

1. WW NEWS. 8/27/81

Hold
for possible
publication

W H A T I F

CHRIST'S APOSTLE IS REMOVED

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

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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." 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

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

Let me now reveal to you some of the things ~~we have done~~, 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, 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 into 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

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Mr. Armstrong," and constant references in the media about my calendar age, stirred me to take precautions. The Advisory Council of Elders was formed as a safe-guard against such attempt by Satan to destroy God's Church.

The Articles of Association clearly state that in event of my incapacity for any reason, the Advisory Council will appoint the one to govern the Church in the office of Pastor General. The Council cannot--nor can any person or group of persons, appoint one as apostle. Only Jesus Christ can do that.

The present members of the Advisory Council of Elders are:

We have to rely on God to manifest His will to this Council, ^{should} such eventuality become necessary.

The Biblical form of Church Government is hierarchial--government from the top down. Jesus Christ is living Head of the Church. God the Father is over Him. Under Christ I serve as Pastor General, and by the grace of God with the spiritual rank of Apostle. It is an office held for life, unless removed by Jesus Christ. During my life and ability to govern, the Advisory Council is vested with no initial authority. It