

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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"SATAN DECEIVE AND USE ME?

N E V E R !!"

by Herbert W. Armstrong

For the moment, I was much discouraged and grieved. If you had lost a half dozen, a dozen or more of your "loved ones" how would you feel? It seemed for the moment that we had lost from the Church more than half of the top-ranked evangelists. The result of Satan's intensified wrathful attack against Jesus Christ and the Church at this END time! I mourn more over such a loss than one by death. Don't you?

Yet when I stopped to jot down the names of those evangelist-ranked, those still loyal and solid outnumber those gone two to one!

Yet I loved those who are now outside the Church. Jesus would understand. He suffered the same experience when "From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life" (John 6:66-68). And even one of Jesus' twelve apostles betrayed Him!

But if even Jesus suffered persecution, so must we who follow Him. And if He had to suffer seeing those who had been with Him turn away, so must we who are faithful in His Church today.

In actual fact, of those now out I would shift the major guilt from them to the real enemy, Satan. He is the only real enemy. He is furious right now, intensifying his attack! I again warn all of you!

Yet if I say to one who is now out, "The real blame is not yours. Satan got to you--deceived you and thus used you against Christ and the Church," he would bristle up in self-righteous anger. He would say, "Satan deceive and use me? NEVER! You accuse me of being a minister of Satan? Satan could never deceive ME!"

No, I don't falsely accuse--I don't accuse such a former minister at all! I merely remove the principal blame from him and lay it where it belongs--on SATAN!

But do you think YOU are immune from the wiles and subtle deceptions of Satan? Are YOU stronger than Satan? DON'T SO UNWISELY UNDERESTIMATE SATAN! Satan is the strongest being or personage God ever created, except the other two archangels Michael and Gabriel. Satan DID get to the more than a half dozen top-ranking ministers in God's Church! Even though they themselves do not realize it.

But HOW? That is the important question. HOW? For if Satan could be cunning enough to have gotten to them, perhaps he could get to you or me--UNLESS we understand HOW, and WHY he got to them.

Let's think about that a while! Let's be sure the rest of us do not fall into Satan's trap! In what way did those now on the outside let their guard down? If we understand that--if we understand HOW Satan gets through to us, then we CAN be secure in Christ and in His Church!

There are certain ways in which we may "let our guard down"--make ourselves susceptible to being deceived and used by Satan, and also certain ways in which we may open the door for a demon to enter and possess us.

God's Word warns us to be constantly ON GUARD against Satan's wiles.

Let me give you some examples.

For instance, consider a man who was consciously pained by a feeling of inferiority. Everyone of us experiences an uncomfortable sense of inferiority at times. I'm grateful that God caused me to read some place, when I was only 18 or younger, that it is indeed a wise man who knows his own weaknesses, his shortcomings and limitations, as well as his talents, abilities and strengths. I have ever since tried to know my own weaknesses as well as abilities--to correctly and properly assess myself. Where there were lack of strengths, and inadequacies, I have relied on the POWER OF GOD or avoided those fields or endeavors I was unfitted for.

But consider a man who did not do that. This man, troubled by a feeling of inferiority, tried to find a way to "kid himself" out of it--to convince himself that he was not inferior. He decided to become a "scholar." If he could regard himself as one of the elite scholarly, he reasoned, he would not have to suffer the feeling of inferiority. One talent this man certainly lacked was that of sound scholarship. He let a sense of VANITY lead him into this. Now vanity is the very foundation of Satan's philosophy. It is self-centeredness. It leads naturally to coveting, competition, resentment of authority over one.

So this man began to think of himself as a "scholar." He began to work on that which he was not fitted to do. He began a "scholarly" check-up on the doctrines of God's Church. In his "scholarly" research he began by misunderstanding Acts 17:11, where those at Berea "were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness (openness) of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were SO." This man did not search the Bible to see that God's truths were SO. He tried by UNscholarly human reasoning to prove the Church doctrines were NOT true.

This self-centered attempt led to doubts instead of faith, and to a spirit of competition against God's Church. Without perhaps realizing it, he had started himself out on Satan's way of vanity, coveting, competition, resentment of authority within God's Church and God's GOVERNMENT in His Church. He went out of the Church.

Three or four other ministers made the mistake of treating cheaply the GOVERNMENT OF GOD in His Church. They did not consider carefully the real meaning and significance of a very pivotal and key statement of Scripture, in Acts 3:19-21. The heaven must receive Christ "until the times of restitution" (restoration) "of all things." What is to be restored is centered around the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, which Lucifer made inoperative. The Government of God has not yet been restored to all

the world. It soon will be. Meanwhile, in this short "END time" that Government has been restored WITHIN GOD'S CHURCH! It is THAT GOVERNMENT Satan is wrathful against.

These ministers thought they had discovered a new truth, contrary to the teaching of God's Church. They knew well they should have come with it first to headquarters or to me personally, to make it official doctrine. Thus it might--if true--be shared with the whole Church world-wide. But they allowed a spirit of vanity, self-centeredness and competition to enter. They kept it from headquarters, but began preaching their "new truth" to their own churches.

But their "new truth" was gross and harmful error. They misled brethren--for the time being. They opened their minds for Satan to DECEIVE and to USE them!

If you allow a bit of self-centeredness, vanity, covetousness, envy or jealousy, spirit of competition or resentment of authority--especially that of the Government of GOD in His Church--to enter your mind--if you begin to act on such impulse, you have already started in Satan's way. For those attitudes and desires are ways of TRANSGRESSING God's Law--OF SIN!

And where does it lead?

You take one such false step, accept one false "truth" and refuse to REPENT of it at once and turn from it, you will then go on into more and more error.

For 54 years now, I have seen this happen--all too often to those I have loved. If people mourn and weep over a loved one who dies, HOW MUCH MORE have I had to mourn and suffer over the SPIRITUAL loss of a brother or sister in God's Church!

Let me illustrate. One is walking along in a thickly-wooded forest on a moonless pitch-dark night. But just ahead of him is an experienced guide with a lighted lantern. If he follows that lighted lantern he will be led safely out of the woods. But if he turns aside just a step or two and hesitates, the light continues on out of his sight. Then he is really lost. If one turns aside from God's truth on just one point, or one doctrine, and does not quickly repent, the light of God's truth moves on. In his self-centered effort to find the light of truth, he now walks blindly in wrong directions. He takes more and more steps in the wrong direction. That is, he proceeds on into more and more error, all the while losing more and more of what truth he had.

God's Word, the Holy Bible, is "a lamp unto our feet" to guide us out of the darkness of error and into the daylight brightness of TRUTH. The oil that produces the light in the lamp or lantern, causing it to light up to our understanding, is the Holy Spirit. (c.f. Ps. 119:105, Matt. 25:1-13).

So comprehend the illustration. We all were lost in the dark woods of sin. On first realization of it, with repentance and belief, we received a first portion of God's Holy Spirit. The Bible begins to light up. It is as many as are led by the Spirit of God that are the

begotten sons of God (Rom. 8:14). The Spirit of God, by lighting up the Bible, leads us a step at a time into more and more truth, and a step at a time out of error and sin. But if and when you reject one point of truth, it is like stepping aside in the dark woods. You are no longer being led by the Spirit of God opening the Bible to right understanding. The light--the Spirit of God--leaves you. God's TRUTH marches on! It leaves you behind. You are in darkness again. Lost again in the darkness of sin! You stumble around in the thick dark woods trying to find the lighted lantern. But every step you now take is taking you farther away from the lighted lantern, proceeding on the SURE path out of the woods.

In other words, if you reject one point of truth, or take one step aside into a point of error--unless you repent immediately and get back to the light--you will take more and more steps into erroneous beliefs, and one by one give up the points of TRUTH you had seen and accepted.

Take the example of some ministers who left God's Church. Some tried to incorporate new "churches" of their own. But they were not GOD'S churches. These men had all rejected one or more points of truth, or Church doctrine. They almost immediately began to add new points of false doctrine of their own--not of God. Soon they began rejecting points of TRUTH. Perhaps it was tithing. Perhaps healing. Perhaps voting in this world's governments. Perhaps it was God's Government in the Church. Soon they were rejecting God's annual holy days and feasts. Soon they were rejecting more and more of GOD'S TRUTH and turning to more and more FALSE doctrines and errors. THEY, PROFESSING TO FOLLOW CHRIST in their new way, WERE GOING FARTHER and FARTHER AWAY FROM HIM. They were going closer and closer to Satan and Satan's WAY.

Now HOW DID IT ALL START?

It started, in every case, by taking one first step in Satan's direction--compromising--becoming "liberal"--or resenting and rebelling against GOD'S GOVERNMENT in His Church--or letting a spirit of SELF enter in--it could be self-righteousness, or self-centeredness in COVETING P O W E R. More than one has been led into spiritual darkness by coveting POWER in God's Church. Unfortunately, conferring on leading ministers such rank or titles as "Evangelist" or "Vice-President" went to some heads, sparking a coveting of POWER in the Church. It almost seems strange--it was NOT in these men a lust or greed for more money--it was a coveting of POWER--of the TOP SEAT--of AUTHORITY--or of the resentment of authority over them.

This makes me think of our little shortlegged dachshund, "Sir Hans Armstrong," who wears a badge (around his neck), as "deputy sheriff." He "owns" our home, and always wants the chief seat. He will leap up into it and curl up in it. These men wanted "the chief seat"--at least in a certain department or part of the Work, and wanted to build their own little "empire."

HOW, then, do we "let our guard down" to let Satan deceive and lead us out of the Church?

It all gets back to THE LAW OF GOD, and the "SIN QUESTION." Sin is the transgression of the Law" (I John 3:4). The Law is Spiritual (Rom. 7:14). It is A WAY OF LIFE!

The churches of traditional "Christianity" teach that "the Law was DONE AWAY." Adam and Eve TOOK TO THEMSELVES the reasoning of the KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL--that is they decided for themselves what is sin. The world's "Christian" churches do the same. They cannot REPENT of sin when they do not know what sin IS! Or, have a false definition of what is sin!

The Holy Spirit of God is given to those who have REPENTED of--TURNED FROM--sin. A begotten son of God is one who IS LED BY the Holy Spirit--the lighted lantern (or lamp) in the dark woods. If we do not FOLLOW where God's Spirit leads, the "lamp"--or its light (the Holy Spirit) leaves us.

God's LAW is a WAY OF LIFE. It is the WAY of outflowing LOVE--to God, and to fellowman. It is OBEDIENCE to God and His law--even when that Law is the BASIS of God's GOVERNMENT in His Church! It is reverence and worship of God, keeping God's Sabbath; and it is love to neighbor. The transgression of the Law--SIN--is irreverence to God's Law IN HIS GOVERNMENT in the Church, vanity, self-centeredness, coveting, resentment of authority (especially of God's GOVERNMENT in God's Church), spirit of rivalry and competition and self-desire.

YOU LET DOWN YOUR GUARD, AND ALLOW SATAN TO DECEIVE AND USE YOU when, once you have known the truth, repented, received God's Spirit, started on GOD'S WAY, you take a step away from that way, begin to liberalize, compromise with Satan.

Now what about DEMON POSSESSION?

Let's UNDERSTAND the difference between being DECEIVED and USED BY Satan, on the one hand, and being demon POSSESSED on the other hand.

It all has to do with the human MIND. Few, even psychologists, understand the makeup of the human mind. Like animals, man has BRAIN. The brain is composed of physical substance. The brain, whether animal or human, sees through the eye, it hears through the ear, smells through the nose. Thus it receives knowledge through the five senses of eye, ear, nose, palate for taste, and sense of feel through nerves.

The brain alone, however, cannot think, except in the most elementary way. It cannot store up multiple millions of bits of memory and give itself instant recall to put these selected bits of stored-up knowledge together in the THINKING and REASONING process. Animals, with brain alone cannot think, reason, make choices and decisions like a human. The human mind-output is millions of times greater than that of animals.

WHY? There is a portion of spirit in humans which imparts the power of intellect to the human brain. This "human" spirit acts as a computer. Whatever knowledge enters the brain through senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste or feel is automatically "programmed" and stored in the portion of spirit within the person.

This spirit empowers the physical brain with intellect. It enables the brain to have instant recall of any one or several pieces of stored-up knowledge from the spirit, and thus enables the brain to utilize these bits of related knowledge in the process of THINKING and REASONING.

This spirit is NOT the person or any part of the person, but something INSIDE the person. It is not a "soul." The person, made of matter, is the soul while breathing air and circulating blood by the heart. Human LIFE resides in the blood and the breath of air. The portion of spirit added to every human person from birth does not supply human life. Of itself, it cannot think or reason--the physical BRAIN does that. When a human dies, the portion of spirit leaves the body. It is preserved intact by God (Eccl. 12:7) until the resurrection.

Since all knowledge enters the brain through the five senses, only knowledge of the physical and the material is programmed and stored in the human spirit. The human, with this one portion of spirit residing within him from birth, cannot KNOW or comprehend spiritual knowledge. The normal human mind can deal with physical and material matters. But his PROBLEMS, troubles, evils, are spiritual in nature, and he CANNOT SOLVE THEM.

MAN WAS MADE TO NEED ANOTHER SPIRIT--the Holy Spirit of God. Just as a human could not KNOW the things of human knowledge except by the portion of the spirit of man which is in him, SO he cannot know the things of God--spiritual knowledge--except by the addition of the Holy Spirit of God (I Cor. 2:11).

Adam had the "spirit in man," and access to the Holy Spirit (tree of life). What happened to Adam? He used his MIND with its "spirit of man" to CHOOSE a WAY OF LIFE contrary to the Law of God. His mind became carnal. SATAN SWAYED IT. Satan has been swaying all human minds from birth ever since--all EXCEPT THAT OF JESUS!

That is not demon possession. It is a voluntary CHOOSING to follow a WAY OF LIFE contrary to God's Law--the way of SIN. All have sinned. But such a person is IN HIS RIGHT MIND--HIS HUMAN MIND! He is deceived and used by Satan, but NOT demon possessed!

A demon-possessed person is just that--possessed by the demon. The demon has ENTERED, and taken POSSESSION. The person no longer has control of his own mind. The demon has taken possession of it!

When Jesus talked to the demon-possessed, He did not talk to the man at all. He talked to the demon. The demon-possessed cannot of themselves cast out the demon. They are no longer in possession of their own minds! Jesus by His authority cast demons out. So did the apostles.

Now HOW does one come to be DECEIVED by Satan and used by him? And HOW does one become demon-possessed? We are talking about two different things.

ALL, except Jesus, since Adam, have been DECEIVED and led by Satan from earliest life. Satan begins working on and deceiving the human mind even during the first year of life--injecting his attitude of SELF-CENTEREDNESS, vanity, coveting, competition, resentment of authority. But what about a top-ranking minister? He is one who, supposedly, had previously become aware of that, had REPENTED of that self-centered way of sin, and turned to GOD'S way.

He, if deceived by Satan and used by him, is one who, like Lot's wife, began to "look back"--even if just a little at first. He may have

been willing to compromise on a minor point. He became a little "liberal" on some point. Or he let vanity, covetousness, desire for personal POWER, or self-righteousness, or disagreement on a doctrine, introduce a wrong ATTITUDE against the Church or God's WAY. I have explained all this above. One step in the wrong direction leads to another. He becomes "lost in the dark woods," so to speak. He is for the moment not being "LED BY GOD'S SPIRIT." Soon he will be misled on another point, then another. Or, he comes to a new "truth" and allows it to ignite a wrong attitude. He will go farther and farther away from God's REAL truth, and farther and farther into error. But HE IS STILL IN HIS "RIGHT" BUT CARNAL MIND--not necessarily demon possessed.

Humans were created and born with the "spirit in man" so as to NEED the addition of a second Spirit, the Holy Spirit of God. Now when one receives the Spirit of God, it DOES NOT POSSESS HIM! It does not TAKE OVER CONTROL of his mind. It OPENS his mind to NEW and to SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE. It is the spirit of a SOUND MIND (II Tim. 1:7).

HOW, then, does one open the mind to let in a demon?

I knew a woman, so far as I knew until demon possession, an admirable woman. She became happily married. In pregnancy there was a miscarriage. She made a terrible mistake. She blamed it on God. She became bitter and emotionally enraged and angry against God. This opened her mind to let a demon enter and possess her. I was called to cast out the demon. She was restored to her natural mind. She became pregnant again. Again there was a miscarriage. Again she accused God, in emotional almost uncontrollable anger and rage. Again she was demon-possessed--only this time by several demons. (Read Matthew 12:45). I was called again. A demon was using her voice and speaking. In the middle of an unfinished sentence, the voice commenced speaking about something else altogether. That voice was interrupted and another began speaking with her voice about an altogether different something, and yet none of it made sense. It was many demons, each interrupting the other.

Some Pentecostal people get to desperately seeking "the spirit." I have noticed they often say "the spirit"--not the HOLY Spirit," or the "Spirit of GOD." They cry out desperately to receive "the spirit." They say certain words, or short phrases, over and over hundreds and hundreds of times, like "Glory, glory, glory, glory, glory," etc. Or, "Hallelujah," hundreds of times--or "Praise you, Jesus" over and over hundreds of times --until the words become meaningless and mere sounds. Their minds are virtually BLANK by the time the words by repetition become utterly meaningless. Sometimes a demon has entered in when they lost control of their minds.

Or, if one allows himself to go into an emotional rage so intense he has lost his mind, a demon could then enter and take control.

But a normal person, keeping a sound mind control, has not opened the door to allow a demon to enter and possess the mind.

I would never want to put myself into the hands of a psychiatrist or a hypnotist. If one would ask me to totally relax my mind and let my mind go blank, I would immediately rise up and walk away. If I should obey I might open the door of my mind to a demon.

Under normal circumstances, however, NO ONE NEED FEAR A DEMON MAY TAKE POSSESSION--unless you open your mind by letting it be blank, or under control of another, or you lose your mind in an emotional, angry rage.

But we do need to be ON GUARD against the wiles and deceptions of Satan. He deceives people by SELF-centeredness, vanity, lust and greed, especially of power, envy and jealousy, hostile competition, resentment of any kind, and especially resentment of authority, and most especially resentment of the GOVERNMENT OF GOD!

Satan is going about seeking WHOM he may destroy from God's Church and Kingdom. Don't let the one he destroys be YOU!

We CAN be secure in Christ and in His Church.

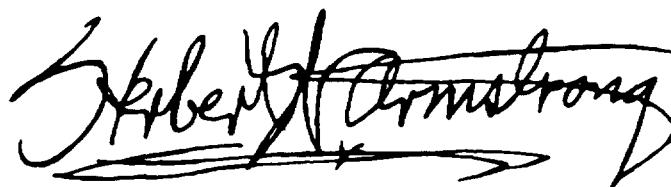
Let me close, as the Apostle Paul did his second letter to the Church at Corinth:

Brethren, Ministers, and even chief Evangelists in God's Church, "EXAMINE YOURSELVES, to see whether you are holding to your faith. Test YOURSELVES."

I have covered here IN PRINCIPLE, what OTHERS did that caused Christ to take them out of GOD'S CHURCH! Don't think, "Well, all that applied to THEM--not to ME!" Be sure YOU do not start, even so little at first, in Satan's direction. Let no jealousy or contention of any kind against another--whether another member or another of YOUR RANK in the Work, even start to kindle in your mind! For GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS. For if God spared not even the ANGELS that sinned (II Peter 2:4), He would no more spare YOU! I did not write this article in order to speak AGAINST those who are OUT, but to warn YOU who are still in, from the very TOP in the Church to the least.

We say we are back on the track now. We say we have TEAMWORK and harmonious cooperation at Pasadena. That had come at great COST. SEE THAT WE DON'T LET SATAN GET TO ANY ONE OF YOU!

If I had to take the MOST difficult action against even my own son, as Paul wrote, be zealous that "I may not have to be severe in my use of the AUTHORITY which the Lord has given me for BUILDING UP and not for tearing down" (II Cor. 13:5, 10).

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Herbert Armstrong". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font. There are several horizontal lines drawn through the signature, and a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right and then curves back under the signature.

TO ALL MINISTERS
by
Herbert W. Armstrong

I am reminded, in line with the above, of one problem of the past. Many of our ministers, from about 1967, apparently began to feel that the organizational structure in God's Church, from the top down, had a different meaning than it does.

In both I Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4 we find a chain of AUTHORITY in the Bible. God the Father is HEAD above all. Jesus Christ is next in line of authority. But GET THIS: UNDERSTAND IT! Although Jesus is the living HEAD of the Church, He has never CUT US OFF from going direct to the Father. In teaching us how to pray He did not say, "Don't you DARE take any matter to the Father. You DON'T DARE go past ME! Although I am under the Father in authority I am OVER YOU, and if you dare take it over my head and go to the Father direct, I will CUT YOU OFF!" No, Jesus said, "When ye pray, say, Our Father," etc.--go direct to the Father, but in Jesus' name--by His authority. That is, Jesus gave us AUTHORITY to go to the Father direct.

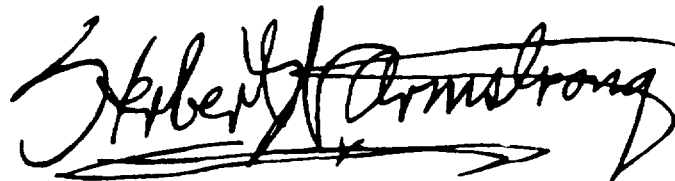
But many in the ministry FEARED to come direct to me. The chain of authority is, first God the Father, next Christ, HEAD of the CHURCH, next, on the human level, Christ's Apostle, then, UNDER, not over the Apostle, Evangelist, then Pastor, then Elder. But many FEARED for their jobs if they came direct about anything to the Apostle. The Evangelist-rank Executive Vice-Presidential office was considered the TOP and anyone above was CUT OFF! That really meant, if anyone stopped to consider it, that all above the office in charge of ministers, or the Executive Vice-President were CUT OFF! That means, actually, being CUT OFF from Christ and from God the Father!

Let me once for all make this CLEAR and PLAIN. NO ONE is CUT OFF from coming to me. No one is CUT OFF from going above my head to Christ, or above His head to the Father!

Any major problem may be brought directly to me. NO ONE MUST FEAR to bring any such matter to me direct! NO ONE IS CUT OFF FROM me!

On the other hand I do want you to understand I can't handle every routine matter, that's what other offices under me are for!

But NO ONE SETS POLICIES BUT THE APOSTLE! And all major problems may be freely brought to the Apostle. The door is open. But please just don't come to me with every little minor thing, for there are just not enough of me to handle so many matters. Use judgment and wisdom. "Nuff said"!!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Herbert W. Armstrong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

I regret exceedingly the necessity to report to you the disfellow-shipment from the Church of another minister whom I have loved very much. Unless it is later made necessary I do not want to mark him before the entire membership.

But division and spiritual harm has come to the Church in Washington D.C. under the pastorship of Sherwin McMichael. Much of it centered around a misconception of what demon possession is, and how the ministry should deal with it. A certain "psychiatry"-related method was introduced which was harming and dividing the Church there. I may in a near issue go into some detail of the new supposed "Biblical" procedure introduced-- and explain demon possession and the ministerial dealing with it in more detail. But attitude and harm to Church were the main causes. I did and still do love Sherwin very deeply, and I hope you'll join me in prayer that he'll find his way back to the lighted lantern leading out of the darkness before it's too late that he might yet be received back.

--Herbert W. Armstrong

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Local Church Video Equipment

It has come to our attention that some of the men attending the Ministerial Refreshing Program inadvertently may have been given the impression that they should try to raise money locally and purchase video equipment for their churches. Please do not attempt to do this.

The cost of purchasing this equipment would be quite expensive for most of the local churches. Additionally, we feel if video programs are sent to the field we will purchase 10 or 15 sets of equipment and send the equipment around to all the churches along with the video tapes.

Using the Central Clearing Account to Pay Hall Rent

If it can be avoided, please do not use the Central Clearing Account to pay normal church hall rent. However, if a situation arises in which the C.C.A. must be used to pay hall rent, please attach the following information to the yellow C.C.A. Expense Record slip:

1. The name and address of the vendor. (This is of particular necessity if the check is made out to a deacon or other third party.)
2. The federal identification number of the vendor.
3. A receipt for the payment.

This information is needed by the Accounting Department so that they can properly report this information to the federal government for income tax purposes.

(Continued on page 12)

A Voice Cries Out: What's Wrong with Organized Labor?

Has it, after all, contributed to a permanently better world, or-?

Appeared in the Wall Street Journal, Dec. 1, 1980

THE UNION worker, as well as the capitalist, executive and all of us, stands today on the very brink of human extinction!

Right now we're all in the same boat, facing the No. 1 problem of human survival!

There has to be a cause for every effect. What brought civilization to the chaotic state where for the first time it's possible for man to erase mankind from the earth?

We're looking, in this series, at six major facets of man's civilization. We covered modern education first, because the leaders are what education made them, and civilization is the product of the leaders. We've covered the contributions of government, of science and technology, of business and industry. And now, organized labor.

What has been organized labor's part in the development of today's civilization?

Surely, when we look at the progress made during the 20th century, labor's achievements have been incredibly good?

Modern organized labor has produced the highest living standard for the common man for the nation as a whole ever enjoyed in any country since man has inhabited this earth. It has shortened work hours, increased pay, brought fabulous benefits compared to labor conditions as they existed previously—and still exist in most countries. One of the great contributions has been child labor laws.

But conversely, unrealized by most, labor has contributed its share to the chaotic state of the country and of the world.

One might not think, until looking more deeply, that organized labor has contributed its share to the present problems of unemployment, inflation,



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

the inroads foreign competition has made in these areas, and now setting in, the lowering of the American high living standard.

Early in the 20th century American industry got the jump on that of other nations, with mass machine assembly-line production, made possible by the American mass market. This greatly lowered production cost, and as greatly expanded profits. Industrial ownership here would have followed the English custom, in the human-nature pull to "GET" rather than share or "GIVE." In Britain the rich lived in the "great houses" maintaining low-cost labor.

But the labor unions went all out to "GET" all possible from the enormous new mass production system.

Labor wars ensued. Historically were the "Herrin massacre" coal strike, Herrin, Ill., in which 36 were killed, June, 1922; the Los Angeles Times bombing, and other labor wars of extreme violence.

A new "GET" economic philosophy infiltrated labor unionism. No longer was a single company a "team" where all worked together against rival competition. Even that had been based on the "GET" incentive. But now capital and management became the enemy of labor.

It may have been true that a union man often was a more proficient worker than a nonunion. But that was because unions enlisted the more skilled, not because unionism encouraged or taught

them to climb the ladder of success. Too often a union leader said to an employee, "Slow down, there, buddy—or we'll all have to work as conscientiously as you are!"

I remember the philosopher writer Elbert Hubbard, whom I well knew, writing "Unionism chains the laborer to his bench," and the theory "once a laborer, always a laborer," with no policy in unionism to inspire and help the working man to rise to higher status in life.

Yet where is organized labor different than those in other facets of a bankrupt and annihilation-facing civilization? Are not capital and management in it, also, for what they can "GET"?

The world forgets—or did it ever know?—that peace, happiness, contentment, joy, are spiritual qualities! There is a basic spiritual law in relentless motion that governs all life! It governs not only these spiritual conditions of well being, but universal economic prosperity as well! That basic law is, simply, outflowing love! I simplify it by the term "GIVE" and its transgression the way of "GET."

"GET" seems to have got us all! The "GET" incentive is the root cause of all the world's troubles and evils!

The way of "GIVE," cooperate, serve, help, share, is the basic spiritual law of our Maker! The world has been trying to beat that law—and is being beaten by it!

The supremely powerful invisible "Strong Hand from Somewhere" very soon is going to intervene dynamically to save humanity from itself—before MAN blasts mankind from the earth! This voice is crying out with that announcement—the world's *only* and *SURE HOPE!*

Whether believed or not, it is as SURE as the rising and setting of tomorrow's sun.

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Pastor General
Worldwide Church of God

Those who care for it may have, gratis, with no follow-up, Mr. Armstrong's booklet *The Seven Laws of Success*. The nation's top executives have followed the first six. Also, on request, no subscription price, the full color mass circulation magazine of UNDERSTANDING, *The Plain Truth*, bringing you the meaning behind world news. Address Herbert W. Armstrong, Pasadena, Calif., 91123, or call toll free 1800-423-4444. In California call collect (213) 577-5225.

International News

Report From the U.K. Mr. Herbert Armstrong preached to an overflow attendance of a special combined church in North London recently on his way to the Middle East. For many present, this was the first time they had seen Mr. Armstrong in person and a number of members even flew in from other areas of the European continent to be there. For the many others who had heard him preach before, it was good to hear him once again in such good form after being away from the U.K. for so long.

Promotional activity being carried on from the office here in Radlett seems to be settling down to a pattern of steady and sustained growth. Every week an advertisement is appearing in one of the major United Kingdom newspapers which is bringing in a steady stream of responses.

The advert placed in Time magazine in June and in Newsweek has produced a good response from English-speaking people in other areas of Europe. A total of just under 7,000 people have requested The PLAIN TRUTH in various languages using the coupons from these two advertisements. To maintain this flow a second advertisement in TIME has just appeared and we anticipate receiving responses from it until the beginning of 1981.

Although all the advertisements booked in Scandinavia have already been run, a few free insertions we have obtained are still bringing in a reasonable flow of responses. These were provided as refunds for past mistakes made by the newspapers.

All this activity has produced substantial growth in the file over the same period last year: 1) The United Kingdom and Eire together now stand at 62,000--an increase of 60%; 2) Scandinavia stands at 13,000--up 128%; 3) Europe and the Middle East stand at over 15,000--an increase of 39%.

These figures are also reflected in the amount of mail we are currently receiving. When compared with October 1979, the U.K. and Eire combined are up 479%. This gives year-to-date figures of +45%, +108%, +43% and +169% respectively.

Income is also very good, standing at 27% up on October 1979, and gives a year-to-date figure of +31%.

Canadian News Greetings once again from Vancouver! The following combined September/October report reflects the continued positive trend in God's Work in Canada.

For the first time this year church attendance went over the 9,000 mark in Canada in October. This reflects the upsurge in new visit requests--42% up in September over one year ago. New baptisms were up 40% and church attendance 9%.

At the end of October the mail department had handled 373,817 items of incoming mail--a 147.1% increase over the year. And their work load will not decrease in the foreseeable future--the ongoing ad campaign for the UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY is heading for the projected 45,000 mark. Around 30,000 responses have been received so far with two more weeks of advertising to come. 129 newspapers will distribute the flyer to a total of 4.7 million Canadian homes. (Canada has approximately

7 million households.) And the flood of incoming mail won't stop there. Mr. Armstrong's offer of THE MISSING DIMENSION IN SEX is sure to bring a massive response: our estimates indicate approximately 80,000 requests to this semiannual letter.

There are some manpower changes to announce in Canada. Mr. Charles Bryce is transferring from Regina to Vancouver to become pastor of the Lower Mainland churches. Mr. Larry Greider and Mr. David Register, formerly working in this area, will transfer to the United States.

Finally, the CKO all-news radio network renewed the contract for The World Tomorrow program with the following improvements for 1981: The program will air six nights a week, Monday through Friday and Sundays; spot ads for the program and booklets will be broadcast 300 times during the year at no extra cost; the network will attempt to open five new transmitters within a year or so and give coast-to-coast news coverage, and all thirteen stations will carry The World Tomorrow!

Dutch Area Update Total mail received in October was 2019 letters compared to 1360 last year. An increase of 48.5%. The income for October showed a 23.1% increase year to date and a 19.8% increase for the past 12 months. Church attendance during the same month increased 19.3% over one year ago. Total average attendance for both churches was 244. And the number of active Bible Correspondence Course students is 1245 compared to 1290 one year ago.

Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thanks for the Refreshing Program. I attended the 4th session, but my wife, Angela, wasn't able to attend due to the recent birth of a son. It truly lives up to the name "Refreshing." I never got excited over the idea of coming in for a sabbatical but I really got excited over this program and opportunity. And I certainly wasn't disappointed. It's left me refreshed and inspired and I must add, raised my level of competence and confidence in better carrying out the responsibilities I've been entrusted with here in the field. The warmth and camaraderie of unity permeated all.

Something else that was very uplifting was to experience firsthand that the men now in high positions of responsibility fully support you and serve the Church as God inspired you to lead us. This support and serving attitude comes through. There truly is a team mindedness.

And thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for your faithfulness, loyalty and dedication to God, His Word and His Work these many years. Your yieldedness to His guidance has meant more blessings to us than we probably ever stop to fully realize. The fruits of God's leadership in your life are most evident and ever increasingly so. My wife and I really appreciate you and your assistants who serve and support you, the Work and the Church. Thanks again, and know that we here in Tallahassee, Florida and Moultrie, Georgia are 100% behind you as God's servant and Apostle in these end days!

Rick Beam

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Elsie and I want to thank you so very much for the wonderful blessing and privilege of attending the Refreshing Program. It was even better than we expected! We're very grateful for all the efforts behind the program.

We were very impressed once again with how God has blessed His Church with such a thorough and beautiful understanding of God's Word. It is amazing how much God has revealed through you over the years. This program is a real "feast" of understanding!

The fellowship was delightful, the beautiful campus inspiring, the food delicious, and the concerts and other activities were very enjoyable.

The most refreshing part of it for us was the positive and Godly spirit among the leaders, faculty, students, employees, etc. The atmosphere was clearly faith, loyalty, unity, and great respect for your office and leadership. Seeing firsthand this kind of example and leadership in Pasadena makes us feel "proud" to be associated with them.

We were very glad to read the tribute you gave to the "profitable servants" in God's Work in the recent Pastor General's Report. We couldn't agree more. And you have certainly set us the best example of being a profitable servant of God for these many years.

Don and Elsie Hooser

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I would like to thank you for the Refreshing Program. It was great to see that the doctrines Jesus Christ put into the Church through you are once again being faithfully taught. We are behind you 100% and know that as persecution intensifies against God's Church, the Work, and those who are His true servants that God, as He did for the first Elijah, will always reserve for you those who will not "bow before Baal."

Thank you for your continued leadership and direction. You are always in our prayers and our efforts are always to support you in completing the Great Commission.

Craig and Linda Bacheller

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Although I am not one for writing many letters, I do want you to know how very much my wife and I appreciated the Refreshing Program. In addition to reinvigorating us to our calling and service, unifying us in doctrine and administration, inspiring us with the diversity and worldwide scope of the Work, it also motivated us to pay more attention to and nourish our marriage. Who would have thought that the program could do so much?

I also wanted to let you know that after some thought I have come to realize that your book, THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL, is the

most important book written since the Bible. For what other book can a man point to that so thoroughly explains the purpose of human life? There is none, and knowing the purpose of life is knowing the most important thing there is to know. Thanks for bringing that to our attention.

Ralph and Denice Orr

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I have just finished the Ministerial Refreshing Program. Thanks so much for making this available to us. It indeed HAS refreshed us and we're anxious to get back now and share it with the brethren. It was a very balanced program with solid, meaty instruction on many crucial areas of doctrine. I've always felt totally behind you but as a result of the program, feel even more so! I also want to take this opportunity to tell you that our members in New Brunswick love you deeply, pray for you earnestly and are totally behind you. We thank God every day that He has inspired the Church to "get back on track." God is blessing the Church once more. May He continue to guide, bless and inspire you.

Philip W. Shields

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I would like to add our words of appreciation to those of the other ministers passing through the Refreshing Programs. We have very much appreciated the material we have received, and the excellent spirit of fellowship evident among the ministers and wives. It was also very encouraging to see and to hear of the happy team spirit among employees in the Pasadena area.

Ken and Carole Lewis

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

We've just returned home after completing the fifth session of the Refreshing Program. My wife and I can honestly say that we truly are refreshed. Thank you Mr. Armstrong for making this program available to us. Our instructors are to be commended for their loyalty and dedication to this great Work and to you.

My wife and I pray for you every day. We thank God for your strength, character and determination to finish the work that God has given you to do in this age. We thank God for giving us a small part in this great Work. Please be assured that we back you 100%. May God continue to bless you and give you the strength to take His Message throughout this world.

Bob and Faye League

Dear Mr. Tkach:

We have already written to Mr. Armstrong, but felt we needed to drop you a personal note as well. Carol and I want to thank you for the way you made us feel so welcome and were so willing to lend us a ready ear.

It's difficult to find a way to express our appreciation to all who took part in the Refreshing Program. The one thing Carol and I found absent was the attitude of pretense. There were no airs about anyone and it was very REFRESHING!

We have one official complaint to make about the Catering Department. The complaint is that Carlton Green provided too much food, too often, that was too good! The result is that we are taking more back home than we should--added weight! Thank you for everything and we are now looking forward to going home and putting everything into practice.

Gavin and Carol Cullen

Dear Mr. Tkach:

We've just finished--and have thoroughly appreciated--the Refreshing Program. The tone was set right from the start by the letter that stated "the only textbook will be your Bible." It was especially enlightening to hear from you, Mr. Blackwell and the others so much of what you've heard firsthand from Mr. Armstrong. I'm elated that so much time was spent on such topics as marriage, preaching, healing, tithing, demons, driving, divorce and remarriage, calling of the ministry, etc., etc. EVERY single session was simply super!! I can't wait to get back now and share it with the brethren and I'm praying God will help us all serve His people a lot better as a result. We're 100% behind Mr. Armstrong and the entire staff assisting him.

Philip W. Shields

Mr. Armstrong's Tribute to Mr. Rader

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

We were so happy and thrilled to read your tribute to Mr. Rader in the latest Pastor General's Report. As you said, it was long overdue. We are writing to let you know our joy that you wrote the tribute. We have long admired Mr. Rader and his loyalty and dedication to you and God's great WORK. Our lives were greatly enriched by getting to know him better when he visited Nashville for some interviews and talk shows. He just never wavers in his service to God and His Work and it was an inspiration to be around him. We learned first hand why you love him so much. When we were with him our love for him grew. He sets a great example as a Christian in God's service. He has had years and years of experience being with you daily and you have been such a fine example and teacher to him. We just wish all of us could have had the same opportunity to be with you daily over these years to have you impart more and more of God's character to us.

We are very happy about the events that have happened on your recent trip to Jerusalem and Cairo. God continues to work miracles.

We also want to mention how much we enjoyed the Young Ambassadors film at the Feast of Tabernacles. On November 15, the Sabbath of Thanksgiving that you set aside, we showed the Nashville Church the very inspiring film of your China trip (we had first seen it at

the Refreshing Program) and then the Young Ambassadors film. The film ended with them singing "Harmony" and what a fitting way to end a wonderful Sabbath of Thanksgiving and potluck dinner with God's brethren. Our son, Steve, is one of the young Ambassadors, so we know how hard they worked to make this production. We want to compliment Mr. Ross Jutsum for his dedication and effort. It is so refreshing to see wonderful, clean and good entertainment.

BUT--none of these things would be possible without your dedication and service to the Great God we serve. We want to encourage you by letting you know that you continually enrich our lives and set such a fine example for us to follow.

Jim and Marge Friddle

More Special Sabbaths of Thanksgiving to Come?

The Beaumont and Lake Charles congregations met together for the special Sabbath of Thanksgiving. Although the weather was chilly, overcast and a drizzle was in the air, it did not dampen our attitude for the occasion. We had a very comfortable and beautiful hall. The sermon centered on the occasion and showed that God has ALWAYS delivered His Work from the hands of Satan all through the ages, but at the same time we must be prepared to meet future shocks --and may have to have many more "Thanksgivings" before the Work is accomplished! The sermon was followed by a potluck dinner and three hours of fellowship. It really was a "special day."

Dennis Doucet

Weekly Letter Comments

All over the world, the Work's literature is having a positive impact. This week's comments show how different booklets have helped to change people's lives. Other letters share experiences of coming into the knowledge of the Truth. Contrasting the emptiness of the world's religions, they recognize that this is the unique Work of God--the one and only true Church. Finally, a selection of comments from Canadian libraries responding to the placement of Mr. Armstrong's books on their shelves has also been included for your interest.

Booklets Have Impact

I borrowed a booklet published by you entitled, SEVEN LAWS OF SUCCESS. It has not only changed me for the better, but has also reassured me that without God, there is no future. I feel this booklet will help many people in my community. It will help people to better realize that there is no success in life if God is not present. God is success. May I please have ten copies sent to my address at once.

Gregory J. Washington (Savannah, GA)

I received your booklet called ENDING YOUR FINANCIAL WORRIES. After reading it, I was really amazed. I do have financial problems. So, I have decided to give to God. Also, after reading your other booklets and The PLAIN TRUTH magazine, I have decided to give to the Worldwide Church of God because it is different from any other

church. I believe your ministers are true ministers. To end my financial worry I will be sending you one tenth of my income each week.

Johnny C. Jones (Altheimer, AR)

I thought you might like to know that the pamphlet I got from you discussing VD for my own children, was placed in the hands of a young girl I work with. The material was so plain and to the point that she sought help from her doctor. Later the girl asked where I had gotten the pamphlet from, and I showed her the back cover where your address was. She had never heard of a church bothering to discuss such a subject.

E. Colleen South (Wayland, MO)

I read your booklet, THE DILEMMA OF DRUGS, and was fully satisfied with the outcome. While in jail over here I sent for your booklets, hoping that it might help me overcome my raging drug problem. I can honestly say after reading it, that I will leave the drug scene alone to move on without me as one of its many suckers. I really reckon God's Spirit has helped me overcome this problem as much as this booklet has. I'm only 22 and have a lot of life left to really live yet. I first got into dope when I was 14 and now I can be pretty sure that this is the end of it all.

G.A. (Paparua Prison, New Zealand)

Could you send me another copy of "You Can Quit Smoking"? A friend of mine "stole" my copy. But, she did quit--so that seems real worthwhile! Thanks a lot.

Pattie Boeckley (W. Chester, OH)

Last week I requested a lot of literature that was offered free, after reading a couple of booklets I received from you. Our family was breaking up but after reading the two booklets on conversion and why we were born, a new understanding came to us. We think our family has a chance to be saved now, because we want to know everything about God which was the missing link in our lives.

Mrs. Eileen K. (Canada)

I have read your booklet entitled WHY MARRIAGE--SOON OBSOLETE? and I would like you to know that the section entitled "Is This God Speaking?" is one of the most beautiful pieces of writing that I have ever seen. You did an absolutely wonderful job of synthesizing several difficult passages from Isaiah and making them easier to understand. I have given copies to several colleagues, and all have been impressed with your work. Thank you very much.

Carmine Mastrolia, M.D. (Jersey City, NH)

I have recently become a recipient of your most excellent literature and am very impressed by what I have read so far. In recent years I have considered myself an atheist and believed that there is no real proof that the events in the Bible really happened. It all seemed highly incredible.

About an hour ago I started to read HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE. I found a sentence which swiftly changed my mind. "All those events which occurred to those men in the distant past happened, and are written and preserved for us to read, so that we would profit from reading their examples in the last day of mankind before the intervention of Jesus Christ."

What I am trying to say is that the Bible, in all logic, WAS written for the benefit of mankind. And I have now decided to spend the time and really try to understand the Bible.

A.N. (Corindi Beach, Australia)

Recently I had the opportunity to read your booklet ALL ABOUT WATER BAPTISM and found it extremely informative and helpful. I shared it with a few of my friends and they too were greatly enthused and challenged by its contents. Since then many more of my friends have requested to read it, and my one solitary copy is not enough! So could you please mail me at least five copies of the booklet. I know this seems a lot, but I can guarantee they will be thoroughly read. Thank you.

G.P. (Mosgiel, New Zealand)

Reader's Recognize God's Truth

We are glad to get your literature and PLAIN TRUTH magazine. We believe you are teaching the Truth as the Bible has it. It seems not too many people want to believe what the Bible says and as God has caused it to be written. We try to prove all things according to what is written in the Bible. Thank God for teachers like you.

Mr. Robert Stickleman (Greenfield, IN)

I have only recently started becoming aware of the true Gospel of Christ through your booklets, TV show, etc. I feel as if I really am beginning to understand about the Kingdom of God.

Since I started receiving the material from the Worldwide Church of God, I've had to make some changes in my lifestyle. I never realized how hard it would be, and yet, in the past few months I feel as if I've been given quite a few blessings. I truly want to be able to understand the Bible, and I know it will take time. However, the Bible Study Course is a great help, and so is everything else. I want to tell you how grateful I am that someone is preaching the true Gospel.

Diane Salchli (Flushing, NY)

I have been a member of the Methodist Church since 1914, but have never been able to understand the Bible as I do now. Thanks for the truth. I was 78 years old in June, and in all that time I have really never understood the Bible. I have been so far wrong all of my life. I wish I could have known of you when I first joined the Methodist Church.

L.W. Heaton (Hoisington, KS)

I have really been studying all The PLAIN TRUTH material I can get and find that I am learning more about the Bible and God's Commandments than I have learned in 33 years of Bible study at the church I attend. It's hard for me to unlearn things I have been taught so long--but I intend to keep studying until I know what God has for me to do. I appreciate so much the work Mr. Armstrong and others are doing.

Mrs. Lee Freeman (Dumas, TX)

I have been searching my whole life for the real truth. For some time now I've been reading your booklets and searching Scripture. The Church of God makes real sense. The rest I've studied don't. I feel like I've just come out of Babylon since I've learned of the Church of God. Truthfully, I always felt and knew something was wrong with the other churches' beliefs, but I could not put my finger on their errors until I learned of you.

Mr. Ray Zapotocky (Hazelton, PA)

Here are a few lines to tell you that the last 22 years have been years of better understanding the Bible. Those years have been a period of eye-opening to truth, which I gleaned from the pages of The PLAIN TRUTH.

Mr. Armstrong, without a doubt in my mind, you are a true servant of God. I thank God for the opportunity of being a co-worker.

Mr. Thurman Wakeman (Flandreau, SD)

I am interested in joining your church. In my whole life I have never joined any church or claimed any type of religion. I really found no sense in it. In every church I have gone to, they have placed values on money and party matters. Mr. Armstrong, I am interested in my Father's ways. These other churches make God's Word boring because they don't teach it.

Sherry Ham (Alexis, NC)

I have studied many religions and know just about all the doctrines of the major and minor sects in the U.S.A. After all my studying, the Worldwide Church of God is indeed the only one that professes exactly what the Bible does. Mr. Armstrong is truly a voice crying out amid total religious confusion.

Marie Haass (Lynbrook, NY)

Libraries Say "Thanks" for Mr. Armstrong's Books

I wish to, with appreciation, acknowledge receipt of your complimentary copy of Mr. Armstrong's book THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL. Also for the second book, THE WONDERFUL WORLD TOMORROW. The books are in circulation and being well received by the membership.

Dalton Library (Sebright, Ontario)

On behalf of the Dorian Public Library Board, I would like to thank you for the complimentary copies of Herbert W. Armstrong's books, THE WONDERFUL WORLD TOMORROW and THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL. I am sure they will be read by many who borrow from the library.

Township of Dorian (Ontario)

On behalf of the Board and the Library's numerous readers, I wish to acknowledge with grateful appreciation your recent gift to the library which will be a welcome addition to our collections.

Ottawa Public Library (Ottawa)

Thank you so much for the complimentary copy of Herbert Armstrong's new book TOMORROW...WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE. It will be a welcome addition to our collection. The library greatly appreciates private donations as they indicate support for the library and its programs.

St. Catharines Public Library

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of TOMORROW...WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE by Herbert W. Armstrong. Your contribution is being added to the Provincial Library collection.

Saskatchewan Provincial Library (Regina)

We appreciate very much your donation of THE WONDERFUL WORLD TOMORROW by Herbert W. Armstrong to our library. Thank you again.

Kenora Public Library (Kenora, Ontario)

The Portage City Library would like to express its appreciation for the donation of the TOMORROW--WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE. We will add this title to our book shelves for the public's use. Thank you again.

Portage Library (Manitoba)

--JOE TKACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

EASTERN U.S. CHURCHES UPDATED BY MR. RADER, MEDIA TURNED AROUND

Just before Thanksgiving Mr. Rader, accompanied by his wife, Mr. John Kineston and Mr. Joseph Kotora and his wife, went to three eastern cities. Through numerous radio, TV and newspaper interviews, he was able to turn around the media in an area where the Work had previously received bad coverage. While in the region he met with brethren assembled from several Churches of God. The Buffalo, N.Y. Church, the Charleston, W. Va. and then Pittsburgh area congregations enjoyed potluck meals together with Mr. Rader's party.

During each of these visits Mr. Rader told the brethren about Mr. Armstrong's recent trip, gave an update on the legal situation and exhorted them to remain 100% behind Mr. Armstrong and the Work. Anxiously looking forward to the time when Mr. Armstrong may someday visit them personally, the members in each location devoured every bit of news with enthusiasm.

A GLIMPSE INTO THE PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE DEPARTMENT

One of the sections of the Mail Processing Center is the Personal Correspondence Department. Mr. Armstrong started this function of God's Work nearly 30 years ago when senior students of Ambassador College, under his and his wife's supervision, began answering letters from people responding to the broadcasts and publications. In 1972 all mail handling functions including the Personal Correspondence Department were consolidated into the Mail Processing Center.

The PC staff presently consists of four senior writers who have been answering letters for 15 to 20 years. There are four other men, mostly with several years experience, and six secretary-typists. We also hope to begin using Ambassador students again, supervised by the senior writers as was the practice in earlier years.

In an average week, the PC team handles between 450 and 500 letters. These include letters directed to the ministry, anointed cloth requests, serious personal problems and prayer requests, as well as questions. People ask every imaginable kind of question, ranging from very minor curiosity points to major doctrinal questions.

Each letter is given personal attention and answered in a way we feel will uphold Mr. Armstrong's teachings and actually help the person. A curiosity question is usually answered, but also put into perspective and the person is gently directed back to the trunk of the tree. Letters sharing personal problems are handled by reminding the inquirer of God's plan and promises, encouraging him to study God's Word and ask for the faith to believe in order to receive God's deliverance and help. And, of course, we pray for these people too!

Doctrinal matters which God has established in the Church through His Apostle are answered by referring the person to materials Mr. Armstrong has written and messages he has preached over the years. The few questions which have not been settled to the point where we can give an answer from Mr. Armstrong are sent to him for his consideration. He may then be inspired to write an article on the subject or in some manner address the matter.

The Personal Correspondence Department serves and supports Mr. Armstrong and the field ministry. Members and PMs who write with problems are encouraged to counsel with their local pastors. Often our writers will call the local pastor for advice in answering a letter from someone in his congregation so as to coordinate with him and best serve the person's needs.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

TENSION IN POLAND MOUNTS; WILL SOVIETS INVADE? For the next few weeks the eyes of the world will be focused upon Poland. The big concern is this: Will the Soviet Union feel compelled to militarily suppress the independent labor union movement--and resultant political liberalization--that has sprung up with amazing strength?

The so-called "Solidarity" union, the largest of the independent trade groups, alone claims a membership of between 7 and 10 million workers--

including about 700,000 communist party members! Many of its younger leaders are openly contemptuous of the country's Communist bosses.

The political leadership, in turn, has tried to mollify the country's impassioned workers. Liberalization has picked up so much steam that it threatens to get out of hand. The Communist Party newspaper Trybuna Ludu now maintains that there are at least three factions in party ranks: one group demanding an end to liberalization, a second wanting the liberalization trend to continue, and a third group that has abandoned party ideology altogether.

Mieczyslaw Rakowski, editor of the weekly Polytika, states that union leaders who do not seek "cooperation with the state and the party" appear to be dominant in the labor movement. Even new Communist Party leader Stanislaw Kania has warned militant independent labor leaders to "sober up" and said they were threatening the peace of Europe.

Reports that the Soviet army is beefing up strength on Poland's Eastern border and that the border region in East Germany adjacent to Poland has been closed to travel add to heightened tension. Are the Soviets engaging in mere saber-rattling? Or are they preparing to put into effect the "Brezhnev doctrine"--extending "fraternal assistance" to a beleaguered communist ally in order to "preserve the fruits of socialism"?

The feeling among Western experts is that if the Soviet Army does move in (probably not before two weeks, when the ground will be firmer for heavy weaponry) it will be as a last resort. The men in the Kremlin have been fully warned by the West of the consequences they can expect.

In the first place, military interference would kill what's left of detente. In the wake of Afghanistan, Western European nations were reluctant to go along with President Carter's calls for punishment. But Poland is much closer to home. The Soviets would probably face a total cut off in Western grain sales. Worse yet, the Soviets would find themselves burdened with the responsibility of making up Poland's serious food deficiencies. (Polish authorities would like to obtain some of the huge butter and beef surplus of the Common Market.)

A takeover of Poland would also mean that Moscow would be saddled with Poland's huge debts to Western-world banks, now nearly \$23 billion. Perhaps as an indication of what the Soviets would prefer to do, they yesterday (December 2) gave the Poles a huge \$1.1 billion no-strings-attached, hard-currency loan. It is believed most of the money will be pumped straight through to the West to meet Poland's debt commitment.

Not Like 1968

Soviet military moves against Poland would undoubtedly result in far different consequences than those occurring after the combined Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968. That action squashed the liberalization efforts of the Czech communist government.

In 1968, 500,000 troops marched into Czechoslovakia. Of these, 50,000 were Poles, 20,000 East Germans, 20,000 Hungarians, and 10,000 Bulgarians. This time an invasion could hardly be undertaken as a joint Warsaw Pact (as opposed to strictly Soviet) venture. Many of the 250,000 troops of Poland's national army would undoubtedly revolt against Moscow's command

and fight against the Soviets. The Soviets probably could not ask any elements of the East German army to help out. Said a Western political observer in East Germany: "Can you imagine what the Poles would do if Russian troops entered the country from one side and German troops from the other? It would be 1939 all over again, and would certainly inflame Polish patriotism to a suicidal extreme." Perhaps this is a bit of an exaggeration, but it emphasizes the dilemma Moscow is in.

The Soviets are already engaged in one hot war in Afghanistan. Stretched thin, they possibly could not contain a full-blown insurrection in Poland. Thus, the Soviets stand to lose either way. If they don't act--and the radical Polish labor leaders are betting they won't--Poland slips away inch by inch. If the Red Army moves in, but is unsuccessful in quelling the rebellion, the Soviet Union suffers a major blow to its power and prestige throughout the entire East bloc. Sleepless nights for the men in the Kremlin.

Where Is the Catholic Church?

Meanwhile, what is the Roman Catholic Church doing in this unfolding drama? Not too much, at least openly. From all appearances the Catholic hierarchy in the country is performing a mediation service, trying to cool tensions. Above all, it doesn't want to see the Russians move in. Moscow would certainly put a clamp on church activities, blaming much of the country's nationalist fervor on the church. Perhaps the church--perhaps even the pope himself--doesn't yet comprehend the power it possesses. Writes John Lukacs in the September 20, 1980 issue of The New Republic, article "The Light in the East":

"During the war Hitler said to his court: 'There are three powers in Rome: Mussolini, the king, and the pope, and of the three the pope is the strongest.' He was right, even though the pope was not sure of his strength. The present pope, a Pole, may be more confident of it. We do not know. What we know is that now, in Poland, workers born under communism, brought up under communism, have decorated the Lenin factory with pictures of the pope and of the Virgin Mary, and not merely because of their tradition of nationalism (in 1849 the Polish nationalists, in their legion with Garibaldi, fought against the pope in Rome). Their demands have included more than the indexing of prices of increments in retirement pay; they have included the broadcasting of the Mass, and religious freedoms. On the floor of the Lenin factory they knelt by the hundreds and the priest came to place the body of Christ in their mouths. A new kind of light, unexpected and strange, has flared up in the East."

Author Lukacs maintains that 1980 will witness the beginning of the "fatal loosening of the Soviet order in the East," and that "this loosening is well-nigh irreversible." He adds:

"If the Russians break into the Polish factory towns with tanks and flamethrowers, blood will flow; there may be a dreadful silence, for weeks, months, perhaps years. Then the real struggle will begin, and the Russians will have a flaring revolution on hand, an unending war of independence. The Russians know this. This is why, no matter what happens in Poland in the short run, in the long run, in one form or another, the end of the Soviet order (which is not the same thing as the end of the Russian empire) is now conceivable and perceptible--if not yet altogether at hand."

We may not have long to see whether Lukacs is right or not.