

H/WAPP# 1000 -RDU

1. WW NEWS. 8/27/81

Hold

WHAT IF

for possible publication

CHRIST'S APOSTLE IS REMOVED

God's Church has faced many problems and threats. What is planned for possible eventualities.

HWA

OD'S CHURCH has been much in the public media in the past three years, Both radio and TV news and newspapers and news magazines.

These media seem to have been much concerned about "who is heir apparent?" "Who is number two man?" "Who will assume control of this religious empire if Herbert W. Armstrong is removed?"

No "Heir Apparent!"

Let me say first, there is no "heir apparent" -- a phrase we never use in the Church -- us only by the public media of this world.

I had never thought of being Christ's apostle. I thought of myself only as a "burned-out hunk of human junk not worthy to be thrown on the junk pile." ^{also} But who had given his sinning but repentent and worthless self to the Christ who had bought and paid for him with His life blood. I had not wanted to be a minister. That had been the last thing I should have wanted

But when God conquered me, brought me to unconditional surrender to Him and His Law and way of life, I GAVE myself into Christ's hands for Him to come into my life through His Spirit and use me as He saw fit.

Among the Sardis people, with whom my wife and I fellowshiped (but were never a member of), I was only "the least of the ministers."

Then at the Feast of Tabernacles, Belknap Springs in Oregon, 1971, Herman Hoeh in a sermon said, "Mr. Armatsrong is not a prophet, he is an apostle." I was shocked as if struck by lightning. I thought of reprimanding Mr. Hoeh. It was not until years later, on looking back at the FRUITS, that I saw Christ had used me, indeed, as His apostle, that I confessed to this rank of spiritual office.

NO ONE OR NUMBER OF HUMANS appointed me to the office of apostle. It had to be done by the living JESUS CHRIST, and by the work He did and the fruits borne through me.

Likewise no "heir apparent" (self professed) or number of humans, could designate one's self or another as Christ's apostle. ONLY JESUS CHRIST can do that!

No man can make himself the human physical leader of God's Church, whether by blood relationship or by the Machiavellian strategy.

of king-making.

However, it has been suggested to me that had the Attorney General of California used a different strategy, he could have taken over God's Church. It was suggested that if he had used the "Conservatorship" law, of using hired psychiatrists to testify to my incompetency to conduct the work of the Church, ^{due to advanced age} and had me "put away," he could have taken over God's Church. He could not have, for this is GOD'S Church, and the living Jesus Christ is the HEAD of it, and the gates of the grave shall never prevail against it.

Nevertheless, Satan is cunning, ruthless, and deceptive. He plays "god." He actually is the god of this world--his world!

And SATAN is the real enemy of God's Church--even though he, even as God does, works through those humans he can use,

So the Church must be awake to Satan's wiles and guard against them. (Eph. 6:11-18) Satan is more cunning than we. We must put on the whole armor of God to protect ourselves & the Church. We must have the TRUTH, RIGHTEOUSNESS, PEACE, FAITH, SALVATION and the WORD OF GOD, PRAYING ALWAYS AND URGENTLY.

The threats Satan has had for striking at God's Church are beyond the normal human mind and almost unbelievable. However, GOD DOES

PROTECT His Church and deliver us from all such machinations. Nevertheless, we must be bore-warned and fore-armed.

~~Let me now reveal~~ ^{Christ has led us to do,} to you some of the things, as well as some of the potential dangers.

Church Not a LEGAL CORPORATION

I have always tried to adhere to God's teaching that in multitude of counsel there is wisdom. True, God works through ONE MAN at a time. But that man needs human counsel in addition to ^{guidance} ~~guidance~~ from Christ.

Last February I counselled with some of the long-time tried and loyal ministers geographically close, regarding certain concerns I had regarding the future security of the Work and guarantees of Christ-appointed human leadership. I then formed, as announced at that time, the Advisory Council of Elders, consisting of some nine members including myself, and with Ralph Helge as legal advisor. Later, on moving permanently back to Pasadena, I increased the Council as also announced at the time.

We felt it necessary to distinguish clearly between the Worldwide Church of God as a spiritual organism, the Body of Christ, and the Worldwide Church of God, Inc., a legal corporation. It was felt the Church as the UNincorporated

Body of Christ, should be legally formalized. I authorized Mr. Helgie to draw up such Articles of Association.

The Articles of Association

These articles, and Bylaws, were drafted and carefully read word by word and discussed by the Advisory Counsel and myself. After certain changes were made, they were unanimously confirmed, and signed. These articles and Bylaws legally formalize some of the administrative procedures of the Church.

I now want the entire membership to know about them. Should anyone attack me or the Church in an effort to take over directly or indirectly. I want you all to know.

These Articles confirm the long-standing doctrinal truth that God's Church is a spiritual organism, the Body of Christ, and not a corporation. When members are baptized and received in membership, they become members of the Worldwide Church of God, as the spiritual Body of Christ not members of a corporation.

Advisory Council

In February I was seriously concerned about the possibility of one not chosen and used by Jesus Christ, living Head of God's Church, using some legal strategy to take over the Church or its assets. Media emphasis on a so-called "heir apparent" or "second in line to succeed

RALPH K. HELGE
ATTORNEY AT LAW

HWA

UNION BANK BUILDING SUITE 706
201 SOUTH LAKE AVENUE
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91101
TELEPHONE (213) 577-5380

To: Advisory Council of Elders
Date: August 25, 1981
Subject: Suggested Good News Article

MEMORANDUM

Pursuant to our conversation I am attaching a suggested
Good News Article.