - *NEVER DONE THIS WAY*."

Continuing: "Every phase of this globe-girding Work has been something altogether unique - a first - the blazing of a new trail. ...The Worldwide Church of God, behind these global enterprises, is *altogether UNIQUE* on the earth - practicing as it does *the REVEALED WAYS* [emphasis here added] of the living Creator God."

Let me interject here to say that, although I did not fully realize it at the time, my son and those around him DID NOT FULLY AGREE WITH THOSE WAYS - and they were being gradually departed from.

God's administration

Speaking of *GOD'S WAYS of administration*, the introduction continues: "This entire Work has belied all traditional experience. It has reversed accepted (worldly) procedures... This, truly, is one of the most incredible success stories of our time. There is *a very significant*

reason. For it is the story of what THE LIVING GOD CAN Do - and has done - through a human instrument, called and chosen by HIM - whose eyes He opened to astonishing TRUTH - one HE reduced to humble obedience, yielded in faith, and DEDICATED TO GOD'S WAYS!"

Christ built Work

Now to the *CENTRAL TRUTH* leading into today's state of the Work. Brethren, *READ THIS SERIOUSLY!* Jesus Christ, the living HEAD of God's Church, started this present era of His Work through me. I DID NOT BUILD THE WORK OR THE CHURCH - the living Christ built it, using me as His instrument and His apostle.

But I *made the mistake*, unrealizing that mistake, of allowing an office of authority to be injected BETWEEN ME AND THE MINISTRY AND CHURCH!

For the first 35 years of this Work, I was the sole human in supreme command, UNDER CHRIST. There was opposition and persecution - from without - but THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF WHO WAS IN CHARGE! During those 35 years the Church and the Work GREW AND GREW AND GREW! *It had Christ's BLESSING!*

I knew that GOD'S FORM OF ORGANIZATION IS FROM THE TOP DOWN. I DID NOT REALIZE that allowing an office of authority to be interjected BETWEEN me and the Church was contrary to God's form of human organization.

WHAT RESULTED? Great confusion grew in the Church - especially in and around headquarters. "WHO IS REALLY IN AUTHORITY?" many wondered, perplexed. The Work *STOPPED GROWING*.

More knowledge

But at last God has opened my eyes to a more detailed knowledge of HIS FORM OF HUMAN ORGANIZATION.

Now I want to take you direct to GOD'S WORD!

The first human organizational procedure there recorded is that of Moses. The PEOPLE did not elect Moses - GOD CHOSE HIM! Under Moses were captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, over fifties and over tens.

BUT NO ONE was interjected in authority BETWEEN Moses and the captains of thousands! There were 600,000 men. Men and women approximately 1,200,000. Adding children, there were at least THREE

MILLION Israelites. That means a minimum of three to four thousand captains under Moses, and NO MAN BETWEEN THEM AND MOSES!

Once Moses' brother Aaron and sister Miriam challenged Moses' authority and attempted to interject themselves between Moses and the people. Got STERNLY REBUKED THEM and punished Miriam!

Korah's rebellion

Another time Korah attempted to challenge Moses' authority and step in between him and the People. GOD PUNISHED HIM by causing him and his family to be swallowed up by the earth!

After Moses God ruled Israel through Joshua, whom GOD had chosen (not the people), then by judges whom *God* appointed and used, then by Eli, then Samuel. Both Eli's sons and Samuel's son were subversive to God's rule, but NEVER ALLOWED TO TAKE OVER AUTHORITY!

Under Samuel THE PEOPLE wanted to become SECULAR, and have a king like the pagan nations. But God appointed their king - Saul. Saul came to have an evil spirit, and his dynasty stopped with him.

Next God sent Samuel to the House of Jesse where GOD had chosen the next king. Samuel and the people wanted Jesse's elder sons but God rejected them. HE CHOSE DAVID.

David came to rule, but he ruled under God, and THERE WAS NO OFFICE OF AUTHORITY BETWEEN HIM AND THE PEOPLE.

Two of David's sons sought to TAKE OVER the rule, but GOD DID NOT ALLOW IT! God had chosen Solomon.

Now come to the time of Christ. Jesus called and trained apostles, but PETER was in authority next under CHRIST. At the conference at Jerusalem to settle a dispute at Antioch (Acts 15), it was PETER who rose up and settled the dispute (Acts 15:7). James was the pastor of the headquarters church, and for reasons of protocol, James made official Peter's decision (verses 13-21). Paul, specially called and chosen by Christ, was given the rule of administering the Work of the Gospel to the Gentiles, and Peter "to the circumcision" (Galatians 2:7-8). But NO ONE HAD AUTHORITY UNDER THEM, able to cut off the chain of authority at that point.

God blessed Work

As long as GOD'S APOSTLE was acknowledged by all as supreme in authority UNDER THE LIVING CHRIST, GOD BLESSED HIS WORK, AND

IT GREW 30 percent a year for 35 years. After an office was allowed to be interjected BETWEEN me and the Church, *GOD WITHDREW HIS BLESSING*, and the GROWTH STOPPED!

Brethren, the Head of this Church, JESUS CHRIST, has now, through me, ELIMINATED THE OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, which was AN UNSCRIPTURAL OFFICE. Indeed the title of vice president (and we finally came to have several of them), went to the heads of too many and proved harmful to the Work. Therefore, through me, the living CHRIST has abolished the worldly and secular title of vice president!

Work not finished

JESUS CHRIST, through me, has now set the Church and God's WORK back on the track so that, once again, CHRIST is the living HEAD of the Church and Work!

One more point needs clarification in the minds of you brethren. Some have said, "Well, *WHO* is going to succeed as HEAD of the Church if Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong dies soon?" Rumors have gone out that I may not live much longer. Brethren, THERE IS NO INSTANCE IN THE BIBLE WHERE GOD CHOSE A MAN FOR A COMMISSION AND THEN LET HIM DIE BEFORE THAT COMMISSION WAS FINISHED! The Work of the GREAT COMMISSION, which God committed to me, has not, in my judgment, been FINISHED!

Moses was started on his commission at age 80. He continued for 40 years to age 120. He had led the children of Israel to the promised land, though they had not yet entered it. Moses' commission was finished. But in all these years, Moses' natural force of mind and spirit HAD NOT ABATED (Deuteronomy 34: 7).

It is not for me to choose one to succeed me in office. CHRIST is the LIVING HEAD of the Church. Do you TRUST HIM?

He has put God's Church back on GOD'S track. Praise God for it! Expect the blessing of God to step His Work forward once again as in the days prior to 1969.

Good News (and Worldwide News) - June 19, 1978

CHRIST NOW LEADS TO REJUVENATE CHURCH

by Herbert W. Armstrong
page 1 Good News June 19, 1978

GOD'S CHURCH has been in *mortal DANGER!* That danger was WITHIN OURSELVES - the fatal danger of drifting away from Christ spiritually. *The danger* of putting worldly politics into our midst. The DANGER of saying, "I am of Paul - or I am of Apollo - or I am of Cephas." This DANGER of trying to slide as close as possible - without falling off - into the abyss of Satan's secularism and worldliness.

Some of us - brethren, TOO MANY of us - HAVE, PERHAPS NOT REALIZING IT, been led to want to let - little by little - more of THIS evil WORLD into our lives.

Brethren, AWAKE! Satan is subtle. He DECEIVES - and a deceived person is not aware he is misled - else he would not *be* deceived. He may be wholly sincere - yet deceived!

The battle cry now, within God's one and only TRUE CHURCH, is "BACK TO CHRIST!" He is the one and only *HEAD* of God's Church! Not any man - though He does call and USE humans as His servants - but so can SATAN mislead and deceive men into unknowingly becoming his servants.

Brethren, my heart is heavy! We need to AWAKE to the FACT that we are now in THE LAST DAYS of this present evil world of Satan. We are in the time God says was to be a time of TRYING AND TESTING of His people.

The GOOD news

Our Philadelphia era of God's Church (Revelation 3:7-13) has the PROMISE of the living Christ that we shall escape the soon coming GREAT TRIBULATION with TROUBLES in the world such as never happened before or will again (Revelation 3:10; 12:14).

But the prophet Daniel warns us. "And at that time [of the end Daniel 12:1] shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and THERE SHALL BE A TIME OF TROUBLE, such as never was since there was a nation even to this time..." (See also Matthew 24:21-22.)

"Many shall be purified, any made white, and tried..." (verse 10). There are plenty of warnings of this same time of trial and testing in the New Testament. Brethren, COME TO REALIZE WE are in THAT TIME.

But our GOD is on His throne. And the living HEAD of this Church is also ON THAT THRONE.

When frightening times of trying and testing come - and they have been coming tenfold recently - I have not the ability to outwit Satan - my refuge and deliverance is in the LIVING CHRIST! Not only is HE there on His Father's throne, but the archangel Michael is also STANDING UP AGAINST SATAN FOR US.

Satan is now at the white-hot HEAT OF WRATH, knowing he has but a short time (Revelation 12:12). We are at the time when "there was WAR IN HEAVEN: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon [Satan]; and the dragon fought and his angels [demons], and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven." (Revelation 12:7-8).

CHRIST will prevail

Christ warns us, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may, devour." He IS seeking to devour YOU. "But", God continues "whom resist STEDFAST IN THE FAITH" (I Peter 5:8-9).

We are now *in* the LAST DAYS - when "perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud... lovers of pleasures more than of God."

Brethren, first let me tell you of a personal experience I had, just before Garner Ted was born. My wife was excessively anemic, lacking iron in her blood. The doctor feared having delivery of the baby at home and insisted she must go to the hospital.

I had anointed and prayed for her healing, but the anemia had not left. I did not have the money to pay for the hospital bill - and the hospital bill for the delivery of my firstborn son, Richard David, had not been paid. The hospital would not admit my wife until that bill was paid.

It was a frightful dilemma. I was helpless. I knew where to turn, however - to the living God I began with fasting and prayer. It was a Sabbath morning. Taking no breakfast, I read the Bible for one hour, hoping to find the REASON my wife had not been healed of the anemia. Then I devoted the next full hour to prayer. The hour after that I just sat and meditated, asking God to show me where I had failed that her healing had not come. Then another hour of Bible study, followed by another full hour of prayer and then an hour of meditation.

I DID NOT PRAY FOR HER HEALING - but rather, that God would show me what was wrong in *my life* that my prayer for healing had not been answered.

This same rotation of an hour of Bible study followed by an hour of prayer and then an hour of meditation continued until bedtime, and then again on Sunday.

About 1:30 that afternoon one of our daughters called out, "Here come Grandpa and Grandma driving up our driveway!"

By this time God had shown me what was wrong with me. I had been drifting into having my mind more on our troubles and material problems. I had gotten away from that closeness to God needed to receive answers to prayer. But now I was back *very close* to GOD. Now I *knew* He would hear and answer my petition.

A quick prayer

I made a very quick prayer - perhaps not over 15 seconds. It flashed to my mind that *other* things were direly needed. I asked God again to heal my wife. I asked Him also to provide for the hospital bill. I asked Him to send us food - for we were completely out. And I asked Him to send wood for fuel (we then used wood for the kitchen cook stove and the living room stove).

I told Him I was out of money and the house rent was due and asked Him to provide that. I asked Him to provide me with a new overcoat. It was late January, and all I had was a thin topcoat with a hole 4 to 6 inches wide on one side of the seat. Then quickly I said, "Lord, You say that You know what things we have need of *before* we ask You - so send also anything I have forgotten to ask.

Then I closed that hurried-up prayer and went out to greet my parents. My father was lifting out of his Model-A Ford armloads of wood. He had removed the rear seat and filled the space with wood. Mother was carrying into our house a large covered pan with a big dinner ready to be warmed and eaten.

The next morning on waking we discovered my wife's cheeks were rosy. The morning mail - the very first delivery since my quick prayer - brought a letter that her share of a will left to her mother would immediately take care of the hospital bill. The doctor was dumbfounded that morning, announcing that the anemia was gone.

A new overcoat came to me during the Monday noon hour. Late that Monday afternoon the merchandising department of the Portland

(Ore.) *Oregonian* asked me to conduct a survey for the Bisset Carnet Sweeper Co., and this covered the rent bill and other needs. But that wasn't all. A day later my youngest brother, Dwight drove over and said he wanted me to keep his car and use it - for in case I had to take my wife, Loma to the hospital during the night, I would have transportation. I had no car at the time.

Thursday evening my sister came over. She said, "The strangest thing happened this afternoon. I was praying, and in my mind I heard a voice saying 'Take a robe over to Loma!' This was repeated. She was startled. She said to us, "I don't know why I was told to bring this robe to you, but here it is."

"Oh." exclaimed my wife, "I had completely forgotten - but I do not have a robe, and I will need one in the hospital."

Value of prayer

Some of you brethren have heard this before - because I think it is an experience that needs telling to help others to know the value of PRAYER.

Brethren of GOD'S CHURCH, our whole membership is SORELY IN NEED OF FASTING AND PRAYER.

Therefore I am, as God's apostle, appointing Sabbath, June 24, as a day of SPECIAL FASTING AND PRAYER for the spiritual awakening and rejuvenation of the ENTIRE CHURCH, which is "THE BODY of the living CHRIST!"

Worldwide News, 3rd July 1978 page 1

CHRIST MOVES SWIFTLY TO PUT AMBASSADOR COLLEGE BACK ON TRACK AS GOD'S COLLEGE

By Herbert W Armstrong

The leaven of secularism and materialism was subtly injected into the college that had been built as GOD'S college - as a college DIFFERENT from any other. It was a college UNIQUE in, but *not part of*, Satan's world.

During the first three years of Ambassador's life I personally fought and bled and died, so to speak, to keep this leaven OUT - to make it truly GOD'S OWN college.

Intellectual leaven

God prospered it and it grew. But in the last 10 years the aggressive urge of some to obtain accreditation - to get this world of Satan's ENDORSEMENT - opened the door for this leaven of intellectualism, which pervades this world's higher education, to gain an entering wedge.

It was not realised by those - and there were a number - who wanted accreditation that Satan had gotten his foot in the door. But those who had known it, during its growing years as GOD'S COLLEGE were aghast when they came to the Pasadena campus after years of absence - men like Leon Walker and others who had been students in the days when it really was GOD'S college. They now found it as if turned from day into night, from the light of GOD'S WAY into the darkness of this world's higher education.

I never wanted accreditation personally, but I did allow Others to pursue it on their sincere but misled assurance That they could obtain accreditation and *still* Retain it as **God's** college.

Outside educators, wedded to the leaven of this world's "higher education" - with their Ph.D's - were brought into the faculty. The leaven spread, as leaven always does.

Instructors reinstated

But now the living Christ has moved drastically to put Ambassador College back on GOD'S track once again, as HIS college.

Under Christ's guidance and inspiration, I now announce that those former men of God - men who were taught and then did teach, when it truly was GOD'S college, have been reinstated on the faculty to teach all of the theological and Bible courses. These men include Dr Herman L. Hoeh, Dr Roderick C. Meredith, Mr Raymond F. McNair and Mr Leon Walker.

I will have much more to say about this and the early foundational days of the college in the next issue of *The Good News*.

HOW CHRIST NOW SETS AMBASSADOR COLLEGE BACK ON TRACK

The DEADLY LEAVEN of Higher Education

by Herbert W. Armstrong
Good News July 17, 1978

I WAS NEVER CALLED to engage in the college *business*. But by 1947 the need had become imperative to establish an educational arm of the Church on the college level.

It definitely was NOT because this world needed another college. There were too many of this world's institutions of higher education already!

But the living God had caused me to realize the serious need for a college to train educated ministry for His Church, and other personnel to fill the increasing need for administrative offices.

For this purpose it had to be God's kind of college — utterly unique in the world. No college or theological seminary extant filled this purpose.

Jesus Christ had called His people *out* of this world — to live in, but not be of it.

Missing dimension

What then was lacking in existing institutions? I quote from a section that appeared many years in the Ambassador College annual catalog:

"The MISSING DIMENSION IN EDUCATION:

"It is generally recognized by educators that dangerous evils have leavened the educational system. Curricula, generally, have become wholly materialistic. Demands in scientific, technological, industrial, commercial and professional fields have put the emphasis on the purely technical and intellectual, at sacrifice of spiritual, moral and cultural development; on curriculum rather than on character; on earning a living, at the neglect of learning *how to live!*

"Universities" have grown so large, students lost their identity, moving along a huge, academic conveyor belt. Personality development is

sacrificed. Personal contact between student and instructor becomes nonexistent.

"The *most* essential knowledge is the purpose and meaning of life — the true values as distinguished from the false — and THE WAY to peace, happiness and abundant well-being. But this basic and most important dimension in education is entirely missing from traditional curricula."

What had gone wrong in the educational system of this world?

I have never explained that explicitly. True, I have covered this same material in dealing with other questions. But now I repeat, in this context, what I have written in relation to other subjects.

I have PROVED the existence of God the Creator of all. I have PROVED the infallible authority of the Holy Bible, in its original writings, as the inspired WORD OF GOD.

Purpose explained to Adam

The first humans created on earth were a male and a female, named Adam and Eve. God explained fully to them about HIS GOVERNMENT — that it had been taken from the earth by prehistoric angels.

The Creator explained to the first human pair His PURPOSE in producing humanity on earth — to REPRODUCE Himself — after His own image, to create in humans God's own holy and righteous CHARACTER. Once that perfect CHARACTER is developed, those attaining to it will be CHANGED from physical mortality into spirit-composed IMMORTALS — then born into the Family or Kingdom of GOD.

The ultimate transcendent seemingly incredible potential is to use billions of such divinely born beings in COMPLETING and EXPANDING the creation of the entire vast UNIVERSE (Hebrew 2:5-10, Romans 8:18-23, RSV).

But this perfection of holy character CANNOT be instantaneously created by fiat. It must be DEVELOPED, and humans must make the CHOICE themselves!

This was revealed clearly to Adam. But Adam had also listened to and *believed* Satan through his wife Eve.

Adam rejects basic knowledge

Adam had made the decision, saying in effect, "Almighty God, I REJECT You as Lord and ruler — I reject your government, I reject You as my spiritual Savior, and I reject You as the Source of basic KNOWLEDGE. I want You to keep yourself out of my affairs. I will TAKE TO MYSELF the KNOWLEDGE of what is good and what is evil — I will govern myself — I will take care of my own spiritual needs."

And, in effect, God replied "*You have decided* — for yourself and your descendants. Therefore I SENTENCE YOU and the WORLD that shall be born from you to 6,000 years of BEING CUT OFF FROM ME — except such few during that 6,000 years as I shall call OUT of your world for my own purposes.

"Therefore GO — and form your own governments over nations that shall come from you. Devise your own religions. Develop your own system of KNOWLEDGE and means of disseminating it.

"Of course in all this, without realizing it, your descendants will be influenced, led, and subtly deceived by Satan the devil. But you have made the decision. Those of your children (the world) who are thus deceived *will not be judged during their mortal lives in this 6,000 years* - they will be neither 'lost' nor 'saved' spiritually.

"But after 6,000 years I MYSELF (Christ) will return to earth, RESTORE THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD on earth for 1,000 years. And then, with Satan banished, I will CALL ALL STILL THEN LIVING TO SPIRITUAL SALVATION AND ETERNAL LIFE, which you, Adam, have rejected.

"And further, after that thousand-year reign of MY GOVERNMENT over humanity, I will bring back by a resurrection from the dead to mortal, human, fleshly life - ALL whom I shall not have previously called to my salvation - and then, with Satan banished, they shall VIEW THE EVILS, THE HEARTACHES, THE TROUBLES AND FRIGHTFUL SUFFERINGS, WHICH SATAN'S INFLUENCE SHALL HAVE BROUGHT ON ALL DURING THIS 6,000 YEARS. And then they shall CHOOSE life in my Kingdom, or DEATH."

World forms own governments

This world descended from Adam has formed its own governments. And LOOK AT THEM! Torn by strife, wars and human anguish and death.

This world has devised, influenced by Satan, ITS OWN RELIGIONS! What a hodgepodge of ridiculous foolishness!

This world has formed its OWN (subtly influenced and deceived by Satan) fund of KNOWLEDGE - and its own educational structures for the dissemination of that false knowledge!

The RESULT?

This evil world's system of education, with the MOST VITAL dimensions MISSING!

Now WHY has this world evolved a system of education shot through with materialism, false values, ridiculous philosophies and vain theories (such as evolution)? WHY do we find *missing* the knowledge of WHY we are - what we are - what is the human potential - and what is THE WAY to happiness, peace, universal prosperity and JOY?

Nature of the human mind

To UNDERSTAND THIS we need again to discern the NATURE OF THE HUMAN MIND!

We need to understand, once again, the vital difference between animal brain and human mind. And we need to understand the INCOMPLETENESS of the human mind, and *what is lacking!*

Scientists have taken apart both animal brains and human brains. The brains of whales, elephants, dolphins, are larger than the human brain - those of chimps and similar vertebrates somewhat smaller. But in construction qualitatively they are virtually EQUAL. Yet the human brain has an output thousands of times greater than any animal brain.

WHY?

Scientists who are willing to admit it have found, in the new science of brain research, that there is a *nonphysical* component connected with the human brain that is nonexistent in animal brains.

This nonphysical component is SPIRIT ESSENCE, present from birth in humans but not in animals. This "human" spirit IMPARTS THE POWER OF INTELLECT TO THE PHYSICAL BRAIN!

This is definitely revealed in the Bible. Job spoke of *the spirit in man*. In I Corinthians 2:11 it is revealed that no man could possess KNOWLEDGE of the human mind except by the "SPIRIT OF MAN WHICH IS IN HIM" (I Corinthians 2:11).

But this same verse, and its entire context, reveals that, just as no man could KNOW human knowledge except by the "SPIRIT OF MAN

WHICH IS IN HIM," likewise, no man can know the things of GOD - spiritual principles and spiritual knowledge - unless the HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD is also in him.

This human spirit in every human is NOT the human person - is NOT an immortal soul - is NOT the LIFE of the man. Technically it is NOT PART OF THE MAN himself - it is something ADDED - something that is IN the man (or woman).

Soul is physical matter

"God formed MAN of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and MAN (physical matter) BECAME a living soul" (Genesis 2:7). What was composed of the material dust of the ground - the wholly MATERIAL man, *became* a living soul. The "soul" therefore is PHYSICAL MATTER - NOT SPIRIT!

Yet within that PHYSICAL man, sprung from the earth - earthy - is a spirit in each human. That Spirit is NOT a spirit BEING or PERSON, but mere spirit ESSENCE, just as air or water may be called essence.

The spirit in man cannot see or hear. The physical BRAIN sees through the eyes and hears through the ears. The spirit in MAN cannot THINK - the brain does the thinking.

Then HOW does this spirit within each human impart the power of intellect to the physical BRAIN? It is a "human computer."

Nearly all KNOWLEDGE comes to the human mind through the eye or the ear - some by the senses of smell, taste and feel. But the eye cannot SEE spirit, nor the ear HEAR spirit or spiritual knowledge or the THINGS OF GOD! Neither can a human smell, taste or feel SPIRITUAL things or knowledge.

That is explained definitely in this second chapter of I Corinthians.

"But as it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart [mind] of man, the things that God hath prepared for them that love him" (I Corinthians 2:9).

Human spirit acts as computer

But what the eye does see and the ear hear is merely the physical and material - matter that occupies space and has weight - whether organic or inert. As knowledge - limited to the physical and material - enters the brain through the five senses, that knowledge automatically is "programed" into the human SPIRIT. This spirit is the chief

depository of MEMORY. This physiomaterial knowledge is STORED, FILED, "programed" into the spirit that is *IN* the man. This human spirit, then, acts as a computer. It supplies the human brain with INSTANT RECALL of millions of bits of knowledge, which has been stored, probably from about age 3, in the human spirit.

Thus the physical BRAIN of humans is given instant recall, supplied instantly with whatever knowledge stored in the human spirit is needed at the moment by the brain for the REASONING PROCESS.

The physical human brain puts this recalled knowledge together in the process of REASONING or THINKING.

The animals do not possess such a spirit. Their memory quotient is limited and much of it temporary. This limits the ability of the animal to THINK, compared to human thinking, to virtually nil.

But all this is thinking and reasoning with physical and material knowledge SOLELY.

Then HOW MAY A HUMAN COME TO KNOW - to have the KNOWLEDGE - of *the things of GOD*? The very next verse in I Corinthians 2 explains: "But God hath REVEALED them unto us [converted Christians] by his SPIRIT" - the HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD.

Spiritual knowledge - the knowledge of *the things of GOD* - simply *cannot be known by a natural-born human mind* - CANNOT be known EXCEPT AS REVEALED to those who have and are being led by THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD!

God gave one "human" spirit to be within man at birth. He freely offered to Adam *another* Spirit through the symbolic "tree of life" - as He offers to those whom HE CALLS OUT OF THIS WORLD TO HIS SPIRITUAL SALVATION.

To those who through real repentance and faith do receive the Holy Spirit, God says, "The spirit [of God] itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (Romans 8:16).

Verse 14 of I Corinthians 2 says: "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the spirit of God: for they [spiritual knowledge] are FOOLISHNESS unto him, neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned."

God says plainly that the things of GOD - God's spiritual KNOWLEDGE - are foolishness to the natural, carnal mind.

Now the "SCHOLARLY" mind of the more highly educated is a natural, carnal mind. Therefore the MOST IMPORTANT KNOWLEDGE - the things of GOD - the SPIRITUAL knowledge of WHY God put humanity on earth - what is the true human POTENTIAL - what is THE WAY to peace, happiness, abundant well-being - to the TRUE VALUES - are utterly UNKNOWN to such a mind. They are FOOLISHNESS to him.

Foolishness of this world

But what of this world's scholastic higher-educated mind? God says of them: "Professing themselves to be wise, they became FOOLS" (Romans 1:22). God says, "But the wisdom of this world is FOOLISHNESS with God" (I Corinthians 3:19).

God did not call me to found a college based on this world's "higher education," which God labels as FOOLISHNESS!

But HOW, then, was Christ the living HEAD of God's Church to organize a college that would be GOD'S college?

The only personnel available for faculty - for the TEACHING staff - were those indoctrinated with the "wisdom of this world," which God labels FOOLISHNESS! There were not people possessing God's Holy Spirit, skilled in both the art of TEACHING and also of the knowledge of the more important SPIRITUAL things.

I did the only thing possible or available - I staffed the college with, as I remember, three Ph.D.s, three masters and two bachelors, both of whom were pursuing higher degrees in this world's universities.

HOW, then, was Ambassador to become GOD'S college? HOW were students to be taught the THINGS OF GOD? I recognized clearly that I, myself, as the ONLY available faculty member possessing SPIRITUAL knowledge, must DOMINATE the teaching staff and inculcate THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD into students.

Carnal mind competitive

The carnal mind of "higher education" becomes COMPETITIVE. There was inevitably a clash of MINDS! When I was away on a broadcasting mission, just before the opening of the college on Oct. 8, 1947, the "scholarly" faculty members attempted to THROW GOD OUT OF THE COLLEGE! I had left all the academic portion of the first year's catalog for them to complete. They reduced the course in Bible and theology to a MINOR TWO-HOUR class, whereas I had intended it to be a MAJOR three-hour class.

But in this competition introduced by these carnal academic minds, I compelled all faculty members to ATTEND the Bible and theology classes - WHICH I TAUGHT.

They became very uncomfortable, to say the least. For God gave me the wisdom and the POWER to back them into a corner with UNANSWERABLE truths. The fact they could not dispute my teaching was galling to them.

As I have said, I fought, bled and died that first three years TO MAKE AMBASSADOR GOD'S COLLEGE. But God was with me. God inspired me. And I WON that battle!

By the fourth year, I was able to place a few senior students - such as Herman Hoeh and Raymond McNair, on the faculty as STUDENT teachers - teaching freshman and sophomore classes. Ambassador BECAME GOD'S COLLEGE.

But these recent years, the persistent urging of my son and of faculty to acquire "accreditation" by the higher education of this world - of what God calls the FOOLISHNESS of this world's wisdom - began to bring gradually more and more of the "scholarly" Ph.D.s of this world's academicians into the faculty.

Gradually, the invisible Satan managed to maneuver more of that type of professionals into the faculty. Men like Dr. Herman Hoeh, Dibar Apartian, Dr. Roderick C. Meredith were DEMOTED into meager preaching positions.

The "coup" had become complete. Satan's conspiracy had made Ambassador truly one of THIS WORLD'S educational institutions.

Morals relaxed. A new secular and NON-God atmosphere prevailed! Even the Worldwide CHURCH of God was becoming Laodiceanic, secular. God's Spirit WAS ON THE WAY OUT!

Christ heads God's Church

And THAT, brethren, is why God has roused me to TAKE OVER - why the living CHRIST has stepped in to HEAD God's Church and to SET BOTH CHURCH AND COLLEGE BACK ON GOD'S TRACK! Truly Satan had all but WRECKED the Church, the college and the WORK of the living God - IT HAD JUMPED THE TRACK WHERE GOD THROUGH ME HAD SET IT!

That is WHY I have been led by CHRIST to move swiftly to resume human LEADERSHIP! - to PUT THE CHURCH AND ITS WORK BACK ON GOD'S TRACK!

The professional academicians, who had been brought into the college faculty, won't like it! They will RIDICULE what Christ through me has done! To THEM it will be FOOLISHNESS!

I have installed Mr. Raymond McNair, who came to Ambassador in its second year - 1948 - as DEPUTY CHANCELLOR. He was deputy chancellor of Ambassador College at Bricket Wood, England, for some 14 years. Under him that campus produced some of our BEST MEN.

I have installed Dr. Roderick C. Meredith as DEAN OF THE FACULTY. I have reinstated Dr. Hermon L. Hoeh on the faculty.

I have put GOD'S TEAM back into harness!

This will be "FOOLISHNESS" to those brainwashed by Satan's world's higher education! It will be ridiculed by them. But God calls their wisdom FOOLISHNESS with God! And I am NOT accountable to them, but to GOD!

Ambassador is to become once again GOD'S OWN COLLEGE!

Good News - July 31, 1978

THE GREAT MAJESTIC GOD

**being enthroned in eyes of Church once again by
Jesus Christ**

***by Herbert W. Armstrong
page 1 Good News July 31, 1978***

LET'S FACE IT - we in God's Church were beginning to get our eyes off of our GREAT MAJESTIC GOD! The HEAD of our Church, the living Jesus Christ, is opening our eyes to our danger! Once again Christ is enthroning THE GREAT GOD in our eyes - and in our hearts!

Yes, more than generally realized, Satan was manipulating things to make God's Church and His work more and more secular - more like any other *purely worldly and human activity!*

The realization of this was brought forcibly to my mind by my thinking over a criticism from one whose understanding needs updating. He said I was surrounded by "yes-men."

That set off a chain of thought. This expression *yes-men* is a bit of modern terminology, generally meaning passive, extra-docile, weak-minded men who go along purely to serve their own personal interests or through fear.

In that category, our administrative personnel and our ministry, most assuredly are *NOT* yes-men.

But there is another meaning that could be applied to that expression. And in *that* sense I want to be a yes-man myself - and I hope that all of us, whether lay members, ministers or administrative people, are *this* kind of yes-people.

Challenged by the Sabbath

I can illustrate what I mean by my own personal experience at the time of my conversion. And I would hope that the experience God put me through then might serve to set an example for all you to follow.

I had been CHALLENGED! At the time my whole mind and heart was set on "doing my own thing." And that "thing" was being a success in the advertising profession.

Of course, I felt I was doing the right thing. At age 18 I had put myself through a self-analysis to determine what talents and abilities (IF any) I had, and what weaknesses, faults or dislikes that might hinder success.

Also I went through a survey of the various jobs, professions, occupations or businesses to determine into which category I belonged. This analysis led me to decide that the field of advertising was the area in which I properly fitted.

So the advertising, merchandising and journalism field became my own thing - and of course I sincerely believed it was the *right* thing!

When my wife began keeping God's Sabbath, I regarded it as the pinnacle of religious fanaticism. And especially because it seemed hostile to my own thing. What would my business associates think was the first challenging thought to enter my mind.

Reasoning fails

I tried argument and reasoning with my misled (as I thought) wife. All the arguments that still viciously attack God's Sabbath by those in traditional Christianity came instantly to mind. They had no effect.

"But," I finally protested. "I know the Bible says 'Thou shalt observe Sunday.' "

"Can you show me where it says that?" she asked.

"Well, no - I wouldn't know where to find it, because I don't know anything about the Bible. My mind has been on my business! But I know it's in the Bible, because *all these churches can't be wrong*, and they get their religion out of the Bible."

"Well, you find it and show it to me *in the Bible*," said my wife, "and I'll go back to observing Sunday."

That seemed to leave me no alternative, because to us marriage was till death parted us - and I didn't want either to lose my wife or live with fanaticism.

So in order to have my own way - to continue doing my own thing without embarrassment, I entered with a will into the most intensive in-depth study and research of my life. I blew the dust off my Bible, so to speak, and delved into it with confident alacrity.

Evolution researched

At the same time I had been challenged by a sister-in-law on the validity of the evolutionary theory. I delved into Darwin, Haeckel, Huxley, Spencer, Vogt and modern evolutionists. For a short while my head was swimming in bewildered consternation. Did God exist after all? I realized I had ASSUMED the existence of God because I had always been taught it, but I HAD NEVER PROVED IT! Now my mind demanded PROOF!

And my relentless study brought that PROOF POSITIVE! Immediately following there came to me irrefutable PROOF of the infallible inspiration and authority of the Bible (in its original writings) as the precise WORD OF GOD TO MAN!

But although this, so far, was pleasing and acceptable to me, I was having real difficulty in wrestling with this Sabbath question. My researches into *that* question were not going to my liking.

This almost day-and-night intensive study began in the fall of 1926. By the spring of 1927 I not only had to eat crow on the Sabbath question

- I had discovered, with PROOF, the permanency of God's *annual* Sabbaths and Feasts as well.

Complete surrender to God

In all this I had not found or proved what I wanted. Also I saw proved clearly that all these churches *were*, emphatically, WRONG! Most important, I was brought to see, against my will, that *I HAD BEEN WRONG* - not only on the Sabbath truth, but in what I actually *was*! I had just been wrong all over!

I was brought to the REPENTANCE that is complete SURRENDER to the will of God! I was brought to the unconditional surrender of being willing to say, with Christ, "Not MY will, but *THINE* be done!" I was brought, not only to complete repentance, but to living FAITH - to BELIEVE GOD - that is, to *believe what He says!*

To God I said, "YES, SIR!" In utter sincerity, I literally GAVE *MYSELF* to Jesus Christ. He had bought and paid for me with His life's blood. He OWNED me. I *BELONGED TO HIM!*

I became a YES-MAN to Christ!

Through human weaknesses I have not succeeded perfectly in leaving my life in His hands, but that has always remained my INTENTION - my motivating *attitude!*

When I GAVE my life over to Jesus Christ, I honestly by that time had come to feel I was not giving Him anything of value. But I did feel if He could USE this worthless life of mine it was now His to use!

Christ's yes-man

The living Christ inspired the apostle John to say that even we Christians will not live perfect lives. BUT, he added, "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness!" I still keep asking for that cleansing. But I did become Christ's yes-man. *I gave up doing my own thing!*

And I hope all our administrative people and all our ministers and their wives, as well as the entire body of God's Church, also are *that* kind of yes-men.

There is a vast difference between being an insipid yes-man weakling through cringing FEAR, and being resolute and strong-minded, imbued with the Holy Spirit of God.

On the other hand there is also a vast difference between that and being stubbornly mule-minded, each pulling *his own way* and *doing his own thing!*

What God intends us to be - what we MUST be to succeed in His Work - are resolute people, imbued with the HOLY SPIRIT of God, recognizing that Jesus Christ is our LEADER. And we plunge forth, *all of the same mind* (that of Christ) - in PERFECT HARMONY AND UNITY - *all speaking the same thing.*

God's command

Listen, then, to God's command:

"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, *that ye all speak the same thing*, and that there be no divisions among you: but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgement" (I Corinthians 1:10).

God did not inspire the apostle Paul to mean that *wrong* kind of yes-men - insipid, weak, fear-minded men concerned with self-interest. What He did mean is that we should all be led by the same Spirit - God's Holy Spirit.

He meant, as Paul wrote to the Philippians, that we should through the Holy Spirit be "like-minded, having the same love, being *of one accord*, of *one mind*." He said, "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory [vanity to exalt self or further one's personal interests]; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on *his own things*... Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:1-5).

You are not, then, allowed by God each to preach his own interpretations, but rather *as Christ leads the TEAM!*

In other words, God inspired Paul to admonish us: Be strong-minded, but Spirit-minded and Spirit-led. Let God's Spirit make us all of ONE MIND - as a TEAM - let your part in God's Work be your part in a TEAM EFFORT, all together in one accord!

Must be team leadership

God wants us to be always mindful that *to be a team*, there must be *TEAM LEADERSHIP!*

But HOW?

We must always keep in mind that JESUS CHRIST is the living HEAD of the Church. But HOW does Christ head the Work? He does not Himself personally, by personal contact with each department and each member, carry on the Work. He does NOT lead God's Work through the self-will of each minister or individual, each pulling *his own direction* to do *his own thing*.

Jesus Christ leads God's Work through *human leaders* whom *HE* (not the members by vote) CHOOSES and works through.

In the days of ancient Israel in the wilderness, God worked through Moses. When Aaron and Miriam challenged Moses' leadership - when they wanted equal say-so - God sternly rebuked them. He punished Miriam with temporary leprosy. And when Korah led a group challenging Moses' leadership, God caused them to be swallowed up by the earth!

Has God changed?

Yet many seem to think God has CHANGED or lost His interest or His power! Some, knowing these facts full well, have not feared to challenge the leadership of CHRIST'S choosing today! Perhaps these have become unmindful that they are being judged by God, NOW!

"Yes," one may argue, "but that was Old Testament stuff! We are under the NEW Testament! God has CHANGED!"

WHAT? God has changed? *He* says "I change NOT." The God of Moses was the one who was later born as Jesus Christ! And He is the *same*, yesterday, today and forever!

God tells us *in the New Testament* (I Corinthians 10:11) those Old Testament examples were for our admonition in the END time!

But let's look at how Christ led the New Testament Church.

He chose Peter as leading apostle and Paul leader in the Work to the Gentiles. Paul writes: "... when they [at Jerusalem] saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter..." (Galatians 2: 7).

Yet Peter took precedence over Paul, as shown at the Jerusalem conference (Acts 15). Paul had been at Antioch. Severe contentions arose in the church there. In this case Paul did not then and there settle it in Antioch, but went to Jerusalem with Barnabas and certain others - BECAUSE PETER WAS THERE.

"And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter. And when *there had been much disputing*, PETER ROSE UP..." and gave the DECISION. Then James, because he was pastor of the headquarters church, as a matter of protocol, made PETER'S DECISION official.

In this case Peter had preeminence over Paul and all apostles.

In 1 Corinthians 5 is the account of a fornicator in the church. Paul reproved the whole church and showed his authority saying, "For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have *judged already*, as though I were present."

To the Corinthian church Paul said, "What will ye? Shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness?" (1 Corinthians 4:21).

Difference in government

The one who accused of yes-men also needs updating on a number of other observations he made. He says, "Obviously you will not find democracy in Exodus... The government God set up then was the best form of government that could be set up *for that day* and age, not a master blueprint for eternity..."

He thinks members' view-points ought to make the decisions for today, and we should have democracy in the Church, every person doing what seems right in his own eyes. That is precisely what ancient Israel did. In the days of the judges, "every man did that which was right in his own eyes." And this was constantly leading Israel into the captivity of surrounding kings.

What is the actual DIFFERENCE between GOD'S GOVERNMENT, which is GOVERNMENT FROM THE TOP DOWN, and democracy? Under what we call democracy, if I drive to an intersection with a STOP sign, I am not free to go on through if it is right in my own eyes. We are not free to do whatever seems right in every individual's eyes. We still have LAWS, and codes and rules. And we have police and other law enforcement agencies.

The DIFFERENCE is that in what we erroneously call democracy, the PEOPLE decide by vote on *who shall be their leaders* - whether mayor or governor or president. But THERE IS STILL RULE.

Christ is our Leader

The difference, then, is that in GOD'S GOVERNMENT, GOD decides, through Christ, WHOM He shall choose and install in office over His people in His Church. God's apostle cannot do as *he* pleases in his own personal interest, but as CHRIST leads him.

And if he doesn't? If he needs correction or removal? If so, that is CHRIST'S responsibility - and HE *WILL SEE TO IT*. It is not the responsibility of those UNDER the apostle to correct him.

But maybe Christ is NOT LOOKING or maybe Christ neglects to correct him? Should not the people under him then take it into their hands? To do so would be to DEFY CHRIST - TO TRY TO TAKE CHRIST'S JOB AWAY FROM HIM!

Brethren, whether others know it or not, *I* know well that Christ is not asleep at the switch - He will not neglect His job - and *I FEAR* to disbelieve that.

The BIG POINT we must never lose sight of is that CHRIST IS THE LIVING HEAD OF GOD'S CHURCH, and we'd better all TREMBLE at His Word!

And that HITS THE NAIL SQUARELY ON THE HEAD. The trouble, these past 10 years, is that too many have lost sight of the fact that CHRIST is our INSPIRED LEADER. There has been too much tendency to look on the Church and the Work as OUR OWN SECULAR WORK - like any worldly club or business.

You have *not* read in *The Good News* lately that Mr. HWA has set the Church back on the track - but that THE LIVING CHRIST has moved to do it! And, to use another modern expression, YOU'D BETTER BELIEVE IT!

How new truth is revealed

Now WHERE does our TEACHING come from? What doctrines and teachings shall we accept? Those voted on by the doctrinal committee? Fellow ministers and brethren, Christ through me has *abolished* the doctrinal committee! God's Church is being set back BY THE LIVING CHRIST on the track of ORIGINAL TRUTH as CHRIST instilled it into God's Church through His chosen apostle!

Too little of the efforts of the doctrinal committee were to find and accept genuine *new truth* - but to DISprove, to alter or change truth, which Christ already had established in God's Church!

From time to time I propose to give you examples of that, as I proceed to REestablish the ORIGINAL POSITIVE TRUTH given us through CHRIST, correcting the errors - though they be few - in the Systematic Theology Project (STP).

The real Head of this Church has continued to reveal NEW truth - genuine bona fide NEW truth - through His apostle, but there seems to have been a tendency for some to ignore or try to disprove what CHRIST has inspired.

Look, now, to the matter of HOW the original Church of God received its truths and its doctrines. There were NO DOCTRINAL COMMITTEES of special intellectual scholars who got together and decided on and then gave to the Church what it was to believe.

The living CHRIST, the HEAD of the Church, gave His Church HIS truth *THROUGH HIS APOSTLES!* Through Peter, through Paul, through James, *INSPIRED* through those *He* chose.

But WHY do we find so much more of the New Testament written by Paul than by Peter? Simply because Christ had sent Peter and the original 12, after Peter's visit to Babylon, to "the LOST sheep of the House of ISRAEL!" Their identity was LOST and God intended to leave it that way. Peter and the original 12 went to western Europe and Britain. They dropped out of sight so to speak. None of New Testament scripture was written of their work there.

Input is considered

Now a definition of that word *INPUT*. It does not mean an authoritative doctrine or even a vote on such. But input is welcome, to be CONSIDERED by Christ's apostle, as prayerfully led by Christ. But the DECISION must come from CHRIST through His apostle. And the living Christ has maintained the mind and mental processes of His apostle in all the vitality, clarity, UNDERSTANDING, given him 20 years ago and 51 years ago. Even through Moses' entire leadership of the Israelites from Egypt, through the wilderness up to the promised land - a period of 40 years - beginning after Moses was 80 years of age, yet at age 120, his natural force and mind had not abated!

Jesus Christ is ABLE - and He WILL - keep the spiritual and mental powers of His chosen apostle sharp and keen and clear, UNTIL THE GREAT COMMISSION IS FINISHED!

Brethren, let's PLUNGE ON INTO IT, fully mindful that Christ has again ENTHRONED THE GREAT MAJESTIC GOD at the Supreme Headship of

Christ, and of His Church and Work! This is NOT THE WORK OF MEN! This Church is the living TEMPLE to which Christ soon will come! *HE BUILT IT!* And except *the Eternal* build the house, they labor in vain that build it! (Psalms 127:1).

Good News - September 11, 1978

And NOW - The *PLAIN TRUTH* Being Set Back on Track

by Herbert W. Armstrong
page 1 Good News September 11, 1978

Since last May I have been moving swiftly to set the Church of God back on the track as GOD'S CHURCH. I have set the radio and television programs back on GOD'S track. Secularism and the leaven of modern intellectualism and Ph.D.ism had turned Ambassador College into just another of *this world's colleges*.

To set it back on the track I have had to start all over again, as in 1947, with one single undergraduate freshman class. I have put back in charge those who were taught God's REVEALED KNOWLEDGE under me in the earlier years. I hope that and my personal very frequent taking of the forums will, within the year, set Ambassador College back on the track as GOD'S COLLEGE.

In all this, I deeply appreciate and am grateful from the heart for the loyalty and the standing solidly behind me of all you in the ministry in this difficult task.

But now, I am moving just as vigorously to set *The Plain Truth* back on the track.

I have just written a 32-page typed memorandum for *The Plain Truth* staff, titled "A 'PLAIN TRUTH' DIRECTIVE." I am having a meeting with my *Plain Truth* staff Thursday [Sept. 7]. I give you here a synoptic extract from that directive:

A 'Plain Truth' directive

At this point I consider it necessary to succinctly review the PURPOSE, policy and state of *The Plain Truth* and its future.

God forcibly called me to His service in 1926, later to commit to me Christ's GREAT COMMISSION - to announce overall to the world the

soon-coming KINGDOM OF GOD - an entirely NEW civilization of GOD'S making.

In 1927 God inspired me with the vision of publishing GOD'S magazine. Jesus had divine TRUTH by saying, "Thy word [the Holy Bible] is TRUTH."

God had been opening my mind to understanding of His truth. I had been experienced in magazine and newspaper writing. God put it in my mind to publish *HIS* magazine, making His TRUTH - the Bible - PLAIN, CLEAR UNDERSTANDABLE, INTEREST-GRIPPING, DYNAMIC.

In 1927 I had a commercial artist design a front cover for this magazine, to be called *The Plain Truth*.

It was seven years before God opened the way to actually start producing it - and even then as a virtual no-cost mimeographed "magazine."

Jesus Christ, living HEAD of God's Church, used me in raising up the present era of that Church - the parent Church starting with 19 members in August, 1933.

The Work of God - the GREAT COMMISSION - started as an infinitesimal operation - a virtual mustard-seed beginning - as God starts activities through human instruments. But, also, like the proverbial mustard seed, it GREW - at the unmatched rate of 30 percent a year over a 35-year span.

What Christ called me to - what He started and has built through me - is the WORK OF GOD, not of MAN. It is not *of* this world. God called me out of this world, and He has called others out of this world and its ways to assist me in *HIS* Work.

Christ's message in print

But as God has prospered His Work and it has grown to worldwide operations - and in going *TO* this world, a multi-million dollar organization - those who have been brought into the Work are prone to assume it to be *just another of this WORLD'S organizations - where the actuating attitude and motive is the GET way instead of God's GIVE way* - and where it is operated with the approach of this world's carnal and intellectual secular concepts.

That has happened to *The Plain Truth*.

I am deeply sad to say, the same spirit of carnal secular intellectualism that infiltrated God's college has also infiltrated HIS MAGAZINE - Christ's MESSAGE IN PRINT to a deceived world! I see now articles on child rearing whose approach is the carnal psychology of Satan's higher education and slanted *contrary* to God's PLAIN teaching in His truth - the Bible!

I see articles, and also booklets now being produced, with a bibliography of source materials of up to 16 secular "authorities."

Let me state my personal evaluation of the situation. I believe the managing editor to be sincere, loyal, desiring to do the *right* thing - which is GOD'S and not his own thing. I believe he simply needs more cooperation and guidelines from me.

Basic policy outlined

Therefore, I am here outlining some basics, policies, guidelines and directives.

What I had in mind was articles dealing with world conditions and human interest problems - but always in the main content of the article, approaching that problem and dealing with it from the BIBLICAL revelation - so that in fact it was actually *making plain* the TRUTH - derived from *revelation*, not from science or secular scholarship of behavioral science and university-brand psychology.

Today we live in the day of man (enslaved invisibly by Satan) - and a *civilization* that in fact is the world of *human nature* - Satan's world! The PLAIN TRUTH was envisioned and brought into a publication that proclaims the WORLD TOMORROW - an entirely *different* civilization - GOD'S CIVILIZATION.

Now this is of SUPREME IMPORTANCE - because *The Plain Truth* was founded under God's leading to be one of the two - and perhaps even the No. 1 medium for carrying out the GREAT COMMISSION. Some might think radio and television to be our No. 1 means of proclaiming Christ's GOOD NEWS but, without THE WORD OF GOD IN PRINT, radio alone could never have built the Work - and actual records show that daily half-hour radio broadcasting has far out-weighted television - though the latter, if properly used, may be very effective.

You know, I really died, just over a year ago - though by mouth-to-mouth resuscitation they brought me back in 30 or 45 seconds - or perhaps 1½ minutes. *God brought me back from death because HIS*

CHURCH, HIS WORK, HIS COLLEGE AND HIS 'PLAIN TRUTH' had gone secular - and God had been virtually booted out the window.

And now I must move as swiftly and decisively to get *The Plain Truth* back on the track as GOD'S MAGAZINE! Utterly UNIQUE! Totally unlike this carnal world's magazines.

Now, back to the BASIC POLICY and PURPOSE of *The Plain Truth*. I have already stated it - to make plain God's revealed TRUTH as it is in the Bible. To make the Bible interesting! To make it understandable! To make it COME ALIVE as a NOW Book!

What built the Work?

What *built* the Church and the Work? The central hub of the Work was daily half-hour radio broadcasting working *with The Plain Truth*. The broadcasting and later telecasting and even advertising space in mass-circulation magazines and newspapers added subscribers to *The Plain Truth*. *The Plain Truth* was then used to open minds to revealed knowledge, informed of the KINGDOM OF GOD and by offering, with it, *booklets* and the *correspondence course*.

This basic program was supplemented by monthly co-worker letters from me, semi-annual letters to PT subscribers *and* a LETTER ANSWERING DEPARTMENT (LAD, later PCD) along with a growing and dedicated ministry.

The whole concept of every branch of this Work was to *GIVE* God's truth to the world and to *SERVE* (GIVE TO) the brethren. God continually *added* to His Church.

This plain, simple, direct program *worked!* I remember how Bill Tilden used to say, "Never change a winning game - always change a losing game."

I am taking steps immediately to restore a qualified and experienced Letter Answering Department, such as we used under Dr. [Clint] Zimmerman and Wilbur Berg. I may have to find time (how, I do not know) to do new daily half-hour radio broadcasting.

We reach people 10 times more effectively through the eye than through the ear. True, TV offers both, but TV in the past has not been comparatively productive - partly due to the secular, documentary-type programming. To use TV daily with blanket national coverage is immediately impossible.

No. 1 magazine on earth

We may use the most modern professional systems and innovated techniques, with the original MAKE-THE-BIBLE-PLAIN concept in reading content.

The Plain Truth can and *must be* made the No. 1 MAGAZINE ON EARTH - utterly unique - no subscription price nor advertising revenue - making the biblical message not only plain but *dynamically interest-gripping, with a stronger public-reader appeal than even Reader's Digest.*

It must become the No. 1 *QUALITY* magazine, as a vigorous, dynamic, interest-grabbing magazine that literally makes God's truth *COME ALIVE!*

When my mind was first opened to God's TRUTH, I found it the most interesting, absorbing thing that had ever entered my life. I could hardly tear myself away from the Bible. The things that fill most minds in this world became ridiculously unimportant and boring. That *interest* has never waned. We must allow that same intense interest in the mind and heart of the MILLIONS!

We have the MOST IMPORTANT MESSAGE!

We have, if presented so, the *most interesting* and absorbing material for any magazine.

We must at once *set it back on the track* as GOD'S magazine, sparkling with His living TRUTH. We must find, somewhere in the Church of God, the writers who themselves *FEEL* and *EXPERIENCE* the fascinating, glorious LOVE of GOD'S TRUTH and who can make articles *come alive* with vigorous Holy Spirit INSPIRATION!

The only voice

THINK ON THIS!

We are the *only* voice in the wilderness of today's evils, frustrations, discouragements, with the world's ONLY HOPE - and it's one SURE HOPE of happiness, abundance and eternal life!

We are going to develop the NEWSSTAND circulation into multiplied millions. But first, before I sell *The Plain Truth* to the news-stand audience, I must have a PRODUCT *that will grab attention, arouse instant interest, create suspense* and the DESIRE FOR MORE - AND MORE - AND MORE OF THE SAME!

The GREAT COMMISSION is our uniqueness, our WONDERFUL CALLING, that must pervade clearly every issue of *The Plain Truth*.

But of course, first, it must pervade our own lives, until we become HUMAN DYNAMOS for GOD'S TRUTH!

This ORGANIZED SPIRITUAL ORGANISM, the Worldwide Church of God, is *not* just another worldly, routine human occupation.

It is the CHURCH OF GOD, and we are in the WORK of GOD. And it should be the most intriguing, inspiring, zestful Work being done by any humans.

WHAT A GLORIOUS PRIVILEGE - we can be the inspired instruments of the LIVING GOD *giving* His wonderful TRUTH to a dying world in its LAST DAYS!

Worldwide News, 20th Nov 1978 page 1

HOW CHRIST GIVES THE CHURCH ITS BELIEFS

By Herbert W Armstrong

I said to my wife, 52 years ago, "All these churches can't be wrong. That's how I know the Bible says 'Thou shalt observe Sunday'"

But on intensive, indepth study of the bible, I found all "these churches" *were* wrong, and that they did not obtain their beliefs from God's word, but rather that they believed doctrines and practiced customs that are contrary to biblical teaching.

I wanted to find God's teachings, doctrines, customs and practices. I found them! I found them in the same way the Apostle Paul did.

An eye-opener!

And, in one stepped in the practices and doctrines of today's 'Christianity' – both Protestant and Catholic – it is, indeed, an eye opener.

But I followed Paul's example.

And I can say with him, "I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is *not after* man. For I neither received it of man,

neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ...But when it pleased God, who...called me by His grace to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood [neither went I to a biblical sanctuary, but I went into night and day study of the Word of God, mostly on my knees]." (paraphrased from Galatians 1:11-17)

The apostle Paul says, verse 17, that instead of going to other MEN, he went into Arabia. Apparently Jesus Christ, in PERSON, manifested Himself and taught Paul there. For Paul said later, "...Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord?..." (1 Corinthians 9:1) and "...that he [Jesus] rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve...And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time." (1 Corinthians 14:4-6, 8)

The 12 original apostles received their teaching direct from Jesus in PERSON. The apostle Paul spent some three years in Arabia, and apparently that was the time when he saw JESUS IN PERSON, and was taught directly by Jesus Christ. But as Jesus is the Word in Person, so the Bible is the Word of God in print.

Now back to Galatians 1: "Then after three years (in Arabia) I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days. But other of the apostles saw I none, save James, the Lord's brother." (Galatians 1:18-19) Continue on "Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also. And I went up by revelation and communicated to them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run in vain...But...when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision [to the Gentiles] was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision [Israel] was unto Peter; (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:)" (Galatians 2:1-8)

One sent forth

The word apostle means "*one sent forth.*"

The meaning here is unmistakable – as Peter was the *chief apostle* to Israel and Judah, so Paul was chief apostle to the gentiles.

Nevertheless, when ALL of the scriptures on this subject are put together, it becomes certain that Peter, in fact, was the overall chief apostle.

The New Testament Church of God received all its teachings, practices, customs, FROM THE APOSTLES, with Peter chief over all of the others.

I know well that, in view of Roman Catholic teachings regarding Peter being the first pope, this statement will be challenged by many – but it is TRUE, nevertheless.

Peter did have primacy as chief apostle! I shall amply prove that. YET PETER WAS NOT A POPE! There is a vast DIFFERENCE!

For remember an apostle is “ONE SENT FORTH WITH THE GOSPEL.” The Roman Catholic pope sits permanently (unless, as some few have done, he takes a trip to some other place – not as carrying the gospel, but as a POLITICAL HEAD OF STATE).

Yet the apostles were the teachers, who instilled in the Church the BELIEFS, TEACHINGS, PRACTICES AND CUSTOMS of the Church. And all members of the Church were required by God to BELIEVE AND SPEAK THE SAME THING!

In the Church in Corinth, Paul began his letter, INSPIRED as part of GOD’S WORD, by saying “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that *ye all speak the same thing*, and that there be no division among you...” (1 Corinthians 1:10)

Paul’s letter to the Corinthians was CORRECTIVE, as were his letters to other churches, and he was inspired to speak in the name of – and AUTHORITY of – Jesus Christ, for he said (verses 11-12) “...there are contentions [divisions] among you...that everyone of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas and I of Christ.” THEY WERE BEGINNING TO FOLLOW INDIVIDUAL LEADERS. They *supposed* those leaders differed in their teaching, though in fact those mentioned did all speak and teach THE SAME THING AS CHRIST had instructed.

Source of Church beliefs

Let’s SET THIS STRAIGHT, once and for all! The SOURCE of the beliefs, teaching, customs and practices in the Church of God is GOD HIMSELF! Not any man. Jesus said “I have spoken nothing of myself” – the FATHER had instructed Him! Jesus, in turn, *taught His apostles in Person!*

THERE WAS NO DOCTRINAL BOARD! The teachings of the Church did not come from a COUNCIL of ministers and/or lay members, who voted on what to believe.

Right here, SOME are going to ask "WHAT ABOUT ACTS 15? Wasn't that the first Church Council in Jerusalem, to settle points of doctrine?" THE ANSWER IS **NO!** And I intend to devote enough space in this article to *clear up this point!*

So far, I have shown you from Galatians 1 and 2 that Peter was the chief apostle to the house of Israel and Paul to the gentiles. Now I will show you that Peter actually had PRIMACY OVER ALL.

At the very founding of the New Testament Church of God, it was Peter who stood up and explained what had occurred – preaching the first sermon in the Church that led to 3,000 converts. (Acts 2:14-39)

A day or two later, the number became 5,000. It was *Peter* who said to the cripple "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." (Acts 3:6) It was PETER who preached the sermon to the crowd thus attracted that converted 2,000 more.

Next came the incident of Annanias and Sapphira stealing and lying. It was Peter who spoke and caused them to drop dead.

Next, when signs and wonders were performed by the apostles, it was PETER'S SHADOW, as he passed by, that healed the sick.

Next the apostles were brought before the high priest and the council, and the spokesman for the apostles was PETER, who said "...We ought to obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29)

Coming to Acts 8 where Phillip, then a deacon, went to Samaria, and when the people believed Phillip preaching the things concerning the Kingdom of God, they were baptized. It was Peter and John who went down to Samaria, laid hands on the newly baptized (gentiles) and prayed for the Holy Spirit to be given to them. This is the best example of the Church of God's *custom* of laying hands on the baptized for receiving the Holy Spirit – and PETER was the leader, for when Simon the sorcerer tried to buy an apostleship with money it was PETER who said to him (the first pope) "...Thy money perish with thee...for I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity." (Acts 8:20-23) He was the pater or peter - papa - pope of the Babylonian Mystery religion. Paul writes (II Thessalonians 2:7) "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work..." That religion, having without authority, appropriated the name "Christianity", is named in Revelation 17:5 "MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT."

Is it not ironic that the one who rebuked and condemned the first pope was Cephas, whom Christ had called PETER.

But continue on.

We come to Acts 10. Although Paul was later to be made apostle to the gentiles, the time had come to first open salvation to the gentiles officially. And this was done by PETER, not Paul. It was PETER whom God sent to the house of the gentile Cornelius, to teach him. It was PETER who convinced the others at Jerusalem that God had opened salvation to the gentiles (Acts 11).

Peter not a pope

UNDERSTAND this about Peter. HE WAS NOT A PROUD RULING POPE. He was a humble man, strong in Christ's gospel and faith, but he did not try to lord it over others or always take the top seat, unless his position required. He was HUMAN, still, though since the Day of Pentecost he had the Holy Spirit. When Peter came to Antioch, more than 14 years after the founding of the Church, his human nature showed when he withdrew from the gentiles after some Jewish converts arrived from Jerusalem. Paul rebuked Peter publicly for this. But then, we might well remember that Paul was also human. This event occurred in the chief gentile church, and Paul was a little nettled at seeing Peter withdraw from eating with gentiles because some had arrived from Jerusalem. This incident reflects the humanity of both Peter and Paul – and demonstrates also that Peter was not a pope, else Paul would never have dared rebuke him.

Now we come to that crucial 15th chapter of Acts.

Few in God's Church have fully understood this chapter. I shall go into sufficient detail to MAKE IT CLEAR.

Unauthorized teachers

Notice verse 1 "...certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved." Who were these men? NOT apostles, or they would have been named.

Right here, MARK WELL THIS POINT, GOD PUT HIS TRUTH INTO HIS CHURCH THROUGH CHRIST AND THROUGH THE APOSTLES! These men were not apostles. What they taught was NOT FROM JESUS!

The apostle Paul KNEW WELL that God gave His Church its teachings only through Christ and the apostles. Immediately Paul withstood these unauthorized teachers.

Verse 2 “When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.”

The men from Judea were undoubtedly Jewish Christians who had not received authentic teaching through the apostles, nor did they recognize Paul’s authority as an apostle, or they would not have entered in such a disputation with him.

Undoubtedly being Jewish converts, without full apostolic teaching, they looked on the Church as merely an *extension* of Judaism. Incidentally, the Judaism of that time was **NOT** Mosaic teaching. But after the days of Ezra and Nehemiah, the only organized Jewish religion was among the descendants of the contingent of Jews sent back to Jerusalem from Persian Captivity (see Ezra I:1-3) 70 years after the destruction of Solomon’s temple, to build the second temple – to which Jesus later came. After Ezra and Nehemiah, the rabbis gradually made a considerable change in the old covenant religion given Israel by Moses.

World cut off from God

Their Israelite ancestors had always wanted to be more like the world around them. In 1 Samuel 8, you will read of how they wanted a king and government more like the other nations of the world. Now the WORLD, except for Israel, which was specially called by God, was CUT OFF from God. Remember, all those centuries and millenniums, the Chinese, Japanese, people of India, South East Asia, Africa, the Roman Empire knew little or nothing about GOD. They all had their own religions, and most were derived, with some changes, from that established by Semiramis the mother-wife of Nimrod. (Genesis 10)

Now these pagan religions of Egypt, Greece, Babylon, Rome, had known nothing of God’s GRACE – unmerited, undeserved PARDON, forgiveness of past sins on repentance. Instead, their religions had adopted a system of self-inflicted punishment, ordeal or torture to justify past sins.

Israel given laws through Moses

Moses had been used of God to give Israel certain laws. First, there was the overall spiritual law of LOVE, or the Ten Commandments – although Israel without the Holy Spirit could keep that law only in the strictness of the letter (in the New Testament it must be according to

the Spirit – or the obvious intent). This is called in the Bible the Law of God.

Then, through Moses, God gave them the “law of Moses” – a sacrificial law of animal sacrifices, which could not justify sin, but was a reminder of sin, and was a physical substitute for the sacrifice of Christ. When Christ died on the cross, animal sacrifices ceased.

There was also a ceremonial law – of physical rituals, carnal ordinances, meat and drink offerings, etc – to teach them the HABIT of obedience – things to do repeatedly morning, noon and night. The law of rituals, including circumcision, was PHYSICAL, and a *substitute* until the Holy Spirit should be given, to teach them the HABIT of obedience.

In Galatians 3:19, this law was ADDED, because of transgressions. That is, transgressions of the spiritual law. In Galatians 3:24, this ritual law is called a “schoolmaster” to bring them to Christ. In Romans and Galatians, the terms “works of the law” *always* refers to these PHYSICAL laws, which were TEMPORARY until Christ. Sometimes the single word *works* means “good works” in accord with the spiritual law, and sometimes the “works of the law” when mentioned in the context will for brevity speak of just “the law”, but the context will make it plain the subject is the RITUALS. The Greek for works of the law is *ergon*, which means physical effort.

Besides these temporary physical rituals and sacrifices, God gave them, through Moses, statutes and judgements – the CIVIL LAWS of their nation. They were not necessarily temporary or substitutional, but were to last as long as the NATIONAL GOVERNMENT was administered over the nation Israel.

Dos and don'ts added

Now the rabbis, after Ezra and Nehemiah, added some 65 dos and don'ts even to the keeping of the Sabbath. They adopted the PAGAN PENANCE – self-inflicted punishment – and construed the physical rituals as a means of justification of past sins. THIS WAS PAGAN, something really quite different from the religion of Moses.

Now back to Acts 15.

These Jews who had come down to Antioch thought this system of PENANCE was still in effect. In Galatians 5:3, Paul shows that if a man was circumcised as a legal ritual, he became a debtor to the WHOLE RITUAL LAW – and the context is speaking of the RITUAL law, though this verse does not use “works of the law”.

Paul was quite willing to take this to Jerusalem, BECAUSE PETER WAS THERE AT THE TIME.

This visit of Paul to Jerusalem is undoubtedly the one mentioned in Galatians 2. Apparently, according to Galatians 2:9, the only apostles at Jerusalem at that time were Peter, James and John.

But in Acts 15:4, it is stated: "And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the Church, and of the apostles and elders..."

Then, verse 6 "And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter." All ordained ministers are called elders in the Bible. This means the lay members were excluded, but the apostles and ordained ministers ranked lower than apostles came together in this council.

Peter settles the question

Now we see that even these elders were not clear on this matter of circumcision. For, verse 7 "And when there had been much disputing, PETER rose up..." *and settled the matter!*

Continue, verses 7-11 "...PETER rose up, and said unto the, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made the choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel and believe. And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Spirit, even as he did unto us. And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke on the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe through the GRACE [not ritual penance] of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they."

Verse 12, "Then all the multitude kept silence..." PETER had settled the question!

Right here, NOTE CAREFULLY! Peter was an apostle - ONE SENT FORTH proclaiming the Gospel, not a resident pastor of a church. James was pastor of the Jerusalem church at the time, though also an apostle. Therefore, James acted as chairman of the meeting – even though PETER gave the DECISION. As a matter of protocol, as chairman (as we would call it today) we come now to verse 13.

James speaks as chairman

"And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me. Simeon has declared..." in other

words, acting as chairman of the meeting, James in effect started by saying , "PETER has declared" – Peter had settled it – "...how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name." Again affirming Peter's primacy – for when God decided to open salvation to the gentiles – to CALL some of them to salvation, whereas heretofore God had called only Israelites (and even them NOT to salvation except the prophets) – when God opened salvation to the gentiles, He used Peter to do it! Now continue James speech:

"And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things."

This was quoted from Amos 9:11-12.

NOTE THIS! The Church of God is built upon the FOUNDATION of the apostles and prophets – Old Testament prophets as well as the VERY FEW prophets of the New Testament. And James was here quoting from the prophet Amos, to add his own approval to Peter's DECISION. James is not making the decision – he is making official Peter's decision!

Continue "Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions from idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood." (verses 19-20) Pollutions of idols was related to idolatry, and idolatry and fornication were violations of the SPIRITUAL law, eternally binding. Eating blood or things strangled was NO PART of the ceremonial law, but a law of health that was not substitutionary.

OBSERVE SPECIALLY. This was not a matter, as did happen at Pasadena, of one of lower rank appointed by an apostle, while the apostle was in another part of the world, calling together a conference of ministers of various ranks – all *under* that apostle – and determining or changing doctrine – watering down God's TRUTH – and sending it out, as the Systematic Theology Project (STP) was, claiming falsely and without authority that it was an authoritative doctrinal pronouncement!

In this case, it was PETER, chief apostle, who set the decision. The letter they then sent to the church at Antioch specified that this decision was inspired by the HOLY SPIRIT. PETER set it, James, local

pastor acting as chairman of the meeting, confirmed Peter's decision, making it OFFICIAL, inspired by the HOLY SPIRIT.

Jesus gave Peter primacy

In all these successive instances, I have shown you, step by step, that Peter was LEADER of the apostles – and that the Church received its teachings and doctrines FROM THE APOSTLES!

But God has always worked primarily through ONE MAN at a time – as Abraham, then Isaac, then Jacob, then Joseph – later Moses, then Joshua, later Samuel, then David – and, in the New Testament Church, PETER. But Peter was an apostle – one sent forth proclaiming the message – not a resident pope over a religious hierarchy.

Now notice how JESUS gave Peter primacy over the apostles.

Jesus had asked His apostles to be whom they said Jesus really was, "And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.. And Jesus said unto him [UNTO **PETER**] Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee [UNTO **PETER**] That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell [the grave] shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto THEE [PETER *not* the Church] the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou [PETER] shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Matthew 16:16-19)

There has been much discussion at Pasadena between certain ministers of lower than apostle rank, as to the CHURCH binding and loosing.

So now let it be MADE OFFICIAL – by Christ's present day apostle – that this binding and loosing PLAINLY, CLEARLY was given to Christ's chief APOSTLE – not to lower rank ministers ordained by his authority – not by the CHURCH as a body – but by the APOSTLE!

When men who held office under the apostle, and by his appointment or approval, took it in their own hands, in his absence – stealthily KEEPING IT FROM HIM – to water down God's TRUTH, alter his doctrines, assume unauthorized authority, then the living CHRIST moves His apostle to **ACT SWIFTLY**, to PUT OUT the prime mover in this conspiracy, and, under Christ, set God's Church and Work BACK ON GOD'S TRACK!

PRAISE THE ETERNAL GOD! HE has NOT left nor forsaken HIS CHURCH. Jesus Christ still REIGNS SUPREME in God's Church, as He shall, very soon, reign over all the earth!

Many harmful errors in the STP still remain to be PUT STRAIGHT – and it shall be done by JESUS CHRIST, through His apostle, as rapidly as is humanly possible!

JESUS CHRIST is the living HEAD of this Church! HE built it through His apostle. And He, Christ, still rules SUPREME in the one and only area on earth where the GOVERNMENT OF GOD is being administered today!

Worldwide News, 19th Feb 1979 page 1

And Now Christ Sets Church Back On Track Doctrinally

By Herbert W Armstrong

Until about 1969 we in God's Church *did* all "speak the same things". By 1978 many of the ministers were speaking *different* things! God had withdrawn from us His blessing and power that for 35 YEARS caused the Work of His Church to grow at the approximate rate of 30 percent every years of the preceding year!

WHAT CAUSED GOD TO WITHDRAW HIS BLESSING AND POWER?

Precisely the same thing that choked the growth of the Church of God at Corinth from A.D. 56, 25 years after the Church was founded at Jerusalem. They were following different leaders, speaking different things, watering down the sacred and precious truths of Christ!

Christ's apostle wrote to the Corinthian Church in A.D. 56. "Now I beseech you brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." (1 Corinthians 1:10)

They were starting to follow different leaders teaching different doctrines! The Church was becoming divided and a church divided against itself cannot stand!

Once such division starts among ministers it is a difficult matter to correct for most who have gone doctrinally a field will today - just as in

Corinth in A.D. 56 ??? be willing to change back from error and watered down doctrines to God's truth!

This same deception was occurring in the church at Rome. And God said through the apostle Paul, "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences *contrary* to the doctrine which ye have learned; *and avoid them*. For they ... by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple." (Romans 16:17-18) Jesus Christ showed me that, as much as it hurt, the No 1 deceiver with watered-down doctrines, in authority, whom I had to mark and put out of God's Church, was my only living son whom I loved as only a father can. Other liberals have had to go since GODS CHURCH MUST BE CLEANED UP! We must all SPEAK THE SAME THING, as God commands!

But *HOW?* How does Jesus Christ put His doctrines into His Church? How did He in A.D. 31? How in A.D. 1933?

DID THE CHURCH OF GOD, of A.D. 31, believe and proclaim the TRUE doctrines? How did they come to believe as they believed? Did their doctrines come as a result of a vote of ministers on the ideas, opinions and convictions of the ministers in the Church?

HOW must the true Church of God *today* receive its doctrinal beliefs? Doesn't every human individual know by himself, KNOW right from wrong - what is TRUTH and what is error? Is not the ability to know right from wrong acknowledged by society as the test of sanity or insanity? Does not mankind automatically know what is truth - what is good and right - as contrasted from what is wrong, evil and sin?

God says we in His Church must all believe and speak the SAME THING - we must be AGREED on what is truth and right and good as opposed to what is evil and sin.

Brethren, WE HAVE NOT OBEYED THAT COMMAND OF JESUS CHRIST! We have not *all* believed the same thing! There HAVE BEEN DIVISIONS among us for that very reason!

We therefore have been GUILTY before God of disobeying HIS EXPLICIT COMMAND! I said "We've been". But God's time of trial and test is upon us! God says through Daniel, that at "the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; ..." (Daniel 12:9-10)

God's sifting time is upon us! God is allowing those duped by Satan to bring upon us the GREATEST TIME OF TRIAL AND TESTING THAT His Church has undergone in our lifetime!

When I pray as I do many times a day during this supreme trial of the forces of State government of America's most populous state and the forces of the public press lined up against us, falsely accusing us, picturing us to the public as if already tried and proved guilty - as CRIMINALS - I not only petition God to deliver us, *but I also **THANK GOD** for this trial and test!* We are being STRENGTHENED by it! We are being brought closer to God and welded CLOSER TOGETHER than ever before! God, through this trial, is weeding out from our midst the liberals who did not believe or "speak the same thing". These I have LOVED sincerely even as I have loved my own son!

I wonder, do we sometimes LOVE even the sin *within* us that we hate to purge it out? At least I know how I have so sincerely loved those individuals whom Christ has been purging out - that we may all be united in speaking the same THING - speaking GOD'S TRUTH!

Now **HOW** may we obey Christ by all speaking the same thing when we - especially a small portion of the ministers - have not all *believed* the same thing?

I can tell you how my son, when he was executive vice president, with a small group of liberals at headquarters, tried to bring us into harmony. Some of the ministers did not believe many of the doctrines Christ had put into His Church. A minority (yet perhaps close to a dozen field ministers) had liberal leanings - did not believe the SAME THINGS Christ had put into HIS CHURCH. So, *behind my back* - unknown to me, while I was in another part of the world carrying Christ's gospel message into other nations - they produced what they called a Systematic Theology Project, *changing* and *watering down* - making more liberal - many doctrines Christ had put into God's Church.

WHY did they do this? The one who wrote most of it stated to me in writing, "My only goal in coordinating the project was to bring doctrinal consistency, stability and unity to the ministry and the Church".

This reminds me of a saying we used to have on the tennis courts, "The idea was fine, but the execution was rotten".

These deluded and misguided "scholars" were in fact IGNORANT of the central truism that the "same thing" we must all speak *must be what **CHRIST** speaks*, and for unity in what He speaks, the doctrines MUST BE PUT INTO THE CHURCH BY JESUS CHRIST! Not be compromising, watering down Christ's teachings to satisfy rebellious liberals. JESUS CHRIST is the living HEAD of the Church. They overlooked that!

So it has become necessary for CHRIST the HEAD of the Church, to SET GOD'S CHURCH BACK ON THE TRACK OF **GODS** UNITY - not confusion by trying to satisfy rebellious men by COMPROMISING GODS TRUTH!

Now **HOW** did God put *His* doctrines and teachings into His Church in A.D. 31 - before many in the Church turned to another gospel (Galatians 16:7)? And HOW did the living Christ put God's doctrines and teachings into His Church TODAY - before these "intellectual liberals" began trying to compromise and water down?

Only by His chosen apostles. As I quoted in the beginning in 1 Corinthians 1:10 Christ says we must all speak the same thing. **WHAT** "same thing?" That which comes from the MIND of CHRIST - "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5)

The Corinthian church was not in harmony. It was divided. **WE** had gotten out of harmony. **WE** were divided! Those who do have the mind of Christ and are surrendered to the Spirit of God are being used by Jesus Christ in *rooting out* that spiritual CANCER from God's Church.

Ministers are being called in for conferences. The first thing we at headquarters are concerned about is *their attitude!* If the attitude is good, and doctrinal differences can be straightened out, and we may proceed in peace, harmony and UNITY in faith - all speaking the same thing that CHRIST SPEAKS! If the attitude is resentful, rebellious, bitter, the one having it is "hooked" on a spiritual drug far worse than physical heroin. I have warned against this attitude for 49 years - ever since I began to preach in 1930.

It is only common sense to realise that if everyone teaches what he, personally, believes, or if we follow different leaders each speaking his own thing, WE HAVE ONLY CONFUSION!

Our teaching and doctrines MUST COME FROM GOD! Through CHRIST! And through His apostle!

But **HOW?** must some speak what they don't believe? We must believe what Christ SAYS, to be saved!

Jesus Christ is the Word of God in PERSON. The Bible is the same Word of God in PRINT! The very first man to be used in writing down the Word of God as Christ (in the Old Testament, Yahweh) inspired, was Moses, and he wrote more words of it than any other. Now did Moses seek this commission for himself? No. Moses had been reared a prince in the palace of Egypt's pharaoh, and he probably cared little or nothing about being a leader for God.

But God called to him in the incident of the burning bush (Exodus 3).

Immediately Moses protested "I'm slow of speech," he objected. "I stutter". God was a bit angry at this. But God said He had provided for that He had appointed Moses' brother, Aaron, to be his spokesman. Moses accepted God's rebuke and became strong and faithful in the Lord.

He believed what God said!

God has always, in dealing with humans, worked through ONE MAN at a time - one who believed God! Some in ancient Israel challenged this one man leadership. Some, likewise, have challenged it today!

First, Moses' own brother and sister challenged his one man leadership. Miriam and Aaron said, "Hath the Eternal indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us?" (Numbers 12:2) "and the Eternal heard it... And the Eternal came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth...

"My servant Moses is not so (as the others), who is faithful in all mine house... Wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?" (verses 7,8)

"And the anger of the Eternal was kindled against them" (verse 9). And Miriam was afflicted with leprosy for a while.

Yet though our members and ministers all know this some are NOT AFRAID to speak contemptuously, in hostility or defamingly against Christ's apostle today! They need not fear **ME** for I will not turn on them or strike them.

WHY then do they not fear GOD? It must be one of the two things - either they do not really comprehend this teaching of the incident about Aaron and Miriam, or they do not believe that God has chosen me as His apostle and human leader today. Or, perhaps they think God is NOT the same yesterday, today and forever! In any event, this is a matter between them and Jesus Christ.

But there was an even *more* significant incident of opposition of Moses' leadership.

That is the case of Korah, Dathan, Abiram and On. "And they rose up before Moses with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes... famous in the congregation, men of renown: And they gathered themselves together against Moses... Ye take too much upon

you seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the Eternal is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the Eternal?" (Numbers 16: 1-3)

They accused Moses of appointing himself - though there had been ample evidence by the fruits of Moses' leadership and even miracles God did through him, that they were without excuse, just as many are today.

What happened to them? "And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up."

"They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation." (verses 32,33)

GOD IS ON HIS THRONE! And He is the SAME GOD! He has not changed! Once again, the same God is going, very soon now, to shake this whole world - to produce astounding miracles - and those who take His Work lightly and ought to know better are going to have to REALIZE that He is the SAME GOD TODAY!

We are in the trying and sifting time, right now, for God's Church! Notice it in Daniel 12:9-10.

At "the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall UNDERSTAND." (Daniel 12:9-10)

My children in Christ, can we not see that we are IN THAT TIME NOW? God is TRYING us as never before. He is drawing those of us who both love and fear Him close to Him and to each other! He is permitting trials and tests, such as we never experienced before to come upon us, so that we well RELY ON HIM in unshaken faith! But the self-minded among us, even the few in the ministry, DO NOT UNDERSTAND! They do not believe God is the SAME today and will act the same as IN HIS OWN TIME! They do not **TREMBLE** at His Word (Isaiah 66:5). But THEY SHALL!

God has always worked through one man, primarily, at a time. God chose David and worked through him. Two of David's sons, at different times, conspired to wrest David's throne from him.

At this point I noticed beside my typewriter a letter I had not seen before from Queensland, Australia. I paused to read it. I quote a sentence from it that is appropriate to what I have been writing. This member wrote:

"Take courage Mr Armstrong. God took it personally when Miriam spoke against Moses, and when Israel spoke against Samuel." HOW SIGNIFICANT that this letter caught my eye at this stage of this article. The letter continues "NO DOUBT but that God also takes it personally when they speak (and act) against you (and His Church)."

In founding God's Church, Jesus worked primarily through one man, Peter, even though He originally chose His 12 disciples. Few have ever noticed how Peter was the real leader. Jesus had told His disciples to go NOT to the gentiles, but to the "lost sheep of the House of Israel". the "House of Israel" *never* refers to the Jews - and always to the kingdom that became known as "the lost ten tribes". They were in Western Europe and Britain when Jesus gave this instruction.

Undoubtedly it was after Peter and the original apostles had left the Middle East and travelled to Britain that we read only of Paul and those under him.

Notice now PETER'S pre-eminence. Few have ever put all these scriptures as I shall now do. This shows PETER was leader.

"And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw the brethren, Simon called **PETER**, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea... And He said unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:18-19) This is the first mention of calling His disciples. It is significant that PETER is named first.

Matthew 10:2 "Now the names of the twelve apostles are these. The first, Simon, who is called PETER..." Notice PETER is called *the first*.

Matthew 16:16-19 "... Simon PETER answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood have not revealed it unto thee but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee (PETER), That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church;... and I will give unto thee (PETER) the keys of the kingdom of heaven and whatsoever thou (PETER) shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven and whatsoever thou (PETER) shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

In Matthew 18 Jesus appears to be speaking to the 12 as a group, and in verse 18 the binding and the loosing is again mentioned. The binding and loosing was given to APOSTLES but PETER was unquestioned leader of the original 12 apostles.

John 21:15-17 The commission, "feed my sheep" is three times given to PETER.

Acts 2:14 On the day of Pentecost, it was PETER who gave the first sermon, converting some 3,000. Verse 38, PETER gives the instruction for baptism.

Acts 3:4-12 It was PETER who healed the cripple. And it was PETER who gave the sermon to the assembled crowd, and God added 2,000 more to the Church.

Acts 4:8 It was PETER who spoke boldly to the rulers after imprisonment, and verse 19 said "Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye."

Acts 5:3-15 It was PETER who spoke to Ananias and Sapphira, causing them to drop dead. Verse 15, it was PETER'S shadow as he walked by that healed the sick.

Acts 5:29 PETER said "We ought to obey God rather than men."

Acts 8, PETER with John went to Samaria. Verses 18-23 It was PETER who rebuked the first pope, Simon the Sorcerer.

Acts 9:32-34 PETER heals Aeneas. Acts 9:38-41 PETER raises Dorcas from death.

Acts 10:1-9 PETER used by Christ to be the first to open salvation to gentiles. Verses 19-24 Circumcision not required.

Acts 11:12-18 Apostles hear from PETER how God had granted repentance to gentiles and salvation with eternal life.

Acts 15 Here is the crux chapter, not generally understood. Paul and Barnabas had come to the church at Antioch. Certain Pharisees had come down from Judea and taught that "Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved." Paul and Barnabas have much dissension and disputation with them.

Now here was a classic EXAMPLE of HOW DOCTRINES were put into the Church and doctrinal disputes settled in the Church!

It was determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others go up to Jerusalem for apostolic settlement through the Holy Spirit.

"And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter. Now notice *"there had been much disputing"* between the apostles and elders. They were not of one mind!

How was the matter *settled*? By the Holy Spirit, but through WHOM? "... Peter rose up and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago *God made choice among us*," Notice PETER was specially chosen. "that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. And God, who knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Spirit, even as He did unto us. And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith."

Notice, it was GOD leading Peter, as chief apostle. For these gentiles to be required to be circumcised would obligate them to become a debtor to do the whole (ritual) law. (Galatians 5:3) Therefore Peter concluded, "Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they."

PETER had spoken! God had made choice amongst them, choosing PETER to open salvation to the gentiles, and, now to SETTLE this dispute over what God required of uncircumcised gentile converts. And that settled the matter!

Notice, once Peter had settled the dispute, "Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles and by them. Paul and Barnabas were NOT disputing Peter's decision. There were NOT giving their input to the disputed question - the question had been SETTLED - by PETER! Paul and Barnabas merely gave the ministers gathered there the NEWS of what God had wrought through their ministry.

Then James rose. James was pastor of the Jerusalem headquarters church, in today's language we would call him chairman of the meeting. He did not make the decision, PETER had already made it. He merely said, Simon (PETER) hath declared.

And James merely CONFIRMED Peter's decision making it official. That ought to make clear this crucial 15th chapter of Acts. The one classic example of settling any disputed doctrine in the Church. And though there were other apostles, *God worked primarily* through ONE man - PETER! Has God changed? Or is He the SAME still today?

Finally, notice Galatians 2:7 "But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto PETER".

The Jerusalem conference (Acts 15) showed that PETER was predominant over even Paul, although Paul was the ONE MAN God worked through *primarily* in the ministry to gentiles.

The CHURCH is **GOD'S** Church. The HEAD of the Church under GOD is Jesus Christ. Under Christ on the human level is His chosen apostle, through whom He has *raised up and built* this **SPIRITUAL TEMPLE** to which the reigning CHRIST shall soon come in glory (Ephesians 2:20-21).

Now in closing, back to the theme of this article. God COMMANDS that we all SPEAK THE SAME THING! It must be that thing which the mind of Christ speaks - and He speaks only as the Father commanded (John 12:49)

All doctrines in the Church as it began, A.D. 31, were put in *by the apostles*. All doctrines in the present, Philadelphia era were put into the Church by Jesus Christ through His chosen apostle.

Now **WHY** does Christ use such caution in putting **HIS** doctrines into God's church through His apostle?

LET ME MAKE THAT POINT CLEAR!

You have just read a case in point - Acts 15. This crucial crux chapter has been misinterpreted, twisted and distorted. I have tried to take space to MAKE IT CLEAR in this article. The other apostles and ministers were all in confusion, arguing and disputing. But Christ silenced them by speaking through His CHOSEN CHIEF APOSTLE, PETER!

Let us UNDERSTAND!

First of all, in human history, God spoke direct in person to Adam and Eve. They did not believe what He said!

But God *chose* Moses, and God chooses only a man who believes what God says. Moses wrote more words of the Bible than any person. The prophets were chosen by God - not by themselves - and they *believed* what God inspired and wrote it for us.

Christ came and preached to many THOUSANDS. Yet only 120 believed what He said. And even of the apostles, there was disputing until Christ spoke through PETER, who **HE** chose!

In our day, God brought about my conversion in a manner UNIQUE in our time. He CONQUERED me, first, by making me realise 1) that what

I had previously believed was untrue, and 2) that I had to REPENT and BELIEVE - that is, turn *from* former ways and beliefs, to different WAY OF LIFE - GOD'S WAY - and to BELIEVE WHAT GOD SAYS! My mind SWEPT CLEAN of all previous beliefs.

When Christ chose His apostle for this time, He chose one who 1) does *believe* what God says, 2) *will not* not compromise or water down truths and doctrines Christ has given, and 3) has an open mind to receive further truth from Christ, and to be willing to acknowledge error when PROVED and turn from it! I do TREMBLE at the Word of God! I LOVE it, and I FEAR to go contrary to it or to mislead you my brethren and my children in the Lord!

As long as this Church believed and spoke THE SAME THING Christ put in it through His apostle, HE BLESSED IT, and it GREW 30 percent a year for 35 years. But when my son Garner Ted came to take over more authority than had been delegated to him, surrounding himself with a group of liberals who LED him, and MISLED him into watering down God's doctrines - under their false influence and a Laodicean lukewarmness and indifference, losing the LOVE of God's TRUTH, found root in the Church. Christ BUILT this Church through His chosen apostle! We did, perhaps imperfectly, but certainly in general, SPEAK THE SAME THING! We GREW in Christ's KNOWLEDGE and truth as well as in size and scope of Work.

Then my son fell under the influence of a group of liberals with whom he surrounded himself. He began to DISAGREE with Church doctrines more and more! AND GOD WITHDREW HIS BLESSING!

For 10 months now, the living CHRIST has been setting His Church BACK ON THE TRACK! Also His college. The liberal element MUST GO! Either the liberals must TURN FROM their liberalism, as defined in my recent article (see article-page 3) and put **IT** out of themselves and the Church, or they must go out with it! I hope the former.

God has allowed this terrible trial and test to come upon us with the government of the state of California trying to take over and manage and operate God's Church! In defiance of the Constitution of the United States. They do not, now, and they SHALL NOT, operate, manage or destroy the Church and Work of the LIVING GOD! His authority is infinitely greater than theirs. Perhaps, like those who crucified Jesus, they know not what they do (Luke 23:34). But they are drawing God's Church closer to Him and to each other. PRAISE GOD! for cleaning up His Church!

What Is A Liberal?

By Herbert W Armstrong

GOD SAYS to His Church, through the apostle Paul, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10).

This passage continues saying the church at Corinth, precisely like today's Church of God, was following various and differing *men* with differing doctrines. They, like many today, were *forgetting* that the HEAD of the Church is Jesus Christ - that Christ is ALIVE today! That *HE* really is leading us!

Satan has been striking at God's church and Work from within and from without! And as in the Ephesian church, where Paul said "...of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." (Acts 20:30)

What happened in those churches in the first century has happened to us today. Those guilty of causing division are fighting God and shall be judged by Him!

My son, Garner Ted, fell under the influence of certain liberals, with whom he surrounded himself. He had had some liberal leanings prior to that. There were those around him bent on changing the doctrines of God's Church, watering down God's TRUTH.

I am learning now that my son was swayed under this liberal and secular oriented influence. Because of his position of executive vice president, and because he assumed authority beyond that delegated to him, those who were sound in the doctrines Christ had put into God's Church, who had been taught directly by me in earlier days of the college, were demoted, shanghaied away from headquarters.

Church teachings were being changed. The most resultful booklet of all, *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy* was attacked, greatly deleted and later put out of circulation - the same with a number of other basic and important booklets written by Christ's apostle.

This group of liberals assumed the authority of setting Church doctrine. The one who primarily wrote the Systematic Theology Project later wrote, "My only goal in coordinating the project was to bring doctrinal

consistency, stability and unity to the ministry" - that is, unity in watered-down doctrines that older loyal ministers did not and *never would accept!* THAT WAS NOT UNITY - IT WAS ***DIVISION!***

But what do we mean - 'LIBERAL'?

Let's understand what defines a liberal - and **GOD'S WORD** about it.

What is the basic *difference* between Old Testament teaching and that of the New Testament? The same BASIC SPIRITUAL LAW was given to both Old Testament Israel and the New Testament Church. But there was still a great difference. Notice how the apostle Paul defined this difference.

"[God] Who also hath made us able ministers of the NEW testament, not of the letter, but of the spirit, for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life." (II Corinthians 3:6)

It's the same basic SPIRITUAL law. But without the Holy Spirit, the people of Old Testament Israel could keep the law of God only by the strict *letter* of the law - not by the SPIRIT or its obvious *intent* or *principle* involved.

Years ago God showed me, by an incident, what He means by the *spirit* of the law. My eldest daughter, Beverly, was in school, possibly the seventh or eighth grade or high school - I don't remember the year. She was an avid and a rapid reader. One day her teacher sent me a note, saying Beverly was injuring her eyes and her progress in schoolwork by excessive reading. She had been bringing books of fiction - love stories - from the school library. She would read a whole book in two or three evenings at home. I spoke with my daughter and told her she must stop bringing the fiction books from the school library and stop her excessive reading - because her teacher had sent me a note saying it was interfering with her schoolwork.

The very next evening I noticed Beverly reading a book, and she was almost halfway through it.

"Is that another fiction book?" I asked. "Yes, Daddy," she replied. "Didn't I tell you to stop reading these fiction books?" "Yes, Daddy, but you said to stop bringing the books from the school library, and I obeyed you. I didn't bring this book from the school library, I borrowed it from Helen."

She obeyed the strict letter of the law, but certainly not the spirit or obvious intent.

Jesus gave some examples of the spirit of the law. He said, "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill... But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment:" (Matthew 5:21-22).

Speaking of the Old Testament observance of the law, Jesus said, "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." (Matthew 5:27-28)

The SPIRIT of the law

The spiritual law of God is a general principle, which, in its spirit, covers EVERY act. God intends for us today to apply the principle to every act. It is summed up in Ecclesiastes 12:43 "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

The law of God is a WAY OF LIFE. It is all-encompassing, IN PRINCIPLE - that is, according to its spirit. It is an *attitude*.

It may be summed up in ONE WORD **LOVE**. That one word is a *principle* of life. It is the way of OUTFLOWING love toward God and man. It is the way of GIVE, instead of GET.

It is then magnified into the two great laws - love toward GOD and love toward neighbor. In turn this is magnified into 10 general principles - the first four of the Ten Commandments express the principle of love toward GOD, the last six the principle of love toward man.

We are commanded to love God *more* than self - with all our hearts. We are told to love neighbor AS, or equal to, ourselves.

A principle - not every specific detail

In the Bible *God does not write down every specific detail of the PRINCIPLE or SPIRIT of His Law!* He expects us, with His Holy Spirit, to *apply* the principle to every circumstance, act or question.

The whole duty of man is keeping God's law IN THE SPIRIT - far more than the specific detailed letter. It is *the ATTITUDE* or the *principle* of the law. The law does not list every detail included in the duty of man.

Reduced to its simplest over all denominator, the whole law is the one word, LOVE.

How does God's Church receive its doctrines, beliefs and teachings? Direct from God, through the channels of Jesus Christ as HEAD of the Church, and from Him through *the apostles!* NEVER by any others! NEVER by a group of ministers appointing themselves as a Doctrinal Committee! So it was in the first century.

How did the Worldwide Church of God receive its doctrines, beliefs and teachings? EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH CHRIST'S APOSTLE! True, I have practiced the biblical principle that "in the multitude of counsel there is safety". On many occasions some top-level ministers have contributed certain input that has helped me in setting doctrine. BUT EVERY DOCTRINE, BELIEF AND TEACHING IN THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD HAS COME FROM CHRIST **THROUGH** HIS CHOSEN APOSTLE!

Now, for example, we have a teaching that smoking is a sin. How did the Church receive that belief? Let me tell you. Fifty-two years ago, at the time of my conversion and baptism, I had to decide that question. I had been smoking - believe it or not! But only lightly - about three cigarettes a day. But I had to decide whether it was right or wrong.

Now Adam and Eve took TO THEMSELVES the knowledge of right and wrong. Only GOD can give us that knowledge. I knew that. I had to decide at the time, for myself, but I know I must look to CHRIST, the Word of God, for the answer. Of course I knew the Bible contained no teaching *specifically* on smoking tobacco. But I had learned the truth of II Corinthians 3:3 that sin is violation of the *principle* or intended *meaning* of the law.

So I asked myself "Why do I smoke? To love or honor God?" Answer, NO! "To express love, or outgoing concern, for the welfare of other people?" Again, NO! I knew that some found second-hand tobacco smoke objectionable. "For my own good - health or otherwise?" Again, NO!

For although I did not know, or anybody else 52 years ago, that smoking was a cause of lung cancer, I did know the function of the lungs in filtering out impurities from the blood and expelling the impurities through the breath. And I knew that inhaling smoke only clogged up the lungs with added impurities and interfered with their normal functioning. On every count I found smoking was CONTRARY to the PRINCIPLE OF GOD'S LAW! Therefore I knew it was a sin, and I stopped smoking and have not smoked for 52 years. Jesus Christ through me put into God's Church the teaching that smoking is wrong - mild or not, nevertheless, it is SIN!

Now if I had decided that as some of our ministers wanted to decide doctrine, I would have said, "The Bible does not contain a specific LAW against smoking." That is the way of the LIBERAL - who wants to water down the truth of God and go as far into the world - which means as far in Satan's way - as possible and *still* get into God's Kingdom.

The liberal is one who has a DIFFERENT APPROACH to questions of human conduct than God, or those who have been CONQUERED by God and are being led by God's Holy Spirit.

What is God's attitude?

What is God's ATTITUDE? Does God really *want* to sin, but, because He has power of resistance, He uses willpower and does not allow Himself to sin? Can you realize that SIN is absolutely ABHORRENT to God? God DOES NOT WANT TO SIN! He has no such desire! He HATES sin! He is not tempted to sin!

God loves and *desires* righteousness and holiness. That's what He LOVES, DESIRES AND DOES!

Listen, my children in the living Christ! Do you really WANT to smoke - *want* to have birthday parties - *want* to go along with this world in its ways? Is *that* what you *really want* to do? Do you have to use self-resistance, self-discipline and will power to prevent going along in this world's ways?

If so, you have not yet been really CONQUERED by the all loving GOD! If so, you do not yet have the mind of Christ or His attitude or approach to problems or questions! If so, you'd better begin **TREMBLING** at the Word of God!

Or do you really *hunger and thirst* for God's RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HOLINESS? You can't have both attitudes! You have one or the other! Which is it?

Are you like Mrs Emma Smith, one of the new converts in 1933 who formed the parent church of the Worldwide Church of God? She came to me one day saying her father had died, and his will left her some money.

"How much of this do I *have* to tithe?" she asked. "I don't want to tithe any more than I *have to* to still get into God's Kingdom."

The doctrine of Balaam

She was, in principle and attitude like Balaam, mentioned as an evil man in Jude 11 and Revelation 2:14. The story about Balaam is found in Numbers 22. Balaam was a liberal - only perhaps more so. The Israelites under Moses had finally encamped on the east side of the Jordan River in the vicinity of Moab and Ammon. They were just across the river from Jericho.

Balak, king of the Moabites, was afraid, for the Israelites greatly outnumbered Moab. So he sent messengers to the sorcerer Balaam, a pater or pagan leader, apparently with bribe money, asking Balaam to remain overnight. He prayed to God, for he knew he could not do this evil unless God allowed.

The point is, Balaam wanted the rewards of divination, which the messengers from Moab had brought. He wanted to go as far in the GET way of life, even for doing evil, as he could. But he knew his curse against Israel would be ineffective unless he had God's permission.

God said to Balaam, "...thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed." (Numbers 22:12)

There is much more to the story, but the point I want to show here is the ATTITUDE of wanting to go as far in the way of evil as possible.

In Jude 11, God says, "Woe unto them! for they... ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward...". And in Revelation to the church at Pergamos. Jesus said, "But I have a few things against thee because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam..." (Revelation 2:14)

Christ is now purging out of His Church those that "hold the doctrine of Balaam!" Balaam was a liberal.

The liberal is going also in the way of Satan.

Satan's evil attitude

"...there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Eternal, and Satan came also among them." The Eternal asked Satan if he had considered God's servant Job. "...that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man..." (Job 1:6-8).

Satan argued that Job served God in SELF-interest, for God had given him all his material wealth. But if God would allow Satan to take all his possessions from him, Satan said Job would curse God.

The Eternal answered, "Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand." (verse 12)

Satan destroyed all Job's wealth and even his sons and daughters. But Satan caused other humans to do his evil. Yet Job maintained his own righteousness and refused to curse God.

Satan tried again. Satan argued that a man would give all he had for his own life. But he contended that if God would allow him to do evil to Job's person, Job would curse God. God allowed this, but said, "save his life".

Did you ever have a boil? I did - just once, many, many years ago. I shall never forget it. The pain was nearly unbearable. And that was only *one* boil. Job was covered with boils from head to foot! But still he did not curse God. In the end God spoke to Job. Job's one great sin was one Satan could not ascertain. It was SELF-righteousness. When God spoke, opening Job's eyes to his self-righteousness, Job repented deeply and God restored to him two fold for all He had allowed Satan to destroy.

The point I want to make here is Satan CANNOT go farther than God allows - but Satan *wanted* to inflict as much evil and destruction and harm as possible.

It is Satan's ATTITUDE that is his prime evil - He does not hunger and thirst for God's righteousness. He harbors only the deep rooted desire to DO EVIL.

TO GO CONTRARY TO GOD'S LAW OF LOVE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS! He wanted to go as *far as he could* in the evil way contrary to GOD'S WAY. That was in his heart.

The liberal attitude

The liberal among us today wants to GET! He wants to GET into God's Kingdom, but he *wants to* go along with this world's ways AS FAR AS **GOD** WILL ALLOW AND STILL LET HIM MAKE IT INTO THE KINGDOM!

The liberal has deceived himself! I do not believe the liberal realizes his own attitude. He really wants to *get* into the Kingdom of God - he wants to RECEIVE the eternal rewards of happiness, joy and eternal life in security. But he still would like to hang on to some of this world's ways.

He doesn't want to tithe, unless he can see beyond any of his arguments there is a specific LAW *compelling* him to tithe. He wants to be free to vote, at least in local elections.

The argument was made to me that our Church people actually outnumbered others living in Big Sandy, Tex. BUT (what a big word is "BUT") you see, if they did not vote the minority would to incorporate the Ambassador College campus into the town of Big Sandy, and we'd have to pay big taxes. It never seemed to occur to the liberal mind that CHRIST will solve our problems, and we do not have to go contrary to HIS ATTITUDE!

Like Mrs Emma Smith, who was too new as a child in Christ and had not grown sufficiently as yet in His grace and knowledge - like Balaam - like Satan - the liberal wants to see how close he can come to the precipice without falling and losing his eternal life. Like Mother Eve they use HUMAN REASON to justify straying partly away from the SPIRIT of God's LAW. They want to keep the law in the strict letter, *but not in the spirit!*

In his heart, the liberal would like to "go along" - at least part way with this world.

What is the mind of Christ?

But God says, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5).

What is the mind of Christ? What is His attitude? His approach to viewing and deciding all activities? Does He as I asked before, really WANT TO sin, to think and act CONTRARY to HIS law, but because of His super power, restrain Himself? We know He has never sinned. But *why?* Is He sinless because He has such supernatural POWER to restrain Himself?

A THOUSAND TIMES, **NO!** The living Christ has never sinned because He does not *want* to sin! What is HIS MIND that should be also in in us? It is a mind that HATES sin - that LOVES righteousness. It is a matter of ATTITUDE! The liberal is not hungering and thirsting after RIGHTEOUSNESS! He WANTS to ease off a little on God's law. He wants to do only as much as he *has to* to receive the reward of eternal life. He has not yet *fully* gotten rid of the GET attitude and come into the GIVE attitude.

It is Satan who deceives and puts into many human minds the *desire* to go as far into this world as he thinks God will allow - and into its

ways of VANITY and INTELLECTUALISM (carnal, secular) - vanity of mind. *Having the ATTITUDE of the "SPIRIT OF THE LAW" is the attitude of the mind of CHRIST!*

Worldwide News - 12th March 1979, Page 1

'War is still on,' says Mr. Armstrong

PASADENA - The following is a transcript of a message from Herbert W. Armstrong over a direct telephone hookup from Tucson, Ariz., to the Pasadena church congregations Sabbath afternoon, Feb. 24.

By Herbert W. Armstrong

Well, greetings friends and brethren in Pasadena. I want to tell you that God is still on His throne. Of course, you know that *He* won another battle for us this week. The receiver is gone. But the *war* is still on - it's not over yet.

Our attorneys are doing a fine job, but the massive court action was started secretly without our knowledge and without the knowledge of our attorneys. Two judges were already committed to this thing, and once they have acted - and in this case two of them have been involved already - other judges on the state level, as I understand it, are inclined to render no decisions contrary to these other judges. Because they don't want to get in bad with one another. And usually they know one another. Perhaps they go to dinner together and all that sort of thing.

But much as our attorneys are doing - and what they are doing is absolutely needful - that is just their part. But we have our part, and that is to look to Christ. Because this is, something that we are not going to win just by attorneys and by beating them in men's courts. We're going to have to rely on *God* to change the minds of some judge somewhere to turn this thing the right way. And He *will* do it.

In the meantime, this may turn out to be a great deal of good for the Work. Remember that all things work together for good to those who love God (Romans 8:28). And if we do, and this is a trial and a test on us to bring us back closer into God's grace, then we must be sure that we look to *Christ* first - the living Head of the Church, not to the attorneys - for the final decision from this persecution.

Now brethren, we need to remember that God's people have *always been persecuted*. That may be one of the proofs that we are God's people. But we should not be like some whom I have known who go out seeking persecution, so they can claim they are God's people. We try to avoid it all we can. But we are getting plenty of it, and we are going to get more.

Before God called the children of Israel under Moses, they were *terribly* persecuted under slavery by the *Egyptian government*. And that was a case of the government. They were the Israelites or the Israelis of that time. They were descendants of Abraham, and he was a man of God. Well, God called Moses to lead them. He led them out of that slavery, and then *Moses* was persecuted even by his own people.

Later on, King David was persecuted a great deal and continually. The people of Judah were persecuted, and they were taken into slavery by *government*, by the Babylon government, or the Chaldean empire.

In the book of Daniel we have the account of Daniel's three friends persecuted by the government of man, thrown into a burning, fiery furnace. And they didn't have attorneys there to rescue them. They relied on *God*. And they were actually thrown *into* the furnace heated *seven times* hotter than normal and still not even the *clothes* that were on them were scorched. God took care of them and performed a tremendous *miracle*.

Now although Daniel himself had risen up, because of his abilities, till he became virtual prime minister - he was over all of the presidents and the others in the government of the Chaldean empire - yet *he* was persecuted *for the very reason* that he worshipped God three times a day. He was thrown into a lion's den. And he didn't have any attorneys to defend him. But *God delivered him*. And I hope that you will remember that, and that this is the history of the way it has been with God's people *all along*.

Now, Jesus, the Son of God, was persecuted continually and finally put to death by *government*. And he said if they persecuted Him, they would certainly persecute us. On the other hand, He said *He would always be with us*. He would *never* leave or forsake us. And He is the one we have to look to now.

The early Christians were tortured to death by the government of man. And I tell you, this thing of government - assailing God's people has been ever since Adam. You see, back in the time of Adam and Eve, they rejected God and looked to Satan and took to themselves the knowledge of what is right and what is wrong, what is good and what

is evil. God, in effect, said to them, when He drove them out of the Garden, "All your progeny, *all of the world* that will come from you, I'm shutting them off from me. Except those that I shall call."

Now God has called some. He has called a whole nation, ancient Israel. But every time God has called anyone the governments of man have persecuted them. Now God had said back there to Adam and Eve, "You go and your people, it will be the human race, form *your own government*. You don't want my government. Form your own religions. Form your own kind of society." And that's happened. We are in that kind of society today, and it is really swayed and influenced by Satan the devil.

Now the early Christians, I said, were persecuted. God's Church will be persecuted again *much greater* than we are being persecuted right now. Though that will happen in a mass martyrdom in the yet future Laodicean era. And don't let anyone tell you that there are not eras of the Church. *There are!* And we're in an era where there are some of the conditions that are a little different than they were 200, 300 years ago or 2,000 or 1,900 years ago.

But God's people *always* have suffered persecution. Now this world is *Satan's world*. And the persecution is *always* instituted from Satan. He *hates* God's people. He hates God's truth. He doesn't want us to believe it. And yet, Satan himself can do only what God *allows*. Now that means that this persecution could not have come on us if God had not allowed it.

And God *did* allow it. God is *letting us suffer this persecution*, and we need to wake up and realize that. *Why* has God done it? Simply because the Church of the Philadelphia era was becoming lukewarm. We were becoming Laodicean. We were drifting apart from God. Some of our ministers even were watering down doctrines. We were getting more interested in the things of this world and the ways of this world than the things of God. Many were trying to see how close they could come to Satan's world and its ways and its ways of life and its life-styles. But just so they could still somehow get into the Kingdom of God.

We needed an explosion. We needed an explosion to awaken us. To drive us to our knees. To drive us back to God. And to set God's Church back on the track. We've been doing that. Christ has been doing that now for almost a year. Without our *impassioned, heart-rending prayers* to set *ourselves right first* and *then* to set the Church right - and when you pray, pray that God will help you get *yourself* set

right before you pray and ask Him to set the Church right, and deliver us from this persecution.

Without that prayer and reliance on God, our attorneys could very well lose this whole *war*. We must get back into contact with *God*. We must *rely on God* more than the attorneys. The attorneys will do their part, and we should cooperate in whatever way we can. And the way you people all rallied when the receiver was trying to take over all of our property was just a wonderful example. You know how I thank all of you for it.

Let me just say that it's an ill wind that doesn't blow some good, and God says that all things work together for good to those that love Him.

I have before me the copy of a *full-page* advertisement that is soon going to appear in the Los Angeles *Times*, the Pasadena *Star-News*, the three newspapers up in San Francisco, papers like the Chicago *Tribune*, the Cleveland *Plain Dealer*, metropolitan papers over the country. The heading is very sensational: *ALL CHURCH PROPERTY IN CALIFORNIA HAS BEEN CONFISCATED BY THE STATE*. That in big type over the head of the *whole page* advertisement.

Brethren, God has opened up to us by this very thing a *new* source or a new medium to reach the public with Christ's last message. And that is big full-page advertisements in leading newspapers around the United States. Maybe the 30 years I spent in advertising was not all for nothing after all.

I think the next ad will be something like this: the headline - *WHO IS LORD? CHRIST OR CAESAR?* Because I heard on a religious broadcast this week where they were referring to this very thing that we are doing. This broadcast, by the way, came from over near the Atlantic Coast, and a man said, "Well, what this is all about," referring to our trouble, he said, "it's a matter of who is Lord. Is Christ Lord or is Caesar Lord?" Now God has given us something here to attract the public eye. We must take advantage of it. While this is hot we must get these ads out and start people thinking. And we will get the Gospel to perhaps many more people who might have *heard* the broadcast at one time or another, but like in the parable of the sower and the seed, like those that drop by the wayside, it never took any root, and they paid no attention to it and forgot all about it. Now maybe we'll get *through* to some of those people.

I just wanted to tell you that and tell you that this can be made something to do a great work for us and for God's Work through us.

And it's just like taking the lemons that people throw at you and turning them into lemonade. And we can certainly do that.

But the first thing is to pray and *rely on God* and ask Him first to show where we are wrong. I'll do the same over here in Tucson. And in the meantime, I'll just say, God bless all of you.

I don't want to take up too much time because just hearing something coming over a telephone without seeing anybody is not very much of a church service. So I will break off here. I just wanted to give you that hopeful note. That we're taking advantage of this. The Work is going to go forward as never before. God is bringing us *together* as we've never been before. We are now in *unity*. *And we're going forward full speed ahead!*

Worldwide News, 23rd April 1979 page 3

And Now - Christ Sets Church On God's Organizational Track

By Herbert W. Armstrong

For a full year now, the HEAD of God's Church, Jesus Christ, has been moving swiftly to set God's Church, college and Work back on God's track.

WHY did the living Christ 20 months ago bring me back from DEATH? For of a truth, I was as dead as any has ever been - for from 30 seconds up to 1 1/2 minutes. Had not desperate measures been taken I would never have taken another breath of air.

WHY did Christ, the living HEAD of God's Church, bring me back? I know, now, by what He has done these 20 months. God has a GREAT PURPOSE He is working out here on earth - in and through mortal humans. He works through those He has called and chosen for various responsibilities in His overall PURPOSE!

Until about a year ago now, April of last year, I had not yet fully recovered in physical strength to be back on the job full force.

As I now look back, I see what Christ has done through His servant whose life and full mental vitality He restored.

This Church was *not ready* for Christ's soon return as KING of kings to rule. We need to stop and REALIZE THIS.

Read again these significant words "...Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That He might sanctify and cleanse it... That He might present it to Himself a GLORIOUS CHURCH, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be HOLY and WITHOUT BLEMISH." (Ephesians 5:25-27)

Fellow ministers of Jesus Christ, this Church a year ago WAS NOT HOLY AND WITHOUT BLEMISH (spiritually speaking, of course).

Then we find, in the not too far distant time from now. "Alleluia: For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him for the MARRIAGE of the Lamb is come, and HIS WIFE HATH MADE HERSELF READY." (Revelation 19:6-7)

Fellow ministers, God's Church a year ago WAS FAR from ready for that divine wedding! But as I look back on the past year, the living Jesus Christ has use me as His instrument in swiftly setting His Church back on HIS TRACK. There is much more in prophecy about this, of which I will write later.

Christ is the living HEAD

But too many seem to forget JESUS CHRIST is the LIVING, ACTING HEAD of this Church. We must all quit leaving Christ out of it. But Christ LIVES - and this is NOT just a "work" of men - above all, it's not just a "work" I as a human thought up and developed. The living Christ BROUGHT BE BACK TO LIFE! And WHY? What has He been doing, through me? Swiftly He has been TURNING THIS CHURCH **AROUND** - setting it back on GOD'S track, as **GOD'S** Church - NOT MAN'S!

And we needed to be brought closer - everyone one of us - to GOD in prayer and fasting and in dedication, sacrificing everything from now on, for GOD'S WORK.

God has allowed this massive PERSECUTION by the State of California to drive us to our knees - closer to GOD, and bound together CLOSER AMONG OURSELVES. Now God *allowed* the most listened to TV program *60 Minutes* to attack and malign and FALSELY to represent us to MANY more people than the State of California persecution reached. GOD IS DRAWING US CLOSER TO HIM, AND CLOSER TOGETHER!

And now - Christ is moving me to set His Church on **GOD'S** organizational structure. For though the Church is NOT a legal corporation, it is a SPIRITUAL ORGANISM, and that spiritual organism is intended by the mighty GOD to be ORGANIZED - and organized HIS WAY!

Rule from the TOP down

I have realized for 52 years that God's form of government is rule from the TOP down.

In God's rule over the UNIVERSE, we have God at the TOP, and under Him and over all else is CHRIST! But they are DIVINE beings! They are not human or subject to human mistakes. I have had to learn that on the far lower HUMAN plane all is different.

I made the MISTAKE of thinking God intended the same form in the HUMAN government over His Church.

I was WRONG!

You see, Garner Ted Armstrong, my son, was not perfect like Christ nor I like God. I said to Ted more than once in the past 10 years, "Ted, how wonderful it would be if - as there is a Father and Son over the whole UNIVERSE, there could be also a human father and son over God's Church ON EARTH! In their PERFECT divine relationship, the Son does not shut those under Him OFF from the Father - nor does He say it would be taking it over Christ's head if we go direct to the Father (in prayer)".

I mentioned how Jesus said, "I have done nothing of myself. The Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works". Jesus taught ONLY what God the Father told Him to teach. He said, "I have not spoken of myself, the Father which sent me, He gave me a commandment what I should speak". Jesus said, "My Father is GREATER than I". He said, "I have kept my Father's commandments". Jesus was always in PERFECT HARMONY, and always UNDER His Father.

But every time I mentioned this Father and Son harmony, Ted very quickly changed the subject. I did not know it then - but he has made it perfectly clear since he was excommunicated from God's Church that he NEVER agreed with his father - and that means in regard to many, many beliefs and doctrines.

You see, God's Church in our time was founded, and built, on the teachings and doctrines that the living Christ had taught me. He raised up this Church through me, when Ted was yet 3 years old - although one of the ridiculous and outrageous statements he has made is that he, Garner Ted, built the Worldwide Church of God! All of which (the hostile agreement) is very regretful to me.

In spite of the fact that he continually DISHONORS his father now (cf Exodus 20:12 - and the COMMANDMENT does not say "Fathers must

deserve their sons' honor"), I grieve more than you can know at his present attitude and ungodly performance.

But I tried to make a "father and son" relationship work at the head of God's Church AND IT DIDN'T WORK!

Chain of authority

I think you all will remember the diagram I used to draw and publish showing what I mistakenly conceived as GOD'S chain of authority and form of Church government. I had God the Father at the top - top in authority, then Christ next under God. Then, on the human plane myself under Christ, and Garner Ted under me - with departments such as Mail Processing, Financial Affairs, Ambassador College, CAD, as we used to call it, etc, etc, under Ted.

What was WRONG with that diagram and form of Church organization? It allowed Ted to simply SHUT OFF myself, Christ and God - all above him, since the diagram showed all else under Ted. Now I had MEANT IT to represent that *all* departments were under **ME** and under **CHRIST** and under **GOD**. But Ted didn't see it the way I did, or administer it the way I authorized. He took ALL power to himself. The men in the top positions, such as Mr Roderick Meredith, Mr Raymond McNair, Dr. Herman Hoeh, Diber Apartian, Norman Smith, Dennis Luker, were either demoted and ridiculed or shanghaied away to some other part of the earth. Ted surrounded himself with a small group with whom he felt comfortable.

But, even though a Father and Son relationship does work PERFECTLY on the divine level, it did not and I think now that God knew it NEVER WOULD work out harmoniously on the human level.

I have not made a whole lot of mistakes - but I stand on record that when mistakes are brought to my mind, I do CORRECT THEM! And I fervently hope each of you do the same.

But when I look into the Bible to see how God organized His Church on the HUMAN level, I find something altogether DIFFERENT than the divine level.

God does not change

In Acts 7:38 ancient Israel under Moses was called "the church in the wilderness". A change was made in the Church from physical to spiritual, from carnality to Spirit-mindedness. But **GOD** does not change, nor His form of human governmental organization.

So, start with the beginning of the Church. God put MOSES as human leader. Who was second in command? Ah! We may look in vain - but NOBODY was second in command and over all Israel, except Moses!

Did the people say, when Moses was 87 years old, "We must vote for someone to take his place, for Moses is certain to die in the next day or two? No. Moses did not die at 87 and even married again. The point I wish to make, and hope ALL OF YOU GET THE POINT, is Moses did not die until the mission to which God called him was completed! And as far as I know, God has not let ANY servant of His whom He had called for some special service die before his mission was completed! God hasn't changed. But even if God had changed, and I should die - as I'm sure my son and some others have eagerly hoped. WHO would head the Church? *I'll tell you who!* **JESUS CHRIST!** he isn't going to die right away.

Do you have someone in mind *you'd* like to see take that job? **FOR GET IT!** Get your mind off of human mundane thoughts! Put JESUS CHRIST back into your thinking. Remember HE IS ALIVE and HEADING THIS CHURCH! Whether I or someone else, is to be human leader of this Church, one, two, five or even 10 years from now - THAT IS FOR JESUS CHRIST to decide - **NOT YOU!**

No second in command

But let's carry on. Maybe God changed a little later? GOD appointed Joshua to lead Israel across Jordan into the promised land. THERE WAS NO **NO.2** MAN!

Later God raised up judges, or heroes, to deliver Israel from being a vassal state - yet NO **NO.2** in charge!

Then we come to the prophets Eli and Samuel. NO **NO.2!** The people wanted a HUMAN king instead of God. They had Saul - but no second in command. David attended to Saul, played the harp for him - but he was not second IN COMMAND! Next God put David on the throne - but NONE SCOND IN AUTHORITY. Two of David's sons tried to take over just as I had a son who did - but they lost their lives.

There was no second in command under Solomon nor under Rehoboam. Thereafter both Israel and Judah became captive nations.

There was no second in command under Jesus when He was on earth. A disputed point by some is that after Jesus' resurrection and ascension, all 12 apostles were equal. I have PROVED Peter was in

charge - and there was no second in command. Paul was in charge over gentiles.

NOTICE! On the day of Pentecost, Peter spoke with AUTHORITY (Acts 2: 14-39). But even before that Peter was leader (Acts 1: 15). Peter was leader (Acts 3:4 and on). In Acts 4:8 Peter was the leader. Peter was in authority. In Acts 5:15 it was PETER'S SHADOW that healed the sick. In Acts 5:29 PETER was the spokesman of the apostles saying we should OBEY GOD, rather than human government. Much of chapter 6 and all of the very long chapter 7 is filled with the story of Stephen.

In Acts 8:20 Peter rebuked the first pope. In Acts 9:32-34 Peter was the leader in a healing. In Acts 9:39-40 Peter raised Dorcus from the dead. In Acts 10 it was PETER whom Christ chose of all the apostles to first carry salvation to the gentiles. In Acts 11 it was PETER who explained to the other apostles how God had opened salvation to gentiles.

In Acts 12, when the Roman ruler and king, Herod, saw it would please the Jews to put an apostle in prison, he knew PETER was the leader, and so put him in prison. Beginning Acts 13 the history turns primarily to the gentiles, and the apostle Paul is shown to be the leader. But in Acts 15, as I have explained in detail before, at the meeting of apostles and evangelists in Jerusalem. It was PETER who settled the question, which James merely affirmed and made official, because he was pastor of the local, but headquarters church at Jerusalem.

In Galatians 1:18 Paul went up to Jerusalem to see PETER, because Peter had leadership over the people of Israel as Paul over the gentiles. In Galatians 2:8 Paul shows that Peter had primacy in the apostleship to the circumcision as Paul had to the gentiles.

GOD, is ruling among humans, HAS ALWAYS WORKED THROUGH ONE MAN AT A TIME - NEVER TWO MEN - NEVER ONE HAVING COMPLETE AUTHORITY UNDER THE TOP HUMAN IN AUTHORITY - NEVER BY COMMITTEES OR GROUPS! Always that one man is CHOSEN BY CHRIST - never by PEOPLE!

God's form of government

And so, God's form of GOVERNMENT in His Church is, first, at the top in supreme authority, GOD the Father. Under Him, Christ, to whom the Father has delegated ALSO TOTAL AUTHORITY (as He never does to any HUMAN). Then, on the earthly human level Christ's chosen APOSTLE, and, under him on straight and equal line (no one over another), these department heads: Mail Processing, Buildings &

Grounds, Ambassador College, Financial Affairs, *Plain Truth* Editorial Production, *Plain Truth* Mechanical Production, Pastoral Administration, Festival Office, Television and Radio Production, Bible Correspondence Course, *Good News* and *Worldwide News* Productions, etc.

Each of these under the apostle. No one of these over any other. But, if each department head will DAILY, CONSTANTLY keep the living Jesus CHRIST in his mind and heart, I'm sure there will be harmony.

The press has called us the "BELEAGUERED WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD". **WHY?** We do not have power struggles, envies, competition, jealousies, between one LAY MEMBER and the others! All this "BELEAGUEREDNESS" has originated on the fourth floor of the Hall of Administration! **I MEAN THAT!** Brother ministers! And Jesus Christ - the very much alive and DYNAMIC CHRIST - through me intends now to PUT AN END TO IT! If there is any more political lobbying for or against another any more semblance of power struggle for a top spot, the living CHRIST THROUGH ME WILL DEAL SWIFTLY WITH IT!

WHY IS IT fellow ministers - the troubles of course, have ORIGINATED with Satan - but Satan has been able to work through some of us when we did not realize it!

Two ways of life

UNDERSTAND THIS! I have said to many groups around the world - groups of top officials of government groups at the grass roots, and privately to heads of state, that there are just TWO ways or philosophies of life, basically - the one is GET, the other is GIVE. The GIVE way is that of Him who said, "It is more blessed to GIVE than to receive". Actually that is the way of LOVE - and love is an overflowing concern for the good and welfare of others. The other is Satan's way - wanting to GET more money, more authority or power, more of whatever one lusts for.

GOD ALMIGHTY brought me back from DEATH! He brought me back, not only to FINISH carrying His Gospel of the Kingdom of God into all the world, but also BECAUSE HIS CHURCH WAS NOT "HOLY, NOT HAVING SPOT OR WRINKLES OR ANY SUCH THING."

Just as sure as He set Zerubbabel to build the physical second temple to which Christ came 1,900 years ago, so He has raised me up to build His SPIRITUAL TEMPLE - **the Household of God**, "which groweth unto an HOLY TEMPLE IN THE LORD." And it MUST BE MADE READY for the MARRIAGE when Christ returns, AND WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME!

WHY is it that the troubles that have been aired to the world by the media have originated on fourth floor, Hall of Administration? Those there are ON SALARY. They are GETTING from the Work. The lay brethren in New York state, Alabama, Wisconsin, Kansas, do not cause trouble! When the largest state in population in the Union attacks and tries to DESTROY the Church of the living God, and I send out a letter telling them of the need, their letters by the multiple THOUSANDS come back, telling me they are back of me 100 percent - telling me how much they love me!

This Church's harassment started 10 years or more ago. Before that we had PEACE. Before that we were *growing* 30 percent a year!

But some 10 years ago - especially since 1973 - when my son, who DISAGREED WITH WHAT I HAD TAUGHT THE CHURCH TO BELIEVE, took over second in command and adroitly, as SATAN moved him, turned it into TOP COMMAND - not only cutting me off above him, but also Christ and God, from that time CHRIST WITHDREW HIS BLESSING, and no longer did we grow at all!

Look how many top flight men - those GETTING the highest salaries - on the fourth floor - have been put out or gone out! THEY are the ones who went to the world's press, which caused all the evil reports to go to the world! I have never given the press ONE WORD!

To cut this short, GOD BROUGHT ME BACK FROM DEATH TO CLEAN UP HIS CHURCH! CHRIST THROUGH ME HAS BEEN DOING THAT! I don't fear death anymore, I shall not be intimidated! I know it is the will of Christ to CLEAN UP THIS CHURCH. He is bringing MASSIVE PERSECUTION ON US. **WHY?** To bring us to our knees! To bring us closer together! AND YOU BROTHERS HAVE BEEN RESPONDING! AND GOD IS BLESSING YOU! He will restore his blessing to His Church and Work TWO-FOLD, or even 10-FOLD!

Worldwide News - 11th June 1979, Page 1

WATERING DOWN - OR BUILDING SOLIDLY UP?

By Herbert W. Armstrong

Very shortly after my original marriage in 1917, an angel appeared to my wife in a dream. He descended from the sky, put his arms around both of us, said God was calling me soon to the most important commission. At the time I was embarrassed, suggested she tell it to

the preacher at the church on the corner of the block (Chicago, Ill.) and erased it from my mind.

Nine years later, about September, 1927, God did call me in a manner most disturbing. You read many times of the dual challenges - from my wife taking up with religious "fanaticism" - Sabbath keeping - and a sister-in-law challenging me on the doctrine of evolution.

You've heard, or read, of the story of the intensive almost night-and-day study that led to PROOF of the existence of God and the AUTHORITY of the Bible - God sweeping my mind clean of every other doctrine and belief - revealing to me HIS WORD exactly AS IS - no watering down.

I know of no other man who was ever brought to GOD'S TRUTH in that manner.

This led in seven years to the founding of the CHURCH OF GOD at Eugene, Ore., which in due time became the Worldwide Church of God.

The living Jesus Christ founded the one true Church of God, A.D. 31. The same living Jesus Christ started the Philadelphia era of God's Church through me, as His chosen apostle, August, 1933.

January, 1934, He started me on radio, and Feb. 1 *The Plain Truth* made a superhumble bow.

Fellow ministers and wives, the LIVING CHRIST raised up this era of His Church through me. *HE* heads it - leads it! Through me, directly or indirectly, you came into His Church, and into the knowledge He first revealed to me.

But the most terrible thing that ever happened to me was during the recent years when I was away from Pasadena up to 300 of the 365 days in the year, and my son assumed a full and complete authority never given to him, and encouraged WATERING DOWN God's TRUTH and God's COMMANDS! For the past year now Jesus Christ, through me, has been SETTING HIS CHURCH BACK ON THE TRACK!

But that job is far from complete! I quote from a letter from a member:

He says: "How come nobody preaches about third tithe anymore?... There were things being said by ministers to plant doubts in my mind about it."

Fellow ministers, I say to you by Christ's authority that for one claiming to be a minister of Jesus Christ and receiving a salary as a minister of, and representative of this Church, to water down or make less binding the teachings and doctrines Jesus Christ put in this Church through me is taking money (salary) under false pretenses. It is SERIOUS and a SERIOUS SIN. God will call everyone who does that to account.

Compare this to a captain in the army. He is in a comparatively low authority, but he is over first and second lieutenants, sergeants, corporals, etc. Suppose an army captain begins to water down or change the military rules. Suppose he tells those under him, "You don't need to obey this or that order - unless you want to." Such a captain would be court-martialed and PUT OUT with DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE!

Yet ministers who ought to know better have said to those under them, "You don't need to tithe if you don't want to."

I know that the large majority of you ministers are faithful in preaching the doctrines the living Christ has put into His Church through me. Yet under my son's assuming more authority than had been given him, there was a great letdown and dereliction of duty creeping in through a portion of the ministry. In the army, during wartime, for such dereliction of duty they might just rid the guilty officer by a firing squad. HOW MUCH MORE SERIOUS IS WATERING DOWN OF DOCTRINES AND THE FAITH IN GOD'S WORK?

This letter from a lay member continues, "When I was (in Ambassador College) there were things being said by teachers and ministers to plant doubts in my mind."

There has been entirely too much of this "planting doubts" in the minds of Church members. Jesus Christ is CHALLENGING ME TO CHALLENGE YOU on this question, and to say that THERE IS AUTHORITY in God's Church - it is the one and only place on earth where THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD is being administered.

Jesus Christ holds ME accountable for how I administer HIS GOVERNMENT! If a minister plants doubts in the minds of his congregation, remember, "He that doubteth is damned." Jesus said that for one to deliberately lead even one of "these little ones" astray, it would be better if a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he was drowned in the ocean.

This is a SERIOUS MATTER WITH GOD!

In comparatively recent years a "doctrinal committee" raised itself up at Pasadena. But I soon learned that these "scholars" were not searching for new and additional TRUTHS. They were trying to destroy or water down truths we already had. I have dissolved that "committee."

This letter continues: "I don't have to tell you that man's desires are carnal and that Satan's pulls are always in a manner away from the truth. I'd sure like to find some excuse to spend that third-tithe money some other way. And it sure is easy to do that when God's ministers aren't constantly proclaiming God's commands, and aren't powerfully preaching His ways, expounding His laws! Exhorting the brethren!! Exposing their sins!!

"And what happened to sermons on birthdays being wrong, New Year's celebrations being wrong, Valentine's Day being wrong? We need someone to solidly and loudly and firmly, not saying... 'you do whatever you want.' But saying: '*God condemns* those who follow their own ways and Satan's ways. He refuses to bless them and He curses them' - and then giving them scriptures.

"I pray often that you will once again stomp and speak thunderingly, and pound your fists until you drive it into peoples' minds what is right and what is wrong, and get rid of this wishy-washy preaching of ministers under you! Let's not be so timid... We need to shake people up! Respectfully" (SIGNED).

But now back to where I started. I think that most of us tend to lose sight of what God has done in raising up this Philadelphia era of the true Church of God.

In my forthcoming book, *A Voice Cries Out*, I state that, of all the world's many religions and the more than 250 Protestant denominations, NOT ONE, except the original small persecuted Church of God, knows WHO and WHAT God is: NOT ONE knows WHAT and WHY man is; NOT ONE knows the true Gospel message God sent to mankind by Jesus Christ, etc., etc.

I ask, in this book, HOW would a Buddhist in Thailand ever come to the TRUTH? He has known nothing since birth but Buddhism. How would a Moslem, living right here where I am writing this - in Tunis, Tunisia - ever come to God's real TRUTH?

How DID those who wrote the Bible - the very WORD OF GOD - come to know God's TRUTH? God had to perform a miracle in the beginning to reveal His TRUTH TO Moses by the incident of the burning bush. God

had to speak to Moses direct, to give him the knowledge he wrote in the Bible.

How did the apostle Paul come to know God's precious TRUTH distinct from the Judaism he had been born to and raised in?

HOW - in the U.S., or elsewhere in today's world - could you have come to know such precious TRUTH, born and raised completely surrounded and engulfed by either Roman Catholic or Protestant-brand "Christianity?"

More to the point, HOW *DID YOU* come into this precious knowledge?

GOD PERFORMED A MIRACLE - that's how!

As I wrote at the beginning of this *Pastor's Report*, the living Jesus Christ CALLED ME. He used a method such as NONE of you had to go through. He completely UPSET me! He made me see that just about ALL that I had been taught about religion was WRONG. I was WRONG about the immortal soul, about heaven and hell, about the LAW OF GOD, about the real history of GOD'S CHURCH - and of ancient Israel before it. Christmas, New Year's, Easter - all these I had to UNlearn. It was a SHATTERING EXPERIENCE! My mind was SWEPT CLEAN of false beliefs. My mind was open to God's TRUTH.

You, dear ministers and wives, did not have to go through what God put me through. I learned TRUTH a doctrine at a time. Through me it was handed to all of you "on a platter" - all together.

Now if you don't understand and believe that, I wonder what you are doing in Christ's ministry.

The living CHRIST put HIS TRUTH into God's Church through me.

You have of your own will been drawn into this Church by the living Christ - to HELP me in proclaiming this GOOD NEWS to the world. IT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT WORK IN THE WORLD - ESPECIALLY AT THIS CRISIS TIME JUST BEFORE THE COMING OF CHRIST TO SET UP THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

It is far more important than being a captain in the army in time of WAR! If you did not agree with the military regulations and orders and openly proclaimed your dissidence to those under you, you would be court-martialed and probably shot! Yet disagreement and contrary teaching of those under you in GOD'S CHURCH is, in God's eyes, FAR MORE SERIOUS!

Now I am not, of course, going to order any firing squads. But the LEAST you can do, if you cannot wholeheartedly accept and loyally teach the truths Jesus Christ put into His Church through His chosen apostle, is to resign and LEAVE THE CHURCH!

God commands in His Word that we all "SPEAK THE SAME THING." That "same thing" He put into His Church through His apostle. If you can't agree on any point, you may bring your disagreement privately to your superior or directly to me - but to teach disagreement to the children of GOD is the height of disloyalty!

For a year now, God has been SETTING HIS CHURCH BACK ON HIS TRACK! That action continues!

Worldwide News, June 25, 1979, Page 1

HOW SATAN INJECTS FALSE DOCTRINES

By Herbert W. Armstrong

In God's Church in our time I have seen how Satan cleverly and without their knowledge uses humans to destroy **GOD'S TRUTH** and inject false or counterfeit doctrines instead.

The record, in our time, has been written. And the record has been written of how it was done in the first three centuries of the Church.

The Church of God started out A.D. 31, under the original apostles, taught personally by Jesus Christ, pure in doctrines.

Yet by about A.D. 58, the apostle Paul wrote to the churches of Galatia "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of (Jesus) Christ." (Galatians 1:6-7)

To the church at Corinth the same thing was happening. To them Paul wrote, "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted." (II Corinthians 11:3) Today, if one should suggest that a brother or minister in the Church has unsuspectedly been led in any degree by Satan, he will rise up in furious indignation and angrily retort that Satan can't influence him! That is to say, "I am stronger and more firm and righteous than Satan - Satan could never deceive me!"

But listen, dear brethren of God's Church, Satan is **MORE POWERFUL, MORE CUNNING, MORE SUBTLE** than any human being on earth! Unless you and I are constantly on guard - close to God in constant heartrending prayer - constantly close to God and His truth through Bible study then Satan **CAN** deceive you, blind your eyes to God's truth and **USE YOU!** Satan has used and led, without their knowing it, even some of our ministers in past years.

Paul continues in his letter to those at Corinth, "for such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel, for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if **HIS MINISTERS**" - mark you, it is speaking of those who unwittingly become **SATAN'S MINISTERS!** - "also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness." (II Corinthians 11:13-15)

In God's Church in our day, self-appointed "scholars" rose up in what they called a doctrinal committee, devoting themselves, **NOT** to discovering any **NEW TRUTH** - but trying to **DIS**prove the **TRUE DOCTRINES** Jesus Christ put into His Church through His apostle, and inject false doctrines into the Church of God.

This very thing happened in the days of the apostle Paul and the original apostles. And **SATAN DID BLIND AND DECEIVE THOSE WHO, WITH HONEST HEARTS, HAD ACCEPTED GOD'S TRUTH!**

It happened again in the next two centuries. After the apostle John wrote the book Revelations in the 90's A.D. Satan was using those at Rome to inject the pagan Easter instead of the Lord's **PASSOVER!**

A disciple of John - Polycarp - engaged in a heated controversy on this question with the Bishop of Rome. Later, Polycrates entered into an even more heated controversy with a later Roman bishop on the question - referred to as the Quartodeciman controversy.

About the same time, Satan was using ministers in the Church to completely do away with the real work and function of the Holy Spirit, by calling the Holy Spirit a "Ghost" - a Third Person is the godhead - calling God a **TRINITY**, "Father, Son and Holy Ghost".

Brethren, do we think we are so superior to those of the first, second and third centuries that Satan could not have tried to pervert God's **TRUTH** today?

But praise be to God - even though so much of **GOD'S TRUTH** was distorted, changed and replaced with false doctrines in the very first

three centuries, and remained hidden from God's Church until our 20th century, God's original **TRUTH** was preserved **IN HIS WORD!**

And beginning in the fall of A.D. 1927, God began an absolutely **UNIQUE WORK** on the one the living Christ had chosen to be His apostle. He put me through the wringer that squeezed out all former misconcepts and untrue beliefs, using me to put His **TRUTH** into His Church that is to rise and meet the glorified Christ in the clouds as He returns to establish the Kingdom of God!

The **END TIME** has come! God has restored original **TRUTH! HOW PRECIOUS IS IT TO YOU?** - or do you trample it underfoot as swine would trample into the mud the most precious diamonds, rubies and precious stones, and go for the slop?

Yes, Satan has tried to **WATER DOWN** true doctrine - to turn God's Church to false truths. Apparently it is unhappily true that some willingly fall by the wayside and shall not continue on to enter into the **KINGDOM OF GOD!** But I have not retired - I am still vigorously active. Jesus Christ is still on God's throne, as the dynamic living **HEAD** of God's Church!

Worldwide News, June 25, 1979, Page 1

WHAT GOD NEVER DID - NEVER WILL - ALLOW TO HAPPEN

By Herbert W. Armstrong

This thought came to me as I was eating breakfast this morning: In all this world's history, God has never started an important Work or special activity through a chosen human, and then, after that special accomplishment is well advanced, **ALLOWED** His chosen human leader to be overthrown by Satan - or in any way to turn false!

Yet those promoted high *within* that Work or special activity for God *have* been allowed to run false, against God's chosen leader.

The example of Moses

Start with Moses - specially called and chosen by God to lead the Israelite slaves out of Egypt and to the promised land. Moses was human. He had human faults and weaknesses - but he also had human strengths, and God gave him the extra strength needed.

Moses' brother Aaron had been elevated high as Moses' spokesman (since Moses had a speech impediment - he stuttered). Aaron, with his sister Miriam, did once turn false and say to Moses in effect "Who do you think you are? We are just as high - on a level with you!" God punished.

Then there was Korah. He and others associated with him in a rebellion had been raised to high position in the nation Israel - a nation emigrating from Egypt with 2 1/2 or more million people (600,000 men age 20 and above plus women and children).

There was real organization within that nomadic nation, but none equal to Moses in top authority under God - and no No.2 men in authority over all except Moses.

Yet Korah and his fellow dissidents were not satisfied with their already lofty positions - they wanted to GET - take to themselves more **AUTHORITY, EQUAL TO MOSES**. God caused the earth to swallow them up.

But the man God had prepared in advance - the man God chose as His instrument in **STARTING** the tremendous project of moving some 2 1/2 million people to the promised land - was never allowed by God to be wrong.

Yet Moses was abused, accused, criticized.

The same with Joshua, the man God chose to take over after Moses' job was completed and pilot God's people across the Jordan River into the promised land. Joshua remained **FAITHFUL!**

Jesus Christ appointed Peter chief apostle to Israel, and Paul chief apostle to the gentiles. They were falsely accused, opposed, criticized - but neither was allowed by **CHRIST** to turn wrong - though some under them did turn wrong.

The Philadelphia Era

In our time, God first prepared, then called me unmistakably, to raise up the Philadelphia era of God's Church - at this **END TIME** just before the end of this world - and to proclaim the **GOOD NEWS** of the world tomorrow and the Kingdom of God. That was 46 years ago - though God called and chose me 52 years ago.

But what has happened in that 46 years? My elder son, Richard David, was taken in death, dying "in harness" on a baptizing tour - the most

loved of the ministers in God's Church, because he exuded so much **LOVE!**

But then my second son came along, "prepared" in all the evils of enlisted men in the U.S. Navy, and (this was MY mistake, not yet then realizing God has never used a No.2 man in authority). I delegated a considerable authority to Ted.

But he went way beyond what I delegated and assumed **TOTAL AUTHORITY**, trying to cut me off completely - which meant also cutting off *all* above him (which meant cutting off Jesus Christ and God Almighty). There were others who were either **POWER** hungry or money hungry (probably mostly the former).

I came to **LOVE, TO ENTRUST AUTHORITY** to, to honor and respect Albert Portune, David Antion, C. Wayne Cole, Raymond Cole, Ron Dart - all men once high in God's Work today, as Korah and his fellows were in Moses' day. And now **WHERE ARE THEY?** All are trying to **DESTROY** the very **WORK OF GOD** they once sought to support, as they climbed the ladder of success!

today the living Christ, Head of the Church, is **SETTING IT BACK ON GOD'S TRACK**, yet these dissidents would have you think Christ's apostle and even the Church has gone sour - and, like vultures of the sky, they figuratively hover over it, waiting for this, that and the other member to **DIE SPIRITUALLY**, so they may gobble up the remains! They no longer seek to build - they seek to **DESTROY!**

Close to the **END** of the age

Well, brethren, just where do we stand **AT THE MOMENT?** During the past year this Church of the living God has been at least 75 percent set back on God's track. We are getting frighteningly close to the **END** of this age. This Church was drifting into a Laodicean condition. Incidentally, both the Sardis and the Laodicean eras of the Church were **GOD'S CHURCHES - NOT SATAN'S!**

Someone spread the false rumor that I have said these others were or will be Satan's churches. The Sardis era in the main had become spiritually dead - had rejected too much of **GOD'S TRUTH** - was accomplishing virtually **NOTHING** in spreading the true Gospel to the world (indeed had no clear conception of what that Gospel is). The Laodicean church will be characterized by spiritual lukewarmness - half of its membership (Matthew 25:1-13) will be shut out of the Kingdom of God.

But, the **BAD NEWS**, as it appears today, my dear brethren, is that we, undoubtedly of the Philadelphian era - my son's ridicule not withstanding - are in serious danger of **BECOMING** also the Laodicean era. I am personally much concerned about that. If **YOU** are **NOT** concerned, then indeed we *are in mortal DANGER!*

Attempt to destroy Church

Satan is pulling out **ALL STOPS** now to **DESTROY THIS CHURCH OF GOD!** No matter how angrily and vehemently they deny it, **SATAN IS USING** these former leaders, and they are yielding completely to Satan's will! I no longer hesitate to call a spade a spade!

But what Jesus Christ raised up is the **CHURCH OF GOD**. Today it encompasses the earth, so we call it the **WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD!** Garner Ted bragged to me that **HE** built this Church. It was **BUILT** when he was 3 years old!

Much much later, my son was allowed to have microphones before him that went out on hundreds of stations. But what **CHRIST BUILT** through his father placed those microphones before him. He **STARTED** nothing! He pioneered **NOTHING!**

But a letter from one woman member illustrates what happened. She first heard of us through one of my son's TV programs and wrote for literature. She read booklets that **I** wrote, on what is salvation, what is the Kingdom of God, what do you mean "BORN AGAIN", etc. and **THESE BOOKLETS** led to her conversion. There have been many like that.

Let me close with one thought. It is now a little late in life for me to turn to Satan's way, as so many others in high places have done.

God never yet has let one through whom He **STARTED** a great project turn wrong - and He has never yet let such an appointed leader of His *die until the job was FINISHED!*

Worldwide News - 12th November 1979, Page 3

Would You Accuse Jesus Christ?

Several, probably not realizing it, have been accusing Jesus Christ, the living HEAD of God's Church. Be sure YOU don't!

By Herbert W. Armstrong

I WRITE THIS IN the form of an OPEN LETTER to a number of ex-ministers and dissident members who have *gone* out of God's Church in a spirit of accusation, disagreement, emotional resentment and bitterness.

I wish it might help them. I doubt if it will. But I do have high hopes that it may help the MANY still faithful, loyal and loving brethren in Christ to avoid this pitfall of Satan that has deceived some who have thought they were above being deceived by Satan.

Don't think you can outsmart Satan! Don't think you are so strong Satan could never out-manuever, trick or deceive you! NONE of us can match wits with Satan. Our reliance must be on the one who *IS* stronger and more powerful than Satan - JESUS CHRIST!

What IS God's Church?

First, fasten firmly in mind just what *IS* God's Church. It is NOT a human or secular ORGANIZATION - it is a SPIRITUAL ORGANISM! Yet in I Corinthians 12 it is revealed as a well ORGANIZED spiritual organism, with CHRIST as *living*, active HEAD - actually and literally *directing and guiding it!*

"There are differences, of administrations, but the same Lord" (verse 5). Administrations require administrators - but the Lord Jesus Christ over them, guiding, leading, controlling them.

CHRIST IS *IN* THE PICTURE! Yet the embittered who have gone out, accusing, have not realized they actually were accusing the living, active JESUS CHRIST! They seldom spoke of Him in the connection of their disagreement! They left Him out of the picture! They spoke of the Church, the Work, the things about which they were disgruntled or in disagreement, *as if this were merely a worldly, human organization*, which a man named Herbert W. Armstrong had somehow maneuvered to make himself the HEAD (which he certainly NEVER did) and with whom they DISAGREED!

One, my own son, has said, "I never did agree with my father." He spoke as if it were Christ's human apostle who was wrong. He did not seem to see *CHRIST* as LIVING, ACTIVE HEAD, merely using His chosen apostle as His instrument - almost comparable to a puppet - with *CHRIST* as the living, responsible, active HEAD! If in viewing a puppet show you disagree with something the puppet is caused to do, you are actually disagreeing with the one ABOVE, who is manipulating and guiding what the puppet on the strings is doing.

But the dissidents have made their accusations and disagreements against the "puppet" - for they would fear to accuse Jesus Christ directly! Yet, indirectly, that is precisely what they have done, whether realized or not!

Who is head of the Church?

A parallel case is found in I Samuel 8, when GOD - the YHWH who later became Jesus Christ - was ruling Israel through His instrument Samuel. The people became dissatisfied, disgruntled. They decided to overthrow Samuel. They, like our dissidents today, could not see GOD in the picture. They saw only the human Samuel.

They wanted to do away with Samuel and have a king like the other worldly nations. But what did GOD (in the Person who is JESUS CHRIST today) say?

"And the Lord [YHWH] said unto Samuel... they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me [the future CHRIST], that I should not reign over them" (I Samuel 8: 7).

They did not realize it was the future CHRIST who had brought them out of hard slavery and bondage in Egypt, set them up as HIS NATION, brought them into the promised land and was their REAL ruler!

Nor do the rebellious dissidents (and perhaps even some loyal members) realize today that it is CHRIST who raised up HIS ONE AND ONLY CHURCH OF OUR TIME (even though He used me as His servant - his "puppet" so to speak).

The LIVING Jesus Christ put HIS GOVERNMENT into God's Church. He prepared me for years before He called me to be His servant - His chosen apostle - His puppet as it were.

But there is one DIFFERENCE in the puppet analogy: Christ chooses His prophets and apostles as human men with MINDS - whereas a puppet, of course, has no mind. A servant GOD uses, therefore, being human, *can* make a mistake. But if he does, *it is CHRIST'S responsibility to correct him* - not the Church members or ministers Christ has placed under him.

To illustrate, take King David - a man after God's own heart. God USED David. But David made some mistakes. One terrible mistake - a terrible sin - was when David had Uriah killed - a MURDER - so he could cover up his sin of adultery and have Bathsheba for his wife.

But IT WAS NOT THE PLACE OF THE PEOPLE UNDER DAVID TO CORRECT HIM! That was GOD'S responsibility. AND GOD DID NOT NEGLECT IT! He sent His prophet Nathan to make David realize his sin. David REPENTED - *REALLY* repented. Read his prayer of repentance in the 51st Psalm!

It is GOD'S responsibility to correct His chosen apostle - not YOURS - not the minister under him, though I would listen gratefully with open mind if one prayerfully came to me in sincerity, about any disagreement. But CORRECTION and any ACCUSATION *against God's apostle* is *NOT* the responsibility of the ministers or the members - that is CHRIST'S responsibility - AND I KNOW, IF SOME DON'T, THAT HE IS NOT "ASLEEP ON THE JOB."

DO NOT take it upon yourself to take CHRIST'S responsibility away from Him! When you do, IT IS CHRIST, you accuse, not His servant who is merely His instrument, trying with all his might to faithfully obey Him!

The POINT of this article is: Some have, and others may have, not realizing it, ACCUSED CHRIST, supposing they are only venting their emotional accusation or disagreement or resentment on A FELLOW HUMAN BEING.

When the pope of Rome visited the United States in early October, he answered some Roman Catholic dissidents, who disagreed with traditional Catholic doctrines and teachings, by calling them "a-la-carte Catholics" - those who chose *which* teachings and doctrines *they* agreed with - and said they were not really Catholics!

There is one difference in the analogy - in Roman Catholicism, the pope is the living HEAD of the church, while in the Church of God, CHRIST is the living Head. In the Catholic Church, they claim that the CHURCH, guided by the pope, is the AUTHORITY - while in GOD'S Church, the BIBLE is the authority!

We sent Gene Hogberg during the pope's U.S. visit, traveling to the various cities where the pope appeared. In his very fine article in the December *Plain Truth*, a masterpiece of journalism reporting his coverage of the papal visit, he notes that the pope said nothing or almost nothing about the living Christ. The pope's official title is " Vicar of Christ," which means "IN PLACE OF CHRIST."

How Christ put me in His Church

Dissidents are always misrepresenting experiences of the early days - events they know nothing about - of how Christ brought me into God's Church.

When the TRUTH is known, *what a contrast* from the way dissidents have acted in our time.

An article in *The Worldwide News* has covered much of how God brought me into His Church. Let me here cover a few other significant experiences of those days.

God had brought me through a business experience *preparing me* for certain activities He would require of me after He called and conquered and converted me. During that intensive six months' preliminary almost night and day study, God revealed to me certain very basic, fundamental TRUTHS needful for the commission to which He was calling me. One, most basic, was the *GOVERNMENT OF GOD*, based on the *LAW OF GOD*, and the fact that the real *TEST COMMANDMENT* of God's law is the Sabbath. Another was the truth of U.S. and British true identity as the birthright tribes of the "lost" 10 tribes, the house of Israel. Another was the annual Holy Days.

I was in close touch with Seventh-day Adventist *literature* (but not with the church) and with the Church of God, Seventh Day, and with their members in Oregon.

One of the first things I learned was that both Catholicism and Protestantism teach the precise *OPPOSITE* of the plain teaching of the Bible. This brought great perplexity and consternation. I had, since age 18, lost all active interest in church and religion - yet I supposed at least the Protestant churches were true churches of God. Now I asked, in bewildered hopelessness, "WHERE, then, is the one TRUE Church Christ founded?" I read in Matthew 16:18 that the *true* Church would not die out.

I knew it had to believe in the *LAW* of God, and that the test commandment was the Sabbath. That narrowed the possible TRUE Church down to three - the Seventh-day Adventists, the Seventh-day Baptists and the Church of God, Seventh Day. Then I learned that the TRUE Church always would be kept in the *NAME* of the FATHER, GOD! That left only the one.

But I could not readily accept them as God's one true Church. They seemed too small - less than 2,000 members, nearly all in the United States, if not all. They were weak and impotent spiritually. They did not know or preach the TRUE GOSPEL, but a "third angel's message." They had no understanding of the *KINGDOM OF GOD* or what would

take place in the Millennium - they knew only there would be a thousand-year reign with Christ ON EARTH, but no details about it.

Yet I knew of no other that could be the true Church. With this lack of real PROOF, my wife and I decided not to join them until more sure - but to begin meeting with them, attending their services, fellowshiping with them. They were a humble, plain, yet sincere people. They had one major doctrine ALL accepted - the weekly Sabbath.

Otherwise, they were divided in doctrines - a sort of a-la-carte religion. Elder Stith believed there was no devil. Elder Dugger and many ministers believed there was. Some believed Christ would come before the Millennium, others were postmillennialists.

Proper channel for questions

Now what did I do? What example did I set, so radically DIFFERENT from some who have gone out from us today?

Remember I was not even a member. I was not even a minister, from my conversion - early 1927, until 1931 - and then ordained by the Oregon Conference, separately incorporated. I did begin preaching a bit about 1930. I continued intensive Bible study.

I realized I did not agree with them on certain points, especially some God had been revealing to me. They knew nothing of our identity as the birthright tribes of Israel. I DID NOT PREACH OR TEACH THIS or any other doctrine contrary to their general teachings! Instead, I did what a very few disagreeing ministers today should have done - I refrained from preaching it to their members, but I did take it privately to their headquarters! In this case, I wrote a manuscript that later, with revisions, became our booklet *U.S. in Prophecy*. I sent this to their headquarters at Stanberry, Mo. I could not afford to travel there in person.

After much delay, the answer came back from their executive leader, A.N. Dugger, saying it was the TRUTH - God had a purpose in revealing it to me - but the church could not accept or preach it. He REJECTED TRUTH, which he admitted was truth! His letter was photographically reproduced in the first edition of the autobiography. I did NOT teach it to their members!

They did not agree or have the truth about the annual Holy Days. I took this up privately with their leaders. They "laughed me to scorn," rejecting the TRUTH. I carefully refrained from proclaiming it to their

members. But when the parent Church of the present Worldwide Church of God was raised up in 1933, I did teach it to them, our own brethren, and they received it!

There was another very small teaching in which they were in error - re: Matthew 28:1. I did not go to their members with it, but I wrote an 18-page analysis PROVING their error, sent it to Stanberry headquarters. They *admitted* in writing I had proved them in error, but said they could not correct it, because many older members and ministers would not accept it. And for the sake of unity they would have to continue teaching the error.

A few ministers - a very few - have gone out in the past year, saying they disagree on some doctrines - but they never brought their disagreement to headquarters to "Come... let us reason together" (Isaiah 1:18). "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us" (1 John 2:19).

Brethren, God has not given His people an a-la-carte church where each picks whatever doctrines HE or SHE prefers and rejects the others!

Speak the same thing

God says, through Paul: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, *that ye all speak the same thing*, and that there be no divisions among you" (1 Corinthians 1:10), for speaking or preaching DIFFERENT doctrines causes DIVISIONS, and God commands, "Now I beseech you, brethren, *mark* them which cause divisions and offences *CONTRARY TO THE DOCTRINE* which ye have learned" (when you came into the Church) "*and avoid them*" (Romans 16:17).

God, from the founding of His Church, has put HIS DOCTRINES and TEACHINGS into His Church THROUGH HIS APOSTLES! I have PROVED, brethren, through the years, that if an incorrect teaching, belief or doctrine has been put into the Church through me, that my mind is OPEN - that the living CHRIST will cause me to see it - and in that way HE will correct it through His servant.

Christ GUIDES AND RULES HIS CHURCH!

Worldwide News, 26th Nov 1979 page 1

How the Conspiracy Worked

By Herbert W Armstrong

Going over papers in preparing for the trip to China, I came across a letter that had become sidetracked. It was dated August 19, 1979. On reading it again, I decided to print it in *The Worldwide News*, and I am including it in this *Pastor General's Report*.

It describes, from the member point of view, how the conspiracy to eliminate both God and Jesus Christ from this Church actually operated. Of course Satan was the real author of the whole conspiracy – now continuing in the California attorney general's attempt to take over the Church and its properties and assets – or, in other words, to DESTROY the Church of the Living God!

My son, still held in the bond and grip of Satan, has NOT started another Church of God. God has only ONE Church.

God calls His Church the Body of Christ. In this case the word body is used in the sense of a cohesive single GROUP – a SPIRITUAL ORGANISM. We are “the HOUSEHOLD OF GOD; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building *fitly framed together* groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord” (Ephesians 2:19-21).

So we are a body of Spirit-begotten people – we are a building, and we are a holy *temple*! And all that one body is “fitly joined together and compacted [welded] by that which every joint supplieth” (Ephesians 4:16).

But that Church body is NOT **TWO** churches, but only ONE! “For as the body is **ONE**, and hath many members.... But now are they many members, yet but ONE body” (1 Corinthians 12:12, 20). What has been started in OPPOSITION TO the ONE Church of God is merely a group, mostly of embittered dissenters, *following a MAN!*

It was started in anger, and resentment and hostility, under threat to DESTROY the ONE Church of the living GOD. That conspiracy continued into the plot that influenced a California lawyer, for his personal profit, to induce a deputy attorney general of California, to attempt to DESTROY the Church of the living GOD!

The REAL conspirator is Satan the devil. He has DECEIVED a handful of resentful, embittered, hostile former members into trying to DESTROY that which formerly FED them and supplied all their physical need.

Let us PRAY, earnestly and continuously, that Jesus Christ will LOOSE him that is in the clutch of Satan from the power of Satan, that he may yet find his way back to that to which he was originally called.

The other morning I awoke from a most startling and vivid dream. I was walking past a counter in a building and standing there at the counter was this one held captive by Satan. He turned and saw me. Looking beaten and frustrated, he said, "Dad, is there any possible way that I can come back?"

I awoke at that instant, shaken, but with a new ray of hope. Of himself it is IMPOSSIBLE, for as Paul wrote in Hebrews, when one has tasted of God's Holy Spirit and the holy Word of God, if he shall fall away, it is IMPOSSIBLE to renew him to repentance. Impossible for him – yes. BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE FOR JESUS CHRIST.

In the third chapter of Zechariah is the forerunner – the antetype of the prototype of this late 20th century – the high priest Joshua, clothed with filthy garments – covered with sin. Beside him stands Satan, holding him BOUND (but not possessed) – unable to shake himself loose – unable to REPENT.

Then comes Jesus Christ and REBUKES Satan, frees Joshua, orders his filthy garments to be taken off and clean garments of white – righteousness – put on, and then a fair mitre put on his head.

PRAY WITH ME, earnestly and diligently that the END-TIME EVENT, which that foreshadowed, may yet come to pass. I pray for this fervently DAILY, as I pray also for all of YOU.

Worldwide News, 30th June 1980, Page 1

HOW EX-MEMBER DISSIDENTS FILL THEIR MINDS... HOW ABOUT YOU?

By Herbert W. Armstrong

ONE EMBITTERED expelled former member, whose principal purpose in life now seems to be to "expose the evils" of the Worldwide Church of God, has said, so I am told, that ex-member malcontents fill their minds continually with nothing but conjuring up in their minds what they seem to enjoy thinking is WRONG with the Church of the living GOD.

Their whole thought -- their conversation -- dwells on nothing, it seems but what they like to suppose is wrong and evil about God's ont true Church.

They twist and distort facts into that which is *not* true. They enjoy conjuring up in their embittered and often perverted imaginations monstrous, impossible, filthy lies about the Church or its leaders, and enjoy spreading false rumors.

Significant? Those of us in the Church fill our minds on, more than anything else, the WORK of God's Church, the wonderful TRUTHS of God's precious Word. But, it seems, those who once had their minds on these POSITIVE things of GOD -- of His WORK, and of His CHURCH -- still keep their minds ON GOD'S Church, but now in a negative, embittered, resentful, hating and satanic trend.

It fills their minds not only, but their hearts.

This is a warning to YOU! Don't let *your* mind and heart be filled with such vengeful bitterness!

Are they now, as Jude says, "filthy dreamers [who] defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities ...[who]speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves. WOE unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core. These are spots in your feasts of charity [love] ... feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever ... These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words ... mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit" (Jude 8-19).

"But," this passage continues, "ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life" (verses 20-21).

This is definitely a prophecy respecting God's true Church in these very last days.

As a man thinks in his heart, so is he (Proverbs 23:7).

So, THINK NO EVIL! "If ye then be risen with Christ ... Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God" (Colossians 3: 1-3).

We, brethren, ARE the BODY OF CHRIST, the CHURCH of the living GOD, now in the short time remaining, letting Christ prepare us as His Bride to whom He soon will come. We must be found without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. Never mind the PAST. If confessed to GOD, and repented of and turned from, the precious blood of Christ has COVERED all our sins. Let HIM prepare us for His soon COMING!

PRAY for our former members, who have gone out or been put out according to Romans 16: 17-18 and II Thessalonians 3: 3,6,14-15. Pray that God will reveal to them that God is blessing His Church with PEACE, and that in spite of Satan's masterstroke of persecution, the Church is GROWING, is BACK ON THE TRACK, that we are now closely knit together and with God and with Christ. When our ways are pleasing to Christ He BLESSES US AND HIS WORK!

Those who have gone out are NOT so blessed. Pray that they may see it, and REPENT, that they may be received back with REJOICING!

Some eight or 10 little splinter groups have gone out from us. NOT ONE HAS PROSPERED! Some have even been fighting one another! They have caused many to drop out, not only from God's true Church, but from their little groups, and departed entirely from CHRIST! That is the FRUIT they have borne! Some have been lost FOREVER!

Also pray diligently and fervently for ONE ANOTHER. Pray for me, as I pray for all of you DAILY -- that we may allow God to preserve us faithful, enduring unto the END -- now NEAR!

Worldwide News, 14th July 1980, Page 1

Just What Do You Mean - A Cult?

By Herbert W. Armstrong

The Worldwide Church of God is not a "cult"! It is the present generation continuing the Church of God founded A.D.31 by Jesus Christ. Here are the facts.

Have you heard of Greeks being called, insultingly, "wops," Italians being called "dagos," Germans called "boche," Jews called "kikes" or

"sheenies"? Mexicans who wish to insult Americans call us "gringos." Some Southerners after the civil war called northerners "Yankees." They intended it to be an insulting epithet. A prominent Baptist minister recently said, "If the Worldwide Church of God is a "cult," then we Baptists were a "cult" during the early years of our growth."

Actually, the word *cult* is not an insulting epithet, but today it is often used insultingly. The word comes from the word *culture*, which ordinarily is used as a very complimentary term. Webster "cult," as 1) formal religious veneration: worship 2) a system of religious belief and ritual; also its body of adherents 3) a religion regarded as unorthodox or spurious.

It is this third usage that was widely used in the sensational Jonestown Mass-suicide incident.

Since that event occupied front-page banner headlines for several days, some who do not know the facts have been labeling any or all small churches small in membership, as "cults." **Small churches are not "cults."**

The one true Church

Jesus Christ founded the one true Church of God on the day of Pentecost, in June, AD 31. It began that day with 120 members. It was not a "cult." Jesus, during His lifetime, called those original members the "little flock" (Luke 12:32).

In the prophecies of the book of Revelation, two churches are foretold. One, in chapter 17, a great false church, called in verse 5, "Mystery, Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth." She is pictured as ruling over nations speaking different languages ---- large, strong, powerful. The other, the true Church of God, is described in chapter 12, as a small, persecuted church, having to flee for her safety.

By the year AD 53, the churches in Galatia, Asia Minor, now modern Turkey, had already removed themselves from the grace of Christ, into another gospel. The true Gospel of Jesus Christ was being suppressed from the world by the larger false church.

The true Church of God, holding to the true Gospel of Jesus Christ and the teachings of Christ and the apostles, had to go underground , meeting for services in secret. Millions were tortured and put to death for their faith.

But the TRUTH of Jesus Christ and the apostles was preserved by the persecuted "little flock," and in its fullness in the Holy Bible.

The Worldwide Church of God today holds to the SAME FAITH, same doctrines, same customs and practices, as the original Church of AD 31, under the original apostles.

Meanwhile, your Bible says, Revelation 12:9 the WHOLE WORLD has been DECEIVED by the invisible Satan the devil. Yet God's truth has been preserved in the Bible

If you would like to see some of that truth revealed and made plain, why not write for our free booklet, [Just What Do You Mean - Born Again?](#) It will open your eyes, when you see this truth in YOUR OWN BIBLE!

Worldwide News - 16th May 1981, Page 1

ADVISORY COUNCIL OF ELDERS FORMED

By Herbert W. Armstrong

In the organizational pattern of God's Church an ADVISORY COUNCIL OF ELDERS has been formed. It is not a legal board of directors.

Actually the Worldwide Church of God is a spiritual organism, created by GOD - not a legal corporate organization created by this world's laws.

But, in order to function *IN* the world in an organizational manner, the Church of God has needed to be incorporated according to state laws. The members of the Church are NOT members of the "Worldwide Church of God, Inc.," a California corporation, nor of "Herbert W. Armstrong, a corporation sole," under which our financial operations currently are functioning (since the massive lawsuit by the state of California).

The California corporation "Worldwide Church of God Inc.," does require a board of directors. The corporation sole does not.

But, regardless, the GOVERNMENT in God's Church a spiritual organism, is government from the top down. God is Head over all - even over Christ. Christ is Head of the Church. He directs and operates the Church through His chosen apostle. In such office I have to appoint managers or directors of various operations under me.

God says through Solomon that in multitude of counselors there is safety. We are told not to put our trust in a man, but there is safety in a number of counselors. I have always followed that admonition. Beside prayer and looking to God through Christ for guidance, I have always counseled with those I consider best qualified to advise in the subject at hand.

This ADVISORY COUNCIL OF ELDERS, therefore, is a safety valve, in addition to relying on guidance from God.

For this Council I have chosen from among our older, tried and proven loyal ministers - men whose fruits show the guidance and leadership of the Holy Spirit, men of spiritual wisdom and balance. In order that we may meet frequently, or on quick notice when necessary, I have chosen men located in or near Pasadena. They are not the only ones qualified. I may add others later as conditions require.

The Council of Elders, as of now, consists of Dibar Apartian, Dean Blackwell, Robert Fahey, Ellis LaRavia, Raymond McNair, Leroy Neff, Joseph Tkach, Leon Walker and, as adviser to the Council, Ralph Helge.

COWORKER LETTERS

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD
WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91123

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
President and Pastor

April 17, 1978

Dear Brethren and Co-Workers:

GREETINGS! Following is a letter I recently sent to my son Ted regarding some momentous decisions for the Work of God. I want to share it with all of you who so faithfully support God's Work.

April 6, 1978

Dear Ted,

This is of utmost importance. Over forty-five years ago God committed to me the GREAT COMMISSION -- to go into all the world proclaiming the GOOD NEWS of the KINGDOM OF GOD. To assist me in that WORK, as in the first century, "God added to the church such as should be saved."

My life, Ted, has for nearly fifty years been devoted to fulfilling that GREAT COMMISSION. Many trials, problems, and seemingly insurmountable opposition often stood in the way. But God prospered HIS WORK and caused it to grow.

This great Work of God was built on faith with plenty of hard work and sacrifices. Different needs, functions, and organization have been required at different times. God has always made possible what we needed to do at the time we needed to do it.

In 1946 God made it plain to me that the broadcast work had to be moved to the vicinity of Hollywood. I realized if God's Church, which He raised up to assist me, was going to grow with an increasing membership to share the load, that a qualified, trained and loyal ministry was absolutely essential.

Ambassador College opened its doors in Pasadena on October 8, 1947. It was a "fledgling upstart" of a college with only four students in its first year. Those around me were talking about "when this thing folds up." But God intended for it to succeed! The purpose when founding Ambassador College was not to be in the "college business" but to help me fulfill the GREAT COMMISSION.

Always the work of the GREAT COMMISSION must remain foremost!

Though the college had started with virtually no money, its success was even too rapid. We added Imperial Schools and other operations which were not directly needed for THE GREAT COMMISSION. The college grew into three campuses -- two in the U.S. and one in England.

Later we were forced to close Imperial Schools and other nonessential operations.

After the three college campuses had supplied the needed graduates to help in the Work, the campuses in England and Texas were closed.

After many years of personally desiring to build the Auditorium as a "house for God," God finally allowed me to see that project completed. Again, building this beautiful structure and dedicating it to "The Great God," was not without opposition and struggle. It seems that God has never permitted his servants to do anything that was easy and without opposition.

But since the Auditorium has been completed, and the AICF (Ambassador International Cultural Foundation) started, a great deal of excellent recognition and publicity have come to the Work of God. The Foundation has proved to be ideal -- a superb vehicle -- for me to fulfill my God-given commission around the world. I have often felt like saying to those who had so little faith, that I have had to work just as hard as though I were doing it on my own, even though I knew I needed -- and had -- the guidance and help of God. But God has helped me always to "keep my eye on the ball" -- to hew to the line -- never deviating from the main goal. And the Work of God has prospered.

Ted, I have said many times that I will change any time when it can be shown me that I should change. I have briefly stated in this letter whatever we do must be done to the purpose of fulfilling Christ's Great Commission and it must be done in the manner that best suits our needs at that particular time.

At this time the greatest need for us is to do the Work of God more powerfully. All our efforts must now be channeled into building and strengthening the Church. The Church must be the dominant, clearly visible organization.

Accordingly, I am authorizing you to take steps to move the undergraduate functions of Ambassador College to the presently vacated campus in Big Sandy, Texas. There we have adequate facilities to maintain a fine college dedicated to serve the Church. I now feel this move to be necessary for the best interests of THE GREAT COMMISSION.

It is vital, however, that we avoid the urge to begin any expansion and building programs in Texas. The thrust must be to utilize the existing physical facilities and maintain an institution with excellence in academic standards and moral character.

The magnificent campus in Pasadena is now to become the Headquarters of The Worldwide Church of God, its Graduate School of Theology and the world headquarters of the AICF with all of these functions expanding to do God's Work. All aspects and departments of the Church are to remain in Pasadena. Again, we must vigorously resist the temptation to begin moving any of the Church service departments to Big Sandy. All efforts should be made to maximize the Church activity in Pasadena thus making an ever-increasing impact on the world through the Church and the Foundation.

In doing the above we effectively separate the Church and the undergraduate College and powerfully put the focus of our commitment where it properly belongs, on the Church and the Work of God.

However, if Ambassador College is to survive as an institution of God then it must remain under the control and ownership of the Church and be fully consistent with the principles and teachings of God.

I repeat, "WE ARE NOT IN THE COLLEGE BUSINESS!" The only reason for the

continued existence of Ambassador College is to support and contribute to the work of THE GREAT COMMISSION. If it ever loses sight of this fact God will let it fail.

Ted, I am very pleased with your desire to elevate the recognition and the esteem of the Worldwide Church of God. So long as you continue to do so you will have God's blessing.

With love in Christ's name,

Herbert W. Armstrong

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD
WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91123

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
President and Pastor

May 21, 1978

Dear Co-Workers and Brethren in Christ,

God's great Work -- to the whole world -- is, truly, going ahead now as never before, with A NEW START!

Soon you will hear NEW PROGRAMS from me, on both radio and television. Just as Moses, the man of God, had not abated in his strength of mind and spirit, in leading the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage into the Promised Land, after 80 years of age, so the SAME GOD has sustained my mind, energy and power for the completion of His Work in this world.

On July 4th there will be a big "4th of July Celebration" in Jerusalem, hosted jointly by the Mayor of Jerusalem, Mr. Teddy Kollek, and myself. The city of Philadelphia had an exact duplicate made of the Liberty Bell -- crack and all -- and gave it to the city of Jerusalem. In the spring of 1976 -- Passover time -- the mayor came to me privately, and asked my help in building an important downtown park in Jerusalem, to be named the "LIBERTY BELL PARK." Through the AICF, I was able to agree to supply the children's playground area, at the very opening of the park. The park is now completed, and Mayor Kollek has asked me to be present on July 4th for the opening and dedication of the Liberty Bell Park.

July 8th, I am scheduled to co-host an important premier of a charity motion picture to raise funds for the handicapped children in Britain. Queen Elizabeth II has promised to co-host this premier and banquet -- and in the event she is unable to be present, either Prince Charles (the next King) or Prince Philip will be there.

In early August, I am again to go to Japan -- and perhaps other points in the Far East. Other campaigns in world capitals are now being planned -- as before my heart failure and illness. December 1st, the Israeli government is planning a celebration in my honor -- on the 10th anniversary of the beginning of our participation in the great archeological excavation, starting southward from the Temple Mount. This date will mark the beginning of the second decade of this

major project -- now starting further south, in the area of the ancient City of David, to uncover 2,500 years of accumulated debris (some 50 feet high) over the ancient palace and THRONE of King David. The AICF is following through on this -- preparing the very SITE of the THRONE on which Christ will sit at His coming. This is just one of the ways in which we are preparing the way for His coming and establishment of the KINGDOM OF GOD, ushering in WORLD PEACE.

Now in regard to the recent shifts I have been compelled to make in the administration of God's Work, I will simply quote in full a letter I addressed to my son, Garner Ted Armstrong, on May 19th. Let me say here that I did not realize the extent of his disagreement with THE WAY Christ started God's Work through me, until somewhat recently. There was not, and is not, any "power struggle" for control of God's Church and His Work. JESUS CHRIST IS IN CHARGE! At all times I have done all in my power to protect my son's good name and integrity. But I feel now that to withhold from you the FULL FACTS, as stated in this letter I am now making an open letter, would do more harm to his good name than to state THE FACTS as they exist.

My son has stated several times that he would wish to be relieved from the arduous duties of administration, and to devote his full time to the more creative work of broadcasting and writing.

Also, an article will soon appear in the next issue of the GOOD NEWS (formerly the Worldwide News) about the BIBLE FORM OF ORGANIZATION OF GOD'S WORK.

Below is reproduced in its entirety my letter to my son, whom I love so very deeply:

Tucson, May 19, 1978

"Dear Ted:

I have said many times I love you above every one on earth. But true love is not blind. Right now my heart 'bleeds for you' to use a modern expression. I hope and pray that what I say here will help and bear fruit.

Before you were born, God called me to Him and His TRUTH. Your birth was one of the fruits of that. Otherwise, had not God opened the eyes of your mother and me to His truth about healing, you could not have been born.

I didn't want to be God's minister. It was the last thing I would have wanted. But God opened my mind to UNDERSTANDING -- one thing I had always desired. About the time of my conversion or very shortly thereafter, I realized I was lacking, however, in WISDOM. I read in James how those who lacked wisdom could ask God, believing, and it would be given. I confessed my human lack of it, and asked God, BELIEVING, and also on conversion I gave my SELF to Jesus Christ.

Christ took my life, and USED IT. He also gave me not only UNDERSTANDING of His Word, but committed to me THE GREAT COMMISSION -- and THE WISDOM OF HOW to go about it.

The Work He started through me started from literally NOTHING. I had to

hitchhike to get to a place to preach. The broadcast was started literally on FAITH. There was diabolical opposition and persecution. But it was CHRIST doing the Work, using me as His instrument. The Work grew at the steady rate of approximately 30% a year for 35 years. I had never heard of any organization, institution or business that matched that record. Not only did it GROW -- it was done in a MANNER unlike anything in this world -- it was CHRIST doing it HIS WAY -- and not the way men would do it.

In due time, you, my son, came into the Work. But unfortunately you DID NOT AGREE with the WAY Jesus Christ had been leading me. You came to a good knowledge of the Bible -- of God's TRUTH, doctrinally. God had given you exceptional talents for broadcasting and telecasting. At first you followed the same style on the air that Christ had used in me -- totally DIFFERENT from THE WAY the 'expert' commercial broadcasters used. People could not tell whether it was you or I speaking -- even I couldn't until I listened some 5 minutes. You signed off, 'This is Garner Ted Armstrong, speaking for my father, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.'

Then you changed in your delivery. You copied the commercial broadcasters, became more 'expert' in delivery. In due time you no longer were speaking for your father, but for Garner Ted.

You did not agree with THE WAY in which Christ was building the college and the Work through me. You even said to others you would not have built the college THE WAY I did under Christ's guidance.

In due time, I turned 'more of the reins' of authority over to you. You began changing WAYS and personnel over to YOUR WAY. And, although you will not agree with me in this, as you have not agreed in THE WAY things ought to be done, the Work started downhill. Yet I have been told you claimed YOU BUILT THE WORK.

But the living CHRIST built it. And He built it THE WAY He led me -- THE WAY you disagreed with.

At age 18 I knew more than my father -- felt sorry for him. But at age 32, not having seen him for 12 years, I realized how wrong I was -- and was amazed at how my father had 'grown up' in that 12 years. But at age 48, you still know more than your human father, and DO NOT AGREE with him in THE WAY matters of procedure and administration should be handled. In broadcasting, you got into the manner of ridiculing other preachers, even mimicking the way you falsely SUPPOSED they talked.

Things at Headquarters in Pasadena came into deep CONFUSION. WHO IS IN CHARGE? people wondered. You kept many things from me. You took to yourself a total and complete authority I never gave you.

I derived my authority from the living CHRIST. You derived what you had from me, and then used it totally CONTRARY to THE WAY Christ had led me.

I have had to step in and take over the reins completely to save the Church of God and His WORK. You, of course, will not agree with any of this, as you have never agreed with your human father.

I have stated here, briefly, the situation AS IT IS.

The whole church membership in the U.S. and Canada want, more than anything

else in the Work, to see DAILY RADIO back on the track where I put it. You COULD be used in this.

Meanwhile, they are saying in Pasadena that we have PEACE, harmony, unity, for the first time since you began to take over.

We have said that as long as you and I stood TOGETHER, no one could destroy the Work. That was true. But you refused to stand together with me. I have not wanted to stand alone -- and indeed I do not. I stand as always with the living Jesus Christ."

With deep love, in Jesus' name,

Herbert W. Armstrong

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD
WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91123

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
President and Pastor

(no date given, but from content is assumed to be approx. June, 1978.)

Dear Brethren in Christ:

Greetings in Jesus' name! Needless to say, I'm most excited that God's Work is once again surging forward with renewed energy and power! As you have heard by now, I've made some fundamental changes and far-reaching decisions to STEP UP the first duty and commission of the Work -- to get this Gospel to the world in greater power than ever before.

We are getting back to the basics and paring down some less essential activities, such as the liberal arts program of Ambassador College, so we can put our resources to work more fully right on the front line of the Gospel Work. All areas of the Work are being streamlined and refocused on the Great Commission!

I'm once again planning to begin another trip abroad in just a few weeks. God has restored my health to such a degree that I am now able to get back to doing the great Work God has placed on my shoulders. I thank all of you for your fervent and effective prayers which have been answered by our Great God! I know you will now share my joy in the renewal of the Work and support me by your daily prayers!

Now for some important information about the Feast of Tabernacles this year. Even though it is still springtime, it's time to begin planning NOW for what has become the largest "convention" of any kind on the face of the whole earth!

We're looking forward to the very finest Festival in our history; expecting around 75,000 in attendance this year, with many thousands of new brethren, and thousands of co-workers and interested visitors! I am asking several of our leading evangelists and ministers to visit as many as three or four sites apiece, so the whole Church will hear from our most inspiring speakers.

All of you know, via coverage in the Worldwide News, that our Mount Pocono festival site received irreparable damage during the recent severe winter, and as a result, we have been forced to locate an alternate site for the Feast. After exhaustive search, and weeks of hard effort, we have been blessed by finding an absolutely ideal replacement for Mount Pocono; SARATOGA SPRINGS, New York!

We feel the brethren will love this up-state New York area; the magnificently wooded part of New York's lake country. There are unlimited outdoor recreational facilities; fishing, swimming, boating, water skiing, hiking and others, as well as very interesting cultural, historical and family attractions. Accommodations in this area are widely varied, so they suit any financial tastes. In some ways, the area is not unlike the Poconos, for it is in the hardwoods forest, with blazing fall colors, with mountain-top vistas, the beauty of serene lakes, and many fine restaurants. All this, and it is only around three to four hours by car (AMTRAK also available) from New York City, and four or five hours away from Boston or Montreal!

Out on the Pacific Coast, we have been forced to lose Squaw Valley for this year, and perhaps two or more years in the future. (You probably heard in the news of the disastrous accident aboard one of the big trams taking skiers up the slopes. These big cable cars are the identical ones that have conveyed hundreds and hundreds of Church brethren and their children to the soaring heights overlooking Blythe Arena. And the car involved in the accident was making its last trip of the season when the accident occurred! That means the next trip that car would have made, had we been attending the Feast there this year, would have been during the Feast of Tabernacles, loaded with our own people!)

As a result, we have settled on FRESNO, California. A recent article in the Worldwide News has described, in copy and pictures, the many attractions of this centrally-located city in California's rich San Joaquin Valley. Brethren assigned to this Feast site will be surprised at the many beautiful attractions of the area. It's only a matter of an hour's drive to see the giant sequoias; some of the world's oldest living things; the gigantic trees of the Sierras. General Sherman, the largest, must have been a little sapling only a few years after Noah's flood! Its trunk is about 36 feet through, and the first limb is about six feet through! There is enough board feet of lumber in the General Sherman tree to construct 40 five-room homes! The beautiful Yosemite National Park is only about an hour and forty-five minutes away. Much nearer, of course, are several lakes with their resorts and outdoor facilities.

We are including with this letter your Festival Application. Please begin thinking about your Festival plans immediately, and return the appropriate forms as soon as possible! This will help greatly in allowing our work load (it is immense) to be spread out over the summer months, rather than the last-minute logjam of thousands of late applications.

Here are some important items to remember:

1) HAWAII is very limited in size, and the auditorium is so small that it is quite possible any people who try to "make their own arrangements" will be unable to attend any services! We will have to issue "auditorium passes" this year to insure those who transfer to Hawaii through the Festival Office will have seating!

2) PASADENA IS NOT A FESTIVAL SITE this year. Only a skeleton crew of those absolutely required employees will be in Pasadena, and we will, as in past years, make sure they attend at least half of the Feast in either Fresno or Tucson.

3) TWO "ASL" FEAST SITES this year for the deaf! American Sign Language will be present at both Seattle, Washington and at Norfolk, Virginia. There will be interpreting of services, captioned movies, and other activities. For additional information, write to Educational Services for the Handicapped in Pasadena.

Here's what you need to do to make this the best Feast ever! First, be sure to plan carefully, and after you have considered all aspects of your Festival plans, send in the forms soon.

Secondly, please do not make your "own arrangements" at ANY site; but cooperate with the Festival Office by letting them know of any problems or inconsistencies you encounter. If we are not using an establishment you think we could, give your Festival Adviser the necessary details!

Remember, there will be many hundreds who cannot attend the Feast without help! If you have any extra Festival Tithe you can send in now to help others -- it will be a tremendous blessing for hundreds of your poorer brethren, particularly many widows with children, who could not otherwise attend. HELP these people by being generous, if you can!

Also, while I'm on the subject, please send in your "tithe of the tithe" as soon as possible! Remember, your Festival Tithe is FOR YOU! We are to spend it on the "booths" or temporary dwelling places during God's Festivals -- and on food and drink and the things that make the Feast so enjoyable! But we must also rent, collectively, many large auditoriums, all over the world! We should not have to take FIRST COMMISSION MONEY out of the Work, to spend on these Festival costs! Many years ago, God inspired us to see that it would be no major inconvenience on God's people if they sent in a "tithe" or ten percent of their Festival Tithe, to defray these large costs! It has been an excellent system, God has blessed it, and His people as a result! Please send in your "tithe of the tithe" as soon as you are able -- the Festival Office is already in the process of paying out checks for down payments, rentals, and the like, as well as the required maintenance and payments for our own Church-owned sites in Big Sandy, Lake of the Ozarks, Wisconsin Dells and Mt. Pocono (though damaged, it still requires maintenance).

The Feast is a great highlight of the year -- and this year, we will have the opportunity of being in FIVE BRAND NEW FESTIVAL SITES! These include SEATTLE, Washington; FRESNO, California; SARATOGA SPRINGS, New York; NORFOLK, Virginia, and SAVANNAH, Georgia!

This means five new areas, including BIG CITIES, will be seeing the examples of the brethren of the Worldwide Church of God for the first time! Brethren, in the past, we have compiled a tremendous record of the finest kind among the people in the areas where we have observed the Feast.

When we bring some six to ten thousand brethren into an area for eight whole days, the impact on the region is unprecedented! Our Festival Office officials have, of course, already met, and spent many hours with city officials, convention bureau managers, and leaders in the motel, hotel and restaurant associations, Presidents of the local Chambers of Commerce, and the like. Our brochure ad sales will feature dozens of resorts, restaurants, recreational centers, etc., and each of these businesses will have already been contacted. Therefore, the whole city is geared to EXPECTANCY just prior to the Feast!

"What kind of people are these?" "What do they believe?" "What is the 'Feast of Tabernacles'?" "How will they treat my establishment?" "What about their children

and their teenagers -- will they be rowdy?" "Are they heavy drinkers?" These and dozens of other questions will be running through thousands of minds. YOU BRETHREN will be giving the answers, by your example, for a full eight days! Here, then, is an opportunity to really be a LIGHT to this world by LIVING the very picture of the Millennium, the KINGDOM OF GOD in action on this earth, as a witness to these people! You can, by your own personal example during the Feast, be used of God as a powerful witness that may help lead others into the very truth of God, and a way of ESCAPE from the terrible times ahead!

THINK about that, as a very real responsibility!

Please complete and send in your forms as soon as possible! THANK you again, brethren in Christ, for your loyalty, your concern, your love and your PRAYERS!

With much love, in Jesus' name,

Herbert W. Armstrong

P.S. Please note that we are setting June 15 as the new deadline for returning your applications. This supercedes the June 1 date mentioned in the FESTIVAL PREVIEW.

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD
WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91123

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
President and Pastor

June 13, 1978

Dear Co-Workers and Brethren in Christ,

Just as the invisible adversary Satan has been leading this world toward the final violent WORLD CRISIS at the CLOSE of this age -- so the same insidious and subtle unseen adversary has been seeking to destroy GOD'S CHURCH!

Satan has been doing his utmost to deceive and mislead God's Church into SECULARISM -- into material and worldly interests -- into going as far as possible into THIS EVIL WORLD'S ways, while we may still try to keep one foot in God's Church so that we may make it into THE KINGDOM OF GOD. This Church has been IN MORTAL DANGER!

But in the past four to six weeks JESUS CHRIST has been moving dynamically to thwart Satan's subtle deception WITHIN GOD'S CHURCH.

First, Christ the living HEAD of this Church SET THE CHURCH BACK ON THE TRACK of BIBLE ORGANIZATION. NOW our Leader, Christ, is moving dynamically to AWAKEN His Church from this secular drift -- to get us back on the track SPIRITUALLY in CLOSENESS TO GOD!

A most important article will appear on the front page of the next GOOD NEWS, due off the press in a few days. It is VITAL to the Work, as well as your own personal ETERNITY that you READ CAREFULLY EVERY WORD.

God's battle cry to us NOW is, "BACK TO CHRIST!" He wants us to get our minds off of worldly pursuits, and to concentrate our minds and hearts on JESUS CHRIST OUR LIVING LEADER!

Christ is now crying out for us to rally behind Him in doing OUR PART toward finishing God's OVERALL MASTER PLAN!

God's OVERALL Master Plan started with putting the great archangel Lucifer on the throne of the GOVERNMENT OF GOD over angels which first inhabited this earth prior to MAN. But Lucifer, perfect in his ways from the day God CREATED him till iniquity was found in him, led his angels into REBELLION AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD ON EARTH!!

Then God renewed the face of the earth, and began His GREAT PURPOSE by putting MAN on the earth. But the first man, Adam, also decided on the way of Lucifer (his name now changed to SATAN). God ALLOWED mortal man to choose the way of Satan -- all but those God has CALLED to Him and HIS TRUTH -- and to forsake and OVERCOME Satan. Two thousand years ago (almost) Jesus Christ appeared on earth in human flesh. He brought the GOOD NEWS of the yet future restoration of THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD, and setting up of the KINGDOM OF GOD on earth -- at Christ's return, now imminent. Jesus overcame Satan, and QUALIFIED to take OVER THE THRONE OVER THE EARTH and usher in the KINGDOM OF GOD. Jesus called and trained apostles to carry this GOOD NEWS to the world. Then He took on Himself OUR SINS -- paid our penalty for us by His life's blood! God raised Him from the dead, making our immortality possible through Him.

Now that same Jesus Christ, the living HEAD of God's Church, is VERY SOON -- in our present generation -- to RETURN as KING of kings.

Meanwhile, He has called us to proclaim that wonderful ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOOD NEWS to the entire world. THAT IS OUR JOB! That job is not yet finished!

Now He calls on us to GET OUR MINDS back on OUR PART in FINISHING God's great OVERALL MASTER PLAN!

Therefore, in HIS NAME, as His apostle, I am calling for a day of FASTING AND PRAYER throughout the entire Worldwide Church of God, on Sabbath, June 24th!

Let us come before Him on that day in an all-pervading SPIRIT OF REPENTANCE, rending our hearts, and praising our God for leading us, IN THIS GENERATION, into HIS KINGDOM!

Come with renewed awareness of OUR PART in His Work, to support and back it with all our being.

With deep love, in Jesus' name,

Herbert W. Armstrong

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD
WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91123

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

President and Pastor

Pasadena
June 22, 1978

Dear Co-Workers and Brethren in Christ:

I just want to have a real heart-to-heart family GET-TOGETHER with you.

I have said many times that, directly or indirectly, all you who have God's Holy Spirit are my children in Christ. Even those of you who have come into the Church more recently.

The aged Apostle John, writing in the 90's A.D., addressed his first letter, in the second chapter, to "my little children, these things write I unto you."

From the bottom of my heart, I THANK YOU for the wonderful letters and telephone calls that have been pouring in, since I have been back on the air and also in regard to the recent changes Christ, the Living Head of this Church, has been making to set His Church back on the right track.

Let me first assure you that I have NOT "moved away from Headquarters." Jesus Christ has chosen and used only one apostle in our time. Let me say to you emphatically that the Living CHRIST has taken over as the HEAD of God's Church, and established me in FIRM CONTROL, under Him, on the human level. I am back on the job. I am back on the air -- both on television and on radio. Every effort is being made to put the programs on more and more radio stations -- especially the major 50,000 watt stations -- and on television coast to coast. We must realize it is impossible to get back on so many hundreds of stations all at once. But, as fast as we can we are now bending every effort to increase our radio and television coverage.

Let me quote just a very FEW of the hundreds and thousands of letters and telephone calls that have been pouring in regarding these new programs that I am sending out.

First, just a few comments about the taped sermons heard in our Churches. These, of course, we were able to get out, and to be heard by our brethren, before the new radio and T.V. programs could be put on the air.

From R.V., in Chillicothe, Illinois: "I want to tell you how good it was to have heard the strength and power in your voice and the message on your recent tape. It's great to have you back in charge."

From M.H., Roxie, Mississippi: "Words can't begin to express how it makes me feel to know that God restored your life and has given you health, strength, and best of all, you are back in the swing again."

From L.C., Wichita, Kansas: "I heard your greatest of all tapes in our Church services. Your voice truly sounded the best I've ever heard since I came into the Church. Your great recovery is evident in your voice. You are truly the Lord's chosen leader."

Mrs. A., Asheville, North Carolina writes: "I am so thankful to hear your voice again, even on tape. It is exciting being able to hear you again The young members will find out what they have missed."

Mrs. P. writes: "Sure enjoyed hearing Herbert W. Armstrong's tapes at the Fresno, California Church. He sure sounded good to have had such a bad sick spell. We love him so much and are still praying for his added strength."

Brethren, it is wonderful and inspiring to know that you do love me so much and are praying for me. This awareness gives me the incentive and inspiration to PRESS ON until Christ's GREAT COMMISSION is finished.

But let me tell you that I DO LOVE ALL YOU -- pray for you -- and am grateful from the bottom of my heart for your faithfulness, loyalty, and loving support in the Work.

And now, the first letters after hearing the first radio broadcast (that is, the first I personally have done in a few years) are beginning to flood in.

From Manteno, Illinois, L.S. writes: "Heard Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong for the first time this morning on WMAQ. How wonderful!"

Mr. and Mrs. W. write from Las Vegas, Nevada: "Welcome back. It was so good to hear your voice as strong as ever ... we had the thrill of hearing 'Greetings friends, this is Herbert W. Armstrong' on the radio from Salt Lake City. How many memories that evoked of our first contact with the Work back in the 1960's. So again, WELCOME BACK!"

Just one more. From Hummelstown, Pennsylvania, Mrs. H.C. writes: "I heard you on radio last night. The first time for a good many years. It was such a thrill I had goose pimples. You came out loud and strong. You sound better than ever. I am so happy that you are back on radio."

Brethren, nothing has "gone wrong" at Headquarters, but Christ has set everything RIGHT once again.

We are in the time of greatest stress in world history. Satan knows he has but a short time, and he is both subtle and POWERFUL! I cannot match his cunning and strategy. But I look to CHRIST our real Head -- and I point you to HIM. He is on God's Throne. And all POWER, in heaven and in earth, has been given to Him! That includes power over Satan. CHRIST IS STRAIGHTENING OUT ALL OUR PROBLEMS IN HIS CHURCH!

I LOVE YOU, brethren! I am back on the job, with energy and vitality unabated! Never was your faithful and loyal support more necessary! PRAY -- and FAST AND PRAY!

With deep love, in Jesus' name,

Herbert W. Armstrong

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD
WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91123

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
President and Pastor

June 28, 1978

DEAR BRETHREN OF GOD'S CHURCH AND CO-WORKERS WITH CHRIST,

This is the most difficult letter I have ever been called on to write. I would give my left arm rather than write it if that could nullify what Satan has done to make this letter necessary.

In the past few weeks JESUS CHRIST, LIVING HEAD of God's Church, has moved dynamically to set God's Church and Work BACK ON THE TRACK -- restoring God's BIBLE form of organization and administration of the Work -- restoring HARMONY and PEACE in the administration of the Work -- powerfully calling on all of us to rededicate our lives. Even with the FASTING AND PRAYER -- to stir up again within us the SPIRIT of the living GOD.

All this is GOOD NEWS -- wonderfully good news, but I have to remind you that Satan is ALERT to move instantly, powerfully, and with all his cunning to DECEIVE the people of God. He is moving with lightning speed to THWART God's move toward PEACE and HARMONY and in getting the Work back on multiple radio and television stations, with the TRUE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST thundering out in greater POWER than ever!

Brethren, I have said many times that all you who have God's Holy Spirit are directly or indirectly my spiritual children in the Lord.

Jesus Christ, the living HEAD of God's Church, started and built the present era of the Church.

HE DID IT!

But He used me as His human instrument and ONLY APOSTLE OF OUR TIME in this powerful WORLDWIDE Work. We are in the very LAST DAYS of this present evil world of Satan's. Satan knows he now has but a SHORT TIME.

It is desperately important that we know that too! Christ, through me -- with you BACK OF ME 100% (as so many of you have written me) -- is now proclaiming IN POWER and IN ALL THE WORLD the fact that Christ and the KINGDOM OF GOD -- and the abolishment of Satan -- is SOON to happen -- IN OUR PRESENT LIVING GENERATION!

But now I must come to what is the most difficult and painful letter I have ever had to write. My second son, Garner Ted, was not yet even born when God called and started His Work through me. He was only three years old when God raised up our parent Church for this time in 1933. The living Christ BLESSED IT -- caused it to GROW at approximately 30% per year for 35 years -- a record UNMATCHED!

Ambassador College was started October 8, 1947. It was started for the SOLE PURPOSE as GOD'S OWN COLLEGE of training ministers and other needed administrative personnel for the Work.

The first three years of Ambassador College I had an almost devastating and nerve-wracking battle to SAVE THE COLLEGE as GOD'S COLLEGE against the onslaughts of Satan. He used the secular and worldly faculty members -- the ONLY KIND then obtainable -- to turn Ambassador into a rubber stamp of the schools of higher education in Satan's world. There was every subtle effort to THROW CHRIST OUT OF THE COLLEGE.

But Christ was on His Father's throne. I looked solely to HIM -- trusted solely in HIM. And Ambassador became truly God's college.

AND IT GREW! It produced abundant fruits.

As I said, a loving GOD brought me to complete repentance and faith in Him -- believing (as VERY FEW ever have) WHAT HE SAYS -- and into His service before either of my sons were born. As a little boy growing up, Garner Ted was one of the most lovable boys -- with a most lovable spirit -- I ever knew. However, what Christ was preaching through his father, even then, (as he himself has said publicly many times) was merely "Dad's religion" held naturally in some degree of boyish contempt. At age 18, as the college was getting started, he "ran off" -- so to speak -- and without our parental knowledge joined the navy.

His four year "hitch" ended in, I believe, late spring or early summer of 1952. The first three years in the navy he had become assistant manager of the Naval Office at San Diego -- his last year, in the war in North Korea on the carrier "Antietan."

On his return to civilian life, I made him manager of our general office. He entered Ambassador College that fall in order to hold his job -- for all such jobs had to be available for students working their way through.

During his freshman year a series of articles was running in LOOK magazine on the religions of the world. Ted became enamored with the article on "What Is Christianity?" written by a famous New York minister. What grabbed his interest was the statement that first the writer would tell readers what Christianity IS NOT. It is NOT, the article said, "a way of life."

Then it so happened that in freshman Bible studies Ted noticed on an open two pages in the book of Acts in his Bible that Christianity was some four or five times referred to as "THIS WAY." Ted has related publicly many times how shocked he was to see that -- IN HIS OWN BIBLE. He underscored these four or five references to "THIS WAY." That, he has said publicly, led to his conversion.

And I certainly BELIEVED he had become a thoroughly converted young man.

As the years went by, Ted had become president of the Student Body of the College, and had begun preaching sermons in the Church. In June 1955, I went on television. I think Ted had participated in at least one radio broadcast by that time. His brother, Richard David, had spoken on a few radio programs -- once from Paris.

During this TV series, I let my two sons participate with me on a television program. Ted seemed to take to television, as I often expressed it, "like a duck to water."

This TV series was consuming my entire time. It was leaving no time for my other duties of heading the day-to-day executive leadership in God's Work. In January 1956, I went off TV. Experience up to that time had shown me that it was daily radio broadcasting that was building the Work.

I personally traveled to all parts of the United States with our advertising agent, selling our radio program to station managers -- especially the nation's leading 50,000 watt stations.

Ted had shown aptitude on the TV series -- in fact, I had let him do one program by himself. Naturally, I had encouraged him to begin doing occasional radio

programs.

At times his voice sounded so much like mine that people could hardly tell which of us was speaking. Meanwhile, Rod Meredith had been making strides towards becoming one of our top ministers. Dr. Meredith began urging me to make Garner Ted vice-president. The Work was GROWING, the organization was expanding. So I did make Garner Ted vice-president and later Dr. Meredith second vice-president.

As we were passing through the sixties, Ted began gradually doing more and more of the radio programs -- by the early sixties I believe most of the weekday programs. I continued to do the Sunday programs.

By about 1969 or 1970, I had started Ted on television. We had built a fully equipped television studio on campus. Ted's natural inclination led him into making a good number of secular documentary programs. As vice-president, he had gradually assumed more and more of the executive administrative duties, giving me time to begin getting into other parts of the world, carrying Christ's GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD into other parts of the world.

But by September 1971, his personal emotional problems forced me to quietly and privately disfellowship him. He went to El Paso, Texas.

But above all, on my mind, was the urgency to keep it confidential -- known to only about two of our other top ranking ministers at Headquarters. Above all, I wanted to shield Ted from criticism and protect his name and reputation -- so that, on repentance (which I fully expected), he could come back with his name unstained.

Some few days before the Feast of Tabernacles in 1971, Ted called me on the telephone. By that time he and I had been speaking, for some years previous, each of us at every feast site in the United States and one in Canada.

"Dad," Ted said over the telephone, "I simply can't bear the thought of having to miss this Feast of Tabernacles. PLEASE can't I come back?" He professed repentance. I took him at his word. I said, "Come on back, Ted." The Church did not know I had put him out. But I was determined not to be guilty of what condemned Eli -- allowing his sons to depart from God and still remain in high offices in the Kingdom of Israel.

During the 1971 Feast, word reluctantly was given to me of totally improper behavior and excessive drinking at the Feast sites he had attended. This improper behavior occurred in restaurants and places where most members attending were unaware of it.

One or two days later, I received a telephone call from the minister in charge of the Squaw Valley site. I was then at the Lake of the Ozarks site where Mr. McCullough was site leader. It was late evening. Ted's conduct was totally unbecoming a minister of Jesus Christ. He was drinking and gambling late at night at a casino on the Nevada shore of Lake Tahoe. I was informed that it was URGENT that I remove him from further participating in festival site speaking. He was to arrive next afternoon after speaking at Squaw Valley in the morning, at the Penticton, Canada site.

I had Mr. McCullough participate in the telephone conversation with Squaw Valley. We agreed I had to stop Ted from further participation in that festival. I arranged for my plane to fly to Scranton, Pennsylvania through the night, pick up

Mr. David Antion, who was in charge of the Mt. Pocono festival site, and return for Mr. McCullough and me. We had only a few hours for sleep while the plane flew through the night for Mr. Antion. They arrived back at the Lake of the Ozarks airport about 4:00 a.m. Mr. McCullough and I joined Mr. Antion and flew on to the Penticton site.

There we intercepted Ted as he landed early in the afternoon in his Falcon plane. We had a tearful conference in the privacy of my plane (the crew had left the plane to give us privacy). Ted was there cut off from further participation in the 1971 festival. He flew to a Church-owned house or cabin near the south shore of Lake Tahoe, and then on into seclusion in a small town in Colorado.

At that time I made Mr. Albert Portune executive vice-president, taking over the day-to-day administrative duties of the Work in Pasadena. At that time Mr. Antion was occupying the second position in rank, and Mr. McCullough was deputy chancellor of the college in Big Sandy, Texas.

BUT ONCE AGAIN WE TRIED TO PROTECT MY SON'S NAME AND REPUTATION -- to keep the matter quiet. Always I was hoping for a change of mind and repentance from my son. I wanted to keep the door open for his return to the Work.

Some time later -- perhaps in November -- while I was at the Big Sandy campus, I received a heartbreaking, tearful letter from Ted professing repentance. In it he stated he could hardly believe what had happened. He acknowledged he had sinned against God, against the Church, and against God's apostle. That letter deeply touched his father's heart. I immediately telephoned Ted to come on back into the Work.

But early in January 1972, an event happened more serious than any before. It was in the evening. I got together all the evangelist rank ministers then at Pasadena. This time I knew I had to publicly mark Ted and disfellowship him from the Work and the Church. We all met Ted at his own home when he returned from a basketball game where apparently he had been continually drinking beer throughout the game. By this time, Ted had come to have a very special aversion against Dr. Roderick Meredith, who had urged me to put Ted in an executive vice-presidency in the first place -- years before. Ted had exceedingly hot and angry words against all ten or twelve of us in general and Dr. Meredith in particular. I handed Ted the official letter disfellowshipping him from God's Church.

This time I was unable to keep it private -- and the news media picked it up. But I still tried to protect Ted by refusing to reveal the real reason for his disfellowship. News media hounded me, but all they could get out of me was that he had been sent away because of "personal emotional problems."

Brethren, let me interject at this point to remind you of GOD'S TEACHING so contrary to this world's in regard to publicizing the wrongs or sins of another. God teaches us that "LOVE COVERS." In the worldwide notoriety about "Watergate" President Nixon was accused, condemned and forced to resign because of what Satan's world called the sin of "COVER-UP." In other words, the world regarded it a sin because Mr. Nixon did not come right out in public and before the whole world defaming the United States by reporting the whole affair. If Jesus Christ had been in office (of course He could not take such political office in this world), He would have properly CORRECTED those guilty -- in whatever punishment was in His sight fitting to CORRECT AND ABOLISH such evil and, IN LOVE for both the guilty and for this nation, He would have COVERED IT UP!

I have only followed the WAY OF CHRIST, trying desperately through the years to COVER UP my son's sins and mistakes -- while at the same time NOT condoning his sins, but trying to give God's kind of punishment which CORRECTS AND RESTORES to the grace of God, rather than to act in hostility and revenge.

Time magazine came out with the story with the headline, "WHERE ARE YOU, GARNER TED?" I would not reveal WHERE Ted was- though I KNEW and was in constant touch with him.

At this time it is IMPORTANT that I now reveal to you that I STOOD ALONE among the higher rank ministers of the Church in trying to bring my son to the real repentance and restore him IN THE WORK. The ONLY man who stood with me -- working for Ted's repentance and restoration -- was the man he now HATES apparently above all men and without cause -- Mr. Stanley R. Rader! It was Mr. Rader who was constantly helping me to restore Ted into God's grace and forgiveness and to his place in the Work! Because of the slanderous innuendos of character assassination my son has cast out of his mouth against Mr. Rader, there are some -- even ministers -- in the Church who would GO OUT of the Church rather than show any of the milk of Christian kindness towards Mr. Rader. And yet NONE of these has seen or had one iota of PROOF of any wrongdoing by Mr. Rader. He is my assistant and I regard him BY HIS FRUITS -- which are of VERY GREAT VALUE TO GOD'S WORK -- rather than unfounded emotional prejudices and hatred.

After I had worked tirelessly with Ted by continuous letters trying to restore him to grace, right conduct and his position in the Work (always with Mr. Rader's invaluable help), by June 1972 I felt that PROBABLY my son -- my ONLY living son -- had made the necessary CHANGE OF MIND and attitude.

To try to be SURE of this, I took with me Mr. Rader, Mr. Portune and Mr. Antion, and we flew to Colorado for a meeting with Garner Ted. Whether or not it was merely "putting his best foot forward," we were all convinced that he had been restored to God's grace and told him to come back.

He now started DAILY TV campaigns, really preaching Christ's Gospel this time, instead of secular and worldly documentaries.

But I had determined that THIS TIME he must be kept on ONE YEAR'S PROBATION before restoring him to the executive vice-presidency of God's great worldwide Work.

However, the executive load was proving too much for Mr. Portune and Mr. Antion, who was then second in the administration under Mr. Portune. They came to my office about six or seven months after receiving Ted back.

"Mr. Armstrong," said Mr. Portune, "I simply cannot carry this work any longer. You will simply have to put Garner Ted back to executive vice-president NOW!"

Reluctantly I did, for by this time I was devoting most of the time to CARRYING CHRIST'S GOSPEL to Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa, South America and Europe -- INTO ALL THE WORLD AS JESUS CHRIST COMMISSIONED ME!

I told Garner Ted I would turn "more of the reins" of the Work over to him -- making it very plain to him that as board chairman and President, as well as God's only Apostle, I was giving him ONLY authority to administer MY policies as Christ led me, and Christ's doctrines as He led through me -- and that all MAJOR decisions in the operation of this great Work remained mine -- although Ted could

make the minor necessary day-to-day administrative decisions. I emphasized the IMPORTANCE of our keeping in CLOSE COMMUNICATION. For awhile, Ted did send me long and lengthy telexes while I was in some other part of the world.

BUT HE BEGAN KEEPING FROM ME MAJOR DECISIONS HE WAS UNAUTHORIZED TO MAKE. He demoted the men highest and older in service -- such as Dr. Roderick C. Meredith, Dr. Herman L. Hoeh, Mr. Raymond McNair who had headed the college in England as deputy chancellor for fourteen years; Dibar Apartian, director of the French work; Mr. Dennis Luker, who had been in charge of the large operations in Australia; Dr. Charles Dorothy, director of the Spanish work; Mr. Norman Smith, director of television and radio production; and others.

Meanwhile, in the spring of 1974, there was a major rebellion among some 35 ministers brought on primarily because of their opposition to Garner Ted being brought back into a limited top executive authority (WHICH AUTHORITY, AS I WILL LATER SHOW, HE ABUSED AND FAR EXCEEDED). When this major rebellion broke, Garner Ted telephoned me an SOS -- to race back full speed to pull the Church out of this eruption. I was just starting a major public campaign in Manila, Philippines. I had to cancel the campaign and race in between 550 and 600 miles per hour -- an all night flight. That whole night in flight I was at my typewriter writing the letter that quelled the rebellion. It had been intended as a "coup" to wrest entire control of the Church from Garner Ted, and of course from myself.

But we with God's guidance "broke the back" of that rebellion, though we lost 35 ministers.

But now Garner Ted began tightening his grip on the helm while I was trying to carry out the GREAT COMMISSION committed to me to get the GOSPEL INTO ALL THE WORLD. Ted never did agree about this commission -- he regarded obedience to Christ's command to "go into all the world" with the Gospel as "extravagant and lavish spending of the people's tithes."

I began to realize there was a NEW conspiracy actuated by Satan in an effort to destroy God's Church subtly going on behind my back. As I stated, my son had demoted and removed to minor positions the top ranking ministers, senior in years of service -- THOSE MEN HE KNEW WOULD BE LOYAL TO THE CHURCH under God's Apostle -- which active removal HE HAD NO AUTHORITY TO DO. In their minor positions of demotion, THESE MEN WERE THREATENED WITH BEING FIRED ENTIRELY IF THEY COMMUNICATED AT ALL WITH ME! Garner Ted moved to surround himself with men he thought would be loyal to him personally above being loyal to the CHURCH and to GOD. In this, I am happy to say, as nearly as I now know, he was mistaken.

But knowledge of MAJOR decisions Ted was UNAUTHORIZED to make was carefully under threat kept from me in the years 1975 and 1976 while I was away from Pasadena approximately 300 or 365 days.

But I did begin to sense there was a CONSPIRACY to "retire" me as being now too old, and for Garner Ted to "TAKE OVER" as the supreme HEAD of the Work. HE SEEMED NOT TO KNOW THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF GOD'S CHURCH AND WORK!

Finally a year ago the men next in authority under Ted came to me begging me to TAKE ACTION. "Your son, Mr. Armstrong," they said, "has been trying to DESTROY everything Christ has built through you and build something for Garner Ted Armstrong."

Meanwhile, the Ambassador College I had "fought and bled and died" to found as GOD'S College was becoming completely secular. Christ was being put out. The leaven of intellectualism was flooding in leavening not only into the college, but beginning to spread into the Church.

WHAT I HAVE NOT TOLD YOU BEFORE

Now I come to something I have felt I had to withhold from you brethren. During these past few years when I sensed a CONSPIRACY to bring about a complete "takeover" of the entire Church's Work -- virtually to PUT JESUS CHRIST OUT as well as myself -- I went to Garner Ted about it. He flatly denied everything of the kind and assured me he did not want to be head of the Church -- our talks would end up in an embrace -- and I would then appear on the platform telling you brethren that Ted and I were solidly together -- standing back to back. I WROTE FOR YOU THE SAME THING -- BECAUSE I BELIEVED IT! I still believe there simply HAD TO BE a conspiracy, but I attributed it entirely to Satan; I was willing to believe that Ted and those close to him were not themselves conscious of the adroit subtle cunning Satan was using in his conspiracy.

To protect my son's name and reputation, I HAVE covered up for him -- because I have said to him that I love him above all people on earth.

But I know now that in my eagerness to show "LOVE" and to protect my son's name, I have without realizing it been a "respector of persons;" that I have protected my son to the detriment and harm it has brought to God's Church and Ambassador College! Of that I now have to repent!

When Garner Ted maneuvered to shut off communication of what REALLY was going on, -- when he SHUT OFF ALL AUTHORITY ABOVE HIM -- he not only shut me off, but also HE SHUT OFF CHRIST AND GOD ALMIGHTY WHO STAND ABOVE ME! Brethren, THIS WORK WAS BUILT BY THE LIVING JESUS CHRIST! I was merely His instrument! But Christ has all but been PUT OUT of Ambassador College in the effort to gain this world's "accreditation" and the leaven has STARTED in the Church to get the living CHRIST out of the CHURCH!

Garner Ted was maneuvering so that NO ONE DARED GO ABOVE HIM -- under threat of being fired! Many top ranking men of senior years of service would give solemn AFFIDAVITS to that truth. Shutting off all above him, my son, lusting for POWER, shut off also THOSE ABOVE ME -- Jesus Christ and Almighty GOD.

For a year those now in top administrative positions have implored me to STEP IN and once again TAKE OVER COMPLETE CONTROL UNDER CHRIST as it was until some ten years ago.

I say THIS CHURCH AND ITS WORK WAS BUILT BY THE LIVING CHRIST! It was HIS SPIRIT that inspired, motivated this entire Work, but He was being PUT OUT.

My son says he upheld me, even extolled me, before large audiences of brethren. He even said to many of you, "my father is a great man." That, of course, is not true -- the GREATNESS is in Christ. But at the same time -- whether you realized it or not -- Satan was craftily leading my son to say -- or imply -- that his father was now old and senile -- my mind was in a fog -- I did not know what was going on -- I was being manipulated by those in top administrative positions, and Mr.

Rader.

He has spread the POINT BLANK LIE that Mr. Rader is now actually heading the Church and Work. Brethren, I brand that as a Satan LIE! Mr. Rader does not even have any administrative position -- except in the AICF -- AND LET ME INTERRUPT HERE TO SAY THAT I HAVE GIVEN THE DIRECT ORDER TO MR. RADER TO SELL OR DISPOSE OF THE MAGAZINE QUEST 78 as soon as possible. I was never enthusiastic about this magazine, but I went along with it under the understanding that I was to write the LEADING ARTICLE in every issue. I said emphatically at the beginning that the magazine could not succeed otherwise. But men of SECULAR EXPERTISE hired to run it deceived Mr. Rader. The magazine now is showing a slight profit through advertising sales and subscription price, but I have given a firm order which Mr. Rader will at once follow: "SELL IT OR GET RID OF IT!"

On May 8 last month, I learned that my son had appointed a man I do not even know as President of Ambassador College. I then wrote him that this was the last straw -- of his assuming authority never given to him to make major decisions. I then told Garner Ted to take a temporary compulsory leave of absence, which he did not do. He came to me and in a four hour talk was full of hostility and angry emotion on his part. His wife was present and in anger twice left my office. My wife also was present. This nerve-shattering session, wrestling with a defiant spirit seeking only to HAVE HIS WAY, finally ended in a tearful hug.

After that, we had one more private talk in which he rose and said to his father, "I could DESTROY you, Dad!" He wrote some three or four letters and we had two or three telephone calls -- all hostile, nerve-shattering ordeals I do not feel I should have to submit to. This side of things I have kept from you in my desire to protect my son's name and reputation.

But while he has professed to uphold me and extol me, he has subtly been destroying me -- his father's credibility, dishonoring his father and his God.

Finally, about ten days ago, I sent him another letter telling him that UNLESS he did go into the compulsory leave of absence and if he did anything more to CAUSE DIVISION among brethren in God's Church, or if he "went to the world's newspapers" as he had threatened, I would have no alternative but to MARK HIM, according to Romans 17, for causing division, and DISFELLOWSHIP him from the WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD.

My irate, red-hot, angry, hostile son went to the Los Angeles Times with distorted, twisted facts and non-truths. He sent me by special personal messenger the day before yesterday a seven-page single-spaced typed letter literally breathing out "threatenings and slaughter," as Saul was before God struck him down and converted him -- the most hostile embittered father-dishonoring letter I could imagine -- except under Satan's inspiration. His letter was full of dire THREATS.

In all these unhappy irate encounters the past six weeks, NOT ONCE has any vestige of the Spirit of God been evident -- only ANGRY wrathful contentions FOR HIS OWN PERSONAL DESIRES.

Yesterday I sent to him the official letter, heartbreaking as it was to me, disfellowshipping him from the WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD!

That means, brethren, that on pain of being themselves disfellowshipped and PUT OUT of God's Church, you are all, according to CHRIST'S COMMAND, restrained

from contact with, or conversation with, Garner Ted Armstrong -- no longer a member of this Church!

I would have given my right arm rather than having to do this. But I have been TOO LONG tolerant, forgiving and covering up with LOVE toward an ungrateful, hostile, threatening son. I have let the CHURCH OF GOD suffer in order to protect my son's name and knowledge of his wrongdoings. BECAUSE I have -- in fact we all, at or near the top of the administration of the Work -- have done our best to SHIELD HIM, and in some manner neglected the CHURCH and all the flock in so doing.

Many times behind my back, my son in meetings called of those at Headquarters, so top ministers told me only yesterday, made many overt or even sarcastic remarks tending to discredit his father.

My son spread the rumor that my mind had gone senile. He is guilty of what he accuses -- his mind has become filled with HATE, ANTAGONISM -- and has become UNSTABLE.

This is NOT "my empire" nor my son's -- it is the Church and the WORK OF THE LIVING GOD!

All of us at Headquarters are now standing ONE HUNDRED PERCENT TOGETHER! For the first time in some ten years THERE IS HARMONY -- COMPLETE UNITY AND TRUST at Headquarters.

I know some of you will say in great sorrow "let's PRAY for Garner Ted that he will come back." Brethren, I have been DOING JUST THAT EVER SINCE 1971. He professed to come back, but it proved a subterfuge.

GOD SAYS: "For it is IMPOSSIBLE for those who were once enlightened and tasted of the heavenly gift and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, IF they shall fall away to renew them again unto repentance." GOD would gladly grant repentance and receive him back -- I would and so would we all, but his entire attitude the past weeks and months has certainly indicated the impossibility of leading him again to repentance.

God gave Moses his brother Aaron to help him while Moses was gone on a mission to be with God on Mt. Sinai. Aaron and the people said, "... as for this Moses ... we wot not what has become of him." Then Aaron led them to make golden calves as IDOLS TO WORSHIP, departing from the LIVING GOD!

Later Aaron set himself, with his sister Miriam, up as being even with Moses in leadership over God's people. GOD PUNISHED THEM!

Jesus said we CANNOT SERVE TWO MASTERS. He did not allow Aaron to be a SECOND master with Moses. For some years now God's CHURCH has been in great CONFUSION -- especially in and near Pasadena. "WHO'S IN CHARGE?" they have wanted to know. Some have been for GTA, some for HWA, and I hope some for CHRIST.

"A house divided CANNOT STAND," says Jesus. My son has made God's Church DIVIDED! Up until ten years ago, WE WERE NOT DIVIDED! CHRIST was at the helm using me as His Apostle.

Again God says to us, "Except GOD build the house, they labor in vain that build it." GOD through the living JESUS CHRIST built God's Church of OUR time, as

surely as the time of the first original Apostle. The Work GREW AND GREW with God's blessing for the thirty-five years up to 1969 -- SINCE THEN GOD'S BLESSING HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN. We had been tending to forget GOD, letting Laodicean lukewarmness leaven us. CHRIST SAYS NOW, AWAKE! Rise up from this stupor that has drugged us! RALLY BEHIND CHRIST AND HIS APOSTLE! LET'S GET ON WITH GETTING THE JOB DONE.

Brethren, THANK YOU for your loyalty!

With deepest love in Jesus' name,

Herbert W. Armstrong

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD
WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91123

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
President and Pastor

July 25, 1978

Dear Brethren and Co-Workers with Christ:

Now we are beginning to prepare in earnest for the greatest Feast of Tabernacles ever.

Last Friday night, in addition to the weekly Bible Study in the House of God (Ambassador Auditorium), I recorded on television an opening Festival greeting to be shown by 16mm projector on large screens in every Feast site on the opening night.

Then on the Sabbath I did a full sermon, televised, to be put on 16mm tape to be projected at all Feast sites over the earth on the first Holy Day.

Last year, I was in the early stages of recovery from the heart failure of last August. But the four or five years before that I spoke personally at every Feast site in the United States and in Penticton, B.C., Canada.

This year I decided to speak at all sites worldwide, by having it projected on motion picture screens.

I have been working closely with Mr. Sherwin McMichael, Director of Festival Sites, and Mr. Wayne Cole, Director of Ministers and Churches Worldwide, in planning for this year's Feast.

Did you realize that our Feast of Tabernacles is the LARGEST ANNUAL CONCLAVE OR CONVENTION HELD BY ANY CHURCH OR RELIGIOUS GROUP ON EARTH? In actual fact, it is!

We are working together with all the ministers who will be speaking at these many Festival sites. We hope to bring you this year the most INSPIRATIONAL, the most SPIRITUAL, the most INTERESTING AND INSPIRING sermons ever!

The HEAD of our Church -- of GOD'S Church -- the Living Jesus Christ, has been

dynamically and inspirationally putting the Almighty God back into His Church.

Jesus Christ has awakened us to the realization that there had been a let-down in the Church! Ambassador College was rapidly becoming secular -- with Christ thrown out! But Jesus Christ is not going to allow Himself to be PUT OUT! It will be GOD'S College again this coming school year.

This is the Church and the Work of the LIVING GOD -- not of MEN Not of this world! The television program was becoming more and more secular -- as some viewers voiced it, political, leaving God and the Bible out! But Jesus Christ has put God and the Bible back in -- and the number of TV stations, as well as radio, is increasing every week now. Our booklet program was becoming more secular -- less Biblical. The entire profile of the Work was becoming more and more secular -- God's TRUTH was being watered down!

Jesus Christ is ALIVE, AND LIVING TODAY -- and He is dynamically CHANGING ALL OF THAT!

This documentary and secular approach in broadcasting, and in literature, was wasteful cost wise! Eighty-six percent of the people responding, and requesting literature from the telecast, dropped all interest as soon as they learned that a church was connected with the work.

Brethren, Christ is leading His Church into a dynamic return to that which built God's Church and the Work -- THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD, and the GREAT COMMISSION, as prophesied by Jesus in Matthew 24: 14!

Some were beginning to look on this Work as just a humanly operated activity of this world! But we are NOT of this world -- this is the Church and the Work of the LIVING GOD -- and Christ calls us out of this world -- to be not of it, though we must live in it!

I'm sure you will experience a NEW UPLIFT and INSPIRATIONAL SURGE FORWARD at this great Feast of Tabernacles!

I am now turning over to the printers what I believe to be THE MOST IMPORTANT BOOK SINCE THE VERY FIRST CENTURY! The printers are setting up a speedy CRASH PROGRAM, to give us first delivery of this book by October 1 -- in time for the Feast. Never in our time has any book or writing spoken as this new book will! Its title is The INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL. It is the MESSAGE OF THE ENTIRE BIBLE -- put together as never before -- from the prehistoric existence of only God and "The Word," through the creation of angels, the creation of the endless PHYSICAL UNIVERSE and CREATION OF THIS EARTH -- on through the sinning of the angels, the renewing of the face of the earth for MAN -- the creation of MAN -- WHY man was put here on earth -- WHY God left Satan here up to now -- WHY the Old Testament congregation of Israel -- and why the Church and its mission -- on through the world tomorrow for one thousand years -- and then -- THE INCREDIBLE POTENTIAL OF MAN THROUGHOUT ETERNITY -- over all the vast material universe.

Much of this has never before appeared in print. Much of it will be NEW Bible truth to YOU! It explains the mind of man, and the actual source of human nature.

This book -- full book length -- will be available in virtually all bookstores in the United States and the English speaking world. It will reach an entirely new audience with God's Message, heretofore unreachable!

Also we are updating, and getting before the world, such booklets as THE UNITED STATES AND BRITISH NATIONS in Prophecy -- back to full length! Also such booklets as WHY Were You Born?, What Do You Mean -- BORN AGAIN?, Just What Do You Mean -- SALVATION?, What Do You Mean, THE KINGDOM OF GOD?, and The SEVEN LAWS OF SUCCESS, and many of those vital booklets that BUILT the work!

God is rapidly increasing my personal strength, and I am now turning out more work than I have in the past twenty years!

I pray earnestly for YOU, and I also need your prayers! The Work is now fast PICKING UP!

With much love, in Jesus' name,

Herbert W. Armstrong

P.S. God willing, I plan to speak in person at the Saint Petersburg, Florida, site the first night and Holy Day, and at the Tucson site on the final Holy Day.

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD
WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91123

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
President and Pastor

July 30, 1978

Dear Brethren and Fellow Ministers,

It is with deepest disappointment that I regret that I am forced, once again, by hostile actions by my son, Garner Ted, to bring you up to date with the PLAIN TRUTH.

Diametrically contrary to what he has always said he would never do, he has, not only "raised a hand against his father," in the public press, but as the Apostle Paul warned the elders of the church at Ephesus, "For I know this that after my departing to draw away disciples after themselves" (Acts 20:29,30).

Paul did not say or mean, to draw people closer to God, but to draw away those already IN THE CHURCH, after themselves -- to follow a MAN instead of Jesus Christ!

It has happened before. Paul knew it would happen again -- and again -- and again!

The Lord Jesus Christ, and the God after whom His Church is named were, under Ted's leadership little by little, being subtly pushed out of God's Church and of Ambassador College. It was becoming apparent to several.

One of several such letters just recently received says, "Thank God you are back where Christ wants you. Never before have we been so inspired by sermons or Bible Studies. For the past ten years, so many people, including myself, have noticed that something was wrong We noticed that for some reason we were

not as inspired as we had been in the past. We felt there was something missing In fact, all of the doctrines of God were treated as if they were not important ... we were sincere, but did not accomplish much because we lacked so much of the knowledge and faith that we once knew ... we were spinning our wheels and sliding backwards. To say the least, Mr. Armstrong, were heading I am glad that Christ has put you back in the pulpit to teach us ... we can actually understand it when you expound on it."

In my very painfully written letter, notifying you of the disfellowshippment of Garner Ted, I wrote you: "Now I come to something I have felt I had to withhold from you, brethren. During these past few years, when I sensed a CONSPIRACY to bring about a complete takeover of the entire Church's work -- virtually to put JESUS CHRIST out ... I attributed it entirely to Satan. for him -- because I have said to him I love him above all people on earth When Garner Ted maneuvered to shut off communication of what really was going on -- when he shut off all authority above him, he not only shut off God's Apostle, but also he shut off CHRIST AND GOD ALMIGHTY.

"Finally, a year ago the men next in authority under Ted came to me, begging me to TAKE ACTION. 'Your son, Mr. Armstrong,' they said, 'has been trying to DESTROY everything Christ has built through you, and build something for Garner Ted Armstrong.' "

His TV and radio programs were becoming secular, dealing in worldly politics, with sponsorship announced, not as Worldwide Church of God, who paid his salary, all production costs, and the cost of air-time, but as that of "Garner Ted Armstrong Productions." Everything was focused on featuring the name Garner Ted Armstrong -- instead of the name of the Church.

On follow-up outgoing mail to those responding to the programs, he abolished the "WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD" letterhead -- and instead, the letterhead was printed, "GARNER TED ARMSTRONG." With his picture beside it!

For more than a year those now in top administrative offices have implored me to step in and once again take over complete control, UNDER CHRIST -- as it was until some ten years ago.

Again I repeat, as I wrote you then, "I say, this Church and its work was built by the LIVING CHRIST! It was HIS SPIRIT that inspired, motivated this entire work - - but, He was being put out!"

Fellow ministers and brethren, Jesus Christ has been moving dynamically, these past weeks, to once again ENTHRONE THE GREAT MAJESTIC GOD within this Church and its Work!

Until recently all was CONFUSION at Pasadena Headquarters. WHO was in charge -- was it Garner Ted, or was it God's Apostle? Well, I'll tell you emphatically who is in charge -- JESUS CHRIST!! It's time we all come to realize this is not the work of a man -- or of which man to follow -- it is THE CHURCH AND WORK OF ALMIGHTY GOD, with the living Jesus Christ at its HEAD, on His Father's throne!

A few years ago, one of the Church's ministers had inherited some money. He left the Church to draw away our members after him saying he and his wife were about the age of God's Apostle when God started His Work through His Apostle. But this man was not God's Apostle -- God was not IN what he tried to build for himself -- and his efforts failed completely!

In 1974, some 35 ministers left. They incorporated themselves as the "Associated Churches of God." But GOD was not in it -- and it fell flat on its face! Tragically, a few thousand brethren followed after these men, who were seeking to draw away those already in the Church to follow them! Where are they today? I know many of those former ministers have had to take jobs working with their hands to earn a living. That is JUSTICE! But, the tragic part of it is that those brethren, who followed them, as sheep without a shepherd, going to the slaughter, have been probably lost from God!

And now Garner Ted has incorporated himself with his wife and his brother-in-law -- and this GARNER TED ARMSTRONG CHURCH has now started a campaign to draw away both whatever sheep and shepherds he can now entice to follow him - - to follow a man instead of the Living God!

I say to you, ministers and brethren, Christ is on GOD'S THRONE. He did build His Church! No MAN built the Worldwide Church of God of today -- and Jesus Christ promised that the gates of the grave shall never prevail against it! Human MEN, with selfish motives, may try to start a church after a MAN! But it is those in the true CHURCH OF GOD that shall inherit, IN GLORY, the soon-coming KINGDOM OF GOD!

Satan is the real source of human nature. It is ever the same! In the days of King David, whom God had selected as king, two of his sons, one at a time, attempted to take over the throne, and make themselves king, Absalom and Adonijah. But GOD PROTECTED His people of that day, and David, whom HE had chosen!

God called MOSES to lead His people, long before David. Once Moses' brother Aaron and sister Miriam, challenged Moses' leadership. They claimed equal right to lead. God sternly rebuked them! "Wherefore," said God, "were ye NOT AFRAID to speak against my servant Moses?" "And the anger of the Eternal was kindled against them" (Numbers 12: 1-9). Miriam was seized with leprosy, for seven days.

But, have we become so detached from God in His Church today, that we think perhaps God has CHANGED? -- are we today NOT AFRAID to speak against God's anointed?

Then of another time Korah gathered a group against Moses' leadership. Again God was stirred to ANGER! Korah and those with him were simply swallowed up by the earth!

I simply plead with you, ministers and brethren, HELP ME as I put myself in GOD'S HANDS, to follow Christ in His Church -- that we may carry on following Christ (not a man) in once again ENTHRONING THE GREAT MAJESTIC GOD AT THE HELM OF HIS CHURCH!

With deep love, in Jesus' name,

Herbert W. Armstrong

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD
WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91123

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
President and Pastor

July 31, 1978

Dear Brethren of God's Church:

Last night, I had been reading a telex I had sent to my son about a year and a half ago from South Africa and I was thinking of his condition now, trying to launch a new Garner Ted Armstrong church of his own, without the facilities to do so. I thought of what a lovable little fellow Ted had been as a young boy. I was unable to sleep for a long time.

This morning I felt I should relieve my own mind by sending a letter to my son, showing just how I feel. I had no intention of letting anyone see this letter except my son. However, I feel now, before sending it I should make it an open letter available to the entire membership. It shows how I feel from the depths of my heart.

Following then is the letter dated July 31, 1978, Tucson: Dear Ted:

The last two letters you sent me via Bill Evans were very friendly in tone. The last one, dated July 12, told me you were having great difficulty finding a place to live -- the homes you might be able to afford were too tiny. You hardly had enough for a down-payment on a place. You asked about the place on Lake Tahoe -- for approximately nine years you had been trying to arrange to purchase it -- but something always put us off.

You did not know when you wrote this, that already I had arranged a contract -- the only way I knew that would be okay with IRS, to turn over to you life tenancy, rent free, with the Church taking care of all taxes, insurance, etc., -- leaving only utilities for you to pay.

Also, I had arranged to offer you retirement pay of \$50,000 per year -- the same as you have done in the past for others at a percentage of their annual salary. Also, as I'm sure I have written you, I had offered -- within the scope of IRS allowances -- to supply you with a home of comparable quality and size as the one built for you in Pasadena. It seems the only way we could legally do this would be a company purchase, giving you no-cost tenancy, like the Lake Tahoe property.

Then, suddenly word came to me that you had incorporated yourself as a church -- and the very next morning -- yesterday, Sunday, July 30, another story from you was published in the L.A. Times saying you rejected the \$50,000 retirement pay -- that never again would any man be in position of authority over you -- and that you were going on the air to build your own church.

Naturally, it is incumbent on me as God's Apostle, to protect His "sheepfold" He has placed under my care. As I told you in the letter offering to provide you with living facilities equal to what you have enjoyed these past eleven years, that God's Work could not pay you to fight it, take away members, or seek to destroy the Work that was paying you. I have not seen the L.A. Times story -- but it seems you construed this \$50,000 offer as a bribe. Nothing could have been farther from my mind or intention. Perhaps you so construed it because I let Stan Rader write the letter for me, but it was my idea, and I tell you truthfully my only thought and motive was your own welfare -- and the fact that of approximately 25 years service, the first 15 had been good years, and warranted that recognition. Certainly the only thought or motive in my heart was right.

Last night, I ran across a very lengthy telex I had sent you from South Africa, March 11, 1977. You had always complained that you wanted to please Shirl and me above all others, and that we never do appreciate it, or show confidence in you -- and especially that I had not valued your input, counsel or recommendations. I was trying, in this telex, to show that kind of confidence in you and appreciation of your counsel.

In this telex I said, "This is the Work of the Living God, totally unlike all other human-devised institutions, organizations or activities. Let me say, 1) I do have and entrust to you implicit confidence. I do not only consider your advice and counsel, I need and must have it, and always when I agree -- which is nearly always -- I act on it, as in this instance" -- mentioning a recommendation from you that I had followed at once.

I tried, Ted, to stand "back-to-back" with you. I had mentioned that, since, the entire universe is headed by a Father and Son combination -- God and Christ -- it would seem to ensure this as being truly God's Work, if it could be headed the same way -- but when I mentioned how Christ has always been of the same mind and in all points of one accord, under His Father, you immediately changed the subject.

You completely overstepped the authority I delegated to you. You have recently stated publicly in the public press that you never did agree with me in matters of procedures. All friction between you and me, Ted, came from two sources -- you did not agree with the manner of procedures that God had started me out on long before you grew up to maturity, and you felt a sense of resentment over the fact that, in the natural order of the growth of the Work, God had placed YOU under my authority. You remarked, one time, some two or more years ago, "You've never had to work under anyone, Dad." You said, you meant under a MAN. Before you were born, Ted, I had to learn to work under other MEN. I agreed with what I had read from Elbert Hubbard, who said, "If I worked for a man I would work for him!" I worked under a man in the Des Moines Daily Capital, from age 18 to 19. I performed that work, under authority, so well that it opened to me a bigger job. I worked under authority as timekeeper and paymaster of the Finkbine Lumber Mill outside of Wiggins, Mississippi, at age 19. There I did the job it had taken three men to do before they turned it over to me. It was not my kind of work. I was like a fish out of water -- but I worked as diligently and faithfully as I could -- I worked myself into the hospital with typhoid fever. To keep up with the job -- one I was unfitted for -- I worked alternately till 10:00 one night and midnight the next -- and up at 5:30 every morning! I took criticism -- I took orders -- and I did my very utmost to take them in good spirit!

I worked under authority for three years on the country's largest trade journal, and then for a summer as assistant secretary of the Chamber of Commerce at South Bend, Indiana.

All this, of course, was before you were born -- but I had been required by the Living Christ who was afterward to call me to His service -- or I might say was preparing me for His service -- to work hard, diligently, faithfully and loyally -- and WILLINGLY -- to the very utmost of my ability!

The Living Christ is not going to set anyone to rule under Him, in the Kingdom of God, who has been unwilling to work in that willing and faithful attitude under authority. This may be a hard lesson for you to learn, Ted my son, but a father's inbred and real LOVE for his son, causes me to remind you once again of this fact. It may be your hardest obstacle to overcome.

In deepest love, in Jesus' Name,

Herbert W. Armstrong