

# New Armstrong church threat to father's?

**Gannett News Service**  
Garner Ted Armstrong, excommunicated evangelist for the controversial Worldwide Church of God, is alive and well and living near Tyler, Tex.

Herbert W. Armstrong, 86-year-old patriarch of the 44-year-old church and father of Garner Ted, is alive and living in Tucson, Ariz. But is he well?

For that matter, is the entire multimillion dollar organization well? These are questions that have plagued church members, financial supporters and curious outsiders for several years. They came to a head — and headlines — months ago when the senior Armstrong put his son out of the church, severed familial ties and warned church members to have no contact with his "disfellowshipped" son, lest they also be excommunicated.

When a member is disfellowshipped, he is forbidden to contact other members, who, in turn, must avoid him. He also is subject to eternal damnation.

Disfellowship of Garner Ted, who once claimed 20 million radio listeners, was a drastic move for the church.

True, rumors of Garner Ted's alleged sexual appetites and other supposed violations of rigid church doctrines had run rampant for years.

In 1971, Garner Ted acknowledged a transgression "against God, his church...and the wife God gave me" after several ministers accused the evangelist of covert philandering. He was pronounced a repentant. In 1974, members of the ministry again made charges of "monumental immorality in the highest echelons of the church."

Despite the allegations, Garner Ted was a tremendous drawing factor and money-maker for the church. Many members came into the church after hearing Garner Ted on the church's radio and television show, "The World Tomorrow."

The ousting of Garner Ted has sent waves of speculation about the church's general well-being.

In recent months, the church has sold two of its three jets, closed its Ambassador College campus in Big Sandy, Texas, (a campus in England also is up for sale), cut enrollment at its Pasadena, Calif. campus by more than two-thirds and is selling more than \$1 million worth of real estate in Pasadena. Membership has reportedly fallen in the past few years to 65,000.

Herbert Armstrong, the church's founder, has remained elusive and refuses to talk to the press.

In September, Garner Ted added to Worldwide's woes when he formed his own breakaway church, the Church of God, International in Texas. Many



**HERBERT ARMSTRONG**  
Kicked son out of church



**GARNER TED ARMSTRONG**  
Started new organization

think Garner Ted and his new church will siphon off a significant portion of Worldwide's membership and some of its income. Herbert Armstrong has warned members of his sect not to be "enticed" to follow his prodigal son.

But Garner Ted, 48, said his new church is doing well. He said he is averaging \$2,000 a day in donations through the mail and expects to bring \$10 million to Tyler within a year.

And Kathy Mays, of radio station

WOAI in San Antonio, Texas, which carries Garner Ted's new evangelical messages, said, "I get lots of calls from listeners every day and just forwarded more than 20 letters to him from today's mail."

Garner Ted doesn't seem surprised by his apparent success.

"It is inconceivable to me that the charges made against me will dissuade old, longtime followers who have been listening to me for 23

years," he said. Nevertheless, Stanley Rader, general counsel and spokesman for Worldwide, said Garner Ted and his new church are not a threat to Worldwide.

"You can call it (what Garner Ted is doing now) a church," he said. "But the ministers know that if he were interested in doing the work of God, he would never have been put out of the church."

If Worldwidens leave the group to follow Garner Ted, it could leave the Worldwide organization with added financial difficulty and perhaps alter the lifestyles of those in the upper echelons.

Members are expected to give at least 10 percent of their annual income to the church, though many members feel obligated to contribute up to 30 percent.

As for his and other leaders' lifestyles (which include expensive automobiles and art collections), Rader said the church had never tried to hide them and doesn't feel guilty about them despite the much poorer lifestyles of many members.

"The church has a commitment to doing everything in the best possible way and I assume not every member is concerned about it," he said.

The church teachings are based on a literal interpretation of the Bible.

Members follow an Old Testament calendar and celebrate neither Christmas nor Easter.

The family is given the highest importance, and Christianity is as much a way of life as it is a faith. Members generally are politically conservative and regard church teachings as providing solutions to family and world problems.



# Rader apparent victor in power struggle

**PASADENA, Calif. (AP)** — Four months after the ouster of TV evangelist Garner Ted Armstrong, the troubled Worldwide Church of God has a new crown prince — a formerly Jewish lawyer-accountant who could inherit the rich religious empire of Armstrong's father.

Stanley Rader, smooth-talking adviser to ailing 86-year-old church patriarch Herbert Armstrong, has emerged as victor in an apparent power struggle that pitted father against son, with Rader in the middle.

The upshot was Garner Ted's disfellowship last June. Rader compares the father-son schism of Herbert and Garner Ted to the biblical story of David and Absalom: "The son wanted to destroy everything the father had built."

Now, the mustachioed 48-year-old Rader occupies Garner Ted's former office, with its views of snowcapped mountains and the church's Ambassador College complex. He travels the world with Herbert and, by his own account, has taken Garner Ted's place in his father's heart.

"Mr. Armstrong has said publicly very often that I am a son in whom he is well pleased," says Rader. "The only other one he ever said that about was Ted Armstrong."

Rader, a convert, gave up a lucrative law practice in his rise to become general

counsel and treasurer of the 75,000-member church.

During a four-hour interview, there was only one question he declined to answer — the exact amount of his salary.

"My salary was always a little more than Ted Armstrong's," Rader says. It is known that the son received \$85,000 a year plus such perquisites as private planes and trips abroad.

The Worldwide Church's lavish spending on its leaders has been a sore point with its ministers and members. Some have quit in protest.

"We're quite wealthy," Rader says. Last year, the fundamentalist sect grossed \$98 million; this year it will be closer to \$78 million.

Yet, the church spends more than it gets — last year \$1.2 million more — but Rader insists it goes to the church's prime mission, to spread the word of a second coming of Christ.

Most money comes in tithes from members and "coworkers," non-members who contribute. Rader met Herbert Armstrong in 1956 when he came to California from White Plains, N.Y., as a young lawyer and began handling church legal matters. But he did not become a church member for nearly 20 years.



**STANLEY RADER**  
"Son in whom he is well pleased"

"My background was Jewish, but I was not in any religion," Rader says. "It wasn't something I thought about much."

By the middle 1960s he had become close with Armstrong, he recalls. "Mr. Armstrong asked me to give up all my commitments and devote my talent, energy and time to him. In 1969 I said yes."

Rader claims, that when Herbert suffered a heart attack in 1977, Garner Ted tried to seize control by claiming his father was senile and dying. "I think he believed his father was so sick and so weak he would never return to an active role," says Rader.

"Where Ted made his crucial mistake," he says, "was he tried to run me down in the eyes of his father and that tipped his hand."

Now, Rader is in the church, baptized "in a bathtub at the Mandarin Hotel in Hong Kong" while on a world tour. And Garner Ted is gone, seeking converts for his own Church of God International and, he says, glad to be out of his father's "fear-ridden organization."

"Mr. Rader is very clearly the victor in what was a power struggle," Garner Ted says. "He moved into my office, into my desk; his secretary sits where mine sat."

On Rader's desk is a portrait of the grandfatherly Herbert Armstrong with the inscription: "I was shooting the moon on you."

Many — including Garner Ted — think Herbert eventually will tap Rader as his successor, but Rader shrugs this off. "I don't feel that is my calling. I don't want to be a minister," Rader says, then adds: "Of course, several letters have come in recently telling me that Christ was not a minister. He was a carpenter."

**LOOK BOTH WAYS BEFORE CROSSING**

**UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
321 Vine St.  
West Lafayette  
Corner Vine and Wiggins  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Fellowship Supper 5:30 P.M.  
Evening Service 6:30 P.M.  
Mid-week (Wed.) 7:00 p.m.

---

**"An Active Family Church"**  
**CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**  
Twelfth and Tippacomas Streets  
Phone 742-4292 or 447-2433  
10:30 a.m. Morning Worship  
"The Reformation Promise—Righteous in Christ!"  
7 p.m. Evening Worship  
"Reformation Day 1978"  
Rev. Thomas Van 't Land  
Preaching  
Rev. Samuel Ten Brink, Pastor

---

**FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH**  
2925 S. 18th St. 474-4474  
Bill Goode, Pastor Dave Stewart, Assistant Pastor

Clipped By:



**mwebsterservices**  
Mon, Mar 19, 2018