PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

VOL. 2, NO. 21 PASADENA, CALIFORNIA MAY 23, 1980

DOCTRINE OF WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD ON "PORNEIA"

by Herbert W. Armstrong

A minister at Pasadena writes, "The ministry from 1976 to 1979 used this statement (quoted below) as the doctrine of the Church. In August of 1978 you took the first step in setting the Church back on the track in the area of divorce and remarriage. Since then many in the ministry have asked for additional information to counter--with the Scriptures--this 1976 statement."

The statement foisted on the ministry by liberals now banished from the Church, is as follows: "At the Ministerial Conference in May, 1976," (when I was overseas, and after solemn promises by the Executive Vice-President that doctrinal matters would not be touched on in the Conference), "the ministers were given an 'official' statement on divorce and remarriage. There were 14 pages on the meaning of porneia.

"The Summary Statement reads as follows: 'The term (porneia) includes all illicit sexual activity (before or after marriage) including fornication, adultery, harlotry, homosexuality, etc.'

"One enclosed paper stated, 'There is not the least indication here that Jesus is limiting porneia to some premarital act only.'"

Notice, this "liberal" argument states "there is not the least indication here..."

Arguing to water down and liberalize God's Word reminds me of the Protestant minister in the 1890s, when women adopted the "new" style of hairdo of a topknot on top of the head. He quoted from one text only, without regard to others on the subject, shouting out that "the Bible says, Matthew 24:17, 'top not come down.'" Sure enough it says that, but in context and in line with other Scriptures, it means no such thing.

Now I will settle this question OFFICIALLY. HOW did Christ put HIS doctrine into the Church? ONLY THROUGH THE APOSTLES. They frequently drew on the Old Testament Prophets, but the CHURCH received its doctrine from the APOSTLES.

How did Christ, the living HEAD of the Church, put doctrine into God's Church TODAY? Through His chosen APOSTLE!

Jesus, in His statement in Matthew 19, referred to a liberal ALLOWANCE by Moses, but said, "because of the hardness of your hearts...but from the beginning it was not so" (Verse 8).

Jesus referred to the "beginning"--as God instructed Adam and Eve. Moses had made a LIBERAL deviation to hardhearted, rebellious people who had no salvation. Jesus proceeded to give His future Apostles God's TRUTH as it was "from the beginning." It's time for us to get back TO THE BEGINNING--to understand God's PURPOSE in making humanity male and female--in establishing the MARRIAGE and FAMILY relationship.

The Bible is like a jigsaw puzzle. It is made up of many pieces. They FIT TOGETHER to make a CLEAR PICTURE of God's revelation of TRUTH to man. Take one piece of a jigsaw puzzle by itself and you have no picture. Put it improperly together with other wrong pieces and you have confusion.

The Bible is like a TREE. A tree has roots, a trunk, major branches, smaller branches and,off of still smaller branches, twigs. These liberals, led by SATAN, took one twig, went to great lengths about that twig to water down God's truth, and came up with "official doctrine." But it was not GOD'S official doctrine. And they had no AUTHORITY over doctrine.

Jesus was talking about how God made it "at the beginning"--before Moses--from the first man and woman.

The earth had been populated by ANGELS who had SINNED. God then proposed to make MAN in HIS OWN IMAGE! God was reproducing Himself. God was starting, through man, the ultimate GOD FAMILY. God Himself shall become a FAMILY. Satan hates the FAMILY structure.

God used Old Testament Israel as a type of that FAMILY. Christ was married to Israel. Israel committed adultery. THAT DID NOT LEAD CHRIST to be free to MARRY ANOTHER NATION. Christ had married a NATION. He never married another. He said, 'Return to me, O Israel. Only confess and repent of your sins.' But Old Testament Israel did not repent or return.

So Christ came to earth in person and died for Israel's sins that they could be forgiven. The CHURCH is ISRAEL having repented and received the Holy Spirit, begotten as SONS OF GOD. "He is a Jew who is one inwardly" (Rom. 2:29). Christ has not yet married the CHURCH--which is spiritual ISRAEL.

The Church is the affianced BRIDE of Christ. All in the Church do stumble and sin to some degree at times. (See I John 1.) But if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us. But Christ does not divorce His Church and become the affianced bridegroom of ANOTHER church--such as the great false church. There is no divorce and remarriage. If we, the Bride, sin, we are either cast away if we REFUSE to confess and repent, or, on repentance, we are forgiven.

Now to Matthew 19. Granted, the Greek porneia has more than one meaning. So does the English word, "saw." It may mean "did see," or it may mean an instrument with jagged teeth for cutting through wood. We determine by its use in the sentence IN THE CONTEXT OF THAT SENTENCE, which meaning of the word applies.

So it is in the case in which Jesus used the Greek word porneia. The translators of the King James Bible in 1611 knew that Jesus intended the definition "fornication" as an act prior to marriage.

Consider what Jesus said in Matthew 5:32, "But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery."

Consider that! If in this case porneia should have been translated "adultery" instead of premarital fornication, then, in English look how absurd would be Jesus' statement. He would have said, whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of adultery, causeth her to commit adultery. In other words, he divorced her for the sin of adultery, and causes her to commit again the same act for which he divorced her. THAT WOULD NOT MAKE SENSE!

Further, same sentence (verse 32): "whosoever shall marry her" (that is put away for adultery) "committeth adultery." He who would marry this particular divorced woman would be committing adultery ONLY BECAUSE SHE IS STILL THE WIFE of the man who divorced her!

To say that Jesus gave ADULTERY as grounds for divorce introduces CONFUSION, and misrepresents what Jesus said to be RIDICULOUS!

The only way that a man marrying a divorced woman commits adultery is if the woman is STILL the bound wife of the man who divorced her. But when Jesus gave the ONLY grounds as premarital FORNICATION, that can mean ONLY that the marriage WAS NOT BINDING--God had never BOUND that marriage in the first place. The woman had committed fornication prior to marriage, had not told the man, and therefore HE WAS DEFRAUDED--the marriage was never binding! WHY? Because GOD KNEW, but the man did not. God NEVER BOUND that marriage. The man was unknowingly defrauded. If she had told him, and he forgave and married her anyway, then the marriage would have been BOUND by GOD. In that case if he divorced her he did not do so legally in God's sight, and he CAUSED HER, by marrying another, to commit adultery.

In both Matthew 5 and Matthew 19, both the translated English words "fornication" and "adultery" are mentioned. In the original Greek the word translated "fornication" was porneia, and a different Greek word was used for adultery, moicheia. If Jesus had meant "adultery" to be the only grounds for divorce and remarriage, he would have used the word moicheia instead of porneia. The very fact He did use the Greek porneia in the same sentence with moicheia shows definitely he did not intend porneia to mean adultery--unfaithfulness after marriage.

In other passages on the subject, such as Mark 10:5-9, we find Mark's version of the same conversation recorded in Matthew 19. There Jesus gave NO grounds for divorce, once bound in marriage--"What therefore God hath joined (bound) together, let not man put asunder."

Here Jesus spoke of a marriage BOUND BY GOD. He gave NO grounds whatsoever for divorce or remarriage. In Matthew 19 He was speaking of a case where God had NOT BOUND.

In Luke 16:18 Jesus gives NO grounds for divorce and remarriage in the case of a marriage bound by God.

It is therefore plain that the passages in Matthew 5 and 19 are speaking of marriage NOT bound by God.

The passage in I Corinthians 7:12-16 is speaking of a converted person whose mate is hostile to the converted person's religion--a special and different circumstance.

The passage in Deuteronomy 24 apparently is speaking of the same case cited by the Pharisees in Matthew 19--where a man divorced his wife "for every cause." But even then the man apparently divorced his wife immediately after the wedding night--not five or ten years later.

In Deuteronomy 22, if a man on the wedding night found the woman NOT A VIRGIN, and his accusation was true, the woman was stoned to death. But this was under Israel's national statutes as a national government. From the beginning, until Israel became a nation with its national statutory laws, there was no stoning to death, nor was there in Jesus' teaching for the Church.

BUT, even in this case the man acted on the discovery of premarital fornication IMMEDIATELY, not months or years afterward.

Jesus did not intend that a man who knew his wife had been guilty of fornication could ACCEPT HER, live with her, and then much later when he became displeased with her, divorce her on what had happened prior to marriage.

Divorce for fornication is not really divorce, but ANNULMENT, and must be acted upon immediately--not after he has accepted her and lived with her.

To sum up. Marriage and the family relationship is the physical type picturing the GOD Family relationship, and the marriage of Spirit-born and immortal former humans to Christ.

In the Bible a marital engagement carries the same status morally as the marriage.

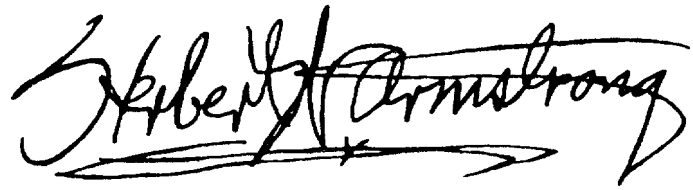
Those of us who have and are led by the Holy Spirit of God are BEGOTTEN children of God. We are already, now, children of God (I John 3:1-2). We are "engaged," not yet married, to Christ. To us sin is spiritual fornication--prior to the marriage. But Christ, the affianced Bridegroom, knows our hearts--He does know of our spiritual fornication. But if we (I John 1) confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us of all unrighteousness.

In other words, an innocent human bridegroom may marry a woman not a virgin NOT KNOWING her sin--but God does know. In the spiritual case of which human marriage is the type, Christ the Bridegroom DOES KNOW, and WILL NOT marry unless we confess and repent, and by His shed blood and the power of the Holy Spirit, we are CLEANSED of that sin BEFORE THE MARRIAGE.

But, once married, CHRIST WILL NEVER MARRY ANOTHER CHURCH. He will cleanse us on confession and repentance PRIOR to the divine marriage, but He will NEVER divorce or put us away after that marriage.

Marriage is a spiritual as well as a physical union. That is why Paul, in I Corinthians 7, allows a believer in the Church to divorce an irate nonbeliever who opposes our belief in Christ to the point of hostile confrontation and absence of peace, and marry within the Church. In the marriage to Christ there will be none in the Bride causing hostile confrontation against the TRUTH. That marriage will be PEACE, HARMONY, LOVE. We shall not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. That is why Paul makes the allowance "to the rest" in I Corinthians 7 during this physical life in God's Church.

The Church must be HOLY, as Christ's Bride shall be in the resurrection. Some who are not holy and in PEACE do creep into the HUMAN Church, now. And the Bible makes provision in various cases for putting such out of the Church and AVOIDING them. In the Kingdom of God there will be no hostile dissenters. We must clean them out of the Spirit-begotten HUMAN Church today.



FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Report on Trip to Africa and Mediterranean

Peter Nathan (business manager for East, Central and West Africa) left London on March 23rd bound for Ghana, taking with him a film of a sermon given by Mr. Herbert Armstrong at the 1979 Feast in Tucson, Arizona. The primary reason for the trip was to bring much of the latest news of developments in the Work to the churches in the area.

One problem which faces the ministers in Africa is a lack of effective communications which we in the Western world take for granted. In many areas of Africa phone calls can take up to three days to arrange, and the delivery of parcels from overseas (eg. computer listings and labels) can often take between three and seven months. Mr. Nathan's just being able to talk personally with Mr. Harold Jackson and Mr. Melvin Rhodes was an important accomplishment.

One very important side benefit was that Mr. Nathan was able to take with him and distribute 400 lbs. of good secondhand clothing donated by the British churches. A man's shirt in Ghana can cost an entire week's wages, and a lady's dress up to a month's salary! Not having to buy clothes at these inflated prices enables the brethren there to spend their money on more critical items such as food. (This should meet local needs for a while but is an area we have to be careful in, lest the Church start to draw attention from others as being a good organization to be a part of--especially if you can get plenty of good clothes. Ministers have to be careful in handling assistance coming in to ensure this doesn't happen.)

After profitable visits in Ghana, Nigeria, the Cameroons and Kenya, Mr. Nathan went on to the Mediterranean area. Here the problems faced by the members are very different.

In Beirut, Lebanon the political tension is still very evident, and the potential for a sudden resumption of widespread violence is ever present. Nevertheless, even in this hostile environment, God's Word has borne fruit and the wife of a member in Beirut was baptized.

In Greece the problems are again entirely different. To be eligible for school, the children there must be "registered." However, the ceremony is not a civil one, but performed by the Greek Orthodox Church as a formal christening into that religion. Obviously, to promise to bring up a child in an alien faith would be wrong, but what should parents do about the child's schooling when to abstain from such a ceremony means the child remains unregistered? The one family currently facing this problem would certainly appreciate our prayers.

After brief visits to Sicily and Malta, Mr. Nathan returned home to his family in England. Though exhausting at times, the trip was a success. In all the areas he visited, though differing widely in customs, politics, social strata and scenery, the people God is calling possess the same overall goals and dreams, and all appreciate the need of the soon-coming return of Christ.

Scandinavian Ad Results Very Good

Advertising an English magazine in a primarily non-English speaking country is not easy. Advertising in English in a Finnish or Swedish newspaper instantly limits your audience to people who have a good grasp of both languages--the Scandinavian language in order to buy the newspaper, and English to read your ad (and The PLAIN TRUTH).

Understandably, results in previous years have lagged behind those achieved in the U.K. where there was no language barrier to overcome. But this year, using a more direct approach, the results have changed. In spite of the obvious drawback of being in a different language, the ad appears to be pulling as well as in the U.K.

And the only change from the U.K. ad is in the one word--"free."

If the heading "this magazine is 'free'" had been used, to many people in Scandinavia it would have meant "this magazine is 'morally loose,'" which wasn't the intended message! So the ad became "this magazine--Gratis" and everyone understood, as the word "Gratis" is similar to a word in the Scandinavian languages that means "without charge."

Though no one can be sure of all the reasons for the good results, it looks as if this formula of a direct approach together with the word "Gratis" is well worth continuing.

Spanish Area News

April 20, 1980, marked an exciting day in Spanish media history. The former "El Mundo de Mañana" broadcast made its debut on Radio Oro in San Juan, Puerto Rico!

A new program of mini-PV brochures (a four-page promotional pamphlet which is about half the size of the PV) is now being tested in various areas of the United States. This will hopefully cut down on the number of people who pick up a copy of La Pura Verdad at the newsstands each month instead of subscribing. The response as compared to the number of responses to the newsstand PVs will also be compared.

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

LOUISVILLE, KY--RAY A. MEYER: Most negative attitudes and dissension now gone from local congregation. Most now have a good, positive orientation and support Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

CANTON, OH--JOHN FOSTER: All is going pretty well. Those few members who were "slipping" away are becoming more involved in the Church. There is a sincere enthusiasm of being a part of the Church.

CLEVELAND EAST, OH--GUY L. ENGELBART: God's people were inspired and encouraged as a result of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Our offering on the first day was the highest we have ever had in Cleveland! The congregation in Cleveland is totally behind Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong as God's apostle. Our attendance for April is 10% above the same month last year. Four people were baptized last month, and we are getting a number of new PM's, both through letters from Pasadena, and friends and relatives of members. God is blessing His Church in a way He hasn't for many years.

CLARKSBURG, WV--DAVID M. JOHNSON: People seem very positive about the direction of the Work under Mr. Armstrong's leadership. There is a noticeable increase in interest in prophecy as well as in personal Bible study. With three once-per-month studies in outlying areas, we are able to have about 75% of the Church in a Bible study each month. No one seems shaken at all with the current legal difficulties.

BELLE VERNON, PA--DAVID M. JOHNSON: There is a definite improvement in the overall attitude. In the past, people always seemed to have a gripe about something. Now, even when things go wrong, they seem to be more patient and willing to make whatever adjustments are necessary without complaining. Spring holy days brought record offerings for this area. People seem to be more genuinely solid than they have been in years.

The people seem quite pleased about the proposed changes in the SEP program. Several have expressed their disappointment over the last few years that the program seemed to have no spiritual or moral training at all. Even those people who have complained in the past seem eager to believe that positive changes are being made and are once again supportive of the whole Y.O.U. program.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

FESTIVAL PLANNING UPDATE

Preparations for the Feast of Tabernacles 1980 are going very well! Approximately 38 per cent of the festival applications have been received in Tucson. Please encourage the members in your area to return their festival applications as soon as they have completed them, since this will aid in our overall planning.

We have received a considerable number of requests to transfer to the various feast sites. We are processing these transfer requests and will be returning them to the members very shortly.

You should remind your congregation(s) that the room housing blocks at at each site are being held until June 30. This applies to all sites except St. Petersburg, Wisconsin Dells, and Lake of the Ozarks. Housing will probably still be available after June 30, but we will have no space held for our members after that date except in Detroit and Savannah, which are holding space open until July 30. Housing arrangements should be secured as soon as possible for proper festival planning and to guarantee accommodations.

Let us know if we can be of any further assistance regarding the feast.

--Festival Coordination Team

NEWS ABOUT PLAIN TRUTH PROMOTION

Response from local church pastors and coordinators to the bulletin board cardholder subscription program has been overwhelming! In just a ten-day period, we received 24 requests for 1,250 additional cardholders and 85,500 subscription cards. We are very pleased to see the enthusiasm for this method of promoting The PLAIN TRUTH.

During the past few years, a number of church areas have been actively promoting The PLAIN TRUTH by contacting public libraries and offices (doctors, dentists, etc.) and offering a free subscription to the magazine. Consequently, many subscribers have been added to our mailing list because they came across The PLAIN TRUTH in these locations.

Because of the overall success of this local method of promotion, we have designed two programs which can enlist the services of members in contacting public libraries and waiting rooms. These programs are now in the process of being mailed to all U.S. pastors.

We also would like to let you know that the new printing of Mr. Herbert Armstrong's booklet, The United States and Britain in Prophecy, is now off the press and is being mailed. This is the updated version of the original large booklet which we used to distribute a few years ago.

--Publishing Services

MAIL CONTINUES TO BE "UP"

A few issues back we mentioned that 1979 was the first year since 1973 that the yearly mail count increased over the year before. That trend is continuing and we are happy to report that thus far 1980 is seeing a good increase over 1979.

(Continued on page 11)

LARGE ADVERTISEMENTS CONTINUE TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC

On the following pages are two more full-page newspaper advertisements that have appeared in selected newspapers around the country. (See last week's Pastor General's Report for the first ad of this series.) This ad campaign is designed to alert and inform the public to the grave and imminent danger to every American's religious freedom.

The First Amendment...

Fair Prey for Ambitious Politicians ???

YOUR CHURCH is being threatened. Ours already is under attack. We are fighting the battle for you!

We are members of the Worldwide Church of God. We believe in our Church just as you believe in yours. We do not proselyte. We never solicit members. We NEVER SOLICIT THE PUBLIC FOR FUNDS.

This message is intended to make you aware that one Church—ours—is under attack—and if this attack of political corruption succeeds, YOURS MAY BE NEXT!

Don't think it can't happen in this home of the free! It has happened in Russia! Our Church and the First Amendment of the Constitution is under attack by the attorney general of the State of California. That attack is generated to DESTROY our Church. This attack is motivated, apparently, to prove that the attorney general, representing the State of California, has the right to inspect and certify our religious beliefs and practices—that only those religious beliefs and practices acceptable to him can survive in California. We should like to ask the attorney general whether the name Tomás de Torquemada means anything to him.

However, our purpose here is to make you aware of what is happening, and WHY YOU SHOULD BE CONCERNED! Our Church will stand against this onslaught. Admittedly, we believe the attorney general may break off his attack against our Church if enough people learn—and care—about what he is doing. We hope this message will impel you to take action that will help our cause—and yours.

Not that we expect you to care what happens to our Church. We do expect that you will care about what happens, next, to YOUR Church!

If the attorney general can assume the right to outlaw a belief, or set of beliefs, what will prevent him from mandating a doctrine of his own choosing?

We will tell you what! Only the will of God and our own to resist.

A MODERN POGROM

Pogrom is a word that may be unfamiliar to most Americans. It refers to the systematic or organized persecution or destruction of a minority group within a society. Most often it has been used to describe Tsarist Russian attacks on Jews there. It has not often been used in this country.

Pogrom, however, may be the only word suitable for describing the ghastly attack on our Church by the attorney general. Conservative columnist James J. Kilpatrick, on March 25, 1980, writing in the *Washington Star*, described it this way:

". . . you might have to go back to the days of Thomas Jefferson to find a case more mind-boggling than the assault of the State of California upon the Worldwide Church of God.

"Jefferson's greatest contribution to the concept of individual liberty was his Statute of Religious Freedom. The Sage of Monticello must be spinning in his grave. California's incredible takeover of the Worldwide Church of God makes a travesty of the Jeffersonian doctrine. If ever a case presented a brazen intrusion by the state upon the free exercise of religion, this is it."

What "this" is, in case you have missed news stories, is the takeover of our Church. Again, the words of Mr. Kilpatrick:

"The facts are not even significantly in dispute. Toward the end of 1978, a schism developed within the Pasadena-based Worldwide Church of God. The patriarchal leader of the Church, 86-year-old Herbert W. Armstrong, split with his 48-year-old son Garner Ted Armstrong.

"Half a dozen dissident members of the *Church complained to the California attorney* general that the senior Armstrong and his close associate, Stanley R. Rader, were overpaid, that they were pilfering Church property, that they had conspired to sell Church property at less than its fair value, that they had shredded Church documents to prevent their disclosure, and that they were living in luxury at the expense of the Church's 70,000 members."

On no more evidence than the complaint of those six former Church members, the State of California raided the Church's property and headquarters on January 3, 1979, and announced that a court-appointed receiver was in charge.

The receiver, again as Mr. Kilpatrick describes, "came armed with an *ex parte* court order directing him to take possession and control of the Church, including all its assets, to take over the management of the Church to the extent that he deemed necessary in his sole discretion; to suspend or terminate any employee, and so on. One of [the receiver's] first acts was to fire the Church's executive secretary . . .

"For the next seven weeks, until Church leaders were able to get the receivership lifted under a $34 million bond, agents of the state roamed at will through nearly 7,000 seized documents. The attorney general demanded that former Church officials produce for judicial inspection not only financial records but also confidential papers having to do with matters of ministry and theology—for example, the unpublished page proofs of a manuscript, 'The Doctrines of the Worldwide Church of God.'

"At no point has the Church been accused of any injury to the public health or safety, the trial court has stressed that the Church 'has not been accused of any wrongdoing.' The most serious allegations, having to do with the below-value sale of real estate for private gain, have been dismissed as mere hearsay.

"It is beyond comprehension—beyond my comprehension anyhow—how the state of California can assert a power to control what a Church employee is paid. That issue lies at the very heart of this case."

It is beyond our comprehension, too. Our Church's work has been seriously disrupted. All because the attorney general believes, or says he believes, that a Church's money is public money, not the Church's, that the State has the right and obligation to make sure a Church's money is spent properly, and that he is the person who can decide what proper spending is.

As Mr. Kilpatrick noted, "It is apparently immaterial that a Church, as in this case, has never solicited funds from the general public, but relies only upon the contributions of its own members scattered across the nation."

And that is the whole crux of the matter. It is God's money. We give it freely to our Church because we want to and because we trust our Church's leaders to use it wisely in carrying out work that we support and of which we approve.

You don't have to approve of us or support our work. Certainly, the attorney general's support or approval is of no concern to us. *We want only to be left alone to go about our religious business as we see fit, as we believe you should be.*

Can you imagine the attorney general overseeing the spending of the Roman Catholic Church in California? Can you imagine a Catholic cardinal's compensation being subject to the attorney general's review?

Would he have attacked the Methodist Church, the Presbyterian or Lutheran?

Would he have undertaken to raid a Synagogue?

Will he?

He might well, given his apparent determination *to be the religious arbiter for California's* citizens, UNLESS HE IS STOPPED NOW. He chose what he thought was a small, helpless group, perhaps expecting us to disappear without a whimper, leaving him with an important legal precedent.

We turned out to be somewhat bigger and less helpless than he expected. We do not intend to disappear, whimperingly or otherwise. We intend to continue defending our Church because our religion and our right to practice that religion as we wish matter more to us than our property or even our lives.

What about you? What matters to you? Your religion? Your politics? Your sex? Your sexual preference? Your profession? Your race?

Again, we don't ask you to *care* about the Worldwide Church of God. We ask you to care about yourself and about what you believe in and to ask yourself whether you don't have a cause in common with us.

We think you do. It's called, *the Constitution of the United States.*

As we said earlier, we do not seek members, but we will be happy to provide any information about us that you wish. Write us: The Worldwide Church of God, Box 111, Pasadena, California, 91123, or call our toll free number: (800) 423-4444. In California, call collect (213) 577-5225.

If, as we hope you do, you have something you'd like to tell the attorney general of the State of California about your understanding of the Constitution of the United States, write to him:

The Hon. George Deukmejian
California Attorney General
555 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, California 95814

Signed by members of the Emergency Committee for the Defense of Religious Freedom:

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83 million Americans want us to have our day in court.

Why does the Attorney General object?

The Worldwide Church of God has petitioned the Supreme Court of the United States for a hearing to appeal certain actions taken by the California courts. *Those actions were taken at the instigation* of California's attorney general and have been loudly protested not only by the Worldwide Church of God, its leaders and members, but also by such other religious organizations as the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.; Synagogue Council of America; Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs; Lutheran Church in America; Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches; Board of Church and Society, the United Methodist Church; General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.; National Association of Evangelicals; and Northern California Ecumenical Council.

The Worldwide Church of God and the memberships of these other organizations whose constituency comprises some 83,000,000 Americans believe that the actions of the California court and the California attorney general represent *the most flagrant attack on religious freedom* in the history of the United States. The Worldwide Church of God, accordingly, has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review those actions. On behalf of their 83,000,000 members, the other religious organizations have filed a joint Friends of the Court (amici curiae) brief, supporting the Church's position and asking that the Supreme Court review the matter.

The attorney general of California has contested the request and has asked that the Court not review the case.

That seems a curious position for the attorney general to take.

It would seem more reasonable, more logical, for him to welcome a Supreme Court review. How is it that he does not say, certainly let us have a hearing, let us have a statement once and for all that the State of California does in fact have a right to do to the Worldwide Church of God what it is trying to do? Why does he not say, the State of California denies that this is a First Amendment matter, a matter of separation of Church and State, and he welcomes the Supreme Court's final position on the question because he is sure he is right?

Why? Certainly this seems an important *question to the members of the Worldwide* Church of God. It seems important to 83,000,000 other Americans who worship and seek God in different ways. Why isn't it important to the California attorney general? He is the man who has brought this matter to law, after all. Why doesn't he want the most serious part of the question decided, finally, in law?

A REVIEW

To clarify the position of the Church and its desire to settle the question before the U.S. Supreme Court, it could be useful here to review the facts of the case as it has developed. This advertisement, obviously, has been prepared by a representative of the Worldwide Church of God and has been paid for by the Church and certain of its supporters. The Church has a point of view and a vested interest. However, conservative columnist James J. Kilpatrick has no vested interest or reason to support the Worldwide Church of God. Here is how he summarized the case in the March 25, 1980, edition of the *Washington Star*:

"... If ever a case presented a brazen intrusion by the state upon the free exercise of religion, this is it.

"The facts are not even significantly in dispute. Toward the end of 1978, a schism developed within the Pasadena based Worldwide Church of God. The patriarchical leader of the Church, 86-year-old Herbert W. Armstrong, split with his 48-year-old son Garner Ted Armstrong.

"Half a dozen dissident members of the Church complained to the California attorney general that the senior Armstrong and his close associate, Stanley R. Rader, were overpaid, that they were pilfering Church property, that they had conspired to sell Church property at less than its fair value, that they had shredded Church documents to prevent their disclosure, and that they were living in luxury at the expense of the Church's 70,000 members.

"The Worldwide Church of God, like many other denominations, owns its property as a non profit corporation. Under the law of California, all such property is viewed as the property of the general public. The attorney general is charged with examining Church records to determine if the public has been defrauded, or if the Church has failed to comply with laws regulating charitable trusts.

"It is apparently immaterial that a Church, as in this case, never has solicited funds from the general public, but relies only upon the contributions of its own members scattered across the nation.

"On the morning of January 3, 1979, retired Judge Steven Weisman, accompanied by a platoon of lawyers representing the six dissidents and the attorney general, descended upon the Church's headquarters. Weisman had an astonishing announcement: Without one word of notice to the Church, he had been appointed its receiver.

"He came armed with an *ex parte* court order directing him to take possession and control of the Church, including all its assets; to take over the management of the Church to the extent that he deemed necessary in his sole discretion; to suspend or terminate any employee; and so on. One of Weisman's first acts was to fire the Church's executive secretary Virginia Kineston.

"For the next seven weeks, until Church leaders were able to get the receivership lifted under a $3.4 million bond, agents of the state roamed at will through nearly 7,000 seized documents. The attorney general demanded that former Church officials produce for judicial inspection not only financial records but also confidential papers having to do with matters of ministry and theology—for example, the unpublished page proofs of a manuscript, 'The Doctrines of the Worldwide Church of God.'

"At no point has the Church been accused of any injury to the public health or safety, the trial court has stressed that the Church 'has not been accused of any wrongdoing.' The most serious allegations, having to do with the below value sale of real estate for private gain, have been dismissed as mere hearsay.

"It is beyond comprehension—beyond my comprehension, anyhow—how the state of California can assert a power to control what a Church employee is paid. That issue lies at the very heart of this case.

"The basic allegation is that Armstrong and especially Rader were 'siphoning off' Church funds through their own salaries and perquisites. In Weisman's view, Rader's $200,000 annual salary was 'outrageous.' Remarkably, Weisman has submitted a bill for his services as receiver amounting to $51,000 for the 'seven weeks' work ... which figures out to an annual rate of $378,000. Attorneys for the six dissidents—who incidentally have withdrawn from the case—are seeking $175,000 in fees to be paid from the frozen Church funds.

"The Church's petition for Supreme Court review is supported by friend-of-the-court motions from the National Council of Churches of Christ and from a number of Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and Evangelical bodies. The high court was expected to consider the petition at its conference this past Friday. A decision could be announced any day."

EVEN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA WILL BENEFIT IF THE SUPREME COURT HEARS OUR ARGUMENTS

We, the members of the Worldwide Church of God, see this question as clear and simple. We do not believe that the State of California and its attorney general have any right, moral or legal, to interfere with our religious practices. We do not seek members. We do not ask the public for money; we never have. What money is involved is our money, given freely by us to our Church and its leaders for uses that we understand and of which we approve.

Similarly, however, we do not ask anyone to agree with us in the area of theology nor do we ask anyone to join with us in understanding and approving the actions of our Church and its leaders.

We only ask to be left alone to worship God and to seek Him in our own way, as we believe we are guaranteed and promised by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

In that request, we are supported by 83,000,000 Americans.

This is no business for the State of California. This is not a bit pursuit for the attorney general. This is a waste of time and energy. We are not guilty of wrongdoing. We have not even been accused of wrongdoing. We are willing to go into court. We are secure in our innocence.

We do continue to wonder, however, why the attorney general is not as willing to submit his arguments to the U.S. Supreme Court as we are.

If you want more information, write to us: The Worldwide Church of God, Box 111, Pasadena, California 91123, or call our toll-free number, (800) 423-4444. In California call collect (213) 577-5225.

If you have some questions for the Attorney General of the State of California, write to him:

The Hon. George Deukmejian
California Attorney General
555 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, California 95814

MPC REPORT (Continued from page 8.)

Mail for the month of May 1980 is up over 34% compared to May of last year--and mail for the year to date is up 12.3% as compared to 1979. As of May 19th 793,762 letters have been received. (This includes both Pasadena and Tucson mail).

Much of this good response is due to the recent renewal stitch-in envelope in the May PLAIN TRUTH, as well as other cards in the GOOD NEWS, booklets, etc. Mr. Herbert Armstrong's member/co-worker letter is bringing in a fine response, with many good comments from our members and co-workers. The first returns from Mr. Armstrong's S.E.P. letter are also beginning to come in, and festival applications are coming in strong.

Mr. Armstrong's firm leadership and direction in the Church has certainly given a new sense of confidence and optimism to the entire mailing list. We definitely see this reflected in the mail and the overall results of the various programs that have been instituted. All in all, the mail picture is healthy and strong.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

MAIL COMMENTS

Many letters received this week highlighted anticipation for the Feast, appreciation of the G-II trips and changed lives through our various publications.

--Mail Processing Center

Anticipation Building in Advance of the Feast

> I have just received my Festival Information. It will truly be the greatest Feast yet! My prayers are for a successful and inspiring time for all the brethren. And I want to thank you all for your dedicated work and time in God's Work.
>
> --Mrs. R.K., (Matheson, CO)

> We have just received the application for the coming Feast of Tabernacles. We are very happy to hear that Big Sandy is available this year. We are looking forward to camping again in the Pine Woods. Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for making it available. There is just no joy as camping and fellowshiping with the brethren in the Pine Woods--it's fantastic!
>
> --Mr. & Mrs. B.T. (Kennard, TX)

> I am looking forward to a wonderful Feast in Johnson City, Tennessee! Thanks for a site closer to home. If we had to though, we'd travel with a prayer and a few fumes in the gas tank and God would get us anywhere!
>
> --Barbara K. (Chattanooga, TN)

> Enclosed please find a money order for my tithe of the tithe to be put in the fund that pays for the expenses of having services at the Feast of Tabernacles. It is hard to believe, but each Feast is better than the last.
>
> --Noriel W. (Loudon, NH)

Brethren Encouraged By G-II Trips

We appreciate Mr. Blackwell and Mr. White very much. They were here [Wilmington, Delaware church] this past Sabbath. Mr. Blackwell backs you 100% and says so very strongly. He gave us an outstanding sermon on Peter.

--Mr. & Mrs. R.H. (Port Deposit, MD)

I want to express my appreciation to you for sending the team of Mr. Larry Salyer and Mr. Aaron Dean to our church area [Hagerstown, MD] last sabbath. The film and the question-and-answer session following it were informative and inspiring. Their visit left us with a renewed sense of dedication to this great Work, and made me aware of the fact that each of us, individually, has an important part to play.

--Mrs. C.C. (Martinsburg, WV)

Would like to take this opportunity to express thanks for letting us have Mr. John Halford this past Sabbath. It was wonderful to see and hear of other congregations around the world.

--Donald & Betty H. (Joplin, MO)

Thank you very much for allowing the team to bring the State v. Church film to Washington, D.C. It was very enlightening and helped us to understand what the personnel in Pasadena were going through.

--Mrs. M.T. (Washington, D.C.)

Lives Changed Because of Church's Publications

I would like to thank you for the wonderful literature you have sent me these many years. Without it I would have still been groping for answers and not finding any.

--Nettie G. (Lucedale, MS)

I am so glad God has opened my heart to give freely to Mr. Armstrong's good work for God. His booklets have not only opened my heart, but mind also.

--Horace M. (Detroit, MI)

We've had many trials as a family and we need every lift we can get. It's been very hard for us raising our three sons with our great financial needs and troubles because of sickness. But, we enjoy all of your literature. It gives us a great lift when we read it.

--Family (Kenosha, WI)

They [the publications] have helped us in our daily living and increased our understanding of the life a Christian must lead in these troubled times.

Mr. & Mrs. E.T. Jr. (Honolulu, HI)

For the first time in my life I have felt I received the right books and help I was always looking for. I do hope it will be available to reach many more like myself.

--Teresa B. (Scarsdale, NY)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

CANADA: POLITICAL CRISIS DEFUSED, BUT MEANWHILE, OUT ON THE PLAINS...
In a resounding manner--58% to 42%--the concept of "sovereignty-association" was defeated by the voters of Quebec. Not only the English-speaking minority, but a majority of Francophones as well, rejected the first-stage-of-separation policy of the Parti Quebecois. Of the 57 electoral districts in Quebec that have a population of 90% or more French speakers, 45% voted against the referendum. Thus, PQ Premier and "Yes" forces champion Rene Levesque was unable to claim a moral victory, or that French speakers had been cheated out of victory.

This does not mean there is clear sailing ahead for Canada by any means. In fact, Canada's future seems more clouded than ever. Words and phrases such as "breathing room," "last chance for Canada," and "reserved federalism" fill the air. But what kind of change? No one seems to know. How much more decentralization, if that's the change needed, will keep Quebec happy--or resource-rich Alberta? How would greater provincial control affect the economically declining status of the Maritimes, dependent as they are on help from Ottawa?

The referendum battle has left its scars too. Canada's house is divided as never before. As Prime Minister Trudeau said: "We've all lost a bit in this." Levesque's concession speech was hardly a concession. He insisted that Quebec would become a sovereign state someday. "It will come," he stressed, "and we will be there for it. But I confess I am in a bad situation to say exactly how or when."

The Big Drought?

The referendum issue has tended to override what could be an even bigger crisis brewing not only in Canada, but in the northern tier of the U.S. Plains States--drought.

The grain belt provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and even Alberta are in the grips of a dry spell that could be disastrous unless alleviated in two to three weeks. Parts of Saskatchewan, it is reported, have not had appreciable precipitation for nearly 90 days. Yesterday, according to Mr. Charles Bryce, the temperature in Regina was nudging 100 degrees. On May 20, 1979 snow was on the ground. Weather forecasts show no relief in sight.

Smaller towns have begun to ration water. In most places the wheat has just come up. But if no rain falls by June 10 at the latest, it could be a disaster. Canada's agriculture minister, Eugene Whelan, has urged everyone in the country to pray for rain. An announcement concerning this will go from our Vancouver office to all the brethren this Pentecost.

So watch this budding crisis. Significantly, weather conditions in Australia have been equally critical in nearly all of that island-continent's growing areas. And look what the eruption of Mt. St. Helens did to localized agricultural and logging operations in Washington. If more of the Cascade range should "pop off" and spew acidic ash far and wide across the plains...the mind boggles!

Much of the world depends upon grain exports from the U.S., Canada and Australia. The propects of a world hunger crisis are thus brought much closer.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau