

# PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE  
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 2, NO. 16

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

APRIL 18, 1980

## MR. ARMSTRONG HONORED IN JERUSALEM

Dateline: Jerusalem  
April 14, 1980

Acting in Mr. Armstrong's behalf, Mr. Stanley Rader was warmly received in Egypt and Israel, and is presently in Jerusalem, arriving here Thursday evening from Cairo. Our friends, of course, were looking forward to Mr. Armstrong's visit and were quite disappointed that he had decided to postpone his visit at this time.

Some three weeks earlier El Al (the Israeli airline) began operating two flights per week between Cairo and Tel Aviv. Until now no such flights were available, although for many years Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Rader traveled between the cities of Cairo and Tel Aviv aboard the G-II. Mr. Armstrong's decision to defer his Middle Eastern trip until some time next month gave Mr. Rader the opportunity to make his inaugural flight aboard an Israeli airline.

Last evening Mayor Teddy Kolleck of Jerusalem hosted a dinner party in Mr. Armstrong's honor, although he was not in fact present. The dinner had already been planned for some time and the Mayor wanted to introduce Mr. Armstrong to some more of his (the Mayor's) friends in Israel. Present at the dinner table were Mr. and Mrs. Ravid, our long-time friends and former Consul General in Los Angeles; Mr. and Mrs. Aviad (Mr. Aviad is Chief of Protocol of the Foreign Ministry of Israel and formally was Consul General of Los Angeles as well; Mayor and Mrs. Kolleck; a Harvard Law Professor, Mr. Charles Hair, who was consulting with the Mayor and various visiting Mayors from some twenty-six American cities; representatives of the ICCY (International Cultural Center for Youth) and archaeologists who are involved in "The City of David Dig" and who will be working with the Ambassador College students when they arrive early this summer.

Mayor Kolleck and Mr. Rader both had the opportunity to describe the Work of the Church and the College, as well as the Foundation, and the Mayor presented Mr. Armstrong in very glowing terms--so much so that Mr. Rader took the opportunity to mildly correct him as Mr. Armstrong would have done if he were present, by explaining that Mr. Armstrong was an instrument of the Living God and everything that he had accomplished had been done as God's personal representative on earth at this time.

This morning, Mr. Rader accompanied Mayor Kolleck on a courtesy call to the Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church. The Greek Orthodox Church is the largest land owner in Jerusalem and, in fact, leases a great portion of its land--100 acres or more--to the Israeli Government. In 1951, the Greek Orthodox Church, we were told, celebrated its 1,500th anniversary in Jerusalem without interruption. Mayor Kolleck and Mr. Rader again had the opportunity to explain to the Patriarch and the other members of his Bishopric, the Work of the Church worldwide as well as the Work of the Church as a foundation in Israel.

While in Cairo, Mr. Rader was interviewed by the Egyptian press and an article should be appearing about the Church and the Foundation in both the Arabic and the English newspapers. Mr. Rader has been invited to return to Cairo next week to address the Institute of Diplomatic Affairs which is a school for diplomats that is run under the direction of the Foreign Ministry of Egypt. It is designed to prepare their diplomatic corps before they are sent abroad and also retrain and recycle ambassadors and other diplomats upon their return to Cairo. He will also be addressing the American University in Cairo as well as the Cairo University on subjects similar to those that were discussed in the Chinese Universities of recent date.

In Cairo, Mr. Rader was also received by the Minister of Information and Culture and spent an evening in the home of Dr. Hatem, the former Deputy Prime Minister. Dr. Hatem and his family are very close to Mr. Armstrong and to the Church and College in particular. Two of Dr. Hatem's daughters are being married this year and his son is presently earning a master's degree at the University of Colorado. An invitation was extended to Dr. Hatem's son to visit Ambassador College at his earliest opportunity.

Last Friday Mr. Rader attended a ceremony at the International Cultural Center for Youth where a beautiful, modern piece of sculpture was unveiled (for a second time). Earlier in the year the official unveiling took place in the Herbert W. Armstrong Square, but Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Rader were unable to attend. On that occasion the American Ambassador was present. The sculpture is very reminiscent (although it is modern) of the egret sculpture of David Wynn, at least in terms of its sweep and its motif.

#### OVERVIEW OF THE COURT CASE AND THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

Over the last few years, there has been a trend toward greater and greater intrusion by various levels of government into church matters. A note of alarm has finally been struck by U.S. church officials over some of the recent actions by the State as more and more Americans become aware that the free exercise of religion, which they have enjoyed through the protection of the federal Constitution, is beginning to be sorely threatened.

George Cornell, Associated Press religion writer, commenting on this trend in a March 1980 story said, "To try to guard against intrusions, some denominations are taking steps to tighten up their own constitutional prerogatives." He noted in his article that in effect the civil courts are being allowed to make religious decisions!

As Mr. Rader observed early last year concerning this legal battle that the Worldwide Church of God has been thrust into, "We are in the vanguard in this defense of religious freedom." Suddenly--without notice--God's Church was forced to engage in the most important single church/state case of the century. In the course of defending its very existence, the Church produced full-page advertisements and then a one-hour television documentary in order to educate the public as to the true facts of this travesty of justice.

The TV documentary was aired in Southern California over KCOP Channel 13, January 16, 1980. As a result, the station received letters from Judge

Jerry Pacht, Deputy Attorney General Lawrence Tapper, Hillel and Rafael Chodos, and ex-judge Steven Weisman. As Mr. Helge recently expressed it, those letters carried "great power and great persuasion." Those few letters were all it took for that station to forfeit its otherwise diligently guarded First Amendment rights. Last week it ran a five-minute retraction--not once, but a minimum of 12 times during as many days! Usually a retraction gets a few lines, but this one turned out to be four double spaced-typed pages.

The station said that it had "investigated" the events discussed in the one-hour documentary, reviewed documents, met with attorneys and so forth. However, they never contacted Church attorneys to request factual backup. Church attorneys in fact heard from another source about their intention to retract and contacted them asking what backup they wanted. The attorneys then forwarded the material to them with an invitation to request additional backup if that was deemed not sufficient. No additional request was ever received. After obviously coming far short of an objective investigation, the station commenced to retract the essence of our documentary and even apologized to the assorted State officials and lawyers involved in the case. In so doing the station perpetuated some of the most glaring misrepresentations of the facts which this Church's representatives and attorneys have had to battle in the media as well as in the courts!

Last week Mr. Ralph Helge did a hotline tape in which he gave an overview of the legal situation. Then he also spoke to the Pasadena P.M. congregation, Sabbath, April 12th. Following is the hotline tape and then a synopsis of his remarks before the Pasadena congregation in rebuttal to the grossly distorted and unfounded statements made by Channel 13.

#### Mr. Helge's Hotline Tape, April 9, 1980

I have a few minutes here to summarize what is unquestionably one of the greatest state and church constitutional law cases in the history of the nation. So I'm going to give you just a brief rundown of where the case is at this time.

In the Superior Court of California, the court has continued to bar the discovery (that is, prevent the discovery by the defendants--by the Church) of the wrongdoing conducted by the State of California. We are prevented, therefore, from exposing the political and judicial corruption that has occurred in this case. Indeed, we may well be prevented from ever finding out and disclosing to the public what actually has happened, because by this time I feel assured that the evidence has either been so altered or so suppressed, we will never really find out the true facts of what went on behind the scenes other than that which we know of to this date.

Now, the Attorney General has also attempted to hold Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Rader, myself, and others in contempt of court for failing to abide by certain court orders. But their thrust was so erroneous and so unfounded and ungrounded that the court refused to grant it. The court even told them during the hearing, 'go back and research it and then come back to the court and see if you have grounds.' The Attorney General did come back and admitted in his pleadings that he had no grounds to hold us in contempt of court. The court then instructed the Attorney General again

to go back and redraft his pleadings. So that is what he is in the process of doing now. That's the pleadings insofar as trying to hold us in contempt of court or have the court impose other sanctions against us. Some of these sanctions, of course, could be the striking of the answers, the holding of us in contempt of court, the imposition of fines--penalties of that nature.

The Superior Court judge has also instructed the Attorney General to get together with one of our attorneys, Allan Browne, to arrive at dates. Dates on which the information that they have demanded would be turned over. Now, this is contingent upon the U.S. Supreme Court acting upon certain petitions that are pending before it. If the U.S. Supreme Court decides to hear the matters, then the court is not going to require the turnover of these documents. However, if the U.S. Supreme Court decides not to hear the matter at this time, then the court is going to have everything set to impose sanctions or penalties upon the Church.

Insofar as the appeals in the state courts are concerned, we do have before the State Appellate Court an appeal pending that concerns the appointment of the receiver. All the times prior to this, matters were taken up by writs, and a writ means, in effect, that the court does not have to hear it and that is what has been denied in the past. In other words, never has the court, in the past, sat down, read and heard the evidence and the facts regarding the receiver. I express this because just last night on TV, they erroneously said that many courts had heard the facts about the receiver and more or less turned us down. That is untrue. Now for the first time an appeal is going up on that point and the court must hear it.

Now in the federal courts, we have had cases there that have been "dismissed." They've been dismissed on the grounds that the Attorney General has immunity. Not that we were wrong or the State was right. But they have pleaded an absolute immunity in what they do. In other words, regardless of what wrong the State has committed, under certain federal court decisions you cannot sue the State or its agents. What they are saying, in effect, is they can give a madman a gun and let him go out and you can do nothing but hide, in an attempt to protect yourself. So, again, those matters have not been fully heard by the federal court but have been dismissed. They are now pending in the Federal Court of Appeal. That is where the case is at this time and we are now preparing briefs to be heard in the Federal Court of Appeals on this question.

In the U.S. Supreme Court there is a petition pending there, a petition which is in effect asking the court, please hear this question in which the State Court has instructed us to turn over innumerable documents to the State--confidential documents; documents of Church minutes that go back for 20 to 30 years. Minutes that the State has contended never existed because they say the board has never met. Even in the face of these lies by the State they still came in and requested these documents, as well as a great deal of confidential information about members (members in the field), at least a partial membership list and other such items which the Church is resisting and not desirous of giving to them so as to protect First Amendment freedoms in this country. This petition in the U.S. Supreme Court has been prepared by Laurence Tribe, constitutional law expert from Harvard University. He has told me "There

is no question but what your case will ultimately be resolved in your favor." He, of course, is looking at it from a physical standpoint. He feels that all the law and all the facts are in our favor, but as he himself stated, "The question is, what damage can the State do to you before the U.S. Supreme Court does get around to acting simply by virtue of the way the system is structured!?"

It's interesting to note that on this Supreme Court petition, there has been filed a "friend-of-the-court" petition--two or three of them, in fact. Behind these petitions are a group of 18 churches, religious organizations and rights organizations that comprise over 80 million people! Now that is the largest friend-of-the-court brief that has ever been filed by any private individual other than the United States Attorney General. That goes to show what we have said from the very outset: that the position taken by the State of California is so absolutely oppressive and erroneous that nearly the entire church population in the United States has come forward to contest exactly what the State of California is now attempting to advocate in order to protect the wrongful way in which they have come in and attempted to take over the Worldwide Church of God, Ambassador College and the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation.

There's one thing that must be understood: all these matters in the State case are like a huge picture puzzle. The individual pieces that I've explained, in and of themselves, really don't mean too much. They really don't. In order to understand, you've got to see the overall picture and the overall picture here is that the Church, Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Rader are facing more than just a legal opponent. It is more than just the case, more than just the simple opponent. We are fighting against the State of California--the State! One of the most powerful states in this union. We are fighting against the Attorney General, one of the most powerful political units in the State of California. We are fighting against a cadre of judges in the Superior and the Appellate Courts as well. We are also fighting against politically-powerful private attorneys, all of whom were caught in the act of despicable misconduct. Caught red-handed. It's all documented! As one outside group said, it would be unbelievable if it were not substantiated in the record. Hence, do you see what we're fighting against?

And so it behooves all of that group to join together in a political and judicial alliance for their mutual defense. They are defending themselves and they are defending an entire system. They are defending their own political careers, their own reputations, and they have an intense defense because for them it is a matter of survival. For a Christian or other religiously-minded person, he can look forward to a life hereafter. To a political life, there is no life hereafter and hence the self-preservation drive, believe me, brings forth an intense defense. And it's one that permeates the entire system.

You know, ordinarily, when the State comes in to oppress, you have the judges as your line of defense. That is the balance. The judges come in and protect, and every Supreme Court case that has come down regarding other churches or other religious matters, believe me, has language and facts in our favor. Every single one of them. But the only problem here is the corrupt manner in which it involved judges; hence, the judges cannot act as our protectors as they ordinarily would.

But then who oversees the judges? The State Judicial Commission [staffed by lawyers and judges who serve two-year terms] oversees the judges. Well, then, why don't they step in? They were called upon to do so, but the fact is that they are dominated by the figures involved in the case. Two of the most influential figures on the commission were involved in this case. Hence, they are not going to condemn themselves. So the commission is of no value or benefit to us.

Now our attorneys, without question, are better qualified [than those of the opposition] beyond a doubt. But I'll tell you, we are fighting absolute political and judicial corruption--a system that is steeped in it! It's one in fact, as Mr. Armstrong has said, inspired by Satan. It's a system that Mr. Armstrong has said from the outset and taught for years, is an unjust system dominated by men who on the exterior are righteous, but on the inside are rotten and deceitful. "Like white-washed sepulchres," and that applies not only to those who would falsely advocate a false god, but also to those involved in politics. Mr. Armstrong, in his analysis of this political system is, without question, absolutely right!

Finally, the real and ultimate question in this matter is, "What is God's will?" If the question is one of our asserting our will, then we're going to prevail. If the question is one of determination, then we are going to prevail. If the question is one of faith, we are going to prevail.

On the other hand, is the question, "Is this now the time of persecution?" or, "Is this now the time to be brought before kings and rulers --not invited, not going by invitation, but brought before them?" If that is the question, then the question for ourselves is, are we individually, spiritually strong enough to withstand the persecution that's coming?

#### Comments re Channel 13's Retraction

With a transcript of Channel 13's five-minute retraction in hand, Mr. Helge began to address the statements it contained which, in reality, are what the State would like the public to believe about our case. Following are excerpts and summaries of Mr. Helge's comments made last Sabbath.

They say: The receiver was just temporarily imposed for the protection of Church assets.

FACTS: The lawsuit was intended to change the structure of the Church from a hierarchical to a congregational one. The State never says what is plainly in the complaint--that it sued to replace the Board of Directors that was comprised of all the Church leaders. The lawsuit was an attempt to confirm that the state owns--and therefore can rightfully direct--all the Church assets in California.

They say: The hearing in Judge Pacht's chambers was "proper."

FACTS: The hearing was not proper because the Attorney General sought assurances from the judge before the case was filed. After they got assurances that the judge would act according to their wishes, then and only then did they file the lawsuit. This constitutes "judge-shopping"

and tramples the rules that state a judge cannot give advice ahead of time. (Try talking to a judge sometime before you file a case and see how far you will get!)

They say: The California Commission on Judicial Performance has determined unequivocally that Judge Pacht conducted the hearing properly.

FACTS: This commission which judges judges is comprised of certain men, two of whom are Chodos and Pacht, the very men being accused! That group sat and judged the conduct of two of its own (and this was done behind closed doors--in secrecy). The commission claimed to have done a thorough investigation, but in actual fact did not even contact the people bringing the charges against the men to see what proof of those charges we might have.

They say: Nothing has been suppressed.

FACTS: The Church's attorneys, in and out of court, continued to ask if there was a transcript of the meeting in Judge Pacht's chambers. The answer was sometimes "no" and sometimes silence. That transcript was not available until we found the court reporter who was present and she prepared one for us from her notes!

Another example of the suppressing of evidence of misconduct on their part: The Church called upon Judge Pacht to give a deposition. He refused and the court would not make him do so. And when we took the deposition of the Court Reporter, she refused to answer certain questions about what transpired between her and the judge. Evidence is being hidden and suppressed.

They say: The appointment of a receiver has been the subject of several appeals.

FACTS: That is an absolute, bald-faced lie! We have never had an appeal in which that factor was considered. We have sent writs to higher courts which have been denied, but no appeal has been considered yet.

A writ is when you go to a higher court and simply say, "Will you consider this?" What the higher courts have done in this case so far is say "No, we won't consider this evidence." The merits of the receivership have not been considered yet.

They say: We have no reason to believe that the Attorney General... improperly came into possession of church documents.

FACTS: Documents were taken from here by dissidents. People who had authority over internal confidential documents and records didn't give them to the Attorney General. So how did the Attorney General get them? Not lawfully.

If you receive stolen property, it is a crime if you do it knowingly. They will arrest you and prosecute you. But the Attorney General can get by with receiving stolen documents and who is supposed to prosecute the man who is supposed to prosecute? No one! And that is why this is a dangerous situation--because they have placed themselves above the law.

### Bringing a "Public" Media to Heel

"It's awesome, and it's frightening," said Mr. Helge, "to witness any great power...you get close to that mountain in the Northwest that is ready to erupt; I tell you it is frightening when the earth shakes....And we are fighting a power that [it is becoming more and more apparent] is a great power--not great in righteousness, but in power." And so Mr. Helge expressed how it feels to see that power compel a TV station, a strong medium for molding public opinion in this state, come to heel like a puppy dog!

Mr. Helge then explained how the Government is always trying to gain more power and how the Constitution was designed to stand between us and the Government. But people who get into government with its trappings of power are always trying to circumvent the Constitution that restricts their authority. When they succeed they have more power.

So who is to protect the people? The judges were intended to sit as unbiased arbiters. Mr. Helge noted that there are some good judges, but most are not going to do anything revolutionary. After all, these men have coffee together, they come in and go out together--they rub shoulders. So when a judge is misled by the misrepresentations of an unscrupulous attorney, it is very difficult for another judge to overturn his peer who made a bad decision.

### This Experience Confirms the Church's Teachings

While it is frightening and awesome to see the State's power, it is also confirming some very important and basic truths to Mr. Helge. He said, "To me, it confirms the Bible, that it is Satan's world, that it's Satan's government, it's his system, and that in the long run and over the long haul, not counting a few exceptions, there is no [true] justice."

He then pointed out how men will try one form of government and when it fails they will try another. Men keep trying to change and modify their governments, trying to find that one which will solve their problems. "And man keeps thinking that if we can just change the structure of our government some way, if we can just do that we're going to have happiness, we're going to have peace. Mr. Armstrong was right!...no government of man has, or is, ever going to work successfully for the benefit of the people it governs."



## SUPPORTIVE ARTICLES AND PUBLICITY ABOUT CHURCH CASE PROLIFERATE

More and more articles are making their way into print that express concern about the Attorney General's assault on God's Church. We are reproducing, by permission, two syndicated articles by widely-read columnists. Many of you will recognize James J. Kilpatrick's name due to his many appearances on the 60 Minutes TV program in the "Point, Counterpoint" segment.

The Washington Post Company is permitting us to reprint William Raspberry article. His column is picked up by many papers across the country and seems to hit a responsive chord in the minds of many who watch for, and regularly read, his commentaries.

### A Conservative View

## California Takeover Of Church Incomprehensible

By JAMES K. KILPATRICK

WASHINGTON—Some bizarre First Amendment cases get to the U. S. Supreme Court every term, but you might have to go back to the days of Thomas Jefferson to find a case more mind-boggling than the assault of the state of California upon the Worldwide Church of God.

Jefferson's greatest contribution to the concept of individual liberty was his Statute of Religious Freedom. The Sage of Monticello must be spinning in his grave. California's incredible takeover of the Worldwide Church of God makes a travesty of the Jeffersonian doctrine. If ever a case presented a brazen intrusion by the state upon the free exercise of religion, this is it.

The facts are not even significantly in dispute. Toward the end of 1978, a schism developed within the Pasadena-based Worldwide Church of God. The patriarchal leader of the church, 86-year-old Herbert W. Armstrong, split with his 48-year-old son Garner Ted Armstrong. Half a dozen dissident members of the church complained to the California attorney general that the senior Armstrong and his close associate, Stanley R. Rader, were overpaid; that they were pilfering church

property; that they had conspired to sell church property at less than its fair value; that they had shredded church documents to prevent their disclosure; and that they were living in luxury at the expense of the church's 70,000 members.

The Worldwide Church of God, like many other denominations, owns its property as a non-profit corporation. Under the law of California, all such property is viewed as the property of the general public. The attorney general is charged with examining church records to determine if the public has been defrauded, or if a church has failed to comply with laws regulating charitable trusts. It is apparently immaterial that a church, as in this case, never has solicited funds from the "general public," but relies only upon the contributions of its own members scattered across the nation.

On the morning of Jan. 3, 1979, retired Judge Steven Weisman, accompanied by a platoon of lawyers representing the six dissidents and the attorney general descended upon the church's headquarters. Weisman had an astonishing announcement: Without one word of notice to the church, he had been appointed its

receiver. He came armed with an ex parte court order directing him to take possession and control of the church, including all its assets; to take over the management of the church to the extent that he deemed necessary in his sole discretion; to suspend or terminate any employee, and so on. One of Weisman's first acts was to fire the church's executive secretary Virginia Kineston.

For the next seven weeks, until church leaders were able to get the receivership lifted under a \$3.4 million bond, agents of the state roamed at will through nearly 7,000 seized documents. The attorney general demanded that former church officials produce for judicial inspection not only financial records but also confidential papers having to do with matters of ministry and theology—for example, the unpublished page proofs of a manuscript, "The Doctrine of the Worldwide Church of God."

At no point has the church been accused of any injury to the public health or safety; the trial court has stressed that the church "has not been accused of any wrongdoing." The most serious allegations, having to do with the below-value sale of real estate for private gain, have been dismissed as mere

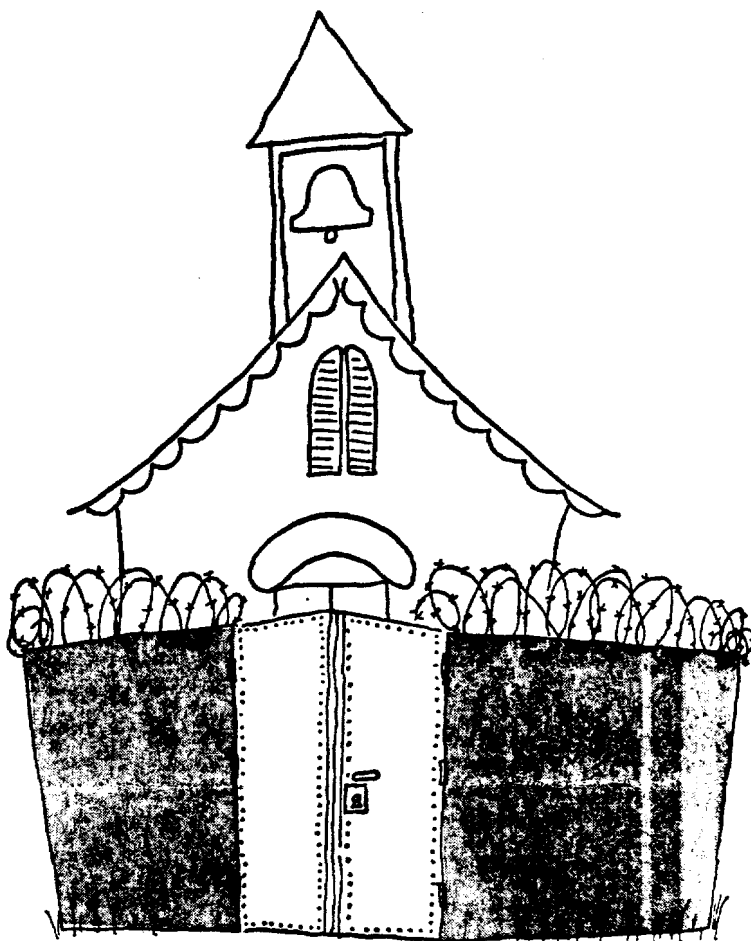
hearsay.

It is beyond comprehension—beyond my comprehension, anyhow—how the state of California can assert a power to control what a church employee is paid. That issue lies at the very heart of this case. The basic allegation is that Armstrong and especially Rader were "siphoning off" church funds through their own salaries and perquisites. In Weisman's view, Rader's \$200,000 annual salary was "outrageous." Remarkably, Weisman has submitted a bill for his services as receiver amounting to \$51,000 for the seven weeks' work, which figures out to an annual rate of \$378,000. Attorneys for the six dissidents—who incidentally have withdrawn from the case—are seeking \$175,000 in fees to be paid from the frozen church funds.

The church's petition for Supreme Court review is supported by friend-of-the-court motions from the National Council of Churches of Christ and from a number of Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and Evangelical bodies. The high court was expected to consider the petition at its conference this past Friday, March 21. A decision could be announced any day.

THE WASHINGTON POST, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 1980

A19



By Tom Gibson

*William Raspberry*

## An Assault On the Church

The attorney general of California has his own ideas about church-state separation:

Church property is public property. Church money is public money. Contributions to churches are, in fact, contributions to the "people of the state of California."

The attorney general is perfectly willing to let church officials run their religious organizations, but if they should mess up, then he has no choice but to move in to enforce the rights of "the people."

And none of this has anything to do with the First Amendment guarantee of religious freedom.

"I don't see how else we can make sure they are what they say they are and that they are not misusing the charitable funds," said the top deputy to state Attorney General George Deukmejian.

He was explaining why, in January 1979, the state of California sent an armed raiding party to take over the Pasadena offices of the Worldwide Church of God, confiscate its records, replace its top officers with a court-appointed receiver (paid out of church funds) and fire members of the church staff.

It seems that some half-dozen members of the 100,000-member church had complained that the church leadership, including Herbert W. Armstrong, the founder, and his second-in-command, Stanley Rader, were using

church money for their personal enrichment.

What is the evidence to back up the complaint? Apparently the authorities are still searching for it. What they have come up with so far is evidence of sumptuous living, including a good deal of international travel (officials call it missionary work) on the part of some of the church's leaders, and some unusually high salaries. The 86-year-old Armstrong was making a reported \$200,000 a year.

But the membership knew about the lavish living, the travel and the high pay. In what way did it constitute fraud? And without evidence of fraud—or even with it—on what authority did the state move to take over the church?

Back to the attorney general's theory. As he reads the California statutes, every charitable organization in the state is a public trust. Every church is a charitable organization. Ergo, every church in the state is a public trust, whose assets—including buildings and money—are held in trust for the benefit of the *general public*.

It's an easy path from that audacious beginning to the conclusion that church officers are in fact public trustees, subject to oversight and removal by the state.

Fortunately, if belatedly, a number of religious and civil liberties organizations have

decided to oppose the attorney general's reading of the Constitution.

Among those seeking leave to file *amicus* briefs with the U.S. Supreme Court are the National Council of Churches of Christ, the Synagogue Council of America, the Baptist Joint Committee for Public Affairs, the National Association of Evangelists, the Lutheran Church in America, the United Presbyterian Church and others ranging from the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California to the Unification Church (Moonies). The main petition was drafted by Prof. Laurence H. Tribe of the Harvard Law School.

The petitioners are uniformly alarmed at the attorney general's disregard of the wall between church and state and at his notion that churches are somehow answerable to a nonchurch public.

As one of them put it, the attorney general's public-trust theory is "a throwback to the Middle Ages which could well lead to the imposition of state-dictated standards and control of church operations and practices."

You don't have to subscribe to the doctrines and practices of the Worldwide Church of God to see that Deukmejian's theory, if allowed to stand, could render meaningless the whole notion of religious freedom.

Our Physical and Legal Hope (Continued from page 8)

"Our physical and legal hope," explained Mr. Helge, "is that the state Supreme Court or the U.S. Supreme Court, [both of whom] hopefully are far enough away from the corrupt influence of this power, will hear our case." So we hope that one of these high courts will see fit to call up the records and hear our case and reverse what has been happening down in the lower courts.

He stressed that although this is something we should pray about, we also need to be sure that we are learning the lesson that God wants us to learn from this trial: "that there is no real justice in this world, there is not real peace in this world, there is no real happiness and there is not going to be [under man's rule]!"

God's Will Be Done

Mr. Helge cautioned that we've also got to have something else in mind, and that is God's will. Even as we always pray that God's will be done, he said, "is it God's will that maybe this is the commencement of the beginning of the end? I'm not saying it is, I'm only asking the question. Believe me, I do not purport to know. But in Acts it talks about the Church having been scattered at that time.

"If you read in Hebrews 11... what does it tell you there? It tells you about people that were persecuted and scattered and fleeing. They were being persecuted constantly and continuously. It says, '...of whom the world was not even worthy...' It also tells us that when we're persecuted in one city to go to another. Is that time here now?"

Mr. Helge then admonished us to not lose faith in our leaders, or the Church because of this lawsuit. Nor should we lose faith in God if arrests and indictments should come forth. He stressed that he was not saying that this was going to happen, but if it does, we should not be too good to experience the same treatment the apostle Paul endured.

The State has gotten so involved and so steeped in this matter, said Mr. Helge, "I'm telling you it's going to take a miracle from God to have it end peaceable. We're going to be peaceable, but...this really is the first opponent, when you stop to think about it, that all joined together literally has the power to crush this church in the state of California, barring one factor and one factor alone: that's the power of God. Physically speaking, this is the first opponent that we have ever come up against that possesses that power. Now, again, I'm not saying that's going to happen. I'm not standing up here as a prophet."

Where Will It All Lead?

Mr. Helge noted that now these men will stop at nothing. But if they do succeed in getting all the documents they'll find nothing, and the worst we've lost are the First Amendment rights. He said, "That's pretty much of a loss, but I'm saying all the churches lose then. Right? [But] that's not my only concern. My concern also is that the Attorney General is going to take those things that this Church has done for 40 years that were right, that were fit, that were proper, and label them as 'wrong.' He's going to put a label on them that will say these are wrong, these are corrupt, these are crimes, these are fraud."

So the Work of God may someday be characterized as illegal--even criminal. The Attorney General is already moving against other churches in the State, labeling certain "travel expenses" as "fraudulent," etc. "There's a bill now in the state legislature that hopefully is going to take away his civil power to persecute churches [our lawsuit is a civil one]," Mr. Helge reminded the audience. But he may simply take his charges and categorize them as "criminal" as he has already done in other cases.

In conclusion Mr. Helge noted that this case is only one small aspect of the whole of world conditions which are deteriorating rapidly. He closed by referring to Luke 21:36 and Hebrews 10:25 which urge us to "Watch and pray," and "not forsake the assembling of yourselves together."

#### FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

##### Comments From Pastor's Reports

JOPLIN, MO--VINCE SZYMKOWIAK: The brethren really appreciate the direction the Work is taking under Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. There is a big difference between the way things are now in contrast to the way things were a few years ago. Also, this area has been blessed with some dramatic healings the past few months.

RUSSELLVILLE, AR--KEN MATTSON: Continued solid support for Mr. Armstrong. People amazed at all he is accomplishing and thankful for God's direction.

BILLINGS, MT--GENE WATKINS: Church seems fine--people seem to be growing steadily as we are getting back on the track.

SPOKANE, WA--ROGER FOSTER: The spirit of the members is still good--very much behind the Work and Mr. Armstrong. Really appreciate Mr. Armstrong's Bible studies on Romans.

CHICAGO SOUTHEAST, IL--ROGER ABELS: Everyone that I have talked to is very impressed with the tapes from Mr. Armstrong. In addition to the spiritual food that they provide, they have also illustrated Mr. Armstrong's renewed energy and strength.

KLAMATH FALLS, OR--FRED DAVIS: Everyone seems very aware of the trends and possibilities of the new decade as explained by Mr. Armstrong. The brethren are solidly behind him.

SEDRO WOOLLEY, WA--VALDEN WHITE: Church is warm--attendance rising. We're forming a choir.

TULSA, OK--DONALD MASON: The Church here seems very positive and responsive to Mr. Armstrong. Mr. Armstrong's Bible study tapes have really helped to dispel any doubt about his ability to lead under Jesus Christ. PM activity is up. Some are coming into contact via relatives and yet all seem to be motivated by world events and Mr. Armstrong's broadcasts.

PORTLAND EAST, OR--JIM HAEFFELE: Overall, the brethren are very positive toward the Work and are totally behind Mr. Armstrong in carrying out the great commission. Everyone is looking forward to Passover and Mr. Waterhouse being here for services.

DULUTH, MN--BILL GORDON: Church is solid, looking forward to Passover.

SHREVEPORT, LA--BILL BRADFORD: We have had record-breaking attendance this month. The membership is showing more and more support for God's Church.

CHICO, CA--MARC SEGALL: Brethren are responding very well to Mr. Armstrong's leadership concerning the cleaning up and strengthening of our spiritual lives and our support of the Work.

Five new PM's contacted me this month alone. Most of these have already begun to attend Church. Most of the growth has been in the Redding area, where we didn't begin to grow until dissident GTA supporters were put out of the Church last year. PT newsstand program growing significantly. New subscribers are way up. Brethren are very excited about Mr. Armstrong's coming trips. Also, very appreciative of Mr. Rader's role in the Work. We would love to see the film on the receivership if possible. We are looking forward to Mr. Waterhouse's visit.

After completing the fourth month as pastor of Chico, I wanted to express to those over me at Ministerial Services how deeply appreciative my wife and I are for this opportunity. We have been able to develop an initially fine rapport with the brethren. One of my personal goals is to strive with the help of God to never allow the freshness of appreciation, the novelty, the deep feeling of gratitude for the calling to the ministry God has given us, to wear off or diminish. If we in the ministry are continually thankful for our calling, we will hopefully grow to be more effective in service to God.

#### European French-Speaking Churches Visited

Mr. Dibar Apartian returned April 8th from a very hectic five-week trip to visit the French-speaking churches in Europe over the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

After flying from Los Angeles to Geneva, he found he had to conduct a public Bible lecture the same evening in Lausanne, Switzerland, 40 miles away. That's how the trip started, and that's how it continued--24 public Bible lectures to which La Pure Verite subscribers were invited, 10 sermons to European churches, four Bible Studies and one television interview.

As Mr. Apartian stated in a Bible study in Pasadena, "if I wasn't speaking I was travelling." Every major city in France, Belgium and the French-speaking area of Switzerland was covered.

Cold, windy weather with rain and snow didn't help much. Yet 20 to 25 subscribers (on the average) attended each lecture, with a high of 47 new people attending in Charleroi, Belgium.

Mr. Apartian made several interesting observations on changes in European life. The preoccupation with security and safety experienced in the U.S. has caught up with Europe. People are reluctant to come out at night, and in Paris, are afraid to use the subway trains in the evening.

A more open hostility towards the U.S. was evident, and American foreign policy is ill regarded. In France, it was difficult to find news of the situation in Iran. The main interests centered on the E.E.C., and constant friction between Britain and France was evident, especially over monetary contributions to the support of the E.E.C.

People are becoming increasingly aware that "something is happening" in world events. Mr. Apartian was able to capitalize on this in the interview in Switzerland for the T.V. program "L'Antenne est a Vous" (The Antenna is Yours), when he answered questions that covered the return of Christ, the gospel message and Mr. Armstrong's visits to world leaders. (In strongly Roman Catholic France, a survey showed 50% of those interviewed were not sure that Christ actually existed, and 60% of the remainder were not sure he would return).

Mr. Apartian reported that all our churches in Europe are doing well, and the most urgent needs were ministerial manpower and availability of finances to advertise extensively.

### Continued Growth In Canadian Work

The turnaround in the Canadian Work continues to be evident. March has been a month of consolidating the gains of the first two months of the year. Responses still continue to come in heavily to the various media campaigns along with a significant number of requests for basic doctrinal booklets on baptism and prophecy.

Church attendance figures are up and an increase in the number of requests for visits and information regarding location of church services has also become pronounced.

Income for the month showed a healthy 17% above last March despite a current inflation rate of around 10% (small in the eyes of many nations).

**New Television Buys:** In an effort to improve the media coverage in Canada, 52-week contracts were recently signed with 13 T.V. stations for airing of The World Tomorrow T.V. program. Coinciding with Mr. Armstrong's announcement of regular new programming, we feel confident about this renewed thrust into electronic media. The T.V. broadcast should begin in the following areas April 19th/20th: Vancouver; Victoria; Prince George; Lloydminster; Red Deer; Medicine Hat; Yorkton; Brandon; Sudbury; Timmins; North Bay; Pembroke; Barrie; Thunder Bay; Halifax; St. John's, Newfoundland; St. John, New Brunswick; Moncton; and Fredericton.

**Ad Campaign Results:** The PLAIN TRUTH file has doubled in the past two months with the addition of a little over 70,000 new subscribers. The file for La PURE VERITE is on its way to doubling also. New subscriptions as a result of the French newspaper flyer campaign are in excess of 20,000. French and English subscriptions now total close to 190,000.

Various programs are ongoing (e.g. the newsstand program, currently yielding nine times the normal rate of subscription requests) and others are in the well-advanced planning stages. Hopefully, the momentum already created will be sustained with God's blessing.

### Work In the Philippines Marches On

**Plain Truth Lectures:** Mr. Colin Adair conducted two Plain Truth Lectures this February. The first was held in Naga City about 440 km south of Manila on February 2nd. Total attendance was 136--78 were non-members and 58 were members. This lecture was followed up with a Bible seminar the following day and 67 persons were present, 20 of whom were non-members.

The second lecture was held last February 16, in the evening, in Tacloban City some 650 km south of Manila. Total attendance was 52--28 of whom

were non-members. This lecture was also followed up with a Bible seminar the following day; of the 44 persons in attendance, eight were new people.

Plain Truth: In February, 777 requests were received for new PT sub-subscriptions. This brought the number of year-to-date requests to 2080. Circulation total is now 31,300--down from the previous total of 41,050. Consequently, a campaign will be launched to step up PT circulation through PT color brochures which will be inserted in newspapers and magazines. An initial number of 10,000 brochures will be distributed in different outlets throughout the country.

Another 10,000 copies are distributed via newsstand outlets in Manila, Cebu, Davao, and Zamboanga. Year-to-date total of PT requests from newsstands now total 407.

Finances: First account year-to-date income at the end of February stood at a 39% increase over the same period last year.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

### 1980 FEAST OF TABERNACLES INFORMATION

Preparations are well underway for the 1980 Feast of Tabernacles. We hope that the Festival information printed in the Worldwide News will serve as a useful tool for the brethren in your area in their Festival preparations. We realize there will be problems in the first year of "own arrangements." We will try to assist you in any way we can to work through them.

#### Transfers

One area which must be clarified regards transfers. Brethren are beginning to make housing reservations (either on their own, or through the convention bureau) in their transfer request site before they have been approved! This causes complications in two ways:

1. Regularly assigned brethren may have more difficulty in locating housing (especially in the smaller sites such as Vail, Colorado).
2. The transfer requestor may be inconvenienced by having to cancel his reservations and perhaps forfeit deposit money if and when his transfer request has to be denied.

We will be trying to approve all transfer requests! However, we do have to work within the housing and seating capacities of each Festival site. An additional factor is that we must wait to see how many brethren will be staying in their assigned sites before we know how many transfers can be accepted.

So, we are requesting that all those wishing to transfer please wait for approval before making their housing reservations. We thank you for your patience and your cooperation!

#### Our Apologies

When we sent the Festival Advisor Information Packets to each church pastor, we forgot to include an explanation of what it was and who it was for. Please forgive us if you were inconvenienced by this error!

Reminder Regarding Housing Arrangements

Please remind your congregations that very shortly they will be receiving the special Festival Edition of the Worldwide News. This edition will give each member a more complete understanding of the changes that have been made in festival planning for this year, and will also give them a clearer understanding of the ins and outs of making their housing arrangements. We would appreciate it if you would urge your congregations to hold off making their housing arrangements until they receive their copies of the Worldwide News so as to avoid any possible confusion in the area of making housing arrangements.

**\*\*\*PLEASE ANNOUNCE\*\*\***

Jerusalem Feast Site

We are planning on having a feast site in Jerusalem again this year. It will include a brief tour to northern Israel prior to the festival, then the actual eight days of the feast will be held in Jerusalem with side trips into the local areas. After the feast the tour will return to London for a few days before returning to the states. Additional tour packages will be available for those members wishing to continue on to other areas after the festival. For those members wishing to transfer to Jerusalem, please be sure to send your application in as soon as possible as we will only be able to allow 250 to 300 persons to transfer to this site. The approximate cost of the tour package will be \$1,500. Please plan on this amount when filling out your application. We will be sending further information to you as plans are confirmed.

--Festival Coordination Team

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

We have completed testing a "take one" cardholder which is placed on public notice boards and which carries cards advertising the PLAIN TRUTH. This is similar to programs used by Time, Newsweek and US News to gain new subscribers. The program tested out at 26¢ cost per response. Because of these excellent results we are launching the program nationwide and you will soon be receiving a supply of the holders and cards for distribution by your congregation.

Last week we received a request for 1,000 copies of the April PLAIN TRUTH from the Honorable John A. Blatnik, educator and former congressman to Minnesota. He had been a subscriber prior to 1974 and had allowed his subscription to expire when the magazine went to tabloid format. We picked him up again as a subscriber through one of our circulation programs. Mr. Blatnik had worked with the partisans in Yugoslavia during World War II and is well versed in current Yugoslavian politics. He was so enthusiastic about the article on Yugoslavia that he wanted to share it with friends and the organizations he is acquainted with. He felt the article was the best he had read on the subject: neither oversimplified nor too complicated.

LETTER COMMENTS

The report this week begins with inspiring comments from people whose lives have been spiritually strengthened by God's Church. We are also including encouraging comments on The PLAIN TRUTH's timely content.

--Mail Processing Center



Church Has Positive Influence

My husband and I have recently been baptized into God's Church. Our marriage and family life have been strengthened and life in general is much better than I ever anticipated. Gone is the emptiness and searching for I knew not what; it has been replaced by a peace of mind and joy I could never attain on my own.

--David Johnson (Beech Bluff, TN)

Our home burned to the ground on January 26, 1980. God's Church in Tulsa came to our aid with food, clothing, household goods, furniture and most important brotherly love. We are so thankful to our Heavenly Father for it all. You can really know who is in the begotten family of God.

--Mrs. Lois Bruton (Depew, OK)

The Church has meant so much more to me recently. She is literally my mother. I have had some personal problems and don't know how I could have made it without the love and affection I got each Sabbath. I would like to see the whole world like a body of God's people.

--B.C. (Tamaroa, IL)

I first attended services about a year ago. I stopped immediately because I was confused and disturbed by certain ideological points. But your literature kept coming and this, combined with my constant prayers for guidance, has helped me understand and realize this is the real Church of God and you are my true brethren.

--Andy Pick (Brentwood, NY)

Comments About The PLAIN TRUTH

I just want to say how much I enjoy your viewpoints and predictions. While you are afforded much greater space than the numerous daily columnists, even if they are condensed, they contain statements, thoughts, viewpoints that the others either fail to mention entirely (i.e., a united Europe), or just touch on ever so lightly. For readers of The PLAIN TRUTH, we have been both informed and conditioned to what lies ahead and with HIS help and guidance, we will... Survive!

--Al Zuber (Totowa, NJ)

I have to comment on The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. It is such a wonderful masterpiece of work! I find it power-packed each time I read it. Like a small charge of electricity! It has what I like to call "magnetic attraction" because once you start reading it it is hard to stop or put down. It is truly a Work of God. I am most happy to have a part in the publication of it through my contributions.

--Virgil Hutson (Chattanooga, TN)

I was recently browsing through our public library when I came across the March issue of The PLAIN TRUTH. I found it interesting how your staff gave biblical accounts and parallels to the various crises of our time. It was so interesting in fact that I spent the next two hours reading it from front to back.

--Thomas Galvin (Roseville, MN)