

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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SATAN INTENSIFIES PERSECUTION

by

Herbert W. Armstrong

Evidences increase and multiply indicating God's great Work through His Church (Philadelphia era) may be FINISHED in a matter of months.

We may be right now at the time of Revelation 12:7-14. I want to write another article on another phase of this prophecy which will appear in the August number of either The PLAIN TRUTH or The GOOD NEWS.

Satan's master stroke against God's Church came with the massive assault of the California Attorney General's office on January 3, last year. Satan failed to knock out and destroy the Church with that civil lawsuit. He only drove us closer together, and closer to Christ. It actually helped in the process of putting the Church back on GOD's track.

So now Satan is trying something he has tried a number of times before--since he could not knock out the whole Church with one blow, he is now trying harder than ever to DIVIDE and SEPARATE US by a vicious attack of false accusations against Church leaders. Proverbs 16:27 speaks of those who would try to accuse and defame: "A worthless man digs up evil, while his words are as a scorching fire" (New American Standard Bible).

Actually, Satan tried this in the attempt to have the State political government take over running of the Church. Both Mr. Rader and I were falsely accused (but not in the lawsuit) of siphoning off (stealing) millions of dollars every year. We did not need to dignify those monstrous lies with even a denial.

But now Satan is coming at us in a more subtle and even more outrageous and scurrilous accusation, implying personal immorality and sins.

Neither shall we dignify these infamous accusations and rumors with a denial.

Adolph Hitler is reported to have said that if you tell a little lie it may not be believed, but if you tell an outrageously enormous and impossible lie it will be believed.

Brethren, I have no need for refutation or of the defense of character witnesses, or personal recommendations. Listen to what the Apostle Paul said. The same Satan tried to ruin Paul's credibility among the Church. Paul said: "Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you?"

He answered, "Ye are our epistle (recommendation) written in our hearts, known and read of all men" (II Cor. 3:1-2).

Directly, or indirectly, you are all MY children in the Lord. This Church is GOD'S Church. Jesus Christ is its living HEAD. He chose and has used me as His Apostle--as His human servant and instrument through whom HE, not just I, raised up all this Church. It was God the Father who called me, and later all of you. Jesus Christ founded and built God's Church. He raised up and built the present Philadelphia era of God's Church. But He used me as the human instrument in so doing.

WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR BELIEF--THE DOCTRINES WE ALL HOLD SO DEARLY? Every doctrine--every point of belief--you received directly or indirectly through me as Christ's Apostle!

Jesus Christ built this entire Work. But He caused me to work as hard and as diligently as if I had built it--only, if I had tried to do it WITHOUT Him, as others have tried to build THEIR OWN CHURCHES, it would have fallen flat long ago.

Have I ever sinned? Yes, just as you and every one who ever lived, except Jesus, has sinned. But I have stood before you even as the Apostle Paul did, a sinner who DEEPLY REPENTED and WAS FORGIVEN BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST. I learned 53 years ago that we must LIVE the Christian life in a spirit and attitude of repentance. I have done that, and my precious Savior has FORGIVEN and cleansed me of all sin.

Jesus said, "by their FRUITS ye shall know them." I do not need to dignify false witnesses by a denial of their malicious accusations, nor does Mr. Rader. The FRUITS are all the answer I need.

Not only did Christ use me in raising up the present era of God's Church, He used me in building it. And, when others to whom I had delegated responsibilities not only greatly exceeded the authority delegated, but tried to LIBERALIZE God's Church and turn it gradually and subtly into Satan's Church, Christ used me these past two and a half years in TURNING GOD'S Church around and SETTING IT BACK ON THE TRACK. HE WOULD NEVER HAVE SO USED ONE GUILTY OF THE SINS SATAN NOW ACCUSES, USING EVEN FORMER MINISTERS DISFELLOWSHIPED FOR DIVIDING AND LIBERALIZING GOD'S HOLY CHURCH!

Mr. Rader's FRUITS have been GOOD. His service has been mostly in finance and legal areas, but the value of his services to the Church could not be estimated in dollars. And he has been LOYAL.

Henry Cornwall and Sherwin McMichael also are accused by those put out of the Church for trying on their part to DESTROY it. Their fruits also are all the recommendation they need, and not our denial of accusations by false witnesses. Mr. Cornwall is now my assistant, in addition to serving as our advertising agent.

Jesus said that if they had persecuted Him they would persecute us also. I counted that cost when I GAVE my life into Christ's service.

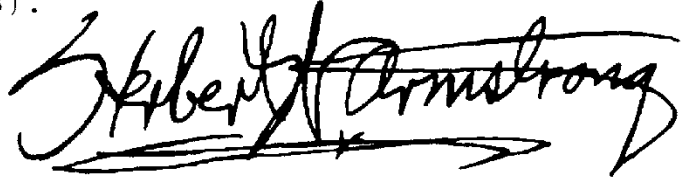
Read Matthew 26:59-60: "Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put Him to death;...At the last came two false witnesses."

Accusing Stephen, "set up false witnesses" to put him to death (Acts 6:13).

Satan is still at it today--still seeking to destroy the Work of the living GOD!

But THANK GOD, His Church turns a deaf ear to false witnesses serving Satan.

I want to write much further on the passage in Revelation 12 in The PLAIN TRUTH and The GOOD NEWS. Our Work may be more nearly FINISHED than we have realized. "But," remember, "he that shall endure UNTO THE END, the same shall be saved" (Matt. 24:13).



NEW YORK TIMES REPORTS ON RECENT U.S. SUPREME COURT ACTION

The New York Times, which maintains a full-time reporter in the nation's capital for the purpose of reporting on Supreme Court activity, recently ran an article (reproduced below) covering the high court's denial of the Church's writ of certiorari. So far as we know, the New York Times is the only newspaper thus far which has accurately reported the meaning of the U.S. Supreme Court's action regarding the Church's request for an early hearing. (Notice the underlined paragraph below.)

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 1980

Church Plans Campaign Against California Inquiry

By PAMELA G. HOLLIE

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, June 7 — The Worldwide Church of God, under investigation by the California Attorney General's office, has decided to plead its case to the public. "We will spend whatever it takes," said Stanley Rader, the principal adviser to the church's 87-year-old founder, Herbert W. Armstrong.

In full-page advertisements appearing in California newspapers this week and scheduled for other papers around the country later this month, Mr. Armstrong,

a radio and television evangelist, has begun an appeal for public support of his church's constitutional battle with the state of California. The first advertisements appeared in three California papers this week after the United States Supreme Court decided that it would not hear an appeal by the church.

For the last 18 months, the 100,000-member Worldwide Church of God has been resisting a state investigation into allegations that Mr. Armstrong and other church officials misused church funds. The church contends that the investiga-

tion violates the First Amendment guarantees of freedom of religion. Lawrence Tribe, a Harvard law professor and attorney for the church, said that if the state was allowed to obtain church records it would "seriously erode the constitutional protection of all citizens."

Inquiry Called Unconstitutional

In January 1979, the California Attorney General started an investigation into the church's financial dealings under state laws that govern charitable trusts. The church maintains that the state has

no jurisdiction over its activities and has called the investigation an "unconstitutional assault on American freedom."

The church had hoped for an early ruling by the Supreme Court. The Court's refusal to hear the case, however, sets no legal precedent and does not preclude it from taking the case at a later date.

The Worldwide Church of God, which has spent \$2.5 million in the last 18 months on legal fees, was in receivership for four months early last year and so far has refused to comply with demands to release church documents, although general financial statements on the operation of the church have been made public.

Those documents showed that the church assisted in the financing of homes

for its officers and paid for gifts and round-the-world trips for Mr. Armstrong and church officials. Former members have accused Mr. Armstrong and other officials of pilfering church property, siphoning off millions of dollars for their personal use and squandering church funds.

The dissidents cited as excessive certain expenses of Mr. Rader, who emerged as the church's second in command after the founder's son, Garner Ted Armstrong, was excommunicated. These expenses included \$13,166 for maintenance of Mr. Rader's home in Beverly Hills and \$10,591 for another home in Tucson, Ariz.

The conservative denomination is one of the world's most prosperous Protes-

tant sects, with an annual income of \$70 million, raised largely through the church's radio and television evangelism. Funds from church members, who tithe 10 percent of their income, is spent to support the church's Ambassador College in Pasadena, Calif., which is also the headquarters of the church, the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation and the church's publishing enterprises.

Mr. Armstrong, who calls himself "Christ's apostle," travels thousands of miles each year to meet and entertain heads of state and win converts. He generally takes a camera crew to record his visits. One such visit last fall to China is scheduled to be broadcast this year as part of the church's news media campaign.

Corruption in government did not end with Watergate.

ON JAN. 3, 1979, California's attorney general RAIDED and put into receivership the Pasadena offices of the Worldwide Church of God. In a civil lawsuit he charged that Church leaders were "siphoning off" property and assets of the church, liquidating Church properties below market value and shredding financial records to cover up wrongdoing.

These charges were *not based on actual evidence* but rather on "information and belief"—lawyer language for "rumor and gossip." There had been no investigation prior to filing the suit and raiding the Church.



Appeared in the Los Angeles Times June 12, 1980

WHO DECIDES EXPENSES?

The Church's principal work is proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to all the world, and Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, the apostle and leader, has for a number of years been traveling around the world speaking to national leaders and conducting campaigns and meetings. The attorney general refers to the expenses involved in our Gospel work as "travel expense," which he feels is excessive. But how a Church spends its own money should be none of his business! If he wants to govern a Church according to his opinions, perhaps he ought to start his own, not take over ours!

The Church of God does not proselytize and does not solicit financial support from the public, but supports itself principally on the tithes and offerings of its own baptized members—90 percent of whom live outside California. The Church has hundreds of congregations throughout the world.

THE RAID

Employees of the Pasadena offices were attending their normal duties the morning of Jan. 3, 1979, when a "raiding party" of deputy attorney generals, private attorneys and a receiver barged into the Hall of Administration and demanded immediate access to the executive offices and all the records.

With absolutely no warning, no notice, no hearing the Church had been put into receivership and the receiver was claiming HE now owned all the assets of the Church and that we would all be fired if we did not cooperate fully. We were given to understand that the Church's leaders had been fired! Here is the stunning message we were given:

"The receiver owns all the property, assets and records of the Church college and foundation (and) the law gives him the right to do with them as he sees fit."

"Judge Weissman, the receiver, is your boss now. He... has the power to hire and fire, to dispose of all Church property. I want to emphasize this, as he sees fit in his judgment. Some people have not appreciated the extent of the receiver's power. He owns everything. It is his property now."

How can such bizarre and shocking things happen in the United States where the Constitution says government cannot become entangled in Church affairs?

It seems to all boil down to the fact that certain public officials are able and apparently willing to use the power of the state in a wrongful manner to achieve their own purposes.

COURT RULES IGNORED

People want their public servants to obey the law scrupulously. Yet, in this case court rules have been ignored at the attorney general's pleasure.

Six dissident former members of the Church went to Beverly Hills attorney Hillel Chodos and his associates with rumors of wrongdoing in the Church. He contacted the attorney general who authorized a civil suit. And together they met with Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Jerry Pacht to get an ex parte order putting the Church into receivership and naming a friend, ex-Judge Steven Weissman, as receiver.

Court rules require a suit to be filed *before* being heard by a judge, but this nicety was ignored. Court rules also require that a minimum of four hours notice be given to the other party in ex parte proceedings, but this too was ignored.

On the afternoon of Jan. 2, 1979, Judge Pacht held a proceeding in his chambers on the attorney general's suit—*before it was filed*. According to the transcript Chodos told Judge Pacht at the beginning that the case had:

... but yet been filed, but we are prepared to file it and pay the necessary fee at any moment. It is just that we did not want a public filing before coming to see you."

Judge Pacht went on to hear the attorney general's unsubstantiated information anyway, and was persuaded to make one of the most sweeping orders in judicial history without hearing from the Church at all. Judge Pacht stated near the end of the proceeding:

"I think what I have indicated is what I will see as soon as the appropriately filed papers are presented to me."

After getting his ruling in advance, the attorney general filed his case and got the signed order. That is how the receiver got his unbelievable powers he claimed to have. Both Mr. Chodos and Judge Pacht are members of California's Commission on Judicial Performance—which is supposed to see that judges discharge their duties properly. (wonder who is watching the commission members!)

CHURCH ALMOST DESTROYED

The raiding party did not expect the Church to survive the initial onslaught. The receiver went to our bank—where our credit rating had been impeccable—and stopped payment on a million dollars worth of outstanding checks. He also took some \$135,000 from our accounts and put it into a receivership account to pay his own salary and the expenses of hiring some lawyer friends, accountants, guards, etc. Our credit

immediately collapsed. Checks bounced all over the place.

Many people don't realize that this Church supports hundreds of impoverished widows all over the nation. Many of these widows found their support checks bouncing and suffered hardship until Church personnel were able to rush relief.

HOW THE CHURCH SURVIVED

Church members immediately realized there was monkey business afoot, and we began sending our tithes and offerings to Mr. Armstrong in Arizona where Church workers began to pay the bills and keep things going. The widows, Church workers, broadcasting and publishing bills, etc., were paid.

But the money coming into Pasadena offices dried up and the receiver began to worry! Soon he resigned claiming "poor health and obstruction." He put in a bill for about \$250,000 for his two month's "reign" over the Church. Chodos argued that the Church should pay his firm over \$300,000 for two month's work in suing us!

Ironically, these men had loudly criticized Church leaders for receiving "excessive salaries"—and then they tried to collect multi-million salaries from the Church account for themselves! The attorney general claims to be just trying to protect Church assets; but I don't believe him. Would you???

WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU

What scares me most about this case is the immense, raw, brutal power a state official can wield, and its unusual influence with some judges. He has the power to destroy a Church, corporation or individual with an initial attack accompanied by vicious charges in the press.

If this Church had lacked wise leadership, loyal members and spiritual, as well as financial, resources behind the attorney general's reach, we would have been destroyed—and would never have had the chance to clear our name in court.

Watergate proved that even the former United States President and attorney general considered themselves above the law and free to use government power to achieve their own illegal plans; and I believe this case has similar lessons for Californians.

We would urge all people who are interested in preserving their freedoms to write the Church at Box 111, Pasadena, Calif. 91123, for a free article detailing the attorney general's attack on the Church and the dangers this poses for all citizens.

Stanley R. Rader
Stanley R. Rader
Treasurer
Worldwide Church of God

EDITORIAL SPELLS OUT THE REAL DANGER

Seldom do the members of the media look into our case and perceive the real nature of the lawsuit and its threat to religious freedom. But below is an editorial from the June 5th Orange County Register which very simply cuts through the mishmash of facts and allegations and spells out the wrongheaded position the State of California is taking.

An Unwarranted Intrusion Into Churches

Earlier this week the United States Supreme Court decided to permit the California attorney general to proceed with an investigation into the Worldwide Church of God. Whereas some of the practices of the church are indeed questionable, the questions should be asked by the members of the church and not by the government. The Supreme Court's decision further blurs the separation of church and state and, consequently, is a step away from freedom of religion.

The Worldwide Church of God was founded by Herbert W. Armstrong in 1934. Its membership has grown to more than 70,000 and has an annual income near \$70 million. The church has been wracked by internal upheavals for several years. In January of last year the state filed a lawsuit charging church officials with misuse of funds and demanding the right to see all of the church's financial records. Further, the state tried, and still is trying, to put the church in receivership.

What seems to have motivated the state's legal attack were charges that church officials syphoned church funds for personal use. Church money going for expensive gifts to world leaders and colossal expense accounts are often cited as examples of the alleged misuse of funds.

But who is to judge what is the proper use of church funds? The state's action is nothing less than a claim that it has the right to determine the propriety of the financial deci-

sions of religious institutions. If a church permits its officers to take too much in salary or other benefits, this should be determined by the members of the church. No one is forced to donate to a church. In this case, there is ample evidence that many members of the Worldwide Church of God are aware of the seemingly excessive expense accounts and are undisturbed by them.

But the state claims that it has as much right as members to be concerned with certain financial decisions of the church. The state's lawsuit is based on the concept that churches are little different than charitable trusts and that government can examine a church's records just as it does the records of any charity.

The state's position, not surprisingly, has met the opposition of a wide variety of religious organizations. They rightfully perceive that, if successful, the state's case against the Worldwide Church of God will alter the relationship between church and state — an alteration which will further erode religious freedom in the United States.

There is ample reason for concern. The use of church funds is a volatile issue in many congregations; state involvement can do nothing but complicate and aggravate an already touchy situation. The government should keep its nose out of the collection plate and leave the financial affairs of the church to those who voluntarily contribute to religious institutions.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PETRIS BILL

As reported in a recent Pastor General's Report, there is a bill going through legislative channels in Sacramento which would, if enacted into law, restrain the California Attorney General from intruding into churches as he did in the Worldwide Church of God.

Wednesday, June 11, the bill was passed by the Assembly Judiciary Committee by a vote of 9-1! It has, you will recall, already passed through senate committees and the state Senate itself by a vote of 21 to 1 before

proceeding to this committee. We don't yet know when the bill will go before the state Assembly, but in the next week or so we may have more news about this very important bill which could well have a profound effect on the future of churches in California.

Among those testifying before the Judiciary Committee in behalf of the bill was constitutional law expert Lawrence Tribe. Representatives of the Roman Catholic Church and other major denominations testified personally before the committee and have been responsible for the entire effort to strip the Attorney General of his power to control Churches--a power he has clearly abused in our case and others.

NATIONALLY-KNOWN COMMENTATOR INTERVIEWS MR. RADER

Many Southland brethren were tuned in to their radios Thursday, June 12th, as George Putnam interviewed Mr. Rader on station KIEV in Glendale. Mr. Putnam opened with some very interesting remarks which focused on the previous Sunday's "60 Minutes" segment about the Church:

"I've noticed a very strange and sad tendency on the part of '60 Minutes.' Since it became one of those in the top 10, often topping the top 10 in the Nielsen race, it has resorted to some tactics of which I disapprove.

"I think journalism is evenhandedness and when you do a commentary, as I have done in the past ('One Reporter's Opinion') it should be set separate and apart from the body of the news. But in '60 Minutes' it lops over.

"There is a tendency in adversary journalism to take a subject that is, of course, of national interest and, particularly when it has gone to the courts--and to take that subject and to arrive at a conclusion, and then back off the conclusion you wish to make and then to fill in the bits and pieces as in a puzzle. And I think that is what happened [again].

"First, I noticed it on the Kissinger story, concerning the Shah of Iran in which I think a great injustice was done to the former Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger. Now I've never been a great booster of Henry Kissinger. We've had some confrontations, but fairness is fairness. And then last Sunday evening [June 8th] I was appalled to see the treatment of Stanley Rader and the Worldwide Church of God by Mike Wallace in '60 Minutes.'

"...That is not to say he [Mike Wallace] does not do the particular job he does very well. But I am questioning the lopsidedness of '60 Minutes.' And I say they could survive and do an excellent job and still be tops in the ratings, without taking that particular approach.

"Now, having said that, I must tell you I have no association with the Worldwide Church of God. And people have heard me expound on the subject of religion. I have had religion right up to here; I'm sorry. Maybe Stanley will save me by the time the day is over, but I've had about all the religion I can take.

"But I am going to tell you, as concerning the Worldwide Church of God, I think a great injustice has been done. Having said that we are going to get to our guest, and here he is in person: Mr. Stanley Rader."

The interview touched on many much publicized and frequently asked about topics. Mr. Rader fielded the questions with a spontaneity and candor that would naturally grab one's interest.

When asked about the members and how they are faring through all that has happened, Mr. Rader took the opportunity to praise God's people and describe the positive state of God's Church today:

"The members of the Worldwide Church of God are truly unique," said Mr. Rader. "They are a dedicated group, as you said. They are an educated group, a highly literate group. Very articulate. And they know why they are members of the Church. They know why this has happened because this was very clearly prophesied for them in the Bible...and pertains to the world now and in the future. So nothing surprises them about the persecution.

"But, as my ad mentions today [in the L.A. Times--see page 4 of this Report], if we did not have spiritual resources, as well as the leadership; financial resources, physical resources beyond the jurisdiction of the Attorney General of this state, we would have been destroyed. But because those spiritual and human resources as well as financial did exist and the Attorney General could do nothing to stop them, we are not only undestroyed, but the Church today is stronger than it has ever been before. More unified. There are more members, there are more baptisms, there are more members in attendance every week. And the Church in every way has grown and, in essence, prospered as a result of this persecution!"

Moving on, Mr. Putnam, speaking with unabashed feeling commented: "Now, the point I would make is this: It seems to me as I read the facts, not the fiction--not the allegations--but the facts in this situation, that I find a very serious conflict of interest here among judges, attorneys, receivers, etc!"

To this insightful comment, Mr. Rader remarked how so few reporters and journalists had seen the real story. "Naturally, when someone is accused of stealing \$45 million or \$70 million, that is an interesting story in itself," Mr. Rader acknowledged, and he said he didn't feel newspaper people should necessarily avoid that issue. But the really critical issue, in the final analysis, is the corrupt conduct of government officials in audacious disregard for constitutional law and the lessons of Watergate should have taught all Americans.

Unfortunately, time and space do not allow this Pastor General's Report to detail this interesting and informative interview. Many important points were addressed to the public (which constitutes one of the biggest population centers in the country). Touching on so many points about the Church, its beliefs and origin, about Mr. Armstrong and the Work as well as the lawsuit, is reassuring. In a great number of ways--some which we never dreamed of (lawsuits, national ad campaigns, interviews, etc.)--the existence of the Worldwide Church of God and its message is being brought to the attention of the nation in a powerful way before the climactic close of this age!

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICESDating Between Members and Nonmembers

A number of ministers in the field have expressed concern about members dating nonmembers, and want to know what action they should take regarding such situations. Mr. Herbert Armstrong has specifically stated recently that such dating could lead to yoking oneself unequally (II Cor. 6:14), since dating naturally leads to marriage, and therefore should not be practiced by members.

Marriage was the first institution ordained of God in the Garden of Eden. From the beginning marriage was intended to be a lifelong relationship (Matt. 19:8). Human marriage symbolizes, through mutual love, sharing and fidelity, the relationship between Christ and His Church (Eph. 5:22-23). And Jesus Christ will not be "unequally yoked" to His bride. But more precisely, how does all this affect the considerations about dating and marriage with a nonmember?

God's people simply cannot isolate themselves from all social contacts with the world nor should they want to do so (remember Christ ate with sinners). Christ said His disciples were not to leave this world's society (John 17:14-15), but to simply not be of the world--its false ways, practices and religions. Paul asked "what communion hath light with darkness?" (II Cor. 6:14.) "Communion" or "fellowshipping" is certainly part of a dating experience. And an intimate and fruitful marriage naturally involves sharing and communicating deeply and frequently with one's mate. One's spiritual values, hopes and aspirations simply cannot find their expression as naturally and readily with a person whose interests cannot be truly linked together, for "the carnal mind is enmity against God..." (Romans 8:7).

Many people recognize the truism that when it comes to getting along with others, it is better to avoid "religion and politics." The principle behind the saying is that these subjects involve strong sentiments that usually set people apart. But spiritual unity between two people makes what may be a satisfactory marriage even better! And this unity strengthens God's collective spiritual Church.

Mr. Armstrong is fulfilling the prophecy of Malachi 3:1 as he prepares the way for Christ to return to His holy temple, the Church (II Cor. 6:16). In getting God's Church "back on the track" spiritually, Mr. Armstrong knows it is not in the best interests of the individual members, or the congregation as a whole, to ignore the lessons in God's Word concerning relationships with the unconverted which can lead to becoming unequally yoked in marriage.

After the exile, Ezra was led to institute reforms including the separating of the people from their foreign wives who worshipped false gods. Of course families where mates are not converted are not being divided today, but God's people are commanded to avoid becoming bound to the world (II Cor. 6:14.)

Remember, Solomon took to himself many wives and concubines. Perhaps Solomon found "strange women" more attractive even though God warned that it would turn his heart--yes, even the wisest man in history! Are any one

of today's brethren so wise or so attracted to those in the world that he or she can play with fire, and not heed the examples and commands of God's Word and the advice of God's Apostle today? What happened in Solomon's case? "And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the Lord God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice..." (I Kings 11:8-10).

If there are members in your area who are dating outside the Church, they should be counseled. Then, if they are unresponsive to the admonition of God's ministry and the scriptures, such a one may have to be disfellowshipped. The deciding factor would be a wrong attitude--one in which the person demonstrates an unyielding spirit in defiance and opposition to God's Word--a spirit (or attitude) that has not been conquered by God. Such a one must choose between outside companionship and that of Christ and the Church, either or.

Update From Vancouver Office

May has been an exciting month in many ways. Two hundred and fifty miles south of Vancouver, Mount St. Helens began to erupt spewing dust and steam. Vancouver, B.C. had a hardly noticeable sprinkling of volcanic dust. But in the grain growing areas of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, severe drought conditions and volcanic ash fallout threaten the harvest for 1980. This could have serious worldwide repercussions. During the holy day weekend, Mr. McCullough requested that the church pray for rain and two days later Mr. George Patrickson in Alberta was complaining of a flooded basement! The rains came but more is needed.

Despite the ominous trends of the month, mail income hit 30% for the first time in many years. Year-to-date income increase stands at 21.5%. The Pentecost holy day offering was 26% ahead of last year's.

The Work of the Data Processing Department was streamlined this past month with the installation of a mini-computer. Compatible and on-line with the Pasadena installation, it will facilitate easier management of information input and output and allow development of a more efficient business system.

On the media front, response to our various programs continues to be positive. Fifty new supermarket outlets for The PLAIN TRUTH newsstand magazine will be available in September in the Edmonton area. The T.V. Guide coupon for the three booklets, Dilemma of Drugs, Principles of Healthful Living and Managing Your Personal Finances, has produced over 7000 responses in the first week. Our goal of 10,000 responses certainly looks attainable. Final artwork for the newspaper flyer test campaign advertising the U.S. and Britain in Prophecy and The PLAIN TRUTH was approved this past week. The four-pager will be seen in five areas-- Prince George, Red Deer, North Battleford, Peterborough and Moncton--where 170,000 flyers will be distributed. If the first campaign is successful, a major nationwide campaign will be launched in September/October.

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA--LES McCOLM: The Church is happy and growing spiritually. Even several new PMs are attending and seem to be more of the calibre of those new ones of the late 60s and early 70s when the TOMORROW'S WORLD magazine was being printed (meaty articles).

FAYETTEVILLE-FORT SMITH-MENA, AR--JOHN R. ELLIOTT: I am beginning to realize more fully and really appreciate the "fighter" in Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. Because of this literal soldier quality in him, this Work and college struggled and grew through opposition from without and within, every inch of the way.

This attack by the State of California has been no different and he has again fought in a powerful and godly way to repel Satan, using every means at his disposal. That included moving headquarters to Tucson, difficult administration changes, legal actions, etc.

Jesus Christ, Moses, Daniel, Paul, young David, etc. were "violent" fighters against any encroachment of evil. And I deeply appreciate and support any and all strategies and efforts Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong makes in keeping God's Church ahead of the clutches of Satan. When the famine of the word comes, it won't be because our Apostle didn't fight against all odds to continue the Work as long as possible (Matt. 11:12).

COOS BAY, OR--GREG JOHNSON: Conducted four Bible lectures--a total of 15 new people.

ROSEBURG, OR--GREG JOHNSON: Conducted two Bible lectures--total of 18 new people, five coming to Church.

COLUMBIA, MO--RICHARD RAND: Baptized three people. Church is solid.

CHICO, CA--MARC SEGALL: The brethren devised a fairly unique way of raising funds for a special offering to God's Work. Then, on their own, they initiated another project to give an offering as a congregation. We figured that with the economic problems in the nation, this might be a good year for special fund-raising projects. It is encouraging for my wife and me to see the brethren growing in faith and the other fruits of God's Spirit. Brethren appreciate reports from Hotline and Pastor General's Report.

We are praying that Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Rader are able to make the history-making trip to the U.S.S.R. Also, we thought we should mention how obvious it has been the last few months to us that the content of The PLAIN TRUTH and GOOD NEWS is more inspiring and moving than ever before. The quality and impact of the articles are more and more noticeably outstanding. It leaves the reader with a sense of pride that we are a part of such a growing, giving Work.

BLACKFOOT, ID--RANDY SCHREIBER: The GOOD NEWS magazine has been very good. The special on faith is very helpful to people.

CHICAGO SOUTHSIDE, IL--ALLAN BARR: We have good results in distributing the newsstand PT in downtown Chicago. Two men from the southside Church set up a temporary newsstand in a downtown "El" station. They distributed 250 PTs in one hour.

GLENDALE, CA--RON LAUGHLAND: More positive comments are heard each day about the Work and the current direction Christ is leading the Church. Christian growth is becoming apparent in many. A new vibrancy seems to be pervading the congregation.

ROLLA, MO--WARREN J. HEATON, JR.: All is just fine here. People are looking to headquarters--to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. The people are really behind Mr. Armstrong and God's Work.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE CONCERNING PROSPECTIVE AMBASSADOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

On behalf of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and the faculty, I wish to thank all of you ministers, worldwide, for your enthusiastic support of Ambassador College. Also, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your part in encouraging prospective students in your areas to apply for entrance into Ambassador College.

For many months now, it has been evident to me and to others of the administration and/or faculty of the College that God's ministry is now really "turned on" regarding the present course of Ambassador, whereas only a very few years ago, many of the ministers were somewhat negative about the College--due primarily to the problems which Ambassador was then experiencing. At that time some ministers expressed the view that they didn't prefer to have their sons and daughters attend the College--since they were convinced Ambassador had jumped the track in certain fundamental areas.

However, now that Christ has led Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong to put Ambassador back on the track, the vast majority of God's ministers worldwide are very favorable toward Ambassador College and are enthusiastically supportive of what God is doing in the College. Although I and the other administrators of A.C. diligently strive to carry out Mr. Armstrong's policies, we are not having the students march around in "uniforms and jackboots," as a former minister and administrator of the College had prophesied would happen.

However, let no one misunderstand: the present administration (under Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's direct supervision and orders) is not winking at immorality, drunkenness, drug abuse, etc. in God's College. Under Mr. Armstrong's direct instructions, we may give an offending student one warning (and certainly will overlook a mistake--if truly repented of) should a student commit a serious infraction of College policy in one of these important areas of moral conduct.

How to Encourage Turned Down Prospective Students

On behalf of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and myself, and on behalf of the faculty, I wish to sincerely thank all of you ministers--and also the parents--for doing a very good job in encouraging prospective students in your areas to apply for entry into Ambassador. You have done such a good job that we had about three times as many prospective students wanting to enroll for College this fall as we were able to accept. This imposes a problem which I wish to discuss briefly with you ministers so you will have the facts at your disposal--should a prospective student ask you why he or she was not accepted at Ambassador for the coming college year 1980-81.

The Chancellor of the College, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, informed us some time ago that he does not want enrollment at Ambassador to exceed 500. I intend to see that his instructions are faithfully carried out.

But what can we do when we have about three times as many students wanting to enter Ambassador as we are able to accept--and still keep the total enrollment down to 500? Obviously, this poses a serious problem.

We have tried to solve this problem as fairly as possible by asking God to guide us in our selection of future students, and by diligently screening all applications.

Here, basically, is the way we go about selecting students for the College:

Firstly, we rely heavily on the local minister's evaluation--to get his input when possible. Over the years we have found ministerial evaluations of prospective students to be quite valuable.

Secondly, we consider such important matters as character, motivation, leadership, personality, and financial ability.

Thirdly, we have to use all the information at our disposal to determine, in an objective way, whether or not the applicant actually has the ability to do college-level work. And since many prospective students have not done all that well in high school, this can pose serious problems relative to their being accepted at Ambassador.

When we determine that a student can do college level work, if we are convinced he has good character, personality, leadership ability, and is highly motivated, then we will often accept such a prospective student--even if his college application indicates that he may not do exceptionally high level academic work.

On the other hand, if we have a prospective student who can make straight A's, but appears to have weak character, little or no motivation, a dull personality, or mediocre leadership ability, we will not accept him/her into Ambassador.

In other words, we would prefer to accept a student who has average scholastic ability, but is highly motivated, has good character, personality or leadership ability than to accept a straight A student who is rather weak in the more important areas.

Prospective students who have already been accepted into Ambassador for the 1980-81 college year, which will begin in August, should not pose any problems for the ministry. And hopefully you will not have much, if any, difficulty handling those students who (for various reasons) were not accepted. I am sure you will encourage them every way you can.

Encouraging "Deferred" Students

Here are our suggestions as to how you might handle those students who have been "deferred" (who might have been accepted but will not be able to enter A.C. this fall because of very limited space).

We hope you will do all you can to encourage such prospective students--trying to keep them as positive and "turned on" toward the College as you can. Furthermore, you can inform them that they will be considered first next year--when we begin looking over the applications for admission to Ambassador for the 1981-82 college year!

You could also inform these "deferred" prospective students that they can use the coming year as a profitable time in which to develop their talents, skills, abilities, and also as a time in which they can earn--and save!--badly needed funds to help finance their education while at Ambassador.

Finally, there is one other problem area which merits mention. In some instances a "deferred" prospective student (or his friends, relatives, or even his minister) may compare himself with someone who has already been "accepted," and may ask: "Why wasn't I accepted? I am sure I'm just as qualified, or more so, as the one who has already been accepted by Ambassador."

I hope that everyone will be careful to reserve judgment in such matters--realizing that those who serve on the "Admissions Team" here at Pasadena are conscientious and impartial. We sincerely strive to be "fiercely impartial" in making such decisions, even when it concerns the children of ministers, faculty, or employees of the College or Church.

Again, thanks to all of you ministers for encouraging the young people in your Church areas to enter Ambassador College--and thanks also for your enthusiastic and loyal support of God's College!

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

TWO NEW ITEMS TO ASSIST NEWSSTAND PROGRAM

We have prepared two new items to help newsstand coordinators improve their local newsstand program. One item is an introductory brochure which presents the newsstand program in a favorable and positive light. The brochure is designed so that new or prospective managers and owners of stores, newsstands or other outlets can better understand the benefits of displaying The PLAIN TRUTH on one of our magazine racks. The brochure can also be left with existing outlets to help reaffirm the manager's initial decision to give The PLAIN TRUTH rack some space in his establishment.

The second item is a new poster which can be displayed in a window or on a wall, etc. This poster says "FREE INSIDE" "The monthly magazine of understanding--read by millions worldwide." This piece has been specifically designed to simply attract more people into the shop or store. Copies of the brochure and the poster will be sent to all pastors.

--Publishing Services

MAIL COMMENTS

This week's comments begin with letters from members grateful for the opportunity to help support God's Work. Other letters express appreciation for the recent Romans tapes and specifically mention the renewed strength of Mr. Armstrong's voice. Finally, comments from both members and co-workers show concern over worsening end-time world conditions.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

Members Share Feelings About the Church

I'm sorry I wasn't in this Church when I was younger and raising my two children, and therefore could have given them a better way of life for their future. But that is all in the past and am most

thankful for the calling and I'm striving for more knowledge and understanding, which I'm getting from you (Mr. Armstrong), Headquarters and my Church through Christ, the Head of the Church.

--Leah M. (Emporium, PA)

As a member of God's Church for 22 years, I am happy to be sending you God's tithe for the month. I am more desirous of supporting God's Work. I have seen conditions go from indifference to frightening. I can say that in 1960 I couldn't say, "God please, we need your son, my Saviour, to return." Today the pressures on me and on the generations that follow are very great. I can now, with all my heart, pray "Dear Father, Thy Kingdom Come!"

--Elizabeth S. (South Pasadena, CA)

Just a note to tell you we thank you (Mr. Armstrong) for your service and loyalty to this great Work. We're both just happy to have been called to hold up your hands.

--Mr. & Mrs. Charles S. (Mattoon, IL)

I have been a baptized member now for 12 years and within the last two months my husband has begun to attend church services. He is keeping the Sabbath day holy and wants to begin tithing. We both are so excited to have a part in God's Work.

--Mrs. Larry M. (Rockport, TX)

I pray for you and for the Church and for the Work every day. I am painfully and sorrowfully watching a niece die of an incurable disease, and I think of millions of others who are suffering horrible pain and indignities in Satan's society and I want it to end!

Then I look up and see the sunshine, a lovely flower, the intricacies of a bird's feathers and the miracle of a healthy baby; and I am very grateful for the truth, for my calling, for the incredible human potential!

--Mrs. Kathryn R. (Toledo, OH)

I'm proud to be a part of this Work. I'm hoping and praying for the Kingdom to come quickly. Thanks to everyone at headquarters and may God bless this Work.

--Harold B. (Amelia, OH)

Grateful Responses to Romans Tapes

I heard you on tape at Church in Pikeville, Kentucky. It brought back memories of the old days when I saw you at the feast sites. It really was good to hear your voice again and to know it was you. You seem as strong in voice as ever. So keep up the good work.

--Mr. & Mrs. Bill K. (Honaker, KY)

We all had the privilege, last Sabbath, to listen to your Bible study on the book of Romans. I found it to be very inspiring. I did notice how strong your voice is. I'm praying for your health. I know God is answering.

--Mrs. Paul E. (Lemore, CA)

I want to say that the tapes we have been hearing are wonderful. You sound like the Mr. Armstrong that I first heard many years ago.

--Mrs. Elizabeth J. (Sacramento, KY)

Thank you for sending the tapes. It was great to hear your voice so strong. It sounded as powerful as it was ten years or so ago. I do pray you will be able to send more tapes.

--Mr. & Mrs. Frank V. (Contonment, FL)

Concerned About Frightening End-time Events

I'm so disturbed about the situation of our world conditions. It causes me to tremble every time I see the news. I do believe there won't be any peace on this earth until Christ comes back.

--Mrs. Margie F. (Kinston, AL)

Events today are happening so fast that when we get a hint of what is going to be, it is here. It seems to me we are in the place today where it was thought the world would be in "72." Schools in bad shape, businesses going broke. The farm situation. World crises heading for war. Rebellion. Anarchy. People are so fed up they are going to do what they want anyway.

--Mrs. Carl G. (Morland, KS)

We can certainly see world events speeding up. Time is certainly at a premium now. Everywhere there seems to be turmoil and frustration. God's Kingdom is certainly needed for all mankind.

--Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. (Crete, IL)

Conditions in many areas seem to worsen weekly. Now in yesterday's paper, an A.P. article said, "U.S. Near Bankruptcy." Everyone seems to want to spend themselves happy or take advantage of the so-called good life. They have lost confidence in saving, realizing they are losing the value of anything that is saved. If we (the American people) would only repent and follow God's ways.

--Carle R. (Duncannon, PA)

When we see all the things going on in the world at this time we can really be thankful that the TRUTH is easier to understand than all this nonsense that people call "Christian."

--Revah P. (New Iberia, LA)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

THE STARK REALITY OF EUROPE'S DEFENSELESSNESS BEGINS TO SINK HOME: The fissure between Western Europe (and Japan) and Washington is growing wider with each passing month.

Britain has defected from a united (albeit weakened) European stand on the Iran boycott issue. Only West Germany has held fast on President Carter's appeal for an Olympic Games boycott. Right after French Foreign Minister Francois-Poncet lectured U.S. Secretary of State Muskie on the virtues of

allied consultation, President Giscard d'Estaing popped up in Warsaw for a secretly planned confab with Soviet President Brezhnev. Soon West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt will be off to Moscow, responding to a "peace offensive" from the Kremlin openly designed to further split the alliance.

Now, the signals are set for what could be the biggest storm yet to lash the Atlantic Alliance. The Common Market wants to bring the Palestine Liberation Organization (P.L.O.) directly into Mideast peace negotiations. Both the U.S. and Israeli governments are furious over this possibility. Even the Egyptians are not in favor of it.

Washington would have to veto any European-sponsored pro-P.L.O. resolution in the U.N. Security Council. Yet, France, Italy and Britain seem determined to push ahead--although they have yielded temporarily to pressure from the U.S. State Department to hold back on their own plan. "We did not believe the Camp David approach could work," says one French official. "We are convinced that a Middle East solution must be global." (Note Zechariah 12:2-3).

Europe's Weakness Exposed

There is loose talk everywhere in Europe these days about America's inconsistency and incompetence--and the eventual need for Europe to "go it alone." (Arthur Schlesinger Jr., former aid to President Kennedy, says that the United States is becoming the "Inspector Clouseau of nations" --likening America to the bumbling detective, played by Peter Sellers, in the "Pink Panther" films).

Yet, if Europe does indeed "go it alone," it has but two choices. The first is neutrality between the two superpowers. But in Europe's weakened state this would only amount to "Finlandized" submission to muscle-flexing Moscow. The second choice is to pay the price in an all-out effort to defend itself.

Neither alternative--when Europeans bother to think about such stark reality--is really palatable. Reports the news magazine To The Point: "In view of the distrust of America and the dread of Soviet attack that are spreading through the Western Alliance, the natural question is: Why don't the members of the alliance tighten their belts, arm to the teeth and prepare seriously for war?"

"They could unquestionably afford it. The NATO countries' combined gross national product (GNP) is double that of the Warsaw Pact nations. Considering the very real Soviet threat, one would think the political leaders of the Western World ought to consider serious rearmament. Unfortunately, Western Europe, the United States and Japan are governed, not by statesmen, but by politicians who are primarily interested in getting themselves reelected."

Both Carter and Schmidt are locked in Autumn election battles; Giscard faces an election next Spring; and--just as we go to press--Japan's Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira has just died of a heart attack. Japan is in political turmoil. National elections are only eleven days away and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party is virtually leaderless. Japan won't even have a prime minister to send to the free world economic summit in Venice on June 22-23.

But, getting back to Europe, the realization of just how weak, how exposed the continent really is, is just beginning to dawn on its men of influence. Claude Imbert, chief editor of the French news magazine Le Point, writes in the June 2, 1980 Newsweek (European edition): "No matter how much we Europeans criticized American leadership in the past, we never ceased relying on it. So now that the United States appears to be failing in its mission as leader and champion of the European alliance, we are suddenly aware of our weaknesses vis-a-vis the Soviet Union--politically, economically and, most importantly, strategically. This awareness is heightened since most of us...worry that the United States may not resume its full world role for a decade--if not longer.

"In Europe, the prospects of a new relationship with the Soviet Union take several forms. They are all, however, underlined by the fear of a weak Europe compared to an increasingly strong, arrogant and self-assured Soviet Union, which now deliberately--and ostentatiously--displays its power. In recent talks with French diplomats, Soviet leaders didn't bother to conceal their new arrogance. Yes, they said, with positively Hitlerian brutality, we moved into Afghanistan. So what? It's no concern of yours what we do there.

"The Soviets use the same tactics over the question of nuclear weapons in Europe. Never mind about our SS20s, the Kremlin now says. They are not your concern. Just don't put Pershings [U.S. missiles] in Europe. There is no bargaining climate anymore, no more talk of equilibrium--simply a bald assertion of the bully's might. This behavior is the prelude to a bid for the neutralization of Europe, a long-term Soviet goal."

Too many Europeans, asserts Mr. Imbert, are succumbing to the "siren song" from Moscow. They are being lulled, he contends, by the idea that "Finlandization" may not be so bad after all. Mr. Imbert appeals to fellow Europeans to "take stock of ourselves before it's too late. We must remember that French President Charles de Gaulle only took an independent line because he knew that he was, in the last resort, secure within the overall U.S. defense orbit."

In view of America's decline and Russia's burgeoning power, Europe, concluded Mr. Imbert, "is only now becoming conscious of how alone it is. A stretch of solitude is always beneficial if it is used to reflect on ultimate goals and aims--especially if they involve an ultimate spiritual survival."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau