

THE TKACH APOSTASY

By Bill Glover

In the June 2003 issue of *The Journal* was an article by Brian Knowles in which it was stressed that the Worldwide Church of God had done financial harm to its former ministers and employees by not participating in the government's social security program. Certainly it is true that many faithful ministers and employees suffered financially in their retirement years as a result of this failure. However, the harm suffered by these former employees is paled into insignificance by the monumental MENTAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL damages suffered by so many people - - NOT JUST FORMER EMPLOYEES BUT LOYAL AND FAITHFUL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH - - because of the attitude and actions of the new administration that seized control of the church and apostatized it.

Looking back in retrospect, it is clear that the Tkach's intended to apostatize the church from the very beginning. When they first wrestled control of the church from Herbert W. Armstrong they put forth a very deceptive front in an effort to cause members and ministers to believe they were going to put God first in the workings of the church. For the first year after the hostile takeover, Joseph Tkach, Sr., would assure members in the different church areas he visited officially that he was there to "MAKE CERTAIN YOUR MINISTER IS TAKING GOOD CARE OF YOU SPIRITUALLY!" He even repeated a "Biblical" phrase that resonated well with the people. He repeated often [at least for a while] that his personal motto was "ONE MUST WALK THE WALK AND NOT JUST TALK THE TALK!"

Members and ministers alike identified with this "slogan" and genuinely appreciated the thought it denoted. I personally was extremely pleased because I had witnessed and experienced so many areas where the church had not been WALKING THE WALK and where ministers had blatantly misused and abused their position in the church. Joseph Tkach, Sr., even told the people "I am from now on going to make certain your ministers stop being SHERIFFS and learn how to be SERVANTS. This seemed very good news - - especially for those who had been around for decades and had witnessed all that abuse. [Sad to say that most ministers in Worldwide were never able to stop being SHERIFFS or learn how to become SERVANTS - - their definition of "servants" seem to be that of CONTROL AND DOMINANCE. Most splinter groups still follow this policy and practice POLICING God's people and CONTROLLING THEM THROUGH THREATS OF EXPULSION].

Within months this false rhetoric and façade began to dim and eventually stopped altogether and the real INTENT, CHARACTER AND NATURE of the Tkach's began to appear as they gradually began the apostasy. This false façade for those first two years bought them time to build their power base so as to gain total control of this multi-million dollar empire they had just seized.

I was one of those fooled in the beginning. Having witnessed so much wrong in the church over the years I was OVERLY OPTIMISTIC about the hoped for changes that never came. At this point I wish to quote a portion of a personal letter I wrote to Joe, Jr., dated February 28, 1996

since this letter recounts the fact that I had voiced these same concerns to both Herbert W. Armstrong and Joseph Tkach, Sr., over the years and was about to voice them again to Joe, Jr., in this letter. The excerpted portion of this letter is as follows: [Should anyone want a copy of the entire letter, it is available upon request.]

"To: Mr. Joseph Tkach, Pastor General

RE: Spiritual Healing February 28, 1996

"I wrote to your father on July 5, 1988 inquiring ". . . whether or not spiritual help is available to hundreds and maybe even thousands who have been disfellowshipped over literal wrongs by church officials over the past forty plus years (those who were spiritually orphaned by the church) to consider what kind of help is available and whether or not those of us who have needed this help so desperately KNOW that it is available - - IF INDEED IT IS REALLY AVAILABLE. . . and (one) sincerely believes that God's Spirit would eventually CONVINCED SUCH OFFICIALS who had done hurt to others so that they could change and at least attempt to undo some of the damages they caused. But one never sees the slightest evidence in this regard.

"Having lived all my converted life under confusion, hurts, disillusionment etc., and having learned firsthand just how hard it is to KEEP ON KEEPING ON makes me hope and pray that God will cause you to see the need to MAKE HELP AVAILABLE to any out there who may need it so DESPERATELY AND TO LET IT BE KNOWN THAT SUCH IS AVAILABLE.

"Since this letter to your father was IGNORED I considered that THEN was not the TIME FOR REAL HELP to be made available to God's heritage FOR WHOM CHRIST DIED."

[INSERT:: The letter to Joe, Jr., goes on and vividly recounts many areas where specific wrongs occurred and where spiritual harm was done to God's people - - this letter also shows WHY the Church of God is in its present condition of confusion and division. Since Worldwide TURNED ITS BACK ON THOSE NEEDING SPIRITUAL HEALING, God TURNED HIS BACK ON WORLDWIDE. Too much spiritual harm had been done to God's people by that church and its ministry. These ministers refused to accept responsibility for the abuses they heaped on the people. Though God turned His back on the PHYSICAL ORGANIZATION called "The Worldwide Church of God" He has not turned His back on those faithful members of the Body of Christ that make up the SPIRITUAL BODY OF CHRIST. Sad to say many can no longer fellowship with brethren of like minds. There are over one thousand "splinter groups" that came out of Worldwide but each is "doing its own thing!" and not seeking the will of God.

We, of *The Living God Ministry*, are totally different. We are NOT a splinter group. We are a MINISTRY devoted to the task of helping God's people get on with their quest for salvation through Christ. Additionally we have learned through hard experiences that God does not always intervene and stop ministers from abusing the people or even apostatizing. Note that the *Journal* has articles and advertising which show that abuses continue and distortions abound. God allows this for two basic reasons. 1). To give abusive ministers plenty of time to either repent or to hang themselves. 2). To allow each person to determine whether he will follow these false ministers or

merely continue to allow himself to be deceived and abused. God expects each of us to develop character by making right choices.]

Due in part to the campaign I launched with Joe, Jr., he did in fact put forth an initial **TOKEN EFFORT** to at least "look at" this problem in the church [at least that is what he said in the Pastor General's Report]. I had vividly explained to him in two letters that **EVEN THE WORLDWIDE MINISTRY WAS SPIRITUALLY SICK** and in need of spiritual healing and help.

I was extremely elated when Joe, Jr., actually engaged a Worldwide minister by the name of David Covington, who had a degree in counseling, to check this matter out.. A series of regional conferences was scheduled. The sad part of this "token endeavor" was that **ONLY A ONE-HALF DAY SESSION** was allocated for this "spiritual harm" portion of this conference. [The real thrust of these conferences was to kick off the apostasy that officials had already determined was to take place.] And even with that very limited one half day portion for "spiritual healing" it was offered only on a volunteer basis **AND JOE TKACH AND OTHER TOP OFFICIALS WERE NOT PRESENT** showing clearly that they did not intend for those sessions to accomplish anything.

During the "spiritual healing " portion of this Portland, Oregon conference only about fifteen people attended. Of the fifteen in attendance only three people spoke out voicing some of our experiences. The first one to speak offered only a relatively minor point [to me indicating that all were actually afraid to tell how they felt or admit they needed help.] The second person to speak related an experience he had of praying earnestly for a gravely ill infant and then experiencing the death of that infant. He broke down in sobs and it was evident that he needed help and serious counseling on the matter [**WHICH HE NEVER RECEIVED**].

I was the third and final person to speak expressing deep hurts experienced at the hands of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. Every one in the room cried as I spoke.

The meeting ended with no counseling, no help, no encouragement and no instruction. That was the **SUM TOTAL** of the "spiritual help" available *then* and *now* **FROM THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD** for its ministry and its members. David Covington made his report to the Pasadena headquarters (primarily Joe, Jr.,) stating that a large number of ministers were in need of spiritual help and counseling [**AND THAT DID NOT EVEN INCLUDE THE THOUSANDS OF CHURCH MEMBERS WHO NEEDED HELP DUE TO THE ABUSE.**]

When the Portland session ended I immediately contacted Joe, Jr., protesting that not only had the "program" **FAILED** it actually did more harm not only to those who voiced hurts but for others unwilling to express themselves. That there was not the time or opportunity to pursue spiritual healing that was so badly needed. That there was **NO CLOSURE** to these problems. That people were forced to return home with their problems intact. That the short session merely **OPENED THE WOUNDS OF A FEW** but then **LEFT THOSE WOUNDS THERE UNTREATED AND FESTERING**. It also served notice to all the rest that there was no concern by the administration over these matters. It also convinced all ministers present that they dare not voice any hurt or question the administration. And this was only the ministers and did not include the thousands of church members who needed help.

Joe, Jr., immediately SHUT DOWN this token program. He had to do so as he had no other choice except RESIGN HIS POSITION - - which he definitely was not going to do. He realized that he was totally unfit and unqualified to fulfill the job of pastor general - - OR EVEN A MINISTER FOR THAT MATTER!

Up to that point I was trying to give Joe, Jr., the benefit of the doubt and giving him time to "get a handle on" the problems the church faced. I had already begun to wonder why he was so hesitant in his actions to address the needs of the church. Finally I was forced to admit the man has no comprehension of what it takes to be a minister LET ALONE A PASTOR GENERAL IN CHARGE OF MINISTERS. He has no empathy for the people or the ministers in his charge. One cannot help but wonder if the man was ever converted and if he ever received the Holy Spirit. I personally have found him to be a SPIRITUAL COWARD as he uses his "goon squad" to do his dirty work and I advised him of that fact.

He has only his carnal human mind to rely on in attempting to address *SPIRITUAL* problems in the church. Can there be any question as to why he has now embraced anti-Semitism, holidays originating in pagan countries, doing away with the laws of God and other practices originating from Satan's churches of this world? He has blatantly stated he embraces "TRADITIONAL CHRISTIANITY" as he rejects the clear teachings of the Bible. He has even JOINED [on behalf of Worldwide] church councils which clearly reject the God of the Bible. God commands His true people to COME OUT FROM THE WORLD AND BE DIFFERENT (Rev. 18:4 and 2 Cor. 6::16-18) but Joe says "Let us join the world and its religions and follow their pagan practices."

I was not the only one who tried to enter a dialogue with Joe on this apostasy. He refused any and all dialogues and had his henchmen proceed with the apostasy. He had his good squad excommunicate me.

My son, Stephen Glover, was pastor of churches in Alabama and Georgia at that time. He was pressured by the regional pastor to preach these apostasies which he could not conscientiously do. He continued to use the Bible as the only basis for his sermons. This was unacceptable to Joe. Joe then had his goon squad fire Stephen as a representative of Worldwide claiming they were removing him from the ministry. Stephen made it clear that HIS MINISTRY was FROM GOD and that ONLY GOD COULD REMOVE HIM. Once fired Stephen contacted Joe inquiring why. For quite some time Joe refused his telephone calls. Finally realizing Stephen was not going to quit trying to make contact Joe took a call. Stephen ask WHY he was fired. Joe replied "Didn't they (Joe's goon squad) tell you?" Stephen replied "No!" Then Joe said, "Well, I won't tell you either!" This is only one example of many examples of the cowardliness of Joe Tkach.

Joe, over a period of a few months "retired" all the senior ministers who would have opposed his apostatizing of the church and let it be known that if they opposed him he would cut off their pension - - their livelihood! In order to draw their retirement salary they had to keep quiet and do or say nothing in opposition to this apostasy. Such is a DASTARDLY DEED by Joe.

But it was emotionally and spiritually crippling to these men. God will not take this lightly.

With the new "revelations" emanating from Pasadena, it is clearly stated that God's holy days are to be repudiated and other clear teachings of the Bible REJECTED. This will throw thousands of members in Worldwide into limbo. There are many people just "hanging on" in Worldwide "hoping" that somehow God will intervene and reverse these trends. But God is NOT going to do that. Remember that Paul clearly stated that the apostasy had already begun during his days (see Acts 17:28-31). GOD ALLOWED THAT TO HAPPEN. God wants to see if we, as INDIVIDUALS, will allow ourselves to be led astray by false teachers and thus lose our salvation. We are responsible for our own salvation. That thought scares many people since it places on the individual the responsibility of PROVING ALL THINGS AND THEN HOLDING FAST TO THOSE WHICH ARE RIGHT (I Thes. 5:21).

We should all be praying for those still in Worldwide. They really need our prayers. We already know how hard it was to walk away from what we thought was "the church." But Worldwide CEASED TO BE THE CHURCH WHEN MR. ARMSTRONG ALLOWED JOSEPH TKACH TO FORCE HIM TO APPOINT TKACH AS PASTOR GENERAL. Sad to say Mr. Armstrong had made many very serious mistakes that Joseph Tkach learned about and used against Mr. Armstrong. Joseph Tkach established what he called a "Leadership Training Program" so as to have a "goon squad" ready to back up his hostile takeover of the church. The truly sad part of this is the fact that those leading ministers disliking this hostile takeover MERELY WALKED AWAY! They had absolutely *NO FAITH OR CONFIDENCE IN THEIR PERSONAL MINISTRY* or in the *GOD* they claimed to represent and serve. What a shame these men had no faith in either God or their own ministry! If these men were truly MEN OF GOD they would have stood up and called on God to back their stance AS ELIJAH DID! But NOT A SINGLE MINISTER IN THAT GROUP HAD THAT KIND OF FAITH IN GOD OR IN HIS OWN MINISTRY. They were all too cowardly to make such a stand and to *EXPECT* God to back them up. They merely commiserated with each other and then crept away and *SECRETLY* amassed a following after themselves so as to start their own church which has now divided over and over again and again. Look at the FRUITS of all these splinter groups. Look at all the arguing and bickering that goes on continually. Yet their followers never seem to stop and ask about the kind of leaders they are following. I ask all ministers to consider how serious it is to claim to be a minister of the Almighty God when they have no DIVINE PROOF that GOD honors their ministry. It takes much more than a ministerial certificate to be a true minister of God. It is high time these men realize this fact before they bring God's judgment on themselves.

Every person reading this should take serious stock of himself/herself. Whom are you following?

What is the source of your beliefs? Are you looking to human beings for your salvation? Are you sure? Are you truly looking to God? My job is to ask you this. It is your job to answer that question before God. Since you have now read this, you are now responsible before God to act according to God's clear instructions. But we won't tell you what to do.

We, of *The Living God Ministry*, want all reading this to know that WE ARE NOT A "SPLINTER GROUP!" We are A *MINISTRY FROM JESUS CHRIST* devoted to helping God's people find their way through all this hurt and confusion. You will never hear us say "FOLLOW US!" We teach you to "FOLLOW CHRIST!" You will never hear us tell you to "TRUST US"

with your salvation. You will, however, hear us tell you to trust God and Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit and to believe **ONLY WHAT YOU CAN PROVE FROM THE BIBLE**.

We do no proselytizing. We do not try and get you to join our "group." Your religion is between you and God. We tell people that they answer to God and God alone for their actions and practices. We tell people that they must **WORK OUT THEIR OWN SALVATION** (Eph 2:12). It is not our job or responsibility to police God's people or try and coerce them into the kingdom. Each person has the obligation to **STIR UP THE HOLY SPIRIT IN HIMSELF** (2 Tim. 1:6-7).

We need to realize and admit that this apostasy has indeed occurred. But we must also realize that our salvation is still at stake. God did not cause the apostasy. He merely **ALLOWED** it to occur so as to determine who is going to be truly loyal to Him and His word.

I may never personally meet many of you reading this article. But that need not matter. God says "My sheep **KNOW MY VOICE!**" If you are one of those few whom God the father has called (see John 6:44) then you will recognize who is truly behind *THE LIVING GOD MINISTRY*. It is **NOT** our job to prove to you that we represent God. When John sent his disciples to ask Christ if He were the one sent from God, Christ's reply was "LOOK AT THE FRUITS!" (see Matthew 11:2-5).

Our job is to advise you of these things. It is your job to go to God **THROUGH THE BIBLE** and determine if these things are true. If you have read this article in its entirety then you have been exposed to the true facts. It is now up to you what you will do to secure your own salvation.

Should someone question my statements about the Tkachs, let me state that I received a threatening letter from the corporate lawyer of Worldwide attempting to frighten me with a threat of some kind of legal action if I talked. I did not bother to reply to the attorney but wrote to Joe, Jr. making it crystal clear that I would welcome any action he chose to take. Joe, Jr. knows that I make no statements I am not prepared to back up even in a court of law should he be foolish enough to try and go there. Joe knows that if legal action is taken I will subpoena records and depose officials under oath and he cannot afford to allow me that opportunity. Joe knows he got his position as pastor general through nepotism and that his father got that position through manipulating Mr. Armstrong because of many very serious sins. Joe Tkach cannot afford to make a **LEGAL ENEMY** of me. He cannot afford to have federal, state, county and local police swarming all over the Pasadena headquarters of Worldwide.

Since God never recognized either Joseph Tkach, Sr. or Joe, Jr. as the pastor general, I have absolutely no fear of them or their supposed "authority" since it was never from God. Sad to say that Joe has less fear of The Almighty Creator God than he has of federal, state, county and local police officials should he force me to defend myself in a court of law.

Let me make it clear that I have no animosity toward Joe. I am more than willing to allow God the responsibility of judging him, and I have so advised Joe. I once told Joe [while I was trying to help him realize his responsibilities as pastor general] that I was ". . . the best brother, friend, fellow Christian and fellow minister that he has anywhere since I can look him squarely in the eyes and tell him where he is wrong without being judgmental." That is still true today!

For those who have a keen resentment for the Tkach's, let me advise you that these men SINNED AGAINST GOD. God will judge them. They will not escape what they have done.

But we must leave ALL the judging to God FOR HE WILL RECOMPENSE! (Matt. 6:14-15).

We encourage you to get on with your quest for salvation. But this time entrust that salvation to God and Christ through the Holy Spirit and not mere human beings no matter who they claim to be. May God help all of you reading this begin to really look to and trust God and God alone!

Most of us once believed that Worldwide was the TRUE church . Then it apostatized. Some took up with one or more of the "splinter groups" thinking they were then the church. Some even believe that all the different groups make up THE CHURCHES OF GOD and that somehow all these many and varied groups make up the true church. The truth of the matter is that THE CHURCH is not any or all these varying groups. The ACTUAL CHURCH is in reality A SPIRITUAL ORGANISM made up of single individuals who may be scattered abroad. That is why we of *The living God Ministry*, do not call ourselves a church organization. WE ARE A MINISTRY DEVOTED TO THOSE CALLED OUT ONES WHO MAY BE SCATTERED ALL OVER THIS EARTH. Our mission is to make ourselves available to GOD'S TRUE PEOPLE wherever they may be.

The question for each of you reading this is what you intend to do about your personal salvation. Your salvation was not dependent on Worldwide or any other church organization and certainly not any human being. Your salvation is between you and God

As *The Living God Ministry*, our job is to point out from the Bible what God says about repentance, salvation and preparing to meet our maker. Once we have done this we have fulfilled our responsibility before God. Then you must fulfill your personal responsibility for your own salvation. Our sincere hope and prayer is that you will be able to do this and not let any man sidetrack you again. Your salvation is very precious to God - - precious enough that it cost Jesus His life. May God help you in your quest for salvation and if we can help you find other words of instruction from God in the Bible please let us know. We are here to serve you but we will never try and tell you what to believe or practice. That is your personal responsibility BEFORE GOD!

If you know of someone who can benefit from this article then please pass it on or have that person contact us for a free copy. We serve God's people with no strings attached. Should any wish to aid us in providing this spiritual help for God's people then it should be known that we are recognized by the IRS as a nonprofit entity and contributions are deductible on tax returns.

Please be assured that we do not pursue anyone. Neither do we try to get any one to join our "group." This ministry is going out AS A WITNESS. Then, each person who reads our material or listens to our taped sermons must decide - - WITHOUT ANY PRESSURE FROM US - - what he or she will do about it. That is God's way.

Since this ministry is FROM GOD that is the reason we tell people they should not read our material UNLESS THEY ARE DEAD SERIOUS ABOUT THEIR SALVATION AND ABOUT GOD.

Your next move is squarely in your hands!