

870924 Calendar 2nd Coming of Christ FTR

To view from our congregation in the Imperial gymnasium, I want to also thank the policies of Mr. Tkach for the lovely floral arrangement that is usually presented to us when we are asked to speak here.

I would like to give you a few asides before I come to the subject for today.

We hope that you will remember the needs of our current brethren who are on the Burmese Tye border.

I have on occasion addressed this matter, you see we're in a world in which not an insignificant number of God's people are in fact refugees for various reasons before they, perhaps significant number of people in our congregations in this country where English is not the primary language and I won't identify that any further, who are people who were in fact not legal residents in this country before they were converted.

That happens because of the nature of the crises in neighboring countries.

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I have on occasion addressed this matter, you see we're in a world in which not an insignificant number of God's people are in fact refugees for various reasons before they perhaps become converted, sometimes after they become converted.

We have no insignificant number of people in our congregations in this country where English is not the primary language and I won't identify that any further, who are people who were in fact not legal residents in this country before they were converted.

That happens because of the nature of the crises in neighboring countries.

Well it just also happens that under circumstances some of our brethren in parts of Asia who already were brethren had to cross into Thailand if they didn't want to fall into the hands of the military to the West.

In Burma and in so doing in a sense they are guests and under supervision of certain ties but it puts them in an awkward position.

We are of the general impression at this point that the local administrators are gracious enough to grant at least some of the brethren the opportunity to visit our brethren from various countries who will be keeping the Feast of Tabernacles in Chiang Mai in Thailand.

Now this could present a little problem.

The first place most of the brethren going to Thailand come from what we call the first world but these other brethren do not.

They not only don't come from the first world, they don't come from the second, they were cast out of the third and so you can understand some of their potential problems.

I trust that everyone who may be leaving from here, so I'm saying this in a sense in advance, will realize that these brethren do know several languages but they may not understand how we spend money and you should realize of course that when we spend our money we do it judiciously and wisely but our income for a year in many cases in those parts of the world would be a lifetime income or what you would have you see as the festival top would represent the income for many years, the full income for many years of some of these people.

Now they don't live in poverty in the sense that fruits fall off the trees, herbs grow out of the ground and they don't have to pay with hard currency but nevertheless it is important that we pray for their general welfare and safety and that we also realize that we must be discreet and understanding and helpful in how we be friends, our brethren who have never been outside before a country that was never recognized as a country because these people grew up in a republic of caught to lay that you will not find on a map.

It represents an area that Burma claims but it has had no full control over since the Burmese state was founded in 1948. It also represents an area not recognized by the United Nations and these people have had to live by their wits. The last man who was converted among them was warned that if anybody else were ever converted they would simply have to be shocked because the republic of caught to lay could not afford this attrition to the church of God.

So today in a sense the doors are closed and our brethren have all had to leave that area and become refugees in a country which does not accept refugees from this area legally.

They simply have had to go there and we can be very grateful that the local governor of Tak province or another province has been gracious enough to accept them.

My wife and I are planning to go to Europe. This is an assignment we appreciate.

My wife has never been to Czechoslovakia before although some of her relatives came from the area.

I have been there in 1966 which is 21 years ago that is I was there longer ago than most freshmen were born. It's hard to realize of course how time goes by and that seems very recent to me but for some of those who are freshmen or sophomores or perhaps even juniors in college beginning the junior year you'll soon be 22 most of you if you aren't already.

It's like an entire lifetime. I would like to explain just a little bit about a country like that in Czechoslovakia when you wanted to say things that did not get to Russian ears you had to be very careful and whisper and you had to be sure you were out of distance of anybody else and you had to be sure whosoever ears were hearing you understood what your intent was and understood your attitude. Now the Hungarians who are their neighbors didn't have this problem. I was in both countries in 1966. There the Hungarians could be no more than 10 feet from the Russians and they were talking Hungarian about the Russians and the Russians couldn't understand them.

Now they talk reasonably respectfully but they nevertheless talked and felt confident but the Czechs speak a language so related to the Russians that any Russian hearing Czech spoken would think of some Russian peasant who is speaking it. That's the way they look upon the language it's a low low swabic language. The Czechs do not see it that way but you know what I mean there are certain

standards and the Russians have the standards of literature that simply were not characteristic of the swabic language that the Czechs came to use but it put them in a very awkward situation whereas the Hungarians were far more casual in discussing a relationship with their Soviet brother and that explains I think a significant part of the problem that wherever swabic was spoken people had to be far more discreet and the Hungarians of course spoke a language far more difficult for most people to grasp even the Romanians speak at least a Latin language as a whole and therefore if a Russian had learned French it might not be difficult to pick up even some Romanian because Romanian is a Latin language.

Anyway we will try to convey our best wishes to you from you excuse me to our brethren who will be meeting in Brno or Brune as they would commonly call it there behind the iron curtain some possibly from Poland some from East Germany I think some from Yugoslavia and of course brethren from elsewhere in Europe and those transferring from North America.

We will be leaving this evening but not for the reason that you may imagine I just thought you should know you've heard about the problems of young soldiers who die of cancer leukemia or things of that nature who were in Vietnam presumably because of agents orange or other chemicals that were used as defolting.

Well we had a call just this is Thursday it was Tuesday night that my wife brother's son who was in the war they weren't there not members of God's church had died of cancer that clearly could be linked to his having to lay down airstrips on immediately defoliated areas during the Vietnam War or as one soldier who was in the hospital where this young man of 40 went one soldier immediately asked him the question were you in Vietnam and the answer of course was yes yes he had cancer that appeared first on the foot and then in the lungs the one cancer was solvable by good I would say diet and understanding of those things nutritionally that we might know but there was no way to resolve the other problem and I think we have to realize of course the government knows it now but they are not in a position to really say it is scientifically proved any more than the tobacco industry is willing to say certain things are scientifically proved that the surgeon general knows to be quite true it's simply an attitude but after all when you are in the military you are serving the government and you serve being willing to give up your life and sometimes you gave it up on the battlefield and sometimes you simply were chemically poisoned and give it up later but that's the situation so we will be going to the funeral tomorrow in the Midwest and we'll be happy to visit interestingly one of the Meredith family is here we'll be visiting with the church at Joplin on the Sabbath and I appreciate that Mr. Salyer suggested that my wife and I be able to be there for what it's worth to him if he had sent us between here and Joplin with 30 months advanced 30 days advanced notice it would have cost more to send us than it actually is going to cost because we're only going to fly to Kansas City which is much cheaper and we will take the responsibility of the ground route so in that sense happily I'm glad to say that all there were no more than two days notice that in fact it would be cheaper by us taking the ground route and being responsible for that cheaper to church administration than if we had actually been assigned all the way to Joplin by air with 30 days advanced now that is ridiculous of course it is but this is in fact what happens that you can't tell what the cost of routes are going to be to Kansas City inexpensive to get there from there to Joplin is much more expensive and so happily since we can't afford the time to get there we will simply take ground transportation but I think it is important that you realize that we get letters from time to time and I read them and I know of people who work with soldiers who have suffered the consequences of these poisons and we don't realize or even begin to understand how serious some of these problems are in this country and of course wherever such chemicals are used in warfare I would like to take a moment of time and give a few observations that Mr. Hague bolder prompted of course he's gone

much further than I have in the areas in which he is professionally gifted and is serving our student body as a whole I would draw to your attention a few things you might like to take note of when the original reference to the darkness that occurred that Mr. Hague bolder referred to when that original word appeared in the greek as Luke wrote it he used a word that we would translate as eclipse years later greek being a living language the bible being meant to be understood and not to be misunderstood in the original language in which it was written the greek language was used in such a way that it became a decision of the leaders in the greek world to substitute the word that is translated dark rather than eclipse see what has happened is that the original word that came to be associated with the natural eclipse meant a darkening at a time when not everybody understood the phenomenon that occurs in the heavens between the earth the moon and the sun now in this connection what that phenomenon came to be understood the word eclipse came to be an astronomical term and no longer was appropriate for the word darkness in general which could occur apart from an eclipse the technical eclipse nevertheless i would draw to your attention that even though at a later time another word darkness was substituted to make clear the original meaning of a word that took on a special meaning later that when the greek finally came to print the bible to give us that form of the greek language in which the bible originally came to be written and handed down they did adopt the original word that technically today means eclipse but i would have you know that in earliest days that that had referenced not merely to the phenomenon in the heavens that would occur the eclipse of the sun at mid-month but to any unusual in that sense darkness whether or not caused by such a relationship as may occur at the full moon you may ask of course why Mr.

Haybold cited the fact that this is the beginning of the year 5748 i think it is important on occasion that we rehearse the fact since this is the feast of trumpets that is this is also rosh hashana or the head of the year now there are two kinds of years there is the religious or sacred year which begins in the spring with the first of nissan or the month of aviv then there is the month that begins now the month of tisry as we call it anciently it had another name in fact the jewish calendar that determines the holy days the calendar determines the holy days that the numbering of the days of course is given to them in the bible but which day of the month is actually determined by the calendar because that is determined by when a new moon occurs now the calendar is calculated today and has been throughout its history from the beginning based on this month being the first month even when nissan is called the first month and this is called the seventh month the determination of when a year begins is not based on nissan calculating the new moon of that month but it's based on calculating the new moon of this month that has never changed you see it really isn't the jews calendar it really isn't the hebrou calendar if the jews descend from juda and if hebrou people descend from heber but the calendar goes back so that this is year 5748 we are back there in the days of adam and sepp and enos so the calendar that we have today is in a sense only preserved among hebrou people preserved by the jewish nation this is very important to realize they were the recipients moises is simply saying in his day at god's direction in exodus 12 that instead of beginning in the autumn we will renumber the month now so that the spring month begins the year and the numbering henceforth will be based on that nevertheless the calculation to determine the calendar today as every year since smoke whenever it had to be calculated was based on determining the new moon of this month or determining the first day of the seventh month which we would for moises day till now call rosh moshana the head of the year the very name in the hebrou of this day of course shows that there were always two ways of looking at the year let me say a little something more the jews at a later time probably in the later first century of the present era meaning somewhere before 100 a.d had already adopted the general idea that the calendar must have begun in the time of creation week or they associated creation week described in genesis one and in genesis two general

rana and napal as an illustration king hussein is certainly general in his country that is people at different levels we are known and it isn't because those people are learning all about god's messages we have here in the bible but they are learning that we represent something different than the United States represents however much we love the country and are warning it so it doesn't make the mistakes it is now doing they also know that we represent a message that in fact is going to be the same message that they will suddenly hear first with the two witnesses and then with jesus christ himself that will bring peace there are people whom we know in various levels in religion some very intimately in other religion we are known by some who were hindu some who were islamic and many who were buddhist and we're of course known in the christian world but that knowledge doesn't breathe the same feeling of generosity and return as our relationship interestingly in other areas tends to do in some cases there has been a very fine warm cordial response even within the christian world i do not i do not know the specific details i'm planning to be back after the feast of tabernacles for the very first Sabbath after that so some of you will not be it is not quite clear but uh i have extended an invitation which has been accepted the man to whom my wife and i extended the invitation could not come before this time even though he had planned to be but those who had sponsored him were not able to make adequate presumably financial arrangement so Mr Baker had called me and said this gentleman is going to be here uh and hopefully would be able to arrange his schedule right after i would return from the feast of tabernacles and my wife and i would host him at our home he is uh dr perera not the only perera from Sri Lanka he's the editor of the buddhist world and one of the editors of the buddhist encyclopedia i met him in Sri Lanka he was the man who turned to the bible and defined for me what jesus teaching was he'd been looking into the bible and he found the teaching clearly enunciated in matthew chapter five that i cited for many of you he said this is the heart and core of jesus teaching think not that i am come to destroy the law or the prophet i am not come to destroy but to fulfill the buddhist world is a monthly publication something like that they used to sell it now it is free he said i want you to know that this is being given free because we have learned from herbert w armstrong and the ambassador foundation and the worldwide church of god that this is the way to go he beg pardon recently in the letter to me he said i'm enclosing the latest edition third world countries do it this way you have to understand he said i trust mr decott doesn't mind that we've used his picture and his personal from the plain proof on world peace well there's nothing mr decott can do now it's in circulation but of course when mr decott wrote it he wrote it for circulation and that's in the buddhist world he would like to come here and discuss with us and have us enunciate the fundamental way to peace as we understand i do not know what his schedule will be i think it would be remarkable uh to have a man of his stature here and to be able to discuss with some of the faculty and in fact perhaps to discuss with some of you he speaks very good english his writing is good uh you would not find the people in srilanka of his level are deficient in good use of english because of the impact of britain for so many decades on the island in any case think of the implications of men of various levels like this and we are influencing as of 1987 we are included influencing many many individuals so many that we do not know i was recently invited by mr joseph decott jr and mr lipros i think mr lipros in a sense triggered the idea to a thai restaurant the assumption is i like thai food and so they hosted my wife and me uh the kind of prelude to this day and i came to this restaurant and the lady had seen me there before but she was not sure and i was introduced as myself and uh then she said something she said i think this is significant because it shows our impact she says many people in the thai community talk about you that is i am not the only one they talk about Mr Leon section who fell off the temple roof that is news anywhere he goes in thailand in the religious community he's knowing because of that now i learned to be known by other means but uh nevertheless we are knowing i uh have happily never had my picture in the los angeles times i regularly have it in the local publications in the thai community and the last one i was showing i was dancing the typical thai round dance and uh one of the leading

ladies of the southern california community there is uh depicted as showing me how it's it's obvious that i was copying as best i could the uh use of the hands of course are very critical uh mine do not flex like theirs uh but it's truly remarkable what they can do with their hands uh and it all has a meaning and a symbolism but we try to understand those things of the cultures of other nations that would be useful we don't try to be snobbish or assume that other people because they are different must be wrong maybe we all have learned some interesting things and can copy from one another so i'd like to conclude today with having you realize and think about what was said this morning and think about what our job is going to be as this festival symbolizes what is going to take place i have in a sense skipped over much of the terrible crisis that we are warning but we have the broadcast for that and we don't tell some of the things that we said this morning of this afternoon on telly so i thought i would spend a little time this afternoon focusing on what our job is going to be because on this festive day we commemorate not only the trumpets that sound in the day of the lord that lead up to the coming of christ but we discover that christ is coming at the last trumpets and there were traditionally seven blasts of the silver trumpet blowing on this day like there were blasts uh a blast on each of the new moons one through six and seven times on the seventh day as distinct from the question of the shofar which was specifically blown on this day unfortunately our english word trumpet doesn't distinguish it there was a silver trumpet defined in numbers 10 1 to 10 uh blown on numerous occasions and then there was the blowing of the shofar specifically on this day now this day is also a new moon and there was an ancient jewish tradition not stated in the bible you can find it revealed in hastings dictionary of the bible the multi-volume set where quoting from the jewish material in the mission and the talmud that the trumpets were blowing each month regularly assigned in the law november but in numbers excuse me uh 10 and then on the seventh month it was blowing seven times but not later in the year a little unusual and apparently paul refers to that the last trumpet but because he had not read the book of revelation paul was dead as far as we know 28 years before the book of revelation was made no one to the church of god so he had never read that in the book of revelation but he had had the tradition in the synagogue and so today in a sense tells us about the return of jesus christ and it's important in this connection to realize what our task is going to be one of the first things of course is to give an account of ourselves and to be assigned responsibility and then to get with it and to prepare the world as the millennium is going to open up by the 15th day of this month just that quickly if you think time drags wait till you become immortal and you will be having to work day and night and never get tired and never get hungry and we'll be given the responsibility of gradually bringing the children of israel back and of assigning people the responsibility of where to begin to meet once every week and to begin to assemble on annual holy days to begin to learn about the plan of god this year we have the remarkable opportunity to be in thailand a country that does not know the bible in particular other than a few and there will be a translation from our media and communication defining the nature of this festival it'll be slightly altered of course to meet the fact that they don't have a bible to read from normally but it will explain the purpose of the church in assembly and what we stand for and who these people are that will be coming over there our brethren of course will always be treated well wherever they go at this age at this time that won't be necessarily true later but right now we have peace and we should be thankful for it but in thailand we have the remarkable opportunity not only of observing the feast but for the first time meeting our delightful current brethren being hosts not only of the government but of the royal family and of those who serve in various travel capacities and it is my understanding that our brethren who will be in attendance will be given an opportunity to visit the agricultural experimental grounds of his majesty at chip with the palace in bangkok that indeed is a very very gracious gesture and an opportunity that is extraordinary because in a sense his majesty and her majesty see you as an extension of what they have known of those who have met them before and an extension of mr takata's leadership today i hope you will all have a safe trip to

the festival sites where you were going and take good care of yourselves and be back here for your responsibilities after this holy day season