

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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HOW DID Y O U come to know
THE T R U T H ?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Do you really THANK GOD that He has opened your mind to HIS TRUTH? Is it precious--of SUPER value to you? Or do you feel like trampling it under-foot as a sow would trample pearls or diamonds into the mud?

This thought came while reading a letter from a member in England. It is a VERY RARE THING for my eyes to see a letter like this, though there are many THOUSANDS who have received the SAME TRUTHS as this member.

It is a rather long letter, so I shall reprint here certain pertinent portions. He writes:

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

I very much appreciate the opportunity to write directly to Christ's apostle, and in just a little way to thank you for the tremendous example you are setting us and, above all, to thank you for God's truth....

Mr. Armstrong, it becomes clearer with every passing month what an enormous debt we owe you!" (He owes it to GOD). "When I reflect on the precious truths of God's Word--the knowledge of what man's future is, the coming Kingdom of God, the spirit in man, the history of the angels, the origin of human nature, what God is, and on and on, then I am truly grateful that God has called me into HIS Church--the only church on this earth that has the truth. But, Mr. Armstrong, this Church has the truth only because Christ gave it to us through you. You are Christ's chosen and ordained apostle, and it is through you that I have learned and understood all these things. How well Christ chose, trained and prepared you for your present responsibilities--and how glad I am that you are now directly involved in running the Church day to day under Jesus Christ.

When I look back over the past three or four years I am appalled at what happened in your absence from Pasadena: of how the doctrines of God the Father--taught by Jesus Christ to His apostle--were so watered down and changed that this was scarcely God's Church any more. When I consider healing, which the Head of this Church, Jesus Christ, considered so important that it was one of the earliest doctrines that He taught you (within a year of your picking up a Bible), then I am amazed at how effectively Christ's doctrine was rejected; (and even to this very day it seems that many in the church here locally are unable to really accept healing as an unbreakable PROMISE of God; the POISON of STP has done its work too well, sir, and seems to have destroyed the living FAITH which was present in the church when I first started attending).

So, Mr. Armstrong, I daily thank God for your restoration to good health and DYNAMIC POWER. Please, keep writing powerful articles setting us straight doctrinally; we need to hear from you. I totally believe that Christ puts His truth into this church through you, and so I am looking to you more and more now than I ever have before.

How often the apostle Paul wrote to his converts that they should IMITATE him, learn from him, follow his example, observe his faith and so on. Well, the apostle Paul is now dead--but there is a living apostle of Jesus Christ! And I hope--and pray--that God will give me the understanding and strength to follow, and to imitate, His apostle in this day and age. How useful is your autobiography in this regard! Thank you for writing it, it is a goldmine of advice and examples in practical living and Christianity!

Mr. Armstrong, I find that the articles you write have a ring of truth to them. When I read them, I just know that they are right; and I am not exaggerating when I say that I literally EXULT when I read them--I really do rejoice at God's truth (although sometimes it hurts!). And so I tend to study your articles VERY CAREFULLY; I am often surprised at how much I miss the first time I read them--you pack so much into your articles! As I study, much is committed to memory (at least in general terms); my purpose is to see things as you see them--to have your mind (and hence Christ's mind) on various issues.

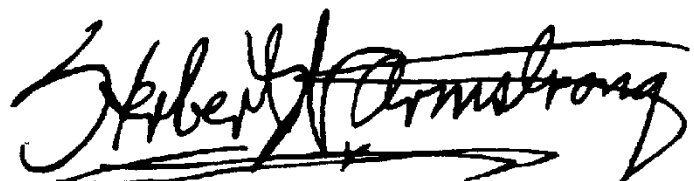
And that brings me to the main purpose of writing this letter.

Three or four months ago I was intensively studying your article on "How Christ Gives The Church Its Beliefs," which appeared in the November 20th, 1978, Good News. I memorized its main points, and thoroughly marked up my Bible--especially at Matthew 18:18, on the subject of binding and loosing.

I was then staggered--left literally speechless--when I read an article in the March 1979 Good News which, in my eyes at least, just plainly CONTRADICTS what Christ is saying through you!!! Whereas Chrstit teaches, through you, that binding and loosing is given only to His apostles, the author of this particular article states that the ministry has the authority to make binding and loosing decisions....

Let me add here that the particular article in question was a "REPEAT" article which had appeared several years ago in the GOOD NEWS. At that time no official doctrine had been made in the Church about "binding and loosing." I did not reread the article prior to republication in the March 1979 GOOD NEWS, and I am sure the author of the article did not recheck it, either.

I made the doctrine of "binding and loosing" official only a few months ago. I do not remember catching anything in this article that should have been edited when it first appeared several years ago. So I will personally assume any blame for this discrepancy. I should have reread this article prior to its being reprinted in the March 1979 GOOD NEWS--but since I knew it was a repeated article from several years ago, I neglected doing so. With all the day-to-day administration responsibilities over the entire globe-girdling Work, it is difficult for me to read every article in the GOOD NEWS and The PLAIN TRUTH before publication. I trust our brother-in-Christ in England, who wrote the above letter will forgive me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Herbert Armstrong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line underneath the name.

CHINA TRIP SET

Mr. Stanley Rader has been in Tokyo and Peking, China the past several days, making advance arrangements for my visit to the chiefs of government in China.

Plans are now complete. I will fly first to Tokyo, then to Peking. The visit to Peking will be an OFFICIAL visit, sponsored by the People's Republic of China government. The Chinese government has even sponsored Mr. Rader's visit to set plans for mine--paying all his hotel bills, meals, transportation--everything but his laundry and long-distance telephone calls.

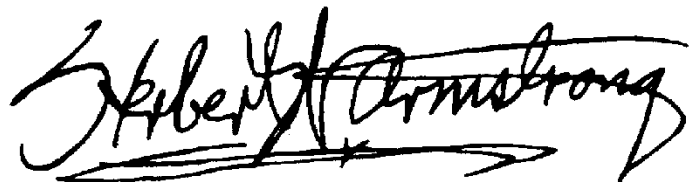
Mr. Rader has been royally treated by the government in China. Since I wanted to limit my trip to Peking only, the government has insisted that he visit a few other cities in China--Nanking, Shanghai, and one or two others. They will insist that I take one short side trip to see the great Chinese wall--surely one of the world's wonders built by man.

Mr. Rader has done a superb job in making all advance arrangements--sponsored by some of my "Japanese sons"--influential members of the Japanese Diet.

I urgently ask your continued PRAYERS for my good health, and for wisdom as to what to say in China, and HOW to say it--for China is communist with no religion. I must tell their leaders of the coming WORLD GOVERNMENT--we call it THE WORLD TOMORROW--but I will not be able to tell them in Christian or Bible-sounding words. I am not going for the purpose of offending them--because God loves them as well as us--but I shall ask God to give me wisdom in what to say and how to say it. Beside meeting with the two leaders in the government of the People's Republic, a large banquet is planned with 400 or more influential and high-ranking Chinese attending.

The government of China has very graciously planned for me to occupy a comparatively new suite in a new addition to their leading hotel. The great God who loves us all has given me great favor in their eyes, and opened their hearts and minds to provide for me their best. Give God THANKS!

The trip will take place very shortly after the Feast of Tabernacles--late October or early November.

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

We are all encouraged and enthusiastic as the new college year ends a summer keynoted by productive, qualitative growth.

The response from the field ministry has been overwhelmingly positive, expressing wholehearted support and loyalty to God's only living Apostle.

As one minister writes, "Dear Mr. Armstrong: Thanks once again for doing your part under Jesus Christ as His Apostle in guiding the ministry and

directing us to see that you are the Head of the Ministry, under Jesus Christ. I feel secure with the recent change and fully support your judgment."

Feast fever is upon us. This is an epidemic that occurs every year about this time. The hum of excitement prevails as final preparations are being made for the coming festival season. Everyone is eagerly anticipating the day they can lock the doors and leave the world behind for at least eight days. All preparations for widows, elderly and others needing special assistance are being worked out as much as possible. This should eliminate unnecessary problems during the Feast.

"Now" is the time to preach on the rewards and benefits of saving second tithe, being positive and encouraging to your congregations.

Words can hardly express how inspiring it is to talk to Mr. Armstrong as he discusses the future course of the Work--its purpose and direction--now that he has again taken over the daily administration of the ministry. His enthusiasm is contagious as it ripples down from him through the ministry to the brethren. Everyone who comes in contact with Mr. Armstrong truly appreciates the fact that God has chosen a man of purpose and dedication, and dynamic drive and vision, who will not compromise with the Laws of God.

I wholeheartedly recommend that we should all review the Autobiography of Mr. Armstrong to become better acquainted with the man God called to raise up this Work.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

PLEASE ANNOUNCE AGAIN

HERTZ RENTAL CAR DISCOUNT AVAILABLE TO ALL MEMBERS

All members requiring a rental car during the Feast may receive a special 20% discount from Hertz. Please give your name and address without delay to your minister. Include your whole address and zip code as well as the name of the city in which you intend picking up the car. This information needs to be compiled for the Hertz people once we receive it from the local pastors, so don't delay in submitting this information. Time is running out!

--Festival Office

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

In cooperation with Everest House, we are developing our marketing plan for Mr. Armstrong's book The Incredible Human Potential. These plans include a 60-second commercial incorporated in our radio and TV broadcasts, space ads in the Chicago Sun Times and other major newspapers, and a direct mail campaign to various purchased lists. Our direct-to-retailer sales program which includes volunteer Church members, has so far resulted in 151 orders for prepaks of six books each.

--Roger Lippross, Publishing Services Director

INTERNATIONAL NEWSGhana--More On the Situation There

Melvin Rhodes, our minister in Ghana, his wife Diane and their two children, returned to London on August 21st. The ultimate reason for their departure from Ghana was the fact that their visa expired and the government would not in any way renew it. It has been a problem that we have wrestled with now for some three years in that area. At long last some real progress on obtaining permanent visas for a minister in Ghana has been achieved, but until they are issued, the Rhodes have had to leave the country.

We have all along thought that it may have been possible for that visa to be issued while they were in the country. Under normal circumstances that could have been possible, but Ghana is under anything but normal circumstances at the present time.

It is said that the government (Armed Forces Revolutionary Council) will be making their final clean up campaigns in September (prior to handing over the reigns to civilian rule on October 1st). And there is even talk of more house-to-house searches as was seen immediately after the coup.

Presently, the entire country suffers the hardships of drastic food and petrol shortages. Prior to returning to England, the Rhodes had been able to procure only enough food for basically one meal a day. Since the coup much of Melvin's time has been spent in lengthy waits for petrol and food and attempting to gain visas. Not particularly productive time. However, it was encouraging time for the brethren in Ghana, as most other Europeans have up and fled the country. At least the brethren can see that the Rhodes had not deserted them because the going has been tough, but because the government has demanded that they go.

It should be **possible** for Melvin and Diane to return to Ghana in early October prior to the Feast of Tabernacles. If the residence permits have not been granted by that time, they can at least remain for a few weeks as visitors, prior to returning to the U.K. again. Having a residence permit will be a big aid to them as in fact they will be able to obtain multiple re-entry permits to Ghana, enabling them to travel to neighbouring Togo and/or the Cameroons, where food and supplies are plentiful.

It would be good if people could remember the brethren in Ghana. The Eternal has called some 90 Ghanaians into His Church at this time, who together with their families, will be continuing to suffer under the hardships that exist. They certainly would appreciate the prayers of the brethren.

ren around the world. Unfortunately there is little that can be done in the way of sending food to them as it would never reach them. Very little in the way of parcels gets into Ghana without being tampered with in some way.

Australia

A postal strike at the Redfern Mail Exchange in Sydney seriously disrupted our mail receipts for July. A backlog of an estimated 30 million items of mail piled up in this central post office clearing house. During the latter half of the month this strike action by postal workers slashed the number of letters reaching us in half. Our mail count for the month was 10,223 letters received, and 25,000 booklets and articles were mailed out.

There is no doubt that the Work in Australia has been, and is being, affected by the increasing number of strikes throughout the country. One statistician reported that the number of days lost in the first quarter of this year through strike action around the nation was a massive 506,000 man hours!

Though the strike action by postal workers seriously affected the number of letters reaching us, our mail income held up surprisingly well with a +7.1% increase for July, bringing year-to-date total income to 9.8%.

While many responses to our national advertising and householder card programs are still held up in the back log of mail, nevertheless, for the month of July we were still able to add another 5000 new PLAIN TRUTH subscribers to the mailing list. The Australian PLAIN TRUTH mailing list now stands at around the 75,000 mark, and it is still growing.

Church attendance for the 57 Australian churches for July continued to be very good. July is mid-winter and traditionally, along with August, usually has the lowest church attendance because of colds and flu. But July this year again, as in the past few months, held up well--over 4700, which is good news indeed. It appears we may surpass our goal of 5000 by the end of the year.

--Compiled by Rod Matthews, International Office

MAIL COMMENTS

The day of miracles is not past. God still heals and answers prayers. Over the past few months, some very interesting and encouraging letters have been received telling about healings and answers to prayers.

Also, Mr. Gerald Waterhouse is back on the speaking circuit and we've got the mail to prove it. Only one problem though, we can't keep track of him. Dozens of letters come in every month from all over the country telling us he "just passed through." We know he can't be everywhere at once, but from looking at the letters he just might be. His visits are very much appreciated as these letters show.

--Mail Processing Center

Healings

Just came home yesterday after a massive heart attack. I keep asking my wife, Joan, "Why is God so good to me?" And I can't find the answer.

In the past 18 months, diabetes was healed, and now a very bad heart attack. God's goodness is beyond understanding.

--William E. Westcott (Pelsor, AR)

For the past two years, I was very sick with cancer and unable to work. In September 1978 I was given three months to live.

The tumor in my stomach was 11 inches in diameter and my right kidney was crushed. I had lost 45 pounds. But with a change of diet and God's help I have survived.

In the beginning of January 1977, when this cancer was first diagnosed, I refused to go into the hospital for treatment. I changed my diet. I was doing fine and I held my own until September 1978. When I could no longer stand the pain, with coaxing from my family, I was admitted to the hospital.

Because of the tumor's huge size, the only thing the doctors could do was treat it with radiation and chemotherapy. They could not operate. I was anointed by a minister in the Springfield, Massachusetts church. The radiation treatments began. The doctors could not tell me how many treatments I would have to endure. One night before the 19th treatment and during the 19th treatment, I prayed to God. "Father, you know more about radiation than any doctor could ever know. If it be your will, please help me to get well for I have not learned enough about your ways. I have only been in your Church a very short time. I would like some time to learn more."

When the day came for the 20th treatment, the doctors found, after checking me, that the tumor had disappeared. After 3 x-rays and 4 ultrasound tests, they found no tumors, and my right kidney was back to normal as if nothing ever happened. To date, July 3, 1979, I have gained back 40 pounds and no longer am I under a doctor's care. The cancer is gone. The blood count is O.K.

--Roger F. Wapner (Springfield, MA)

I received the anointed cloth and used it on a Thursday. On the Saturday of the same week, I could find no lumps in my breast. I am going to see the doctor this Wednesday to make sure as I had been scheduled for surgery. The lumps were most uncomfortable. I feel better now than I have for some time. Thank you for your prayers on my behalf. I continue to pray for you and the Work, and the soon coming of Christ!

--Mrs. Jerry Hartzog (West Jefferson, NC)

Comments About Mr. Waterhouse

My wife and I went to hear Mr. Gerald Waterhouse in Baltimore and Wilmington, Delaware. We really enjoyed him! He backs you up 100% and makes no bones about it.

--Mr. & Mrs. Ralph D. Hall (Port Deposit, MD)

It was Tuesday evening when we heard Mr. Waterhouse speak to us about the soon-coming Kingdom of God and the preparation for it that the Church of God is doing. It is rather beautiful and interesting the

way God works toward His people. At last we will have a place of safety and a nucleus of very well-trained people to spread the government of God at Jesus Christ's second coming. Glory be to God for the accomplishment we as a whole have done in recapturing the true values of life and putting them into practice. Mr. Waterhouse held us in thrilling attention for two and a half hours, and I tell you, he gave the message out!

--Mr. & Mrs. Nilo Azeredo (Elizabeth, NJ)

Mr. Waterhouse spoke to the Long Island Church at Bible study this past Wednesday. It is so good to be reviewed once again on the near future and God's soon-coming Kingdom. He will speak again this Sabbath and we are very anxious to hear more.

--Mrs. Edwin B. Schipf (Copiague, NY)

We are very thankful that Mr. Gerald Waterhouse came to our area to help our understanding. Mr. Waterhouse is loyal to God's Work and His apostle, Mr. H. W. Armstrong.

--Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Dean (Cleveland, OH)

We here in the Augusta Church heard Mr. Gerald Waterhouse and he gave us the news of the very time we are living in, and what happened in the state of California. God is fulfilling His great plan here on earth for the coming of God's Kingdom on earth.

--Mrs. Josephine Oliver (Augusta, ME)

Amusing Anecdote

I saw this in the National Inquirer titled, "In The Beginning," and I hope you get as a great a kick out of it as I did.

"To find out what really happened when the earth was created engineers spent weeks gathering information, checking and rechecking it, and feeding it into the computer. The great moment came: all was complete, everybody gathered around, a button was pressed, the great computer spun into action. Relays opened and closed, lights flashed and bells rang, and finally a typed message emerged: See Genesis 1:1."

--Leon White (Willits, CA)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

THE WALLS COME TUMBLING DOWN: Suddenly, one crisis after another is erupting all over the Caribbean basin. It all spells big trouble for the United States, which once had little to fear from the "mañana cultures" to the south.

In a recent Pastor General's Report we examined the revolution in Nicaragua and its future impact upon neighboring countries in Central America. Suffice it to add here that the wealthy landowners in El Salvador and Guatemala--sensing the gathering storm--are sending their money out of their countries as well as buying up property in Miami. In El Salvador, leftist guerrillas, following the Sandinista rulebook, are kidnapping foreign diplomats and businessmen, financing their operations through ransom money.

In the islands of the eastern Caribbean, ferment among the tiny independent island states is rising. And everywhere, Cuba's hand is in the pot. Last March 13 a coup overthrew the government of Grenada and put a self-proclaimed "radical-leftist" regime in control of that tiny (population 106,000) republic.

Grenada's new government insists that it is neither Communist nor a Cuban satellite. But, in a move that sent tremors through the White House and State Department, it immediately turned to Havana for arms, military advisors and other aid.

The newest island trouble spot is St. Lucia (population 120,000). Three weeks ago, an election put the Labour Party in the driver's seat, ousting the United Worker's Party, which had held power for over a decade. In one of its first acts, the new left-wing government sent a group of 100 young men for training by Cuban troops on Grenada. The recruits will serve as the nucleus of a "people's revolutionary army."

While all this was going on, a Russian naval task force was steaming toward the Caribbean. The Russian objective, reported London's Daily Telegraph, "is to show the Russian flag in Cuba, in the Caribbean, and in Central America at a time when Washington is showing increasing nervousness in the aftermath of the Nicaraguan upheaval."

Senator Richard Stone, the Florida Democrat who keeps a constant watch on Russian influence in Cuba, said that the Russians have gradually stepped up the number and changed the nature of their naval visits to Cuba. The point has now been reached where these visits could not be seen as merely "port calls," since they involve Soviet missile-carrying submarines staying at Cienfuegos for up to two weeks. Reports on the latest Russian task force say that it will probably make calls at several Caribbean islands, including Grenada.

Since last March, Soviet pilots have assumed responsibility for much of Cuba's air defenses, freeing up Cuban pilots for service in Ethiopia, Angola, Afghanistan and elsewhere.

In a few days, beginning September 3, Cuba will be hosting the sixth "non-aligned" summit conference in Havana--a "somber joke" reports the Daily Telegraph's Robert Moss who adds that "Dr. Fidel Castro's Cuba is about as non-aligned as a sign showing the direction of a one-way street. Moscow has no more obedient or effective satellite."

Castro would like to swing the non-aligned countries--those in the third world supposedly neutral between the West and the Soviet bloc--into firm anti-U.S., anti-West posture.

Among the propaganda themes that figure high on the agenda are: Increased support for the "liberation struggles" in southern Africa and the world-wide struggle against "Zionism, racism and imperialism;" full recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization; world disarmament (the code word for unilateral Western disarmament); and condemnation of the Egyptian-Israeli peace process and the expulsion of Egypt from the non-aligned movement.

In recent weeks the Cubans have distributed to all the delegations a basic working document to be used for the non-aligned summit. The United States and Western "imperialism" are condemned on page after page.

America's enemies, large and small (Cuba has less than 10 million people!) are becoming bolder than ever before as God's protection is progressively removed from His people, due to their sins.

Psalms 89, verses 38 through 43 reads (RSV): "But now thou hast cast off and rejected, thou art full of wrath against thy anointed. Thou hast renounced the covenant with thy servant; thou hast defiled his crown in the dust. Thou hast breached all his walls; thou hast laid his strongholds in ruins. All that pass by despoil him; he has become the scorn of his neighbors. Thou hast exalted the right hand of his foes; thou hast made all his enemies rejoice. Yea, thou hast turned back the edge of his sword, and thou hast not made him stand in battle."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau