

PASTOR'S REPORT



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The PLAIN TRUTH About the "STP" and WHY God Did Not Choose Scholars to Determine His Doctrines

by Herbert W. Armstrong

There is a tendency to want to become "scholarly"--or to look to "Scholars" as authorities for God's doctrines.

We need to understand this point! For God has NOT chosen the scholarly to receive, comprehend, understand, and reveal to His Church His true DOCTRINES and customs. Some have not realized that fact.

While I was overseas carrying Christ's Gospel into nations around the world, my son decided, overstepping his authority, that he would like to see our Church doctrines re-examined, questioned, refined, organized and systematized in a more "scholarly" manner.

I presume that naturally he was prompted in this by the urging of a scholar more recently come among us--that is, compared to such men as Drs. Hoeh and Meredith, Raymond McNair, and Dibar Apartian -- and not as thoroughly grounded in God's Truth. Intentionally unknown to me, and without authority to do so, he set Dr. Robert Kuhn, with the help of a few others, to work on the project.

God is emphatically not opposed to knowledge and understanding. But modern "scholarship" speaks a language all its own. Many of our substantial, understanding, "middle-class" (as the world classifies) members might need an interpreter to translate this "language of scholarship" into ordinary English.

What magnet draws one to want to become "scholarly"? The appeal to vanity leads many. I think it is normal for all of us to have inner feelings of inferiority. The "scholar" has been trained in the higher educational levels of universities, to acquire this badge of scholarship. It is not only a manner of speaking and writing. It is a way of thinking--an attitude. And I will say bluntly it is injected by Satan. It is a form of intellectual vanity!

The intellectual and scholarly professor--especially if he has a Ph.D.--uses this acquirement to intimidate his students. The "scholarly" attitude and manner holds itself loftily above those being addressed. He is in an exclusive class that disdains the proletariat.

But what kind of men did JESUS call and choose to be His apostles? NOT the "scholarly" but men called by the scholarly as "ignorant and unlearned men." But that does not mean illiterate or devoid of knowledge.

They were knowledgable men of BALANCE, of GOOD UNDERSTANDING, common sense, and good and capable minds. They simply were not trained in the acquired higher social mannerisms and culture of the time, that ante-dated modern "scholarship"--injected by Satan in our time.

The Apostle Paul was perhaps better educated in the world's knowledge than the twelve, but by no means a "scholar," like the modern variety.

I suppose it is natural that I should have asked myself many times why God called such an unscholarly man as I. I have known scores of men of better minds, greater mental capacity, superior abilities, more stature and appearance and personality. Many or most of these were "successful" in the world, as the world evaluates success. Yet GOD CHOSE NONE OF THEM!

While I have known many of better minds, still I believe God gave me a good mind, and a natural gift of understanding--and a good deal of common sense. I am certainly no "scholar" nor an "intellectual." I am sure the "scholars" consider themselves very superior to me. But this I know: when God conquered me, brought me to BELIEVE in Him--and further, to BELIEVE HIM--believe what He says, I was willing to accept it. God revealed to me early that HE is a God who WILL NOT COMPROMISE. He will not WATER DOWN His Truth. It would have been easier for God to have compromised just a little with His Law --to just say, "I have power to forgive sins by simply SUSPENDING the PENALTY of sin." That way He could have prevented sacrificing His only begotten Son, and Jesus could have escaped the agony of a humiliating death. But rather than water down, or compromise one trillionth part of an inch with His Law, God paid our penalty in our stead by giving His Son Jesus, and Jesus paid the death penalty to save us from the penalty of our sins--the second death (man already was consigned to die the first death BEFORE Christ came "as in Adam all die.")

Therefore I know I was willing to let God put it in my heart NEVER TO COMPROMISE with His TRUTH!

If I am proved wrong on a point I will change. My mind will be open for truth new to me--and all this has been abundantly proven. Perhaps that may partly explain how Christ came to choose as His Apostle one who would consider himself a lowly worm.

I was discussing this matter of intellectualism and scholarship with Mr. Rader. Out of curiosity, grinning a little, I asked him, "How would you categorize me, in this regard?"

"Well, definitely you are not a scholar or an intellectual--but you are a well-educated man who has understanding, common sense, and BALANCE."

What is the magnet that draws certain ones to train for "scholarship?"

First, I believe it is that inner feeling of inferiority which I believe we all have--but we don't like to admit it. However, we desire to find a way to "ride over it" to relieve our consciences, and, further, there is the magnet of intellectual vanity.

Nearly all "scholars," of course, have come up through the channel of this world's system of modern education. I suppose we seldom stop to realize this entire system has been swayed by Satan. Nevertheless, a college or university student finds himself suffering from being mentally and psychologically INTIMIDATED by professors who speak this "language of scholarship." The professor purposely makes the student feel uncomfortable and inferior. His own VANITY causes him to assume a superior attitude. This, in turn, stirs up anew the innate feeling of inferiority in the student. He begins to want to acquire this same "SUPERIOR" demeanor and bearing.

However, once a "scholar" he will seldom change his mind. He is right--he knows he is right--others are wrong--his intellectual vanity will not let him admit error.

Did you realize that in the world of jurisprudence, a jury of twelve is always composed of people of common, ordinary background --and never of "intellectuals" or "scholars"? Reasons? A lawyer will tell you the "scholar" does not have an open mind--and he will not change his mind on evidence.

Now the Worldwide Church of God is composed, as was the first-century Church, of the average, common people--few illiterate, and very few "intellectuals."

But the theological seminaries, and the universities, especially on the higher levels, have fallen heir to the attitude, demeanor and the language of "scholarship." The Bible dictionaries, the commentaries, religious encyclopedias, and other such works are all scholarly, well organized, classified and refined.

I think my son was influenced into engaging in a "scholarly" project, to re-examine, question, refine (that is, water down and change) alter, organize and systematize the beliefs and teachings of the Worldwide Church of God--as he and the "scholars" would like to have them presented.

The entire project was carefully and deliberately kept from me. Men who might have seen the drift setting in, to COMPROMISE with God's TRUTH, yet present it in such a scholarly manner that the Church would accept it, were forbidden to contact me or be fired!

Dr. Kuhn, who tells me in writing he wrote most or virtually all of it, with some input, is a scholar, who, as stated above, had come more recently among us, compared to such men as Drs. Hoeh, Meredith and Zimmerman, or Raymond McNair, Dibar Apartian, etc.

Now HOW did Jesus Christ, as HEAD of the Worldwide Church of God, put HIS truths, doctrines and practices into this Church? The answer is, through His own chosen apostle!

But my son did not agree with Christ's Apostle. I did not know of the width of that disagreement. I remember that when I had preached a sermon, probably as far back as 1955, he strongly disagreed, though I soon forgot it. I did think he was almost wholly in agreement on biblical doctrines.

Now it happens that Christ put His doctrines in this Church through His own chosen Apostle. Had I known my son was so far out of harmony, he would never have held the office he held and abused.

Much in the "STP" is in error--much of it so subtly and in a minor way that it might not be noticed by many. I have undertaken to correct these errors. The "STP" is, of course, null and void. It CANNOT be salvaged. But I shall try to correct the errors, minor as well as major, as time permits.

THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT THE COVENANTS

by Herbert W. Armstrong

One of the most important doctrines Jesus Christ has put in His Church is that of the "Old," and the "New Covenants." WHY should these be misunderstood? For that matter, WHY should the Sabbath truth, the annual holy days and festivals, tithing, healing, or even salvation? Yet they are misunderstood.

God has made a number of covenants, among them the Noachian covenant, the Abrahamic covenant, what we call the Old Covenant with the nation Israel, the separate Sabbath covenant of Exodus 31:12-18, the Davidic covenant, etc.

In fact, it might be of passing interest to know that my first "sermon," if it could have been called that, was a message to Church of God people near Jefferson, Oregon, on a covenant that appeared to be news to them--the separate Sabbath covenant of Exodus 31:12-18. Whether worthy to be called a sermon or not, it was enthusiastically received with joy--for those people loved the Sabbath, and rejoiced in receiving new light concerning it.

However, I am concerned here only about the "Old Covenant," and the "New Covenant."

Let me first define "covenant." Webster defines the word as a "usually formal, solemn, and binding agreement: compact." In the biblical usage a covenant is a contract or agreement, solemnly binding, under which God promises certain rewards or blessings, conditioned on man's promise of performance.

A grave mistake very often carelessly made is to confuse the word "covenant" with "testament." We speak of the New Testament, and the Old Testament Scriptures.

A testament is not a covenant, and a covenant is not a testament. Yet common usage seems to confuse them. It is important, at the outset, to understand the difference.

The word "testament" is defined as: an act or written instrument by which a person bequeathes, or wills certain of his possessions to another. It may or may not be a conditioned will. It is not necessarily payment or reward for work or obligation performed.

The Old Covenant between God and the nation Israel was NOT a testament or will. It was an agreement by which the children of Israel

covenanted with God to obey Him, and God promised material and national blessings and dominance. But He did NOT give--or promise to give --the Holy Spirit and eternal salvation.

Before proceeding further, let's get everything in its proper setting.

The first man, Adam, was required to make a choice. The super archangel Lucifer, having become Satan the Devil, an immortal spirit being of tremendous supernatural power, was there when Adam and Eve were created. In order to QUALIFY to receive God's Holy Spirit, symbolized by the tree of life--and also to restore the Government of God to earth--Adam had to make the choice of whether to reject Satan and Satan's attitude and way, and choose to obey God and the Government of God.

But Adam chose to reject God, and believe Satan. He made the fateful decision--for himself and his posterity which is the whole world. God drove out the man from the garden of Eden, and shut mankind off from access to the Holy Spirit--except such as God should specially call.

We need the above background to understand. Too often people start viewing biblical teaching in a manner comparable to tuning in a "movie" two-thirds of the way through. We need this background of what went before.

God had called Noah, and saved humanity alive through his family. God had called Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Israel), fathers of the PROMISES. One of the promises to Abraham was multiple "seed"--nations, the promised land--material national greatness.

Four hundred and thirty years after Abraham God called the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to be a special people of God, and to inherit the promised land. Other nations were still CUT OFF from God. God had specially prepared and called Moses. Through Moses God made the proposition to the Israelites. He gave them their choice.

God proposed to the Israelites: "Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians...Now, therefore, IF ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people" (Ex. 19:4-6).

There was a very large IF in this covenant agreement. But the people glibly agreed. "All that the Eternal hath spoken we will do," they promised.

So the covenant was ratified by blood (Ex. 24:4-8). It was also a marriage covenant by which Israel promised to obey her Husband. It made them a separate NATION. Its basic law was the spiritual Law --the Ten Commandments. He gave them His civil law of statutes and judgments to govern them as a nation. He also gave them, as a CHURCH or congregation, the law of Moses--a sacrificial law as a substitute for the sacrifice of Christ to remind them of sin, and a ceremonial law of physical works (Grk. ergon in N.T.) which were rituals, and things to do morning, noon and night--a temporary substitute for the Holy Spirit.

But something was wrong with that covenant. Religionists generally seem to blame the wrong on God. What was wrong was the flagrant disobedience of the people.

The prophet Jeremiah summed it up: "Behold the days come, saith the Eternal, that I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel, and with the House of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers...which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Eternal. But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the House of Israel; After those days, saith the Eternal, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people" (Jer. 31:31-33).

This prophecy was inspired by one of God's holy prophets, to become part of the FOUNDATION of the Church of God under the New Testament. And so, in teaching the Church, this was quoted in Hebrews 8:6-10.

Most Protestant churches teach that the fault with the Old Covenant was God's Law, and that as the Old Covenant was made with Israel the New will be made with GENTILES--and as the Old had Law, the New abolishes God's Ten Commandments and is based wholly on PROMISES. Our ministers need to know how to meet that erroneous teaching.

The New Covenant is made also with the House of Israel and the House of Judah (Heb. 8:8). A Spirit-begotten Gentile becomes one of Israel spiritually, of the Household of GOD (Eph. 2:19).

The New will remedy the fault of the Old (disobedience of the people) and will be made with those in whose hearts is the spiritual Law of God, as these scriptures say.

The Old Covenant was made with the carnal children of Israel, and was a marriage contract in which Israel engaged in whoredom exceeding individual human harlots.

The Old was made with a people on their PROMISE to obey. They disobeyed. The New shall be made only with a Spirit-born Church, a people who, in this mortal lifetime, through Christ and the Holy Spirit, have OVERCOME Satan (as Jesus did, and as the first Adam failed to do), have been begotten of the Holy Spirit, and have already PROVED their obedience. The Old was made with sinning mortals. The New will be made with righteous immortals!

Now, where are we, today?

Both Israel and Judah violated their solemn agreement with God (actually the One who became Christ). As a wife, they spiritually ran off. Finally God gave Israel a bill of divorce (Jer. 31:8). Yet, even after that He entreated Israel to return to Him--but she wouldn't.

To make that Old Testament marriage finally end, Christ, her Husband, died, so that she might be cleansed of her sins, and become party to the New Testament. In Romans 11 we read of how converted

Gentiles are like branches of a wild olive tree, broken off and grafted into the natural Olive tree of Israel. But it shows how the natural branches, broken off because of sin, may also be grafted back into the Israel tree.

Then WHAT ARE WE UNDER TODAY?

The Old Covenant is ENDED. The Apostle Paul said "God who also hath made us able ministers of the New Testament, not of the letter, but of the spirit for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life" (II Cor. 3:6).

Yet the New Covenant HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE! Its terms and conditions have been revealed to us through Christ. We ministers preach it. And even though as a final MARRIAGE COVENANT it has not been made --that is, in contract language, "signed, sealed and delivered." We who God has called are privileged to have God's Law written in our hearts, to have the life-begetting, sin-overcoming Holy Spirit to open our minds to spiritual UNDERSTANDING, to guide us in God's ways, and, within us, to EMPOWER us to overcome Satan, and DO THE WORK OF GOD!

But some have seriously MISUNDERSTOOD--hopefully not any of our ministers. Seeing that the Old Covenant has ended, and supposing the Old Covenant and the Old Testament are one and the same thing, they reject, for example, Malachi 3:8-12, which makes failure to PAY the tithe each OWES to God the SIN of STEALING--and the HEINOUS SIN of stealing from GOD at that!

In the days of Jesus' ministry, the writings we now call "the Old Testament," were not called that. In fact the Old Covenant was NOT A TESTAMENT AT ALL! Those writings then were called "The Law, the Prophets, and the writings," or the "Psalms."

When Jesus said, "Think not that I have come to destroy the law or the prophets," He was saying that He did not come to end the "Old Testament" (as we now call them) Scriptures. God's CHURCH is built on the very FOUNDATION of the Apostles AND THE PROPHETS, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone!

Much of the Church's doctrine and teaching comes from the Prophets, as their writings are recorded in what today we call Old Testament Scriptures.

The Old Testament Scriptures record for us, today, all the history of ancient Israel, the Old Covenant, and God's dealings under that Covenant.

The Worldwide Church of God is based on THE WHOLE BIBLE.

Those CALLED of God are privileged to live according to the conditions of the NEW Covenant, though the actual covenant has not been, as we might say today, yet "signed, sealed and delivered." Those NOT called specially by God are, as were all outside Israel in Old Testament times, cut off from God--not being now judged--neither lost nor saved. Their time is yet to come!

FROM PASTORAL ADMINISTRATION

Greetings Fellow Ministers:

I have several things I wanted to discuss with you this week, but regret that I'll have to defer until another time--hopefully next week. We are extremely busy this week and I simply have not had the time to write for the Pastor's Report.

--C. Wayne Cole

PLAIN TRUTH UPDATE

I have had the opportunity to talk with Mr. Armstrong twice this past week. He's been working very hard. He said he was up until 3:00 a.m. reading the December PT! At least we have one zealous reader! He has spent many hours going over copy for the January number which has now gone to press. He approved a cover for it as well (the new pope). Roger Lippross expects the January number to do very well on the newsstands in this country. Mr. Armstrong now has five articles in the January issue, totaling some 30 pages of copy. And I can say from my own experience that represents an awful lot of hard work.

Mr. Armstrong has been spending many hours at his typewriter over in Tucson. He's been working in four-and five-hour stints, he told me. This is causing him some difficulty in his legs due to poor circulation, so he's hoping to do more walking this week to loosen things up again.

Work is well under way for the 45th Anniversary edition of the PT (February).

--Brian Knowles, Editorial Services

CIRCULATION POLICY FOR GOOD NEWS & WORLDWIDE NEWS

Greetings from the editorial staff of the Worldwide News and the Good News magazine. We are progressing very smoothly with the make-up and production of the first Good News magazine. Our first issue will be printed late December for distribution in January. Thought I would print the following policy statements on circulation for the Good News so that all concerned would be informed on who will be receiving these designated publications.

Thanks again for your support and prayers. Once again I wish to remind any of you that feel you would like to send us a short article or sermonette for the Sharing column or a tape for a sermon summary, we would sincerely welcome it for consideration in a future issue.

GN Circulation Policy

The new Good News magazine will be a two-signature 32-page, four-color magazine published monthly except for combined issues in July-August and September-October.

In the U.S. it will be sent to all member and coworker head of households. The U.S. will absorb the costs of printing for each of the International areas, though they will be expected to cover the cost of shipping. There are no plans at this time to expand the circulation to any others besides members and coworkers or to translate the GN into other languages. In the future these options will be re-evaluated.

WN Circulation Policy

The Worldwide News is sent free of charge to all baptized head of household members. Newly baptized members will be added automatically to our lists. Co-workers and other interested persons who wish to be added to The Worldwide News mailing list may receive the paper upon written request.

--Dexter Faulkner, Good News/WN Editorial

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

We are at the moment working on material for the ministerial conference concerning the publishing area. New publication production schedules for 1979 are also being developed.

Of course, Quest magazine is still very much alive and we are busy working on some changes in format for 1979/80. Things look very good in that area. Mr. Armstrong's member letter about Quest gives those of us who work directly with the magazine a renewed sense of direction.

Everest House, our book publishing venture, is doing very well indeed. We've already established ourselves in the book trade and have sold the reprint rights of several books. Mr. Armstrong's other hard-bound books are coming along well for spring '79 publication.

--Roger G. Lippross, Publishing Services

TV PRODUCTION UPDATE

This week a camera crew (Dick Quincer, Ron Prociw, Steve Szabo, and Jack Epps) is leaving in advance of Mr. Armstrong on his trip to Jerusalem and London. They will record Mr. Armstrong's meetings with government officials, dinners at which Mr. Armstrong will be honored, as well as various projects in which the Ambassador Foundation is presently involved.

As Mr. Rader indicated in the previous Pastor's Report, we are working on the pilot for a new series of programs which, if approved by Mr. Armstrong, are scheduled to start airing in the fall of 1979. Some of the material gathered on this present trip to the Middle East will be included in at least one section of the pilot program.

Some other areas of interest that our Television crew will try to gather footage on will be the archaeological dig, general street scenes and holy places within Jerusalem, the International Cultural Center for Youth, and the possibility of interviews with important personalities regarding the Middle East situation.

More news will be forthcoming as soon as Mr. Armstrong approves the format of the proposed new series of television programs.

--John Lundberg, Media Division

RECEIPT PROGRAM PRODUCING EXCELLENT RESPONSE

Since December 1977 the "Sermon Summaries" offered with weekly and monthly receipts have been some of the best pulling literature advertised by Subscriber Development.

The Receipt Program works essentially like this: first-time donors, and donors who contribute to Ambassador College or Worldwide Church of God,

receive a weekly receipt at the time they donate. (Regular contributors, such as members and co-workers, receive receipts on a monthly basis.) And, with the receipt form, we also enclose a descriptive card which offers a current "Sermon Summary" on the Bible, prophecy, Christian living, family relations, etc. These summaries are brief condensations of selected sermons given in local headquarters churches -- and in appearance resemble small reprint articles. (Member receipts do not include these "Sermon Summary" articles, since the summaries are being printed in the Good News tabloid.)

Response has been very good for these summaries! Since the program began, over 134,000 summaries have been sent out. Here is a brief breakdown of how different facets of the Receipt Program have been doing:

First-time receipts advertise "What Is The True Gospel?" This receipt has been averaging 16% response from basically brand new first-time donors.

Ambassador College receipts advertising Sermon Summaries are averaging a 24% response.

Worldwide Church of God weekly receipts are pulling an average 21% response as a result of Sermon Summaries.

Non-member monthly receipts, which go to our best co-workers, are producing a 30% response average.

Obviously, we are pleased with the results to this point--and, with God's blessing, we hope the program can continue to produce good fruit in the lives of individuals and for the Work. It is interesting that forty-six percent of the total income produced from Subscriber Development mailings is coming from the Receipt Program. The inspired messages of God's ministers, as capsulized in these Summaries, are truly giving the people good spiritual food and they appreciate it very much.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

Y.O.U. CONFERENCE UPDATE

The youth conference is now taking definite shape. We have two full weeks before the first representatives arrive. In all there will be 550 youths at the conference. By some miracle nearly half are boys and the other half, the other half!

The reps come from all 50 states representing 290 churches in the U.S. and 14 churches from 17 foreign countries. Forty youths are coming from countries not on the North American continent.

Leadership is the theme for this year's conference. All the lectures and workshops are designed to relate to that theme. The program will include lectures and workshops on "peer pressure and leadership," "how to get along with peers and adults," "the importance of leadership," "communication and motivation," "overcoming a negative background," "preparing for one's career," "personal presentation and leadership," "organizing a successful activity group," "news reporting for your local chapter," "Christian living for the youth leader," and "three phases of preparation for adulthood."

In addition to these specific subjects will be a question and answer period chaired by Mr. Wayne Cole, a special meeting of each regional coordinator with all the reps from his region, a workshop to carefully examine the Y.O.U. manual, a presentation by Ambassador College officials on the upcoming program for the college, a series of reports from the reps from overseas chapters, and a special presentation on S.E.P. and the opportunities it affords to the youth in service and recreation.

The speakers for this year's program are Mr. Wayne Cole, Mr. Raymond McNair, Mr. Dave Antion, Dr. George Geis, Dr. Robert Oberlander, Mr. Les Stocker, Mr. Greg Albrecht, Dennis Robertson, Vernon Hargrove, Joe Horchak, Dan Bierer, Tim Love, Mr. Jim Thornhill and the Y.O.U. staff, and all 12 regional coordinators. In addition, to our in-house speakers, our guests will include Dr. Marty Baren, Mr. Ron La Flore, Mr. Paul Yearout, Ms. Alys Swan and Mr. Jack Ferrel.

Mr. Armstrong had planned to give the keynote address on the Sabbath, but will be in Jerusalem at that time and therefore unable to be with us. Mr. Wayne Cole will give the address in Mr. Armstrong's stead.

Other Related Matters of Interest

Everyone will be housed on campus (many will be on mattresses on the floor, but all will be comfortable). Evening entertainment will consist of a trip to Disneyland, one semi-formal dance, one casual dance, and a game evening that defies labels!

--Ron Dick, Y.O.U.

Y.E.S. UPDATE

Many questions are coming in about the progress of the Sabbath education program (Y.E.S.) materials. It is encouraging to see the interest from all of you regarding this facet of the Y.O.U. program.

As you may have already read in the Pastor's Report, Mr. Cole presented our proposal to Mr. Armstrong before the Feast and he was very enthusiastic and approving of the idea that our youth receive formal biblical instruction on the Sabbath.

Starting in January, we will begin producing a curriculum for five different age groups. The material will provide a well-designed teaching schedule of subjects to fit the ages involved and be seasonal in accordance with the Holy Days.

At the same time the curriculum is being designed and produced, we hope to make a cassette program for the potential instructors. The exact methods and materials are yet to be chosen. We also plan to have available materials for the parents so they may teach their children at home in concert with the formal Sabbath education program.

Our target date for the distribution of the first materials is around Passover time. The material at that time will be for the younger age groups along with their instructors and parents. Upon completion of the first part, we plan to proceed with each older age group and the related adult materials needed to best present the information.

Our first job will be to collect ideas from the many church areas which have been doing an excellent job on their own for the last three years. We have seen the work of many talented and dedicated people experienced in teaching and curriculum design. We wish to make full use of their very fine work for the benefit of the whole program worldwide.

Mr. Armstrong will inspect the materials and approve them before distribution. He wants to be certain that our youth receive the finest teaching we are able to give. He also stated that the programs for the youth around the world must be uniform and consistent. We realize that a transition period will be necessary for those who have already launched into a long-term program and wish to finish it before making use of the new Y.E.S. curriculum.

In any case, we want to encourage those who wish to continue their existing programs to do so for the time being. Our production deadlines are tentative and may go over for any number of reasons. We would not want your group to "cool off" once started on a good program.

We also want to encourage those who are about to start trial programs to feel free to go ahead. It would be of benefit to work the bugs out of your system and have some experience before getting into full swing with materials from headquarters. But until we have produced our materials and gotten them approved by Mr. Armstrong, we have nothing official to offer.

Once the Y.E.S. staff gets into the actual production phase, we will keep you posted on our progress and proposed distribution dates which should be more specific by that time.

--Ron Dick, Y.O.U.

COMMENTS ABOUT MR. ARMSTRONG'S BOOK

I studied your book at least a chapter a day after the Feast. What a revelation just to see how much new understanding God has given us thru you in the last few years. You have put it all together so plain and simple and stirred up the desire in me to yield to God more for the power to fulfill our potential. Please continue to lead us and inspire us.

--Robert E. Curry, Arlington, VA

It's simply a fantastic book. It has given me a renewed feeling of dignity and value. I'm more excited than ever about our mission on earth and I can feel the importance and value of every human life. We appreciate your hard work and dedication. You set a fine example for the rest of us.

--Mrs. K. Bell, Chichester, NH

I thank God for inspiring you to write The INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL. I have never felt more positive and happy in understanding my calling. I'm on page 146 and just stopped to write you.... Thanks for all the time you took to write this most inspiring book. I don't think I ever really understood my calling until now. It makes me want to fight and work harder, more than ever before.

--Mrs. Frances Tabladillo, Agoura, CA

I have just finished reading your book and want to say thank you for putting these wonderful truths into such simple, yet beautiful, understanding. Truly, God has inspired you and will inspire you in your future books to be written.

--Mrs. Paul Meister, Tecumseh, NE

Your presentation of Jesus' gospel message is so clear anyone should be able to understand. I hope that people by the millions will read it. No more timely message could have been published anywhere.

--Grace E. Naghel, Rohnert Park, CA

Now I can see why you said the book you wrote is the most important book written since the Bible. It is filled with both old and new truth that can be proved thru the pages of the Bible. I am not a fast reader but I read this one in just three sittings. I intend to read it as often as I need to, to keep it fresh in my mind. Keep up the good work, we're behind you 100%.

--Yves Martin, New York, NY

I have your book and I find it everything you said it was and more. You are truly the man God has called and chosen to reveal His Truth. I don't know of and have never known of, any man to be able to write and know the things this man writes and knows.

--LaVerne C. West, New Orleans, LA

Thank you so much for your new book. It was a wonderful Feast gift from you. I sat down and read it as soon as I got home. It was a real inspiration to me and I'm sure it will be to everyone. It made our transcendent purpose more clear than ever before and put so many of our beliefs in one solid perspective that people outside the Church will get the best idea of what the Bible is saying. Thanks again for your tireless work and concern.

--Yvonne Braidec, Torrance, CA

I'm so glad you wrote the book, I just finished reading the chapter on "Why the Church." We (especially myself) need reminding of the three points; one, that we in the church are called to back you and the ministry in announcing God's Kingdom; two, that we need the instruction of the Church to grow to perfection; and three, that with whatever gifts we have we should build up the Church (the people in the Church).

--Ronald Olson, Lakewood, CA

Thank you so very much for giving us a copy of The INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL. I began reading it at the Feast and have started the second go-through. This is a book that will be helpful to so many millions now and in the age soon to come. Thank you for writing it. You have presented the truth of the GOOD NEWS of God in a fascinating manner. I have found many inspirational passages in the book. There is new light and truth in your words which had not yet crossed my mind.

--Daniel Vanriper, Bastrop, TX

I would like to thank you for the precious truth revealed in your book. I just want to say that after reading this book, I had to ask myself, what have I been doing these past ten years in the Church? I felt like it was all finally put together beautifully and made me stop and think that maybe these ten years in this Church have been wasted -- that I hadn't really been using all the potential I've been given. I plan to try to really re-dedicate myself to God and to use all my talents.

--Mrs. Albert W. Moore, San Mateo, CA

I've read it through once and was let down when I came to the last page, as I did not want it to end, so I'm reading it a second time and getting more from it as I am taking more care to get all you have written into my mind. It's a beautiful book and I am very thankful to have it in my home.

--Bruce B. Douglass, Clatskanie, OR