



CHURCH of GOD

News

GLADEWATER--MINDEN EDITION

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OPEN LETTER TO BRETHREN OF GOD'S CHURCH!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Palm Springs, California
December 15, 1961

Dear Brethern of the Churches of God scattered abroad, GREETINGS!

Mrs. Armstrong and I have come to the desert for two months, so that I may take a 60-day lemon-juice-and-milk fast, in an effort to get my entire digestive system re-adjusted---also for spiritual as well as physical and mental rejuvenation.

I have tried, but found it impossible to go on such a fast at home in Pasadena where interruptions requiring strenuous activities demand my attention repeatedly. But, although considerably weakened physically during such a fast, I am able to get in some much desired study, and to do more writing than when active in the office, pulpit, and before the microphone.

So, among other things, this gives me the opportunity to send a personal letter for publication in each of the local church newspapers.

A quarter of a century ago and more, at the "mother church" of this Philadelphia era of God's Church, when the present work of the Church was just starting, I issued a monthly Bulletin for our local church members. It contributed to the fellowship of the brethren, and proved both interesting and valuable. So last January, at the ministers' conference, I suggested to the pastors of the various churches that they inaugurate local bulletins or newspapers at each church.

I have been very happy to see so many of these appearing. I suppose you have noticed that, although most of these local bulletins started out with various local names, the name of each has been changed the present "Church of God News." If you feel like blaming somebody for this, you'll have to blame me. But there was a serious reason.

Experience is a dear teacher. But there

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IMPERIAL SCHOOL ASSEMBLY..... SEE STORY PAGE 3

40,000 Students Enrolled In Bible Course

There were eight thousand on the list to receive the correspondence course when the first lesson went out in December of 1954. In seven short years that list has increased five times over. This is considerably more than a thirty percent increase which seems to hold for the yearly increase of the work as a whole. The fact that the course was mentioned in the semi-annual bulletin caused requests to pour into God's headquarters office at the rate of 1000 per week--yes, God's message is truly going around the world.

European Broadcast Enlarged!

Since the World Tomorrow Program started in Europe, it has never gone on the air earlier than 11:30 p.m. This has been on radio Luxembourg and only two nights per week. The work has been built to its present great scope with this amount of broadcasting.

God is now working out plans to step this up tremendously--arrangements are being completed for Luxembourg to broadcast the program nightly at 7:00 p.m., beginning around April 1. In addition to this the program is now being broadcast from a

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CHURCH of GOD News

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are many lessons we seem unable to learn any other way. That original church of our era, which subsequent events have shown God raised up FOR THE PURPOSE of fulfilling Christ's prophecy of Matthew 24:14--preaching and publishing HIS GOSPEL to the world--became divided. A terrible price was paid to learn the reason. A number of former brethren whom we loved very much turned sour and bitter, and left God's Church.

There were two main causes: 1) There was no real church government. I had not yet learned that the living Christ actually governs the Church which He founded---as God rules everything He has created. Christ governs through those whom HE has chosen and set in offices of authority and responsibility. But to me, then, not understanding this, I had no ambition to rule--and it seemed as if it would have been making myself a dictator, lording it over God's heritage. This I certainly did not want to do. So, when false "members" crept in---wolves in sheep's clothing---I did not put them out, as God commands.

2) As time went along, and the growth of the broadcasting and evangelistic work took me more and more away from Eugene, some leading members began to say, as the Israelites said when God called Moses away, to Mount Sinai, "As for this Moses, we know not what has become of him. Come on, let's desert the truth we learned through him, and make us an idol to worship." These members said, "As for this Herbert Armstrong, we don't care anything about this broadcast of his. What do we have to do with his getting people converted down in

California, or over in Texas? We care nothing about them. We are only interested in our selves---our own little church, here."

They lost interest in THE WORK OF GOD! They became wrapped up in their own local fellowship ONLY. When I would return, telling them of people converted and baptized in Texas, or other states, they grumbled, "I wish Mr. Armstrong would quit taking up our time in church telling about people being converted way off somewhere."

Soon, whenever any of the scriptures in a sermon corrected or reproved them in any way, they would complain: "We wish you'd stop raking us over the coals, and show a little LOVE." To them, love had now come to mean approval of sin. They became merely a local social club. They became sour, unhappy, disgruntled. Finally half of that church did leave. They had spent years trying to gain control of the church property---their eyes only on MATERIAL acquisition. Finally they gave up, and "pulled out." They rented a little hall outside of town. Reports say that they met there, without a pastor, with a self-willed woman leading them, and two or three men striving and quarreling over who could be in the pulpit; reports say that after quarreling among themselves they would go home, then come back the next Sabbath and quarrel again. They began gradually REJECTING precious truth they had learned in God's Church and had believed. When the church started in Eugene, these people were HAPPY, their faces wreathed in smiles. But after they lost interest in THE WORK OF GOD, they became unhappy, bitter, quarrelsome.

Brethren do you know WHY Jesus Christ suffered so much? It was not so much being flogged, or nailed to a cross. His REAL suffering was grieving over the SINS of His own people whom He loved! He knew they would have to reap what they were sowing. He knew what suffering they were bringing on themselves. He loved them. It made HIM suffer to see them bring such eternal punishment upon themselves. Mrs. Armstrong and I KNOW how Jesus suffered---for He has let us suffer in the same way.

WE DON'T WANT TO SEE SUCH TRAGEDY EVER REPEATED IN GOD'S CHURCH! Whenever brethren become primarily interested in THEMSELVES, and their own local church, losing interest in the MAIN WORK of getting Christ's true Gospel to the world, those people are sick spiritually, and unless cured by turning from this attitude, they soon DIE, spiritually.

In 35 years of experience, I have never known a single exception. I have seen this thing happen time after time.

Whenever people begin to resent AUTHORITY over them in God's Church, they begin to shrivel up and die spiritually! The authority in God's Church is not of men, but of THE LIVING CHRIST!

And so, when I saw all the various

names of the various local news bulletins, I foresaw the serious DANGER of local brethren becoming so wrapped up in local social interest among themselves that they begin to lose interest in GOD'S WORK, and to drift away from God. That is why I had the present name adopted---so that ALL members will be mindful this is the CHURCH OF GOD, not of some locality. Each local group is merely a PART of the ONE TRUE CHURCH OF GOD. We are THE BODY OF CHRIST. Why? Because the responsibility of continuing that work through His CHURCH. Jesus said: "Of myself, I can do nothing." It was the Holy Spirit of God in Him which really did the work. But that physical Jesus died, and was resurrected a spiritual SON OF GOD. When He ascended to heaven, He sent that same Spirit to carry on the WORK OF GOD, through the COLLECTIVE BODY of His CHURCH.

This is not a one-man work. It is the WORK Christ does through THE CHURCH--through YOU, each one of you, as well as through me, the other ministers, and those in executive and administrative offices. This is YOUR job, as much as mine. My life is dedicated to it--wholly. IS YOURS? This WORK OF GOD is the one immediate goal and purpose of my life---it IS my life--it is all I live for. And, dear brethren in Christ, it must also be YOUR LIFE, and all that YOU live for, if you expect to attain to the final and ultimate BIG goal of entering into the eternal KINGDOM OF GOD.

God has called us. He has chosen us. He has built a GREAT WORK through us. It is a dynamic, POWERFUL work, exerting a terrific IMPACT on this whole world. Christ uses us as a TEAM. Perhaps I am the quarterback, calling signals for each "play" or move, as our Coach and Leader, Jesus Christ, directs me. But just as a quarterback alone, without the rest of the TEAM, could never win a football game, so I alone would be HELPLESS in God's Great Work!

THE WORK is far bigger and more important than your local church. Let's always keep our eyes on, and our hearts IN, THE WORK first of all, and then the local fellowship as a subsidiary part of that WORK, contributing to it! Then we all REJOICE TOGETHER AS God expands and prospers HIS WORK!

Broadcast *Continued*

one thousand watt station on board a ship anchored near the mouth of Thames River just out of the three mile limit. Plans of the station are that this wattage will soon be stepped up. The present coverage will reach about one third of England's fifty million people.

We, indeed, should thank God continually for making possible for us the accomplishment of the job He has given us to do. Certainly with this increased tempo in broadcasting, Ephraim will soon have had their full witness.

PANORAMA OF IMPERIAL SCHOOL ASSEMBLY



An aura of cheer and apprehensive expectation permeated Imperial School students as they anxiously awaited the commencement of the school's first assembly program of the year. This fervor of excitement was climaxed with nervous giggles, chewed fingernails, and aimless tugging at shirttails as the parents and other visitors from both the Minden and Gladewater congregations filed into the "jam-packed" assembly room. So many interested spectators arrived that a queue of people was extended around the walls and out the door.



The program of lively skits, interpretation of poetry, and entertaining music was earmarked by a resplendence of spontaneity on the part of the performers.

Fraught with a phobia for audiences, a few performers dropped a line or two but recovered with such ease and alacrity that their lapses added rather than detracted from the program.

Immediately after our master-of-ceremonies Ben Leonard closes the assembly, comments began to flow freely from our visitors. Most were favorable--everyone really seemed to enjoy observing the students in action. Perhaps there will be another such afternoon soon. Surely the students can take the praise granted them this round and make a supreme effort to display an even better program on the next assembly.

See you there!



Squaw Valley Contract For '62 Now Signed!

It's official! The pact has been inked and the Radio Church of God will have exclusive rights to all of the facilities of Squaw Valley for Feast of Tabernacles 1962. These arrangements were recently completed through Mr. William Newsome, Sr., head of the Squaw Valley improvement association, and Mr. A. J. Portune representing God's church.

Bible Study

One of the most interesting Bible studies we have had recently was the one dealing with Petra.

As usual, Mr. Swisher and Mr. Rice went through the significantly interesting weekly news reports and the inspiring com-

ments from the mail receiving department. A few Bible questions were also answered.

Mr. Rice then gave us a very concise and interesting run-down on the history and future of Petra. He showed us what Petra means. We also learned that the Children of Israel camped in Petra (Kadesh) for some time. Many of the scriptures Mr. Rice went through also indicated that Petra will be the future place of safety for God's people.

We then saw the movie "I Saw Petra," which is narrated by Dr. Louis T. Talbot.

This movie went through fulfilled prophecy concerning Tyre, Sidon, Ammon, Moab, and Petra.

Petra is a city in a hidden corner of the Arabian Desert and is known as the "rose-red city, half as old as time." It lies near Mount Hor, where the Israelites are believed to have buried Aaron. It is one of the most bewildering sights revealed to man. Petra is carved from rock, the colors of which defy description.

Will Petra, in the future, be a city which Satan will fail to conquer?

WORLD NEWS



"ONE of every 400 doctors in the United States has the dope habit." This shocking statement was in The American Weekly of December 3, 1961.

"By comparison, the national addiction rate is one person in every 3,000." This means that doctors comprise almost 10 per cent of all the addicts in the nation.

Every though a doctor should know better than anyone the dangers of narcotics, he rationalizes that, with his medical knowledge, he can quit before he is hooked.

When we fully realize how people depend on the doctors when they are sick, we can begin to understand what might happen if we are placed in the hands of a DOPE-ADDICT SURGEON!

Co-Worker Department Needs Your Help to Serve You Better

As most of you know, we are now recording all tithes, offerings, and donations received by God's Church automatically through IBM machines. These machines are extremely versatile and can save the Work untold man-hours of labor, but there are certain things a machine *cannot* do!

A machine can only do what the human mind tells it to. Beyond that, *it is limited*, and many times our human minds are not sure what to tell these machines. Many members in God's Church send in tithes and offerings with hardly enough information for us to know who they are. In times past, the Work has been small enough that someone in the organization might know that Mrs. John Jones was the same person as Mary Jones.

The Work is big now and this is no longer true! *We can never be sure*; and unless we are sure what to inform the machine, it is impossible to match and know that we are posting the donation to the correct member's record card.

Our biggest problem is not so much the similarity of names as it is people who use a full name one time, and initials the next; women who use their husband's name one time and their given name another, or use his initials one time and hers the next. In some cases an apartment number is given part of the time and a house number the remainder. In other cases it is the route without the box number part of the time and the box without the route at other times. Then there is the person who likes to use a "nickname" once in a while. And there are those who use a Post Office Box number part of the time and a street address at other times.

We could save endless hours manually looking in the files if our tithing members would *be consistent*. You members can help us very greatly by remembering our plight and *always* send your tithes and offering *in the envelopes that we send you*, with your name and address stamped on the back

as we have it recorded in the files, or using *your full name* (including your middle initial if you normally use it for everything else), your *complete house number* and street address, your city, zone and state.

If you use a route or a box number, always give us the complete information—*exactly the same each time!* You can also help by giving us both your *old* and *new* address together each time you move.

Another BIG PROBLEM: At this time of the year, many write in and tell us of tithes or offerings given back in April or June, etc., which they would *now* like to have recorded in the name of Ambassador College rather than the Church.

This seems like a simple little request. But *it is impossible* to go back and change all of our records once they have been printed. Therefore, we had to institute the policy of requesting each amount received be clearly marked, *at the time we receive it*, when it is to be considered Ambassador College—otherwise, *we must record it* as Radio Church of God. Once it has been machine recorded it is too late to go back and change it.

At this time of year another problem arises and that is, members will send in amounts as late as February or March asking that it be counted for income-tax deductions for the previous year.

We cannot open the records for these late donations once the books have been balanced and closed. Therefore, all amounts that are to be recorded for a given year *must be* in our office no later than January 2, of the following year. Therefore, please get your tithes and offerings in *early* if you want to claim income-tax deductions for any given year.

May we express our thanks and appreciation, in advance, for your warm co-operation and assistance in this vital matter!

Co-Worker Dept.

MINDEN NEWS

Mr. Guy Triplet of Minden, Louisiana, has returned after a one and a half years' stay in England.

Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Rigdon are now located at Delhi, Louisiana, having previously lived at Haughton.

Mrs. W. T. Brooks and children recently moved to Donaldsonville, Louisiana, where her husband is now working.

Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Oxley have moved from Shreveport to Many, Louisiana.

As one of the members of the Minden Church returned from an unsuccessful deer hunt, he fired his gun into the air just before leaving the woods. When asked why, he replied, "I want 'um to know I'm still around!"

Minden Spokesman Club

On January 7th the Minden Spokesman Club held its first Sunday meeting! The Club formerly met on Thursday but will be conveniently held on Sunday evening in the future. Already, on the first night, there was an increase in attendance. Some of the brethren visited the Club for the first time. We were pleasantly surprised by having as our guests Mr. Herbert Luther and Mr. Lloyd Oxley from Many, Louisiana, and Mr. O.H. Mann from Shreveport. Mr. Mann came to the rescue again with an "impromptu" speech to replace a speaker that was absent.

In the business portion of the meeting it was decided that a dinner meeting would be held once a month at the "Southern Kitchen" restaurant in Minden.

Table Topics were conducted by Mr. Bill Rushing. He led the club in discussions on topics of human interest as well as current events.

Mr. Richard Rice very brilliantly handled the overall evaluation in Mr. Swisher's absence. He gave clear, interesting and thorough individual as well as overall evaluations which were very revealing and beneficial to all the members and guests. We look forward to his next opportunity to help the club.

* * * *

Egotism is the knack of seeing desirable qualities in yourself that others can't see.