

Executive interview

Unhornswoggling proves fruitless for head of theology research

By David McKee

PASADENA — "Is Dr. Dorothy in?" you ask.

"He just stepped out; something came up" is the reply.

And that's just the way it is with Dr. Charles Dorothy, a man who is spread among an amazing number of responsibilities. Seemingly, something is always coming up.

And little wonder. Stationed at Ambassador College here, Dr. Dorothy heads up a recently formed "Theological Research Project," is editor of the Spanish edition of *The Plain Truth (La Pura Verdad)*, teaches two sections of Old Testament Survey and heads an independent-study class in Spanish.

In addition, he is to help Mr. Gunar Freibergs, chairman of the Theology Department, build a graduate school of theology here and help develop a ministerial magazine.

And not the least among his duties, he is a pastor-rank minister, serving any Spanish- and English-speaking people who can find him.

Head of TRP

Perhaps chief on his list of responsibilities is his position as head of "what is officially titled the Theological Research Project, lovingly called TRP."

"The project was commissioned by Mr. Herbert Armstrong," Dr. Dorothy explains and notes that "there is a fourfold approach.

"No. 1: to collect and compile all the available data that we have written on a given doctrine.

"No. 2: to synthesize, boil down the data to a very reduced number of pages — one page, if possible.

"The third step is to get approval of that synthesis from Messrs. Herbert and Garner Ted Armstrong.

"Finally, as the last step, the synthesis is written up in polished form. This becomes the official statement of church doctrine."

"That is one thrust of TRP," Dr. Dorothy goes on to say. "Another is to begin compiling technical, documentary, historical-type material for an exegetical handbook. This is a project of seven to 10 years."

Progress within the theological project has been slowed because of the recent meetings Mr. Ted Armstrong has had concerning needed revision of doctrine.

"These are not part of the Theological Research Project," Dr. Dorothy remarks, "but are separate meetings which have been demanded by current problems and questions being brought up with regard to various doctrines."

Such meetings led to the change in the day of Pentecost observance.

Before TRP

Prior to his appointment to TRP Dr. Dorothy was the director of the Spanish Division of God's Work. This included work as minister, editor and administrator.

While he has launched into his newer job with vigor, he also still has his heart very much in the old. He remains the editor of *La Pura Verdad*, a position he is able to fulfill, he says, due to the fine cooperation of Walter Dickinson, assistant to Leslie L. McCullough in the International Division, and the labor of Victor Gutierrez and Ken Ryland, associate editors of the magazine.

Dr. Dorothy also conducts Bible studies for Spanish-speaking brethren in the headquarters area and altogether stays well in touch with the progress and state of the Spanish Work, a job to which he has willingly dedicated a great part of his life.

But before the Spanish Work, before TRP and before the very beginnings of the Church of God in its modern era, Charles Verne Dorothy was born in Seattle, Wash., an only child.

"I was born an only child of a middle-middle-class family," remarks Dr. Dorothy. "My father was a public accountant and credit manager for a paint company. By hard work and going back to the office in the evenings generally six or seven days a week, he was able to provide a good basis for the family, and I guess we eventually became upper-middle class as a result."

It was, says Dr. Dorothy, "a happy and normal childhood" with an emphasis on music.

"I started playing the violin at age 6," he comments, "and dropped it at age 17, unfortunately. I studied the piano from age 10 for a few years and taught myself guitar, studying it seriously for about a year."

At age 12 Dr. Dorothy moved with his family to the Olympic Peninsula in Washington, "the so-called last American frontier."

"There were glaciers, woods, mountains, wild animals and even stories about sasquatch — a monster similar to the abominable snowman," he says.

It was in this wilderness area that Dr. Dorothy met a man, at that time a teenager, who would be instrumental in directing him to Ambassador College and the Church of God. He was David Jon Hill, now an evangelist and director of Marketing Services for the Work.

Beer for Granmudder

Dr. Dorothy and Mr. Hill first met at the "general store-gas station-post office" operated by Dr. Dorothy's father.

"I was working in the store one Sunday and he walked in. He said, 'I want a beer for my granmudder.' I was under age, he was under age — he was 13; I guess I was 12 — you weren't supposed to sell liquor on Sundays. All kinds of laws were being violated. But I sold him the beer. And it literally was for his grandmother. We got to be friends over that issue."

And fast friends they remained throughout the four years of high school that they attended together.

"We were like brothers — better than brothers, really," says Dr. Dorothy.

Upon graduation, though, they parted ways.

"His mother wouldn't allow him to go anywhere except Ambassador College — she was a member of the Church at this time — and my parents would allow me to go anywhere but to Ambassador. So I went to the University of Washington."

"I graduated from the University of Washington," Dr. Dorothy goes on to say, "with a degree in political science, the emphasis on international relations. I also had some Spanish and Portuguese.

"He [Mr. Hill] graduated from Ambassador College with a degree in theology."

Unhornswoggling Mr. Hill

After his graduation from the university, Dr. Dorothy took a trip to Pasadena to save his friend from Ambassador College.

"I thought he was deceived and hornswoggled by this religion bit, so I came down here in 1955 to see if I couldn't get him out of there."

Instead of getting his friend Mr. Hill out of Ambassador, Dr. Dorothy ended up attending the college himself. The reason for this was, as he explains, that at the time "I was allowed to open mail and pull money during the Feast of Tabernacles in 1955. It was reading those letters and personal contact with Mr. Herbert Armstrong that convinced me that something was really going on here."

Following the Feast Dr. Dorothy began his Ambassador education.

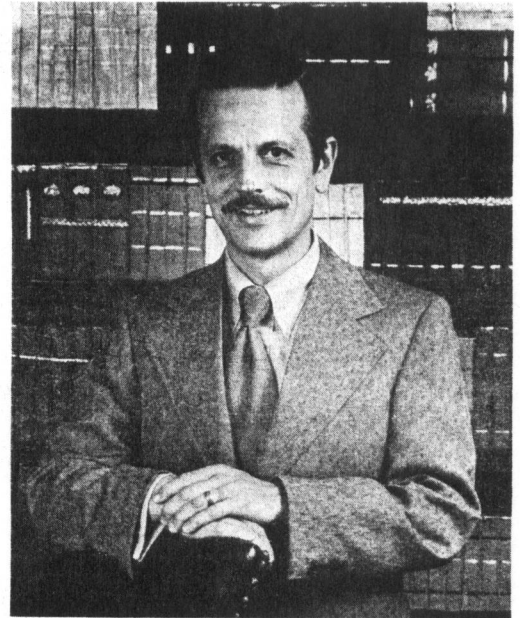
"In spite of being an honor graduate, I had to work my way in over everyone's objections," he says. "Everyone said it was too late."

One factor which worked in his favor, however, was that he had graduated from the Reserve Officers' Training Corps program at the University of Washington as a second lieutenant in the Air Force.

"I learned before coming here that killing was wrong, however. During a class in international relations at the university, I studied war and came to the conclusion that war was very wrong and evil just from a moral and ethical point of view. This was now beginning to give me a problem."

As well it might, Dr. Dorothy having "sworn before God and man that I would serve my country."

At that time it appeared that eight months was all the Ambassador College education he would get before having to report for active military service. So, despite the fact that the year had already begun, he was admitted.



CHARLES DOROTHY

It then became necessary for Dr. Dorothy to withdraw completely from the military as he became converted. "The student body prayed and fasted and after a number of threats they [the military] let me go," he recalls.

In the meantime it was very uncomfortable for him.

"As an officer, if war had broken out and I had not reported for duty — that's treason — I could have been shot. Fortunately, no such situation arose."

Sheer Interest in Spanish

While attending Ambassador College Dr. Dorothy taught in Imperial Schools. Due to a lack of teachers at that time "I taught a little of everything," he says.

Dr. Dorothy took a variety of college courses himself, sitting in on Spanish classes out of sheer interest in the language. He didn't think he would ever have a use for the language, but he enjoyed it.

At the beginning of his third and final year at Ambassador, Dr. Dorothy married Jo Ann Felt, originally from Southern California. She was teaching grade school at Imperial at the time, having graduated from Ambassador a year before her marriage.

After his graduation from Ambassador in 1958 Dr. Dorothy was ordained and left with his wife for Oregon, where he was assigned the Eugene-Salem area.

After just six months there, however, they returned to Pasadena and Dr. Dorothy was added to the college faculty.

Since that time he has taught and lectured in numerous courses at Ambassador College, both in Big Sandy and Pasadena.

While teaching in Pasadena Dr. Dorothy also took graduate courses at Ambassador and Fuller Seminary and for four summers attended *La Universidad Interamericana* in Saltillo, Mexico.

There he got his M.A. in Spanish and a Ph.D. in Latin American studies.

In 1964, when the Big Sandy campus was opened, Dr. Dorothy moved down to be a part of the Texas facility. It was there that he became the head of the Spanish Division of God's Work after Dr. Benjamin Rea's death in early 1965.

Big Sandy was then his home for some eight years, during which time he taught numerous classes, became dean of faculty (concurrently heading the Spanish Department) and grew fond of his Texas home.

Nevertheless, in 1972 he and his family moved with the Spanish Department to Pasadena.

Then, until near the end of 1973 and his transfer to TRP, Dr. Dorothy continued with his full-time responsibilities as head of the Spanish Division.

In the course of his duties Dr. Dorothy and his wife visited every Latin American country, some several times, as well as numerous countries around the world.

At Home

There isn't a much more vibrant family around than that which goes by the name of Dorothy.

Dr. and Mrs. Dorothy have five very healthy and active children: Charlye, 13½, Creston, 12, Charina, 10, Charles Verne II, 8, and Chrysti, 6.

Mrs. Dorothy is a mother, housewife and more. She has written one article for *The Good News* magazine (April, 1974) and is writing another. She is quite intelligent and well educated, "and I think she's pretty," her husband notes.

And Dr. Dorothy . . . When not involved with his responsibilities in God's Work or wrapped up in a family activity, Dr. Dorothy likes to relax by reading, playing the piano or playing golf, handball or table tennis. He also enjoys hiking in the mountains and woods.



DOROTHY FAMILY — The Dorothy family enjoys a period of studying at home. From left to right are Creston, 12, Charlye Ann, 13½, Dr. Dorothy, Charina, 10, Mrs. Dorothy, Charles Verne II, 8, and Chrysti, 6. [Photo by Mike Hendrickson]