

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 21, 1980

REMINDER: Satan not Yet Chained!

by

Herbert W. Armstrong

God has given us significant and important victories very recently. He has opened new and extremely important doors for conveying His Gospel Message to NEW AUDIENCES in NEW AREAS! He has delivered us, for the time being, from the foreboding State of California lawsuit that hung like a foreboding cloud over us.

But we must REMEMBER:

The dropping of the lawsuit by the California Attorney General was only a single battle victory--NOT THE END OF THAT WAR! And Satan is still on his throne, unchained, knowing he now has but a short time--and HE WILL NOT GIVE UP!

The Attorney General of California and those politically behind him, beside those civil service bureaucrats in the Attorney General's department, and the judges who were, to say the least, irritated by our dynamic resistance and refusal to "cave in" that God's Church put up, are angry and will yet seek to win a next round of this war if possible.

I cannot read the Attorney General's mind, but I would guess he would like to carry on his political crusade to become the governor.

There is, in this world, the way of life of self-seeking and of competition that leads to the ECSTASY of winning, and the AGONY of defeat. The Attorney General and those whose interest is politically with him are not now going to just lay down and play "dead."

Already a new political movement is in evidence in Sacramento to try to introduce and pass another bill in the Legislature that will amend the Petris Bill, and restore that part on which the Attorney General really based his lawsuit and claim to ownership and total supervision of churches.

Actually, the original bill which the Petris Bill rescinded was aimed at cults like the Jonestown tragedy--cults that were not really responsible churches in the accepted sense. I understand there is another organization of some sort, claiming now to be a "church" which in reality is not a real church but engaged in a more or less criminal activity. Those embittered by the Petris Bill still want legislation to go after these "cults" posing as churches for legal protection. But if they can now succeed it may give the Attorney General's office legal grounds for renewing his lawsuit against God's Church. I'm sure those of that view would rejoice if they yet could DESTROY the Worldwide Church of God, or take over its current assets. I say current assets, because there is NO WAY they can destroy or STOP the Work of the living God. But they could,

if they ever won, take over what current cash assets are in Pasadena and perhaps millions of dollars worth of fine properties.

Anyway, remember we have won a crucial BATTLE--but not yet the WAR!

And remember, Satan is more subtle and diabolically clever than we many times over. God set him on earth's throne when he was "perfect in all his ways from the time he was created." He rebelled, revolted, turned from the brilliant Lucifer to the cunning, evil Satan. God is allowing him to remain on that throne, deceiving and misleading an unsuspecting humanity UNTIL He who qualified is established on that throne, and Satan chained and put for a thousand years into the "bottomless pit" where he can no longer sway mankind during that millennium.

If YOU don't fully realize it, Satan does--that now he has but a SHORT TIME left. And he hates most of all the ONE AND ONLY place on earth where THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD is administered--in this very Church of God! We are near, about at or just barely past the time of Revelation 7--the war in heaven, from which Satan and his demons are cast back down to earth. And what then?

"And when the dragon (Satan) saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman" (God's Church--us). Then, soon we are to be taken on the "two wings of a great eagle" to a place of safety and protection from Satan during the Great Tribulation.

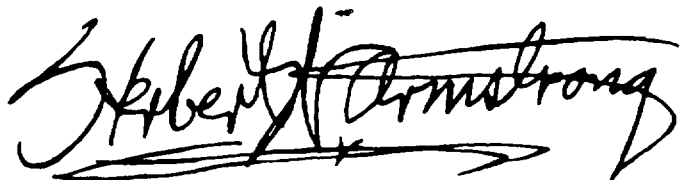
Yes, SATAN KNOWS how close we are to that time. I was personally persecuted ever since I first wrote my first article and preached my first sermon during the old "Sardis" days by some of their ministers (NOT by their brethren)!

But the first time the Church as a body met with real persecution from Satan's earthly governments was this recent lawsuit! It was definitely PROPHETIC!

LET IT WAKE US UP!

Now Satan will try harder than ever. He will find new ways to persecute us. Even yet our attorneys advise me strongly NOT TO GO YET TO PASADENA! There are those waiting to grab me or serve papers on me! Not for any wrong or evil I have done--but pure persecution!

God through Peter says to us, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour: whom RESIST steadfast in the faith...." James writes: "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert J. Armstrong". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

A Voice Cries Out: A Staggering Turn in World Events

is due to erupt in the next few years!

Appeared in the Wall Street Journal November 17, 1980

IT WILL INVOLVE violently the United States, Britain, Western Europe, and the Middle East.

It's already rather late for the Free World to come awake to the real meaning behind current world events!

World leaders do not see clearly what is coming. WHY? Why are the best minds not seeing—leaders in the United States, heads of state around the world—scientists, educators, editors, news analysts—bankers, industrialists, leaders in business and commerce? WHY?

They are all the product of modern education. They have been falsely educated in a system where the most important dimension in knowledge is unknown and untaught. They have been deceived into closing their minds to the basic CAUSES of present events and trends.

The world has been falsely educated to ignore CAUSES and deal with EFFECTS! There had to be a CAUSE of present and coming EFFECTS. There is a CAUSE that has produced strife, violence and war—poverty, wretchedness, human suffering—crime, widespread immorality, the decadence in the basic foundation of any healthy and stable society, the FAMILY UNIT! But the leaders do not know, and certainly do not correct the CAUSES!

World Explosion to Erupt!

There has been a fatal missing dimension in the dissemination of knowledge. Leaders do not know what man is, or the purpose and meaning of life! They were not taught to distinguish the true values from the false. They did not learn the real CAUSES of troubles, nor THE WAY to peace, happiness, abundant well-being for all.

They know nothing of the overall PURPOSE being worked out here below! Consequently they guide humanity in a course in conflict with that purpose! Lacking knowledge of THE WAY to peace, we have no peace. Leaders talk of peace, they profess to work for peace, they fight for peace, while they give approval



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

and blind acceptance of THE WAY that produces wars!

This world is giving civilization's acceptance to THE WAYS that are the CAUSES of all the world's evils!

And now we are approaching the final grand smash explosion. It will stagger the mind of man beyond the bounds of sanity! Forces are at work today on plans, conspiracies that soon will erupt the world into a violence and chaos such as never occurred before and never shall again! Men now are tampering with forces of nature they lack the prudence, knowledge, ability and wisdom to control!

In this folly of educated ignorance it has become fashionable and intellectually titillating to ignore the basic Mind and Power over all—the PURPOSE being worked out here below, and the master plan for its working out—the invisible but Supreme Power now soon to intervene and END the impending world chaos. It will be done to us, before mankind blasts itself out of existence!

Unreal though it may seem to those steeped in today's educational deceptions, some 2,500 years ago the Supreme Power of the universe inspired a man named Isaiah to quote Him, saying, "I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning . . . saying, 'My counsel shall stand' . . ."

The great world powers are formulating their plans and policies. But the next few years will see astounding events explode in a manner very different than they plan.

WHY? Because there does exist the great God who says, "The Eternal

wrecks the purposes of pagans, he brings to nothing what the nations plan, but the Eternal's purpose stands for ever, and what He plans will last from age to age. . . . The Eternal looks from heaven, beholding all mankind, from where He sits. He scans all who inhabit the world. He who alone made their minds. He notes all they do."

Through inspired prophets, this same Eternal foretold, beginning 2,500 years ago, the world events of the future—zeroing in particularly on our time now! All events prophesied to occur up to now have happened! without a miss! The rest—the climactic crisis of our END time—is certain—and soon!

Yet the world's best minds are in total ignorance of tremendous impending events. Neither religionists nor theologians understand!

WHY? Approximately one third of all the world's best seller is filled with PROPHECIES—mostly foretelling our immediate future! Yet the key that unlocks prophecy to UNDERSTANDING had been lost! That vital key has been found! But because it is NOT the doctrine they have been preaching, evangelical theologians ridicule it.

That vital key is the identity of the United States and Britain in biblical prophecy.

Where is the United States spoken of in biblical prophecies—especially pertaining to our immediate future? Small nations—Ethiopia, Libya, Egypt, Turkey—are mentioned. Russia is mentioned. How could such a great world power as the United States be ignored? IT ISN'T! What you have read on this page is taken from the introduction of this revealing book, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

We will present it gratis to those whose unprejudiced eyes are willing to see. It is an eye-opening, intriguing book—230 pages. You may have an attractive paperbound copy, illustrated in color, gratis on request—with no follow-up. Or, if you prefer, you may buy a distinctive hardcover copy at bookstores.

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Pastor General
Worldwide Church of God

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICESAppreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I would like to thank you for making the Refreshing Program available to us.

It has been over 15 years since we were in a classroom situation like this at Ambassador College. It was GREAT once again to hear the Plain Truth expounded and given by dedicated and loyal men. Now we have a fuller picture of the calling of the ministry and the whole scope of God's Work around the world.

We appreciated the opportunity to meet many of the ministers and wives from outside the United States. That same Spirit of loyalty and service is also with them.

Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for your years of dedication and loyalty to God. In spite of hardships and severe trials, you have held fast to the Truth that Christ delivered. Your example is a constant inspiration to all of us.

Our prayers are daily for you and this Work.

Roger and Andrea West

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

First of all we wish this small note finds you and your wife in the best of health and that your trip to England and Egypt was inspiring.

My wife and I would like to take this time to thank you for the Refreshing Program we have been privileged to attend. It was great and coming from the Feast in the Wisconsin Dells it was like walking into the Millennium.

The attitude of everyone was so wonderful and they were sincerely happy people. We hadn't been to Pasadena in 18 years and it is truly beautiful. The beauty of the campus matches the beauty of the attitude of the teachers and students.

The House of God is all they say it is and more. Again, thank you for being God's Apostle and showing us the way.

John and Dolores Coco

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Less than a week ago, my wife and I completed the Refreshing Program at Ambassador College. We have had a few days now to reflect upon the classes we participated in and to try to more deeply absorb the instruction we received. As all who have attended these sessions, we are deeply grateful. The classes

were invaluable, and we certainly needed the spiritual recharging we received through them.

However, to us the most valuable part of the program was the personal example of the instructors themselves and the personal experiences they related. God has provided leaders in His Church now who have been tried and tested and are living testimony of what they are teaching. It has strengthened our faith immensely to see how God is rewarding these men for their loyalty to God and to His Apostle. We are grateful to you and for you, Mr. Armstrong. You are a father to all of us in the faith. And we are grateful for those at Pasadena whom God is now using to hold up your arms. They are doing a wonderful job, and we want you to know that!

We also want to express our delight in the recent Festival of Tabernacles. We were privileged to attend in Tucson, and I must say that the highlight was to see and hear you in person. Our only regret is that all in the ministry of God could not have that personal contact with you.

Thank you also for giving all Church Pastors the opportunity to speak at the Feast. Speaking to such a large congregation of God's people is very inspiring (and challenging!). I appreciated your comment to the ministers that you, too, sometimes get a little nervous before speaking to vast numbers of God's people. Sometimes we forget that you, too, need to be really "up" for speaking--we just assume it comes easily for you.

Thank you again for your tireless efforts to put God's Church back on the track. Our prayers are continually with you.

Robert and Zenda Cloninger

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I have just returned from the October session of the Refreshing Program and we thoroughly enjoyed it.

Thank you very much for providing this program by which all of the ministry and their wives can be taught--guided and inspired to "speak the same thing." We really appreciated the unity and harmony of the team of men that instructed us.

It is a tremendous blessing to be a part of the ministry in God's Church. This program has helped us to be rededicated and hopefully better qualified to serve the brethren in God's Church.

Thank you again, Mr. Armstrong--we are 100% behind you as God's Apostle in this age.

Dennis and Sidni Wheatcroft

To: Messrs. Herbert W. Armstrong and Joe Tkach:

"Thanks for the memories" of the October 1980 Ministerial Refreshing Program. Both of us express our sincere appreciation for the entire session. Never in my "brief" 15-year involvement with the ministry of God's Church has there been a ministerial education and training program to match this.

It's nice to know that all sessions were conducted according to Mr. Armstrong's guidelines, and that the guidelines, policies, and doctrines covered were those of Christ through His Apostle and not of men leaning to their own understanding! The sessions were corrective, instructive, exhortative, inspiring and unifying! How important it is to know we are striving now to all speak the same thing with Mr. Herbert Armstrong.

We also appreciated the opportunity of meeting a good cross-section of the ministers serving in God's work worldwide: renewing old friendships and making new ones was an uplifting experience we shall never forget!

We also thank all the men at Pasadena who served so well as instructors in giving us so much information in so short of a time. I've got 275 pages of notes to prove it! Indeed as our minds were well exercised with weighty subjects of knowledge, our bodies were also made weighty by the delicious preparations of Carlton Green and the Ambassador College cafeteria--an experience par excellence.

And above all, THANK YOU Mr. Armstrong for providing such a program for both ministers and their wives who share with you in this highest of callings of this age to be ministers of the true God in His true Church today.

Joel and Pat Lillengreen

Dear Mr. Tkach:

My wife and I wish to express our deep appreciation to you, your staff and all the men and women who worked so hard to make the fourth session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program so exciting.

A lot has been written about the success of the program, and superlatives have been so over used in this society as to make them meaningless. I am therefore at a loss to express how we feel about the program except to say that it was truly refreshing. Refreshing indeed to hear the truth expounded as it has been revealed to Mr. Armstrong, and to hear a faithful and loyal team backing him up. The ministry is now coming to Pasadena not to teach or change doctrine, but to be taught. That's the way it should be, and although the sword cut deeper than it ever has before, how enjoyable it was.

Please pass our thanks on to all who contributed to this program.

Gerald and Carol Weston

Dear Mr. Tkach:

I would like to once more thank you for the privilege of being able to attend the session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program after the Feast. In so many ways it seems to have brought us closer together to stand behind Mr. Armstrong for the finishing of the Work. Since I attended Ambassador College at a time (1976-1978) when God's ways were not being fully taught, it was much more than a review; so much of what was taught was valuable new truth. Knowing these things will help me to be able to serve God's people much more effectively.

Keep working hard to help Mr. Armstrong. What you are doing is very important and our prayers "back home" are always with you.

Mike Grovak

(Editor's Note: One of our readers brought to our attention a couple of errors in the November 7, 1980 Pastor General's Report. The letter at the top of page 5 was coauthored, but the spelling of the first name and the country of the second person was incorrect. They should have read: Allswell Alalibo, Nigeria; Carlton Gordon, Jamaica. Our apologies to these two men.)

Prayer Request for Local Church Elder

Dear Mr. Tkach:

We wanted to write you a short letter expressing our gratitude for all your hard work and diligence in carrying out Mr. Armstrong's directives. We remember you and your family in our prayers often. We especially pray for your wife's complete healing.

We also have a prayer request for you. My wife's father is a local church elder in Abilene, Texas. He has been experiencing a severe health problem since last June. He passes out with no advance warning. At first this happened only about every six weeks, but, now it may be only two or three weeks or less. He has had to stop driving because it happened once when he was driving, fortunately no one was injured. This problem is affecting his job, and of greatest concern to him is that it affects his ability to serve God's Church.

The Newells have been an active family in the Church since God placed them in it in 1963. Gloria's Dad is still giving sermons, sermons from time to time, visiting brethren in the Abilene area, etc., but it is a very difficult time for him and his family. He has had some tests from doctors, but they do not know what is wrong. He has been anointed and is awaiting God's healing. My wife and I would greatly appreciate your prayers and those of the others at Pasadena for Dad and the family. Gloria's parents are only 54 and 49 and with God's intervention we know they will be able to continue to faithfully serve God's people for many more years.

Thank you for your prayers about this matter. We also thank you and those working with you for all your hard work for God's people.

Rand and Gloria Millich

Local Church Excited About PT Brochure

Dear Mr. Tkach:

I am writing to let you know how excited and enthused we are concerning the November 9 Plain Truth brochure that will appear in the "Huntsville Times" here in Alabama.

It is very ENCOURAGING to me and also the brethren. Being in a comparatively small area, we don't have much media coverage; so this is quite a boost for our morale.

We want you to know we don't take it for granted and we do appreciate approval to do this in the northern Alabama area.

Lawson J. Tuck

Comments From Weekly Church Reports

KALAMAZOO-COLDWATER, MI., KEN WILLIAMS: As a result of God's government being re-established in God's Church by God through Mr. Armstrong, we're experiencing peace just as Isaiah 9:7 says the world will experience in tomorrow's world. The people are striving to practice and speak the same thing that Christ is inspiring Mr. Armstrong to instruct us in. There is more unity and singleness of mind now.

The people are happy that Mr. Armstrong is taking a strong hand in running the Church again. They have a special affection and respect for him--they know, by his fruit, that Christ is using him to lead the Church.

MIDLAND, MI., GERALD WESTON: Bible study attendance has been very good. P.T. Newsstand Program is really taking off--we can hardly keep the stands filled. This area has never seen such enthusiasm for the P.T. on the newsstands.

BLACKFOOT, ID., RANDY SCHREIBER: People very much appreciated the visit from the H.Q. team. Everyone was impressed with the unity evidenced and the fact that Mr. Armstrong and those sent care enough to put forth the time and expense to visit the "little flocks."

HONOLULU, HI., DAVID A. FRASER: Attitudes generally very good--two new PM's started attending this month. Also two baptisms this month.

AUSTIN, TX., HAROLD J. RHODES: The members are enjoying the Bible study tapes from Mr. Armstrong. Many are excited about prophecy for our day and look forward to hearing Mr. Armstrong expound God's word on same.

PORTLAND (EAST) OR., JIM HAEFFELE: We're very pleased with Mr. Armstrong's continuing Bible study tapes. He has so many helpful points about life, and the Church. I hope they will continue because they are very helpful to the Church.

MONROE, LA., BRISCOE ELLETT II: Not many letters are coming in on PMS but people are still just coming to the Church. Some attend with friends and many are becoming very interested. Everyone comments on how good it is to hear Mr. Armstrong on the Bible study tapes. Donna and I certainly did enjoy seeing and being with the other ministers and their wives in Charlotte when Mr. Rader was there. Can hardly wait to get him over to this area. How wonderful it is to have peace in the Church and the spirit of unity and direction once again.

AUSTIN, TX., HAROLD J. RHODES: I must say this Feast was truly great!! Mr. Armstrong was as powerful or even more so than I have ever seen or heard him before!! Thank you Mr. Armstrong for everything you did to make this Feast a Feast of "give." All of the sermons I heard were right down the line about the Feast of Tabernacles and the World Tomorrow.

CHICO, CA., MARC SEGALL: So many comments heard by brethren on the tremendous improvement of the sermons at the Feast and their spiritual value over years past. Microwave sermons very inspiring and appreciated. The young Ambassadors film was outstanding. Thanks to Mr. Armstrong's "plug" concerning the film, we had a very good attendance to view it. The fruits of God's Spirit were so very apparent at God's Feast sites. As Mark Twain said about his Father, I will say about Mr. Armstrong: "The older I get, the smarter he gets." That's because we are realizing each day more and more how truly inspired and "right" Mr. Armstrong really is.

CHICAGO, IL., N.W., Roy Holladay: Have heard nothing but positive comments about the F.O.T. A renewed spirit of dedication and unity. Mr. Armstrong speaking to the Church really has helped to unite all of us.

MINNEAPOLIS (NORTH), MN., LEONARD SCHREIBER: Unemployment is increasing along with more severe personal and financial problems. Everyone seemed to look to the Feast more than usual this year for encouragement and the needs were certainly met. The sermons were all outstanding, the attitude of the congregation was outstanding, and Mr. Armstrong coming through live on the first and last day with powerful and encouraging messages made this the most meaningful Feast in years. We are very enthusiastic about the positive changes in Y.E.S. and Y.O.U. Our thanks to Mr. Armstrong and his aides for the wise and positive leadership. My wife and I are looking forward to attending the Refreshing Program.

OTTUMWA-DES MOINES, IA., JAMES E. REYER: Church is really growing and all are supportive of Mr. Armstrong. Brethren were very encouraged by Mr. Rader's visit. I feel it was a very profitable visit because the brethren were very impressed by his warmth and openness. Many commented to me how happy they were to get to meet and talk with both he and his wife.

BILLINGS, MT., GENE WATKINS: Generally speaking, I see people becoming more open with their problems and desiring more to counsel and solve them. It seems that most, though not all, are really

trying to get "back on the track." I think this Feast at Rapid City was one of the most inspiring we have ever attended. There seemed to be an air of electricity or excitement everywhere. Mr. Armstrong's being with us via the screen was especially inspiring--especially seeing and knowing we were all singing together and closing the Feast together all across the U.S. Thanks!

RAPID CITY, SD., STEVE BUCHANAN: Since I am writing this after the Feast, I can't help but dwell on the success of the Feast in Rapid City. Problems were minimal. Cooperation among brethren excellent. Spiritual food the greatest! I appreciated the help from all other ministers working at the Feast. I wish to express my appreciation to all Departments in Pasadena for all the support and help in making this the best Feast ever! With 21 Feast sites, I don't know how you were able to keep tabs on everything. I also want to say thanks for the opportunity to serve as a coordinator this year. We have really grown to love the Rapid City Church and appreciate this area very much!

GRAND ISLAND, NE., DON HOOSER: Upsurge in number of baptisms, especially among the young adults, ages 18-22. Also other signs of better attitudes, more commitment, etc., among the teens and young adults as well as adults. We very much appreciate Mr. Raymond McNair being here, and his wife, for the Feast of Trumpets. It was a real treat for the members.

DICKINSON, ND., DAN CREED: We did have one fine example I wanted to mention: Over a year ago one of our members dropped out of the Church. His wife, however, remained faithful and attended without him. Just right before the Feast, he started back again and even attended the Feast. He stated he had finally learned his lesson. This was a good example of a wife hanging in there!

LAS VEGAS, NV., BERNARD W. SCHNIPPERT: The members are becoming much more responsive than ever before since I've been here. I believe the reason is that many are involved in the P.T. program and hence feel themselves directly involved in the Work.

ROCKFORD, IL., MITCHELL KNAPP: Extremely inspiring Feast for everyone in the congregation. This is truly a renewed Church in attitude, dedication, zeal and unity! One indication is the increased attendance. Attitudes/spirit/morale are high. People are more settled than in many months and zealous to do the Work of God. People are more and more appreciative of Christ's leadership through Mr. Armstrong and the ministry as a whole.

KALAMAZOO, MI., KEN WILLIAMS: The brethren's trials and potential trials are more serious today but God's intervention is more immediate and obvious: Family, job, health problems continue but the brethren seem to be growing in God's faith and know he'll see them through. Another encouraging sign is that since God has used Mr. Armstrong to put the Church back on the right track the youth, for the most part, are staying with the Church and are counselling for baptism. The stricter but positive direction the Church is going has inspired them, not discouraged them.

PROVIDENCE, RI., JIM FRANKS: Outstanding beginning for clubs and Bible studies. We had record turnouts for both. We have so many new people that it is really refreshing to see them throw themselves into the activities.

RICHMOND, VA., KENNETH GIESE: A member was miraculously healed of cancer this month! We hope to submit a detailed article for the WN. Some post-Feast letdown, but most of that was eliminated by the announcement of the California Attorney General dropping all charges against us...great news! Our attendance is improving and everyone seems to be looking forward to a good year ahead in God's Church.

MACON-ATLANTA, GA., F. OTTO LOCHNER: This years Refreshing Program gave Nancy and me more direction and inspiration to know how better to serve God's Churches in Georgia. I've attended my share of conferences and even a sabbatical program, but those three weeks turned out to be the most exciting, mentally stirring and profitable hours of my 12 years in the ministry. Even inspired me to start doing my office paper work. That's a powerful great amount of stir!

Weekly Letter Comments

Almost every week we receive one or two letters from members who left God's Church and have now returned. A selection of their accounts show the misery and frustration experienced outside the Church. In the second group of comments, brethren excitedly share the good news of how God has healed them or their family and friends, expressing gratitude for God's love and mercy. Finally, Mr. Rader's book, AGAINST THE GATES OF HELL, was very well received. Many have related how it has helped them to better understand the recent California attack on the Church, as well as appreciate the efforts and sacrifice of Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Rader.

Brethren Return to Church

I have been a baptized member since 1973, and I'm now a prisoner in a Department of Corrections facility. My incarceration has nothing to do with the Church. Quite the contrary, it is the present situation and God's hand in it that has brought me back into the Church of God. I fell away from the Church in 1977. I started blaming God for my problems, forsook Him and went the way of the world. But thankfully, He never forsook me. I spent two and a half years in sin, being a slave to the "get" way of life. I caused a lot of my own problems and allowed another to involve me in a crime for which I'm now paying the price to society. However, God was there waiting patiently for me to turn back to the way or righteousness and I'm glad to say I did almost a year ago. I praise God that with the help of the minister in our area and the love of the brethren in the Church, I'm once again an active member.

Member, (San Luis Obispo, CA)

I grew up in the Birmingham Church but later decided that the world was a lot more "fun." Well, it didn't work out that way. Through being addicted to narcotics, alcohol, and ending up in jail (among various other "knocks and bumps"), I finally gave up on the idea that the world's way was better.

I have been back in Church for about six months now. I have a lot of problems to overcome, but life sure is better than what it used to be!

Member, (Pensacola, FL)

Mr. Armstrong, I stopped going to Church some time ago. I am coming back--I need fellowship with the brethren and ministers of God. I need God in my life--He's never really been out, but I need to go to Church. Will you please begin sending me your letters again and other correspondence from the Church. I am so out of touch--I feel lost. I hope it's not too late. I stopped tithing also--and my life and finances have turned up-side down. I am starting to tithe again--I can't afford not to. God's Word needs to go out and I want to help.

Member, (Pearland, TX)

Mr. Armstrong, I left the Church in the spring of 1978. I look back now and I can see that Satan was behind it. It no doubt pleased him when I left. For two years I was gone and never was I content or happy. Many times I wanted to pray, but I knew unless I was willing to do God's will, that He would turn a deaf ear to me.

By January of 1980, I realized I wanted to come back. Yet it took me till April before I actually did. Again Satan was shooting poison darts at me. I was convinced that I wouldn't be welcomed back. I was ashamed to face everyone.

But God was with me and one morning I woke up and realized that God's people would rejoice, and they did, at my return.

Now it's as if I never left. Once again I'm fulfilled, content and happy.

Member, (Batavia, OH)

Members Healed

One of my friends, a member of God's Church for years, became ill with kidney failure. He was taken to the hospital. When they operated, they found he was full of cancer--kidneys, liver, lungs and spine. They gave him one to three weeks to live. They did not put him on the kidney machine because even that would have hastened his death, he was so full of cancer. He was anointed and prayers were made for him. He is now well, and is back at work!

Mrs. Margaret L. Taylor, (Chandler, AZ)

The great God intervened in my life and spared me a painful operation and possibly the life of our unborn child.

In March 1980, I was hospitalized for 24 hours, during which time they found a mass on the artery leading into my heart. The doctors felt it would require surgery. In the meantime, my pregnancy test came back positive.

I went to my minister and was anointed. I returned to the doctor one week later and the mass was gone! Our great God in His infinite mercy healed me and in December my husband and I will be the parents of a bouncing baby.

I thank God every day for His mercy.

Mrs. Karless Mills, (Spring Lake, NC)

Last summer I was one miserable person for nearly two months. First off, I had severe diarrhea, lasting on and off for six weeks. The last five days it got so bad I was scared and so I called the minister. He mailed me an anointed cloth. Immediately I got better with just one occurrence about five days later.

Then I got a Barthlon cyst. I was operated on for the removal of it about 15 years ago! It is a most painful condition, and one nearly goes out of one's mind with the pain. I always dreaded the time it ever returned. Again I called my minister and in 48 hours it came open, drained and the tenderness has all left. I feel wonderful. I felt these conditions were very serious and wanted to let you know that God is healing us.

Mrs. John W. Henry, Jr., (Mill Run, PA)

Our daughter used a lotion to which she reacted with a rash and edema so severe as to cause pain and bruising. Our minister anointed her. Within the day the swelling began to recede and she was healed.

Our son's car was struck on the driver's side by another vehicle. He sustained head injuries and was unable to close his jaw. We called for an anointed cloth. Within hours his head and jaw were normal again.

Mr. & Mrs. Ziegler, (Ypsilanti, MI)

Mr. Rader's Book Appreciated

Last night I finished reading AGAINST THE GATES OF HELL. It has been a very effective means to get better acquainted with Mr. Stanley Rader. I believe the book was inspired by God, and will be used by Him as another way to preach the Gospel.

Mrs. Clay Thornton, (Pasadena, CA)

Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for the copy of Mr. Rader's book, AGAINST THE GATES OF HELL. I find it hard to put down and do my housework. Having been in God's Church for just six years, it is interesting to read about its early days and your efforts and sacrifices.

Mrs. John Cutshall, (Centerville, OH)

Just wanted to express my appreciation and praise for Mr. Rader's book AGAINST THE GATES OF HELL. It is a masterpiece. It moved me from tears to anger to laughter time and again. I've never read a book of its kind.

James Demoret, (Atlantic Beach, NC)

Please, Mr. Armstrong, convey my special praise to Mr. Rader on his book, AGAINST THE GATES OF HELL. He has put together all the pieces of information and events in such an excellent form. I feel that even my thirteen-year-old son will be able to read it with understanding.

Mrs. Carolee Spencer, (Milpitas, CA)

I am almost finished with Mr. Rader's book and I cannot put it down. The truth made me cry and also angry, because of what Satan is trying to do. The full impact of the past two years is in my hands, and it hit all at once.

Mrs. Timothy Cartwright, (Cedar Brook, NJ)

May I also express my gratitude to Mr. Rader, and to you, Mr. Armstrong, for the wonderful new book, AGAINST THE GATES OF HELL. It is good to know the story in detail--the situation between the Church and the State of California. I am so very thankful to be a part of this loyal little flock!

Mrs. G.E. Martin, (Plain Dealing, LA)

--JOE TKACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

PLAIN TRUTH PROMOTIONAL PROGRAMS

It has continually come to our attention in recent months that a number of Church Pastors, Newsstand Coordinators, and lay members have initiated their own promotional programs in the local area for The PLAIN TRUTH which have not been approved by Mr. Herbert Armstrong.

We do appreciate the help, and do not want to stifle the creativity and input of those in your area. However, implementation of these programs without Mr. Armstrong's approval can result in a misrepresentation of the image and high standards he would desire and an unplanned impact on budget expenditures.

Therefore, in a continuing effort to strive for unified teamwork in our varied roles of assisting Mr. Armstrong in completing the Great Commission, be sure that ALL ideas for promotion of The PLAIN TRUTH or other Church literature are submitted to Pasadena to receive approval from Mr. Armstrong BEFORE using them in your local area.

Submit ideas to Boyd Leeson, c/o Publishing Department.

--Ministerial Services

DIFFERENT WAYS PEOPLE COME IN CONTACT WITH THE WORK

The ways in which people first come across our literature or broadcast can be fascinating. We thought you would enjoy these interesting accounts of how some have recently come in contact with the Work.

While on vacation this summer in Los Angeles, California, I came across a free copy of The PLAIN TRUTH on a pier in Redondo Beach. On the flight home I started to read it, and was astonished at the truths revealed inside.

(M.M., Brooklyn, NY)

I will never forget the first time I came to read The PLAIN TRUTH. I was sitting idle one day at Marcus Jones Buick at the service center. I just so happened to pick up the magazine and read one of the articles. I realized this wasn't just an ordinary magazine.

(E.E., Houston, TX)

Several years ago, as a drug-oriented teenager, I found in the mailbox a copy of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. I had not requested it, and truthfully had I known what it was, I would have never read it. For some reason I thought your literature was of the radical, drug-oriented culture, and I sent for the publication, "Hippies, Hypocrisy and Happiness."

(S.D., Springfield, MO)

I read The PLAIN TRUTH last month while I was at the doctor's office and I got the card out of it, so that I could get one free. My husband told me that you cannot get anything free anymore. Well I proved him wrong.

(V.M., Keyser, WV)

My seven-year-old son found the June-July issue of The PLAIN TRUTH in a broken newspaper rack while I was shopping at Long's Drugstore and gave it to me. It has changed my life considerably.

(R.A., San Pablo, CA)

My wife and I have an alarm radio that we always wake up to when some talk show came on. One day one of my children messed with the dials of the radio and the next morning, to my surprise, the program was different! It was your program on WMAQ out of Chicago.

(C.B., Trevor, WI)

I have not been a magazine reader before. But, I found a copy of The PLAIN TRUTH on a roadside, one early morning. I read it and found what was going around. Our place here is mountainous because we are on a mining site. I hope that I will be given a chance to subscribe.

(R.R., Philippines)