

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

JULY 11, 1980

S.E.P. WARMLY WELCOMES MR. HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

Wednesday, July 7, marked a memorable occasion for everyone in the Summer Educational Camp at Orr, Minnesota. God's Apostle, Herbert W. Armstrong, took time from his busy schedule to fly from Tucson to address the first session of campers and faculty.

Together with Mr. Paul Suckling, director of the English SEP, I was privileged to be part of Mr. Armstrong's group which included his wife, his sister-in-law, his personal assistant Mr. Henry Cornwall, and Mr. Mel Olinger, his chauffeur and deacon in the Church.

From the moment we landed at the Orr airport in the Work's G-II, excitement and enthusiasm filled the air. When we arrived at the camp, the teen-agers had lined up on both sides of the road to welcome Mr. Armstrong with cheers and clapping. A few minutes later, as he strode smilingly from his car to the gymnasium, everyone rose up and gave him a standing ovation.

Upon Mr. Armstrong's request, Mr. Paul Suckling briefly spoke of the English SEP which is scheduled to open the latter part of July. Then Mr. Armstrong gave a powerful address not only to the young campers, but to all of us. He exhorted each of us to be thankful to God; he told the teen-agers how blessed they were to have parents whom God has called at this time. He showed what it really means to be given myriad opportunities stretching out before them.

After the Television crew recorded his message (which I personally hope will be heard in all the Churches), Mr. Armstrong met a few of the young campers and shook hands with them. Believe me!--they were thrilled, nervous and excited! Undoubtedly they will write home to tell their parents what it is to personally meet Mr. Armstrong, talk with him--and even shake hands with him!

Just before leaving Orr that very evening, we accompanied Mr. Armstrong for a short tour around the campus and stopped at Mr. Thornhill's cabin for a brief but warm reception with the SEP faculty.

Even though I have been with Mr. Armstrong on many occasions, this trip was also for me one of the most memorable ones, because I could share and feel the happiness--and gratitude--of four hundred teen-agers who love God, His Work and His Apostle!

--Dibar K. Apartian

SHALL WE ALL LEAVE THE CHURCH OF GOD
AND JOIN "THE CHURCH OF PEOPLE"?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Some already have done that. Let's think about it for a moment.

I had a vivid example of this a couple of mornings ago, awakening from a dream. In the dream it seemed to be several years ago when the Church was smaller. There was a young man across the street who looked like a possible one of our leaders. He was about age 30, with outstanding personality and appearance, and was an articulate extrovert. Then two other young men of about 30, well dressed, of somewhat impressive appearance and manner, were seen walking over and talking to him. They took pains to avoid me, and I seemed to know they were opposed to me personally.

In the dream I determined to speak immediately with the man they were trying to influence adversely. I told him frankly I knew they were "lobbying" against the Church and against me.

"Yes," he replied, "but I have to tell you, Mr. Armstrong, I think these men have something worth listening to. They say you arrogate to yourself too much power. You make yourself the leader of the Church. They say the people ought to have all the 'say so.' The people ought to vote on who they want to be their leader, and on what they want to believe and accept as Church doctrine. That sounds like a good idea to me. I think we need more DEMOCRACY."

I awoke at that point, thinking about the dream which had stuck in my mind.

But before awakening, I remember I had said to this man in the dream, "Well, the REAL QUESTION is whether this is GOD'S Church, or the PEOPLE'S Church! If it is GOD'S Church, then GOD is running it, and revealing what we shall believe and teach. GOD has the 'say so.' God runs it through Jesus Christ, who is the HEAD of the Church. And Jesus Christ runs it through His chosen Apostle, whom HE, not men, chose, prepared, and now guides and leads. Those men are getting your eyes off of GOD--you are leaving GOD out of the picture--out of the Church. You are looking only at people!! If you want to put GOD out of His Church, then you will have to be excommunicated!"

I awakened considerably impressed with the dream. Was God revealing to me that TOO MANY within the Church membership are leaving GOD out of the picture--in their own minds putting GOD out of the Church? Do they think that the kind of men the people would vote for ought to be made the LEADERS in the Church?--that the people should say to GOD, "This is OUR Church, God, we want you to GET OUT of the Church and leave us alone. WE will run this Church OUR way!"

I awakened impressed that TOO MANY of our people are LEAVING GOD AND CHRIST OUT OF HIS CHURCH, and trying to make it OUR Church--the church of the PEOPLE, and NOT The CHURCH OF GOD!

I could cite you any number of examples of where this actually has been done by leaders under me in the Church. This was done to justify watering down GOD'S TRUTH, and the true teaching and doctrine He had put in His Church through His chosen Apostle! That was done in Ambassador College, until it was no longer GOD'S College. They wanted a college approved by SATAN'S world--they called it "accreditation," although we had already had GOD'S accreditation--the HIGHEST accreditation. I had to start Ambassador College all over again, with one freshman class! Now, once again, we have GOD'S accreditation--but we don't want the anti-God accreditation of Satan's world!

I thought immediately of the time when God told His prophet, Samuel, to go to the house, or ranch, of Jesse. God had chosen one of Jesse's sons to be GOD'S chosen King over Israel. Jesse knew right away which son people would choose--his eldest son. He was stalwart, handsome, with a charming, outgoing extroverted personality, and articulate. He looked like a leader. But God said to Samuel, "No, he is not MY choice."

The second son was almost as handsome and had the appearance of a leader. God said, "NO!" The third and so on.

"Have you no more sons?" asked Samuel.

"Well, no--except only for a stripling of a youth who is out in the field shepherding sheep."

"Well bring him," said Samuel. In came the youth none of the people would have chosen, the lad David. "He is the one I have chosen," said God. "The ETERNAL seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the ETERNAL looketh on the heart" (I Sam. 16:7).

Man does not see things the way God does. God says, "There is A WAY which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of DEATH"! (Prov. 14:12.)

As to how MAN looks at it--how MAN would choose, God says, "Lean not unto thine own understanding" (Prov. 3:5).

How did GOD prepare the one HE had chosen to lead YOU--His Church of our time? I had to learn and admit that what I believed was ALL WRONG! I had to give up MY ideas, beliefs, opinions, and ways. I had to allow God to sweep my mind clean, so HE could fill it with HIS Truth.

Now IF this truly IS the Church of GOD and not of THE PEOPLE--if GOD is not only very much IN the picture, but FIRST and AT THE HEAD of it, UPPERMOST in our minds--then H O W does GOD run or operate it? H O W did He raise up this generation or succession of it?--just as God ALWAYS has done when raising up anything through humans. How is that?

All of God's calling and election of humans in His great overall SPIRITUAL PURPOSE FOR MAN started with ONE MAN--Abraham. All the promises, both material and national, and spiritual, were made to and come to us through Abraham--promises passed on to Isaac and Jacob who, with Abraham, became "the fathers."

When God decided to call a certain group of humans to be His People --His Congregation or CHURCH of the OLD Testament--He chose to lead them ONE MAN, specially prepared and trained for the purpose--MOSES!

God freed the Israelite slaves--made them HIS NATION, His CONGREGATION or Old Testament Church. WHO really led them? GOD did! By supernatural miracles God took them across the Red Sea. But the people were led by God's chosen, MOSES! They did not SEE God--they only saw the leader GOD chose--Moses. GOD led them, through Moses.

They became organized. Some were put in positions over fifty people. Some over a hundred--some over a thousand. Among them were some who had been elevated quite high in the organization--"men of renown"--just as in the Worldwide Church of God today we have had men in comparatively high office--men of renown. I do not need to print their names--you know who they were.

But GOD SAYS: "Now Korah, and Dathan, and Abiram, and On,...rose up before Moses, with...two hundred and fifty princes of the Assembly (Church), famous in the congregation (Church), men of renown. And they gathered themselves together against Moses...and said..., Ye take too much upon you...wherefore then lift ye up yourself above the congregation (Church)...?" (Num. 16:3).

Now through Moses, God had given them important offices in the Old Testament Church--they were "men of renown." But they wanted more--they coveted Moses' seat! They wanted to be chief boss! They coveted more POWER!

In 1974 men of renown in reasonably high position in GOD'S CHURCH of our time, coveted MORE POWER and AUTHORITY. I quoted the above to them about Korah. IT MADE NO DIFFERENCE. They conspired to take over headship of the Church--to depose Christ's chosen Apostle. They had two men --Vice Presidents and of Evangelist rank, men in high position, men of renown--at Headquarters. They thought that with these high-up men at Headquarters they could pull a coup--a POLITICAL REVOLUTION--and the GOVERNMENT in the Church would cave in under their politically-conspired plot.

But they UNDERESTIMATED the REAL HEAD of the Church--Jesus Christ! They thought it was a church OF THE PEOPLE--not the Church OF GOD! GOD simply was not in the picture in their eyes!

Christ's Apostle did not cave in. These men WENT OUT--several of them formed what they called the "Associated Church," in or near Washington, D.C. But those so "associated" soon fell out among themselves. GOD WAS NOT IN THEIR PLOT TO TAKE OVER--NOR IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO BUILD A NEW CHURCH OF THEIR OWN when their attempted coup failed! It was the "work of covetous MEN." It fell flat on its face. It came to naught!

"EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE, THEY LABOR IN VAIN THAT BUILD IT"
(Ps. 127:1).

Later, other "men of renown" in God's Church could not see CHRIST in the Church--only THE PEOPLE! They were in very high positions in God's Church--but they wanted to make it MAN'S church. Their conspiracy was

far more subtle than that of 1974. They undertook to produce a "scholarly work" setting forth their own distortion and perversion of the doctrines GOD had put in His Church through His chosen Apostle. It was done secretly. Christ's Apostle was overseas most of the time, and it was carefully kept from him. It was handed out to all the ministers as the "official doctrines of the Church." There were at least six or seven in TOP offices next to Christ's Apostle in authority--men trusted and honored. But they were going to make it "THE CHURCH OF PEOPLE," instead of the CHURCH OF GOD. They could not see God nor Christ in their mental picture of God's Church. They were LIBERALS! They liberalized Ambassador College. They liberalized The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. They changed and liberalized Church doctrines and teachings and beliefs.

But God brought His chosen Apostle back from the jaws of DEATH--from complete heart failure. God, through His Apostle, PUT THOSE MEN OUT OF HIS CHURCH. Now churches or works OF THEIR OWN have been started. But they overlook one thing: "EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE THEY LABOR IN VAIN THAT BUILD IT." God is NOT raising up and building a "house" based on resentment, bitterness and strife--on attempt to DESTROY what GOD has built and build something for SELF--on attempt to DESTROY the Worldwide Church of God by their false witness and false accusation of wrong-doing in God's Church, bringing about the massive lawsuit by America's largest state to try to take over and DESTROY the Church of the living GOD!--and to build for THEMSELVES by "siphoning off" to their own work the members of the Worldwide Church of GOD!

No, this, like several other little tiny offshoots of embittered, angered, revenge-seeking disfellowshipped former members, MUST COME TO NAUGHT! GOD is not building their houses!

So what, now, do we have? Look at them--all now coming DOWN--all coming to naught! They are THE WORKS OF EMBITTERED SELF-SEEKING MEN--ALL FALLING FLAT ON THEIR FACES!

The only good they accomplished was to attract out of GOD'S Church the few malcontents, disgruntled troublemakers. God's ministers report to me that now that those contentious, accusing, bickering troublemakers have left their local churches, THEY HAVE PEACE!

Of course a few well-meaning members were honestly deceived by these departed leaders. They have since had their eyes opened--they have realized their mistake, and have returned HOME into GOD'S Church.

Our GOD turns Satan's handiwork into blessings for HIS people.

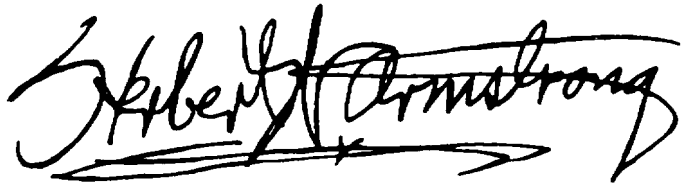
The living Jesus Christ raised up from death His Apostle, whom He has used to SET HIS CHURCH BACK ON THE TRACK OF GOD!

Peace has been restored. God's TRUTH has been restored--the liberalism swept out! There is peace, harmony and TEAMWORK solidly behind Christ and His chosen Apostle at Pasadena. There is now ONE GOAL in the Church--to COMPLETE the Work of God around the world, and to prepare GOD's people for Christ's soon coming! The Spirit of GOD vitalizes the Church, draws us closer to HIM and closer to ONE ANOTHER!

Now, after some twelve years of tearing down what Christ had built, once again new members are coming in--Church GROWTH is once again, during 1980, up to a 30% increase--as it was for 35 long years!

Today GOD ALMIGHTY, and the living JESUS CHRIST are very much IN THE PICTURE! It is truly the CHURCH OF GOD--not the "church of PEOPLE!"

Jesus said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches...without me ye can do NOTHING!" (John 15:5.)



FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Mr. Armstrong Expresses Appreciation to Letter Writers

Recently some of the letter writers in the Personal Correspondence Department of the Mail Processing Center wrote Mr. Armstrong personally. He appreciated hearing from them and responded by writing them a letter. They are among the unsung who loyally labor along with the rest of us in helping hold up Mr. Armstrong's arms in fulfilling God's Great Commission to His Church. With Mr. Armstrong's permission, we wanted to share his letter to them with you and, perhaps, consider for a moment their valuable contribution to the Work in serving those who needed this "personal touch" in understanding God's way of life.

To Members of the
Mail Processing Center:

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! for the letters from you people. I appreciated them beyond words!

You people are a MOST IMPORTANT department of the Work of the living God. I could not possibly answer personally all the letters coming in to me from members, viewers, listeners and readers of our publications, books and booklets. Yet it is a vital function that they be intelligently answered. I THANK GOD that He has prepared for His Work a well-informed and competent staff for this important service.

From those of you who wrote, I was pleased to notice you show you are well informed in what to write, and you write in an excellent style--plain, simple, to-the-point, smooth-flowing, in plain and simple language understandable by even the partly educated. I'm glad you avoid "the language of scholarship" which requires an interpreter for average readers. You're doing an excellent job. Jesus Christ is pleased, and so am I.

Gratefully, in Jesus' name,
Herbert W. Armstrong

Mr. Attorney General of California:

You cannot shut these doors opened to me for world travel to proclaim the Gospel!

Appeared in the Los Angeles Times July 11, 1980

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT TO your office, Mr. Attorney General, I am under orders from a far higher authority—one who says you can't stop me!

To me, the Supreme Authority, the living Jesus Christ, says, "Go ye into all the world and proclaim my Gospel Message." He says He is the Supreme One who has opened before me the doors, and no man can shut!

Just how important is this to the Supreme Authority above all? For our time now—late in the 20th century—He says, "This Gospel of the Kingdom of God shall be preached in all the world for a witness, to all nations, and then shall the end [of this world's civilization] come."

No other is taking this Gospel Message of the imminent WORLD-RULING Kingdom of God into all the world. In 1,900 years that Message has not gone out to the whole world!

The Supreme Authority says you cannot shut the doors He has opened before me!

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S VIEW

Just how have you, Mr. Attorney General, viewed my Great Commission, going into all the world with that all-important announcement of the coming world-ruling GOVERNMENT?

Without checking in a peaceful manner to learn WHY I have been going into all the world, you listened to the dissident, expelled ex-members of the Worldwide Church of God. You assumed that these arduous missions worldwide were mere pleasure trips—"siphoning off millions of dollars every year to my own personal account." You accepted, without first checking, the testimony of expelled former members. Through your actions, severe and irreparable damage was done to the Work of the living GOD!

In the first place, had you checked, you would have found that these globe-girding travels obeying the Great Commission from Christ, were allocated the *smallest* amount on the Worldwide Church of God annual



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

budget—less than \$1 million per year! Yet it was necessary that I take along with me a team required for holding many series of public meetings before large audiences on various continents of the earth.

Opening the door to such public meetings were invitations for private audiences with many heads of state—kings, emperors, presidents, prime ministers. I have been given highest honors by the governments of foreign nations.

I have been the first—and so far as I know only—religious leader from the world of Christianity to be invited as the honored guest of the Communist People's Republic of China, to speak to large audiences this Message from the Supreme "Unseen Strong Hand from Somewhere" at the Chinese capital. My party and I were the honored guests of that largest population nation on earth.

The Higher Authority I serve has said that in so doing, I or any others serving Him, would suffer the indignities of severe persecution—even from the high sources of this world. Jesus Christ said that if they had persecuted Him they would persecute us who follow and obey Him.

Not realizing what you were doing, you have allowed yourself to be snared into this major-scale persecution of the entire Church of God—and, as a test case, your start on a campaign to take over, own, control and manage the affairs of ALL CHURCHES!

I know that IN IGNORANCE you have done this. You allowed yourself to be misled by ex-members. Had you come to us in peace, seeking the background of the Worldwide Church of God and its world-girding operations, we would have given you the fullest cooperation and told you the PLAIN TRUTH.

We have so cooperated with every other government agency that has sought the true facts.

Forces of the Roman government persecuted Jesus Christ—finally put Him to death to pay for your sins, Mr. Attorney General, and mine. You have allowed yourself to be snared into fighting against this Higher Authority! I shall do as the Head of the Church admonishes: "Pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you." I shall pray for your enlightenment, and that you may be forgiven by the Higher Power! I would like to take you with me into the soon-coming Kingdom of God!

WE ARE NON-PROSELYTING

We do not compete with other churches. We do not seek their members nor solicit any MEMBERS DIRECTLY. God adds such members as He calls and who come voluntarily.

We have, as we so well know, been grievously misunderstood. But we welcome with thanks to Almighty God the present legal backing of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States, the Lutheran Church in America, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, the Synagogue Council of America, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church of the United States of America, National Association of Evangelicals, and Northern California Ecumenical Council. By them we are supported by 83 MILLION AMERICANS!

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Pastor General
Worldwide Church of God

For more information, write The Worldwide Church of God, Pasadena, Calif., 91123, or call toll-free, (800) 423-4444. In California call collect (213) 577-5225. If you have some questions for the attorney general of the state of California, write to him, The Hon. George Deukmejian, California Attorney General, 555 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, Calif., 95814.

Recapturing True Values in Y.O.U.

As all of you know, Mr. Herbert Armstrong is now personally directing every facet of God's Work. Our responsibility as ministers is to carry out our pastoral duties according to the instructions of God's Apostle.

Mr. Armstrong has repeatedly cautioned us about the dangers of a competitive spirit. Yet, it is becoming evident that even our Y.O.U. activities have taken on a great deal of that spirit. This does not affect only the teens! Many ministers, coordinators, and parents have become so involved in winning that they have lost sight of the purposes of Y.O.U. activities.

If we are going to "recapture true values" in working with our young people, we need to change the emphasis of these programs. The place to start is the various tournaments which lead to higher and higher levels of competition. Because winning is so highly rewarded, many teams strive for competitive advantage and a wrong spirit is injected into God's Church.

The objectives of Y.O.U. can be achieved among the most people at the local and district levels. Therefore, all athletic competition above the district level will be discontinued, and greater emphasis will be placed on expanded district play to provide all teams with ample opportunities for playing and learning.

As Pastors, you will need to enthusiastically cooperate with the District Coordinators to plan edifying and encouraging activities for your teens. Each of you will be asked to serve as Coordinator on a rotating basis. Coordinators will report to Mr. Armstrong through Ministerial Services.

Please begin also to emphasize family-oriented activities that will encourage teens and parents to participate together. Satan is attacking the family--we must defend it! Strengthening the family strengthens the whole Church. As we all work diligently to follow Mr. Armstrong's lead in preparing the Bride to meet Jesus Christ, God will continue to bless His Work and His people.

Ministers Grateful for Refreshing Program

The following two notes from among the ministry and their wives attending the first Ministerial Refreshing Program express heartfelt appreciation for the classes. Mr. Armstrong asked that we reprint them in this section of the Pastor General's Report.

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Please allow me to take a few precious seconds of your time to say Thank You, and to confirm our total loyalty to you as God's Apostle.

My wife and I are here from Australia for the first Ministerial Refreshing Program. (We graduated from Bricket Wood 10 years ago.) After only two days of classes, we want to convey to you our excitement of being able to hear from both Mr. Tkach and Mr. Blackwell. We wish all the ministry were here at this time to hear your words relayed to us.

We were also overjoyed to both hear and meet Mr. Rader in Bible study last Sabbath. His enthusiasm and support of you and God's Work can't help but encourage all of us whom God is training for His government.

We thank God daily for the great Work He is doing through you. We are your children in the Lord and we look forward to serving Jesus Christ with you through all eternity.

We love you Mr. Armstrong and support you totally.

Respectfully,
Bruce and Sonnie Tyler

All we hoped for and more!

The classes are stimulating, positive and informative. The fellowship is warm and uplifting.

Unity is the keynote--makes for the most stimulating and refreshing time in my career in the ministry!

--Jeff and Geneva Barness

News From New Zealand

The Auckland office has been overwhelmed by the dramatic and encouraging increase in tithes and offerings in recent months. Month after month has seen previous income records smashed, and June was no exception. Mail income recorded by far the highest monthly figure ever reached by the office there--a stunning 68.2% increase over the figure for June last year. That gives a year-to-date increase in tithes and offerings of 32.7% over the first half of 1979.

New Zealand also has experienced encouraging growth in other areas. Ministers all over the country are reporting a growing amount of PM interest, and average church attendance for the first six months of this year is 18% ahead of the same period last year. June's average weekly attendance figure of 959 was the highest on record for this area of the world. With vigorous promotion of the Correspondence Course this year the number of students is now 421% ahead of the number this time last year.

Over 5,700 pieces of mail were received in June, an increase of 32.7% over last June. 5,294 new P.T. subscribers have been added as a result of this year's householder card promotion, at a cost per response of only \$2.83. So far the promotion has been made only to half of the country; the rest of the letterboxes will be covered later in the year. Ads for the P.T. and P.V. in various Pacific Island newspapers have so far prompted 277 responses, at a cost per response of \$7.94.

Finally, some tremendous news! A real shot in the arm was given to their budget by the unexpected lifting recently of import restrictions on overseas magazines. In the past, local regulations have required them to print the P.T. in New Zealand no matter what the cost. This month, these restrictions were miraculously lifted and they're now free

to print the magazine outside New Zealand where costs tend to be less, and remit money to pay for postage as well! Beginning with the September issue, the New Zealand edition of the P.T. will be printed along with the U.S. edition at Donnelly's in Kentucky. This change will save them several thousand dollars per year!

Update From Germany

During the month of June, Austrian local elder Winfried Fritz, his wife Carola, and daughters Natalie and Deborah, moved from Australia to Bonn. Winfried will assist John Karlson in supervising the Bonn office as well as in pastoring the Dusseldorf and Bonn churches.

Our other ministers in Germany report stable conditions in the churches, and that the membership is solidly behind Mr. Armstrong.

The month of June proved to be a much better month all around in comparison to June 1979. Incoming mail has increased in every area by at least 20%. Donation mail has increased by 37%, reflecting the stable income in spite of the summer vacation, which normally causes a sharp decrease in mail. This month brought a total of 1,822 new subscribers for KLAR & WAHR. In the first six months of 1980, 13,762 new subscribers were added to the German file. Despite renewing the entire file, which resulted in dropping over 7,000 subscribers from the list, the German Work now has a KLAR & WAHR subscriber list of 40,300.

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

JACKSONVILLE, FL--ALLEN BULLOCK: This was an exciting month. Our Church members were so stirred up about the "60 Minutes" program that we had Mr. Armstrong's letter answering the program put in two local papers, one of which can be bought in the entire state. We also had ten ten-second spot TV ads advertising the article to appear in the paper the day before the ad appeared in the paper. Three of our best TV spot ads were during the 6:00 p.m. news on the two major channels in the area. One of the TV stations had to ask their main office (Legal Dept.) in Washington; their reply was, "We have to sell them the time." The reason for the local office not being sure is because they air the "60 Minutes" program weekly. Some of the people that run the local station don't like "60 Minutes" that much and are happy they can respond. I will send a copy of the ad in next week's report. I thought Mr. Armstrong might be pleased to see how much the brethren are behind him.

MIDDLESBORO, KY--MEL DAHLGREN: Members very excited about all the recent publicity on "60 Minutes." Many are being asked questions about their Church and beliefs. Everyone is following the developments in the court case closely.

MONTVALE, NJ--LLOYD BRIGGIE: Church attendance has been up since the Passover and spring holy days. Zeal for the completion of God's end-time Work has been stirred up. The "60 Minutes" segment plus full-page ads in the New York Times enhances the excitement. More people are coming to the point of baptism.

ALBANY, NY--LYLE WELTY: Members are quite excited about the end of our Work being only perhaps months away. This has had a profound impact on the congregation. We received a number of favorable comments regarding Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's articles regarding D & R and third tithe.

MOBILE, AL--STEVEN D. MOODY: We have had very good interest and results from and with the PT waiting room program--40% of all waiting rooms contacted took subscriptions. We had a good turnout of volunteers.

CANTON, OH--JOHN FOSTER: Most members are happy to be involved in PT distribution and calling programs. There is a feeling of urgency that we must do all we can to help Mr. Armstrong finish our commission.

YOUNGSTOWN, OH--EUGENE NOEL: Attitudes are very good overall. Many more new people are requesting visits and baptisms--more than double last year's. We had very good response to our public Bible lectures in Mercer, PA.

PITTSBURGH, PA--DON J. LAWSON: Things are going well. Overall, people are excited about the direction the Church is taking under the leadership of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. The Church is again getting closer and involved. We do not run into the questions and bad attitudes common a couple of years back.

MIAMI, FL--AL KERSHA: The Miami Church continues to be positive and responsive and encouraged by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's example and leadership. The membership is continuing to draw closer to one another and be more involved in the several serving opportunities available to them. The momentum is there!

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

SECOND TITHE ASSISTANCE REQUESTS

Any U.S. Church Pastors who have requests for Second Tithe Assistance for members to attend the Feast and haven't sent them in yet, should do so by no later than July 21. We need to receive the forms by that date in order to give priority to the most deserving recipients and facilitate processing of the requests.

--Ministerial Services

HIGHLIGHTS OF JULY FOURTH BIBLE STUDY

On the evening of the fourth many members were already in town for the second annual Church picnic. Mr. Rader conducted the Bible Study that night to tell of this past year's accomplishments and to discuss current plans, as well as to inform the brethren of some of the ongoing issues and challenges presented by the State's lawsuit. In the course of the evening Mr. Rader's openness about his own private thoughts, feelings and desires made many of the brethren feel they had come to know and understand Mr. Armstrong's chief helper much better!

In the following pages we have tried to highlight those topics which we thought would give further insights and overall understanding to our readers.

Advertisements to Become Stronger

On the topic of the advertisements Mr. Armstrong is writing, Mr. Rader said "the ones that he's going to be writing are going to be much stronger." This, of course, is very exciting because not only are we setting the record straight with the public, but Mr. Armstrong will be preaching the gospel powerfully through this avenue!

Mr. Rader noted that we are getting the attention of the public. "These ads are seen and you have to understand that. The Associated Press has called (they already did one story) and wants to do a larger one on the whole effort. UP [wire service] has also called." He also said that as a result of people on the East Coast having seen the ads, He had been interviewed in New York. Word has also come that stations in the Sacramento area also want him to return.

Speaking With One Voice

An associate editor of the Sacramento Bee newspaper did a very thoughtful piece about our situation with the State. Mr. Rader mentioned that he had asked Marc Segall, local church pastor for Chico, California, to write the man in response to the commentary in a very thoughtful, respectful way and to let him know that, on behalf of the entirety of the church, such an article is appreciated. Marc was asked to also offer him more information and let him know that Mr. Rader was available if he'd like to talk with him. In fact, very happy to talk with him.

Mr. Rader noted that this is how we can establish a dialogue with people of the media. He added: "Our ministers are very capable people wherever they may be, and Mr. Segall and Mr. Lillengreen were fortunate enough to be able to go from station to station with me--radio stations, television stations--to see me with newspaper people and what have you. And they pick up various things in the process and gradually all of our ministers will be able to do the same thing."

Commenting further about the role of everyone in the Church, Mr. Rader said, "after all, we are speaking with one voice, as I've mentioned years ago here. The voice of the Work is the sum total of every broadcast, every telecast, every article, every sermon, every sermonette, every lecture, every conversation between any two people. No matter how lofty a position they might hold or whether they are just one of the many brethren around the world. But all of that constitutes the voice of

the Work. We must speak with one voice. And when we speak with one voice we have much power. And in the end I think you will see how that power is amplified so many times by the Almighty God."

We Must Not Hide Our Light

Referring us to Mark 4:21, Mr. Rader stressed that we cannot keep ourselves hidden. A candle is only useful as it is allowed to emit its light. Referring back to Acts where Paul was brought before Festus and said that the Work had not been done in a corner, so it is with God's Work today! It certainly hasn't been done in a corner either.

"But by the same token," said Mr. Rader, "this is a much bigger country today than that particular environment where Paul and others and even Christ were confronting [others] at that time. It's a much bigger world and there are many things that attract the attention of all of the people that we have to reach if this announcement is going to be heard, and be heard by people in such a manner that they will have understood and have had a real opportunity to heed it....Now, when the Worldwide Church of God is mentioned, people know what it is and they are more curious to find out [more] about us...."

"So our name, even though it has been sullied and although we have been slandered and we have been libeled, the public is now aware of us and it is our duty to walk through that door. That's another door that has been opened. And we can continue there in Mark 4:22 because it says, 'For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad.'

"And these things are being heard. And nothing will be secret very long. We have plans to make even those things which we have kept from the almighty Attorney General known to other people. He'll be the last one to get it in the manner that he wants to get it. Everybody else is getting the information but him. We are making it available to other people on a confidential basis and in one manner or another we will get the information out to people, and pretty soon they will all realize that the Attorney General and the bureaucrats and the judges have attempted to do something very dastardly--something that militates against their interest as well as our interests."

An Incredible Parallel

In the course of relating the news of the Work and giving the brethren many insights, Mr. Rader embarked on what almost seemed like a parable in order to illustrate a point. But it has a surprise ending. Here it is:

"I'd like to read you a little something here that is kind of interesting. Just follow these facts. There was a worldwide firm whose headquarters was in Pasadena, California, and the head of that worldwide firm asked one of its key people to move into a larger house in Beverly Hills, California. The founder of this Pasadena-based worldwide company felt that this would enhance the company's image and enable the company to more properly entertain its guests who happened to come from all over the world.

"And the head of this company did not wish to carry on the burden of this entertainment himself. Didn't like to do that sort of thing, didn't feel he was up to it. Didn't feel he ought to but knew it had to be done, somebody had to do it. But he felt that the current residence of the key person in his organization was 'not befitting a person in those circumstances'--those that he had in mind.

"Because this [key] person could not afford to finance or maintain such a property, the company made arrangements so that he could. The company borrowed \$300,000 from the Bank of America and reloaned it to the employee or person at 7% per annum secured by a deed of trust on the property.

"The house that the company had selected cost \$655,000 as furnished in 1967. So that the individual could afford to make his payments, the company agreed to give him a sizeable bonus and an increase in regular monthly compensation sufficient to enable him to meet the increased obligations, and agreed to pay for 60% of all maintenance expenses, all direct food, liquor, entertainment expenses and an allowance for depreciation based upon company usage of the home.

"The Internal Revenue Service questioned the transaction but the court found that even though the taxpayer was the president of the company and in some position to influence his company's decision, because he was not a stockholder at the time the contract was negotiated, the arrangement was an arms-length bargain. It held therefore that if the respondent--that's the IRS--feels that the actual use of the residence does not justify the dollar amount of reimbursements, he has picked the wrong target.

"Now those are some facts. [But] the Attorney General keeps crying in every forum, any time he can find a listener--whether it's on radio or television. But he's kind of stuck now. He's kind of like a record that's just on the same thing now. He's zeroing in on me and on one transaction now. [So] everytime I appear someplace I'm asked the same question: 'What about this house, Mr. Rader, over there in Beverly Hills? We understand that the Church bought you a house and that you sold it and pocketed the proceeds.'

"Now these facts I read you have nothing to do with the Worldwide Church of God! But you'll find those facts recited in a 1974 United States Tax Court case [and] of all things (didn't change any dates or amounts) it concerns the Ralph M. Parson's Company [a huge multi-national engineering firm based in Pasadena]. You see, Mr. Parsons didn't want to do all the things that had to be done. But he had somebody in his organization who could do all those things that needed to be done.

"Now Mr. Leonard, who is the president, didn't want to live in Pasadena; I don't know why. Maybe his wife didn't like it. My wife didn't like Pasadena at one time. So the president of the company had a house bought over there in Beverly Hills. Parsons himself picked it out.

"And the price of the home was even more expensive than the home that I had. The money was borrowed by Parsons and reloaned. And the facts are almost identical. The only one that doesn't know about these facts yet is the Attorney General. And I'm sure it's not the only case. There

was a big article in FORTUNE magazine a few weeks ago where AT&T had a similar problem. Bought an apartment house cooperative in New York for its president for \$950,000. It's his apartment, and the company is paying for the interest, taxes, the maintenance and the upkeep and everything else.

"But I mean, what I'm trying to point out to you, what the Attorney General is trying to do is trying to take a transaction that was perfectly normal, so normal that without our knowing about it, at the very same time practically, Ralph Parsons, right over here, our neighbor, the largest employer in Pasadena, was making the very same arrangements for the very same purpose with its president. The chairman of the board, Mr. Parsons, had things that had to be done to get his work done just as Mr. Armstrong had certain things that had to be done in God's Work.

"I only point that out to you to show you how it isn't just a matter of record that proves that I've done no wrong and that Mr. Armstrong has done no wrong and the Church has done no wrong, and hence the brethren obviously; but, I mean, if the Attorney General had run an investigation he would have seen there was nothing strange about this at all."

Mr. Rader commented that Mr. Armstrong was talking about the matter recently to investigators of an agency other than the Attorney General's office. He mentioned how he and Mr. Portune (when he was still Business Manager) had thought the house was necessary for the Work. When they saw one that they all considered suitable and a very good buy at the time, they bought it. Later Mr. Rader bought it. Mr. Armstrong further told the investigators:

"Later when property values had gone up, Mr. Rader sold it for a big profit. But what I say is, so what? It's his house. I figured it was necessary for the Work. We were dealing with a type of people who lived in a standard and a station in life that we needed to entertain them properly, and so we did."

Quality Plays Important Role in the Work

Mr. Rader dwelled for a time on his feelings about his personal possessions and money in general. He talked about how he spent some of his income and explained why he wore expensive suits:

"Well, I know we don't take a vow of poverty here. If we did I would be one of the first ones to do so. But for the moment, the things that I spend my money on, that I earn, I use for the Work. Mr. Armstrong knows that. My suits are expensive, but certainly that's not capital. Maybe I spend too much money on my suits, but I'm representing Mr. Armstrong and that's the way he wants me to dress for the places that I have to go.

"And when I met Mr. Armstrong I dressed that way. And when Mr. Armstrong first met me, he told me that my professional office was the finest professional office he had ever seen. That was the only capital or tools of the trade that I had.

"So I've always spent my money in that way. But I've done so because Mr. Armstrong has wanted me to do it, even before I was a member. It was what he knew this Work needed if I were to meet these bankers, if I were to meet [executives of] insurance companies, if I were to meet media people, if I were to meet kings and princesses and queens--it was necessary for the Work.

"If I spend a small fortune on this suit, what do you think it's worth the moment that I take it from the tailor? Does anybody have an idea of what its worth as of that moment? Mr. Kessler's there. What would it be worth, percentage wise? Guess. At the most. [Mr. Jack Kessler responds 20%]. The moment that I, the moment that the exchange takes place, I've lost 80 percent, just like that. Immediately! Now you can say it's vanity. But it really isn't. Who am I trying to impress?

"Everything that I do is tied up with the Work, just like everything Mr. Armstrong does is tied up directly with the Work. He spends seven days a week, 15 hours a day, concerned only about the Work. And I spent a good part of my life there for 12 years with him, where we shared almost every minute. Who are we trying to impress, one another? But there had to be a reason, wasn't there? In his judgment it would be better for us to be that way, dressing that way, appearing that way to these people that we had to deal with on behalf of God's Work than to try to get away with an Arab robe of some kind or a toga or a sackcloth. That was his judgment. Now when I became a member, if it had been different, I would have changed.

"Mr. Armstrong wrote a very nice piece about me one time which I never, never even remotely anticipated. It's called the Plain Truth about me, about Stanley Rader. And he mentioned that the reason people don't like me, he said, was maybe because the same reason they didn't like him. That he had a certain amount of criticism because he came into the Work, into God's Work late in life, or later in life; had a certain veneer and didn't bother giving that up, didn't think that was necessary in doing God's Work. He thought just the opposite. It was important not to be sanctimonious and self-righteous. And he said that's what he always liked about me, that I didn't change.

"But the point is, I want to do what is right in God's eyes. And I want to do what is right in Mr. Armstrong's eyes. And I also want to be of the greatest service that I can."

"Cult" Becomes a Buzz Word

Mr. Rader related how the Attorney General is going around button-holing assemblymen (who will be voting soon on the Petris bill) arguing "fraud" and "cult" because he doesn't know which will be more effective against us and other churches he is attacking and intends to go after in the future.

Of course we are not at all like a cult by any reasonable definition. One of the finest lawyers in the nation, Professor Lawrence Tribe (who just won an important case in the Supreme Court the other day) is working diligently for us all the time. In a recent brief he made a point to stress the legitimacy of the Worldwide Church of God he has become acquainted with. Here is part of that brief which Mr. Rader read to the Bible study audience:

(Continued on Page 18)

FROM SACRAMENTO

'Cult' Now Weapon Against Religion



By Robert Studer

Thursday, July 3, 1980

A word may be just a word. A combination of letters that, added together, have a particular meaning to those who hear it. But, those shades of meaning can be subtly changed. It is then that a word can become more than just a word. It can become a weapon.

That, in the opinion of church leaders throughout the nation, is what is happening to the word "cult." And, to them, this subtle change is adding up to a threat to religious freedom in California and the nation that — in the opinion of their spokesmen — threatens to set us back 300 years and destroy the very reason that man first fled an oppressive Europe to start out again in the New World.

At issue is a current battle between the attorney general of California and the national religious community over his interpretation of the California state law governing charitable trusts. And at immediate issue is a bitter controversy between Attorney General George Deukmejian and the Worldwide Church of God based in Pasadena.

Deukmejian, investigating the church in the wake of allegations of fraud, used a new section of the state's non-profit corporations code to seize church assets and records, thereby igniting an alarmed counter-attack from religious groups nationwide who feared an historic breach in the hallowed wall that separates church and state.

Deukmejian acted after he had received complaints from some members of the Pasadena-based church that assets of the church worth millions of dollars appeared to have been siphoned off to finance luxurious lifestyles for some of its top leaders.

In so acting, the attorney general was utilizing an interpretation of the charitable trust law which holds that every charitable organization in California is a public trust, that its assets are held in trust by its leaders for the benefit of the general public, and that churches and charitable organi-

zations and thus come under the purview of the code.

Church leaders nationally, however, brand this interpretation of the law as "a throwback to the Middle Ages, and an infringement on the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which could well lead to the imposition of a state-dictated standard of control of church operations and religious practices. It is an alarming breach in the wall between church and state."

Leo Pfeffer, a professor of political science at Long Island University and a special counsel to the American Jewish Congress, put it this way in an interview here: "The word 'cult' is being equated to some kind of a leper, and this term is being widely applied to religious groups in this country. The point is being made that such 'cults' do not belong in the society of civilized religions, that they are not entitled to deal with them as it sees fit. This terminology," he warned, "is being used to gain acceptance by a court that such so-called cults are not religious at all.

"If this were to be accepted," Pfeffer said, "it could very well mark the beginning of the end of true religious freedom. Established religions, the Catholics, the Protestant, the Jewish groups — which once were very much in need of such protections — today are accepted to the point where they seldom need the direct protection of the First Amendment. The purpose of the Bill of Rights, however, is not to protect established groups which don't need protection. From the very beginning, these rights were needed to protect those groups who need a constitutional guarantee against government that considers them unpopular and undesirable."

In Sacramento to testify in behalf of state legislation that would place limits on the right of the state to probe churches now moving through the Legislature, Pfeffer added: "When a state or the national gov-

ernment tries to make laws respecting religious practices or religious beliefs or religious expressions, which distinguish between religious groups merely on the fact that one is called a cult and the other a religion, is acting contrary to the Constitution of the United States."

Pfeffer contradicted a generally held belief that when the U.S. Supreme Court on June 2 without comment let stand rulings by California courts that Deukmejian may seek documents and interrogate Worldwide Church of God officials in his current probe, that it was a victory for the California state government in the controversy.

"On the contrary," he said, "it is the normal practice of the Supreme Court not to act on any matters brought before it until all avenues have been pursued in the lower courts. That is how it protects itself from being inundated by legal matters to the point where it could no longer function. This action by the court is not a prejudice against the position of the churches in this matter. Indeed, I am confident that should the matter finally end up before the high court it will be resolved in behalf of religious freedom in this nation."

Meanwhile, Senate Bill 1493, by Sen. George Petris, D-Oakland, in behalf of which Pfeffer, Dean M. Kelley, executive for religious liberty for the National Council of Churches, and others had flown to Sacramento, was passed out of the Assembly Judiciary Committee on an 8-0 vote.

"You don't mortgage liberties as part of the bargain when government seeks to protect the people against fraud and abuse," Petris told the committee.

His bill would amend a current law, which took effect in January, which allows the state Department of Justice to investigate groups registered as tax-exempt religious corporations on the mere suspicion of fraudulent use of church property and donations.

It is more than coincidental that the present assault upon the Worldwide Church of God occurred soon after the tragedy at the People's Temple in Jonestown. "Cult" has become a buzz word connoting unspecified horrors and a potential need for public inquiry.

In this regard it should be clearly understood that the Worldwide Church of God and its membership bear no resemblance whatsoever to what we have come to know as cults. The Church represents a conservative branch of Christianity. Its adult members live in approximately 100 nations around the world and typically are well educated. Church members do not live communally or under the surveillance or supervision of Church leaders. Apart from the few needy members, they do not depend for livelihood or shelter upon one another or upon the Church. They are for the most part gainfully employed, live with their own families and lead purposeful and independent lives.

"And that's a very fine statement by a very highly educated constitutional lawyer," Mr. Rader reminded the audience.

\$100,000 Reward Brings Nibble

Our ad offering a reward for information about the assault on God's Church has borne some fruit already. "We got our first legitimate nibble for it," said Mr. Rader. "The person involved was smart enough to go to a lawyer. The lawyer's firm has contacted us and has said they have [someone] who gave information to the attorney general and to Mike Wallace, and so I'm going to go up to San Francisco to see that attorney next week. So we may be closer to finding out a little bit more about false witnesses and those who probably suborned the false witness. By that [I mean] helped the people to lie."

Now, in addition to the newspaper ads, Mr. Rader said we are also making arrangements to use billboards here in the Southland to get our message across. Gradually the public will know more and more about what has been happening to God's Church and about the message it is proclaiming.

"So we're not worried about the future," Mr. Rader reassured his audience. "We have a commission to fulfill and as long as we do God's Work and remain loyal to His laws and His ways, we don't have any problem winning that battle. But we will continue to fight the other battle because we are right and we have constitutional rights to protect and we have a duty to other people now. We will continue to wage that battle, and we will fight for this property. This property was paid for by the brethren of the Worldwide Church of God all over the world!"

Counting the Cost: The Positive Side of Persecution

Mr. Rader recalled that false accusers were brought against Christ. Paul suffered the same troubles. And God's people are told that they, too, will suffer persecution. Then Mr. Rader referred to words Mr. Armstrong spoke recently about when he was coming into the ministry. Mr. Armstrong said: "I counted the cost before I let myself get into the ministry, and I knew it [persecution] would come. And now it has come, from the biggest state in the Union. But God had moved me over here to Tucson [because]

God knew it. I know that God moved me here; I was not even a resident of California when this thing hit us."

Emphasizing the importance of the singular act of counting the cost, Mr. Rader then referred to the parable of the sower in Mark 4 and the seed which had no root: "'When affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.'" We have those people. The first sign of affliction, the first sign of persecution and they fly right out of the window. We are told that that will happen. But it is good, it's not bad. It is good. It separates the chaff from the grain. It gets out the lukewarm; very important. We're told it's going to be that way so it should be no surprise to us. But Mr. Armstrong counted the cost."

And it is sad, but true, that there may still be people with us who have eyes and see not and ears and hear not--who still do not understand the events of the last 18 months. So, these people, whoever they are, remain doubting Thomases about various phases of the Work. As Mr. Rader said, "And every time there is a new tremor, a new affliction, some new bit of persecution, they waiver. But we know that we will be persecuted and we know that we will be saved. So I don't know why any of those [events] should be considered [in a negative light], any persecution of that type. To me it has always been a sign that the work is getting done!"

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MR. RADER ADDRESSES BRETHREN AT CHURCH PICNIC

Local Churches of God from up and down the state of California were represented on the first Sunday of July at the second annual "4th of July picnic" in Pasadena. Over 5000 members joined in the festivities which can only be described as a grand success. You will want to read about the imaginative and varied day of activities that offered something for everyone. The Worldwide News will be telling you about this day which underscored the Church's unity in a fun-filled and relaxed atmosphere.

At the end of the day brethren gathered on the mall and on the crosswalks of the reflection pool in front of the Auditorium between the Hall of Administration and Student Center. As the buildings' shadows stretched and yawned long and wide, Mr. Rader spoke to the brethren about the Work, the freedom we enjoy and the state agency which still threatens to snatch them both away.

Mr. Armstrong's Latest Ad Introduced

Mr. Rader began by thanking Mr. Armstrong for making the day possible and acknowledging God's role in making this day the success it was. He then noted that while we were enjoying the day's activities, Mr. Armstrong was hard at work on his latest full-page newspaper advertisement which was then transmitted by facsimile machine to Pasadena late in the afternoon. Mr. Rader then proceeded to read it to the brethren.

The ad is addressed to the Attorney General of California and some of the copy reads as follows:

"The strength of God's Church lies in the power of the Living God, in the dynamic power of the true gospel message God sent to the world by Jesus Christ and in the Church people. We are not anchored to buildings or other assets you have tried to seize. You, Mr. Attorney General, cannot seize or control our Living God...." Mr. Armstrong continues, "Our strength does not lie in our numbers.... Jesus Christ said of us, 'I know that you have but little power and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. I have set before you an open door which no one is able to shut.'"

Growing stronger in its content, Mr. Armstrong's ad continues, "But our God has used your [the Attorney General's] politically motivated persecution to strengthen His Church, to draw our devoted members closer to Him and to be more united and more welded together...." At the conclusion of this ad (which will be reproduced in the Pastor General's Report after its initial public appearance) the booklet JUST WHAT DO YOU MEAN--THE KINGDOM OF GOD? is offered to the public.

After giving the brethren (many of whom don't often get to hear Mr. Rader speak in person) a preview of one of our soon-coming ads, he noted that it deals with the subject matter that has brought us to the eye of the nation for the past 18 months. He observed that "Mr. Armstrong is speaking out now very plainly, very boldly, and with much power." It is becoming increasingly plain that God has given His Church an attention-getting means of focusing public attention on the Church and its vital message--even while it stands staunchly against the political forces that would crush it!

Mr. Rader went on to reflect on the way God's people, led by one man, Mr. Herbert Armstrong, remaining "resolute and confident," have struggled together to resist state tyranny and how God took care of all the crucial strategic aspects of the Work, such as moving Mr. Armstrong to Tucson, knowing the needs of His Church in advance.

"Against the Gates of Hell" Distributed

In his book, Against the Gates of Hell, which was distributed free of charge to each head of household early in the day, Mr. Rader comments on his feelings of admiration for God's people. He expressed the hope that every nonmember who reads the book will note the paragraph on page 121 in praise of the brethren. "It just barely does you all justice," said Mr. Rader, "but it certainly does tell the truth. And that's something the Attorney General didn't know when he began this lawsuit. And that's what most of our detractors did not know. And that's what the newspapers, and the magazines, and the telecasters did not know.

"But as time has passed they have learned," continued Mr. Rader. "And I think you can see today, for example, the attitude of the cameramen from Channel 11, those who saw their appearance here. They're much different than they were before and even they are catching on when they see your faces." (Channel 11 news showed scenes from the picnic and some comments by Mr. Rader on their newscast later that evening.)

Mr. Rader also hoped that all the brethren would read his book. He said it is "designed to pull all the events of the last 18 months together in one place. It's a bit like a primer for those people who have never

been exposed to the Church. I've even told all of our lawyers they had better read the book and I'm going to start quizzing them on it. Some of them don't learn all about the Church at the same rate; they don't learn quite as much about it as I would like them to. It's only after they read some of the more important aspects of the book that they will feel closer to us. And I believe once they do they will do even a better job."

Mark 13:11--a Promise of Help

Mr. Rader mentioned that people have commented to him about his appearances on TV and radio talk shows. He stressed how a particular verse of the Bible had been so convincingly proven to himself through these experiences: "I'm referring to Mark 13:11 where it says, 'But when they shall lead you and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate. But whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy [Spirit].'

"That's very true," he acknowledged. "I cannot plan what I'm going to say. I cannot take the time to even hesitate in response to a question. If I were to do that the answers would not have that spontaneous quality and they would not have that quality of candor which is so essential in this particular type of setting. And so I just simply say whatever comes to my mind at that moment....And it's this type of thing that makes it possible for us all to do a very good job...and try to use what we have learned."

Persecution Definitely Not Over

Mr. Rader took this opportunity to remind the brethren that the persecution the Church has been experiencing is not over. "I know that the Attorney General is a desperate man," he said. "He is an evil man.... There is no way for me to underscore it more for you.... They lie repeatedly. They lie at every opportunity. They invent at every opportunity to do so. They lie to the courts, they lie to the newspapers, they lie to the public, they are lying right now, as Dr. Scott has been saying on his TV program for days. They are lying to the assemblymen in the state legislature [about the Petris bill, and about churches]. They lie on things which are so fundamentally untrue that there is no way for them to substantiate to the slightest degree the things that they are lying about. I'm not talking about differences of opinion."

Mr. Rader proceeded to relate an example of just what he was talking about: "They are still saying today in their latest briefs, in their latest arguments, that we are still destroying our documents. We are destroying them in pursuance of a nefarious scheme to carry out our wanton, fraudulent misappropriation of Church assets. They say that in writing," Mr. Rader explained, "they put it in their briefs, and they submit it to the highest courts of the land [and] in the state. That's pure evil because they know there is no way for the court that they are addressing that memo to, or that brief--there is no way for that court to determine the truth or falsity of the statement. [At this point] the court is not being asked to determine the truth or falsity of that statement. Do you all understand that? They make the statement although they don't have to make it. They make it in order to try to influence the court."

"So they are knowingly lying about us. They are still arguing and lying in their pleadings that our property in Big Sandy is worth \$30 million! They are saying that despite the fact that the 'deceiver,' as Mr. Armstrong has properly labeled him, immediately tried to confirm the sale at \$10.5 million and put the money into his own pocket.

"So despite that being a matter of record, in dealing with other courts they are lying and thus influencing the court and making us look bad--making Mr. Armstrong look bad, making me look bad, making you look bad.

"Now that kind of conduct is reprehensible. You would think that a man occupying the responsible position of Attorney General...you would think a person wouldn't stoop to that kind of conduct. They will if they're evil, and let's remember that. They are evil men and they will lie and invent and they will slander and malign and they will continue to do it," warned Mr. Rader.

He said that with the ad campaign arousing public opinion and other large churches putting pressure on the Attorney General's office, "their system is under attack now." But putting the matter in perspective, he reminded us that though besieged now, they still have a lot of time and money to spend--taxpayer's money.

"But we will endure and we must look at the persecution in the proper light," said Mr. Rader as he emphasized that the Work is getting done and the Church is becoming stronger. "The Church as it's now constituted worldwide is a healthy, growing, united Church and what we've experienced today I think is evidence of that."

In summing up our calling, Mr. Rader said, "I think we should really thank the Living God, Jesus Christ, and Mr. Armstrong for what we have been given--an opportunity to [help] in spreading the gospel and doing this Work which is more important to me, and I'm sure it's more important to you, than anything else that you could possibly do."

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PETRIS BILL PASSES WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The Petris Bill cleared the California Assembly's Ways and Means Committee yesterday, July 10th, by a vote of 12-3. The bill has yet to be voted on and passed by the full assembly and signed by the governor. More will be reported in the Pastor General's Report as the bill progresses. We understand the Attorney General will be mounting an even more intense effort to quash the bill.

LIBRARY BOOK PROGRAM BRINGS RESULTS

Reports from the field indicate the Library Book Program is progressing extremely well. For example, Mr. David Mills, pastor of the Salem and Albany, Oregon churches reports that 14 out of 18 state, city and university libraries in the Salem area have agreed to purchase or accept a donation of both THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL and THE WORLD TOMORROW

books. Roanoke, Virginia pastor Robert Persky, said that five libraries in his area will purchase Mr. Armstrong's books, while nine are willing to accept a donation.

We are extremely pleased with these results and are looking forward to hearing how the program is progressing in other areas.

--Publishing Services

MAIL COMMENTS

This week's letter comments concern the Plain Truth, Correspondence Course and members' feelings of delight and gratitude for being a part of God's true Church. Readers of the P.T. were especially moved and sobered by Mr. Armstrong's article, "America the Beautiful--America the Condemned!"

--Mail Processing Center

Plain Truth Comments

I think the June-July PLAIN TRUTH is the most inspiring and exciting one I have ever read and I have read quite a few in the past 18 years. Keep on letting us have more of the same.

--Mrs. W.G. (Odum, GA)

The May and June-July issues of The PLAIN TRUTH were the best ever, with eye-opening, hard-hitting articles. Please continue to give inspired issues like these. We pray for the Work of God to reach more minds as time passes.

--Richard S. (Jersey City, NJ)

Today I received the new issue of The PLAIN TRUTH and after seeing the beautiful cover, I couldn't wait to read the articles inside. The article entitled "America the Beautiful--America the Condemned!" was very timely and gave me much food for thought. The PLAIN TRUTH is getting better and better with each new issue.

--Stephen B. (Bloomsburg, PA)

I just received the latest PLAIN TRUTH with the article "America the Beautiful--America the Condemned!" That was the first article I read. It was fantastic, yet so very sad. I had just been reading in Jeremiah, "Pray not thou for this people, neither lift up a cry or prayer for them: for I will not hear them in the time that they cry unto me for their trouble" (Jer. 11:14).

God seems to be saying that their sins have shut them off from God sparing them and He won't even listen to a righteous man concerning them because things had gone too far.

--Kathy A. (Laurel, MS)

In your magazine, The PLAIN TRUTH, you made me see that I must help my God let the people on this earth know of Him. In the June-July issue the article, "Despite Inflation You Can Solve

Your Financial Worries," really gave me a push in the right direction. I had been trying to find a way to help my Father in heaven and you showed me how. Thank you so much.

--Ida D. (Sacramento, CA)

About the Correspondence Course

I have been subscribing to The PLAIN TRUTH for several months and just recently received the Correspondence Course. The lessons are stimulating and interesting and I am finding that I just can't read fast enough to learn everything that I yearn to know. I am very excited about it.

--Olive S. (Amherst, NY)

I'd like to take this opportunity to say the Correspondence Course is the best yet of all the reading I've done of the Church literature. I'm starting Lesson 6 now and I can truly say that they do strip away the false smoke screen of deceit that has covered me most of my life.

--Greg P. (Cincinnati, OH)

I have just completed Lesson 4 of the Ambassador College Correspondence Course and I am looking forward to Lesson 5. It's so interesting and so easy to understand. I find myself thinking "Is that in the Bible too?" I look it up and sure enough--there it is as plain as can be--I don't see how I could have missed it!

--Mrs. Leo S. (Nelson, MN)

I received the Bible Course in the early sixties and just recently decided to go through it again in its entirety. As I started reading in Lesson 1 that we should study at least half an hour each day, I looked at my clock. When I finally decided to stop and go to bed, three and a half hours had passed! It's so enjoyable, I just can't seem to stop once I get started. I have to push myself to start and push even harder to stop.

--Larry W. (Roanoke, VA)

Members Reflect on Their Calling

Before being brought to God's truth my life was empty and miserable, full of frustration and misery, not knowing where life was going to take me. And being a young man of 20 years of age, that sure is sad. But this year has been different: Being baptized in February; knowing that life does have a wonderful meaning and purpose; knowing that we are here for a cause, instead of leading an empty life and thinking that when we die we go to heaven. God truly has blessed my life, and I know when I call upon His name He will be there to answer my prayers.

--Todd L. (Knox, IN)

We are so very happy to be a part of this great Work. We are longing so much for the growth we need and for the actual realization of God's eternal government to be established. It is the

only really bright hope in this otherwise very bleak world in which we live. It is such a wonderful blessing to know God's Truth and to participate in the training which He has provided.

--Ken R. (Austin, TX)

I am 86 and God has mercifully kept me well. I am thankful He called me out of the false church and has given me a portion of His Holy Spirit.

--Miss M.F. (Venice, FL)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

BEHIND SCHMIDT'S TRIP TO MOSCOW: Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's mission to Moscow in late June, remarked U.S. News & World Report in its July 7 issue, "demonstrates beyond all doubt West Germany's emergence as a new political force in the world arena.... West Germany," it adds, "is playing a more aggressive and trail-marking role in the Western Alliance, in the European Economic Community and in its relations with the United States ...this nation is flexing its muscles and has transformed itself into a potent international leader...."

Not that Herr Schmidt's trip itself accomplished that much--the Soviets budged not an inch on the Afghanistan issue, despite blunt words from Herr Schmidt urging a Soviet troop pullout. In fact the effect of Schmidt's impressively straight talk on Afghanistan and other East-West issues may well have been diluted by the parallel signing of a big trade agreement between the two countries.

President Carter gave his blessing to Schmidt's Moscow junket once he had been convinced that it would not enhance Soviet desires to split the Western Alliance. Nevertheless, Washington claimed that now was hardly the time for a mammoth \$12 billion deal to sell the Soviets steel pipe-line in exchange for natural gas. The Germans countered that pipes are not in the same category as sophisticated computers. Besides, West German steel companies could use the business.

The Germans and other West Europeans are generally fed up with Mr. Carter's weak attempts to "punish" the Soviets by cutting back on trade with Moscow. The Daily Telegraph of London, in an article written by David Shears says this of the growing Atlantic rift, especially that between Washington and Bonn:

"German diplomats, for their part, single out Mr. Brzezinski, the White House national security adviser as the scapegoat. They claim to get along quite well with the State Department but they blame 'that Pole in the White House' for most of the recent misunderstandings. They talk about Mr. Brzezinski in such scathing terms that one sometimes wonders who is their real enemy--the White House or the Kremlin? For these Germans, some of them very close to Herr Schmidt and doubtless reflecting his views, never use such language about Mr. Brezhnev.

"Specifically, they accuse Mr. Brzezinski of drafting the now famous 'Carter letter' which sent Chancellor Schmidt practically through the roof earlier this month. It urged him to stick closely to the NATO line

on Euro-missiles--nuclear missiles in East and West Europe--when he went to Moscow. Its tone was described as 'harsh.'

"Herr Schmidt publicly described the missive [letter] as 'astonishing.' When he got to Venice he let loose in a half-hour lecture to President Carter at the start of their 90-minutes meeting. Afterwards the two men made a great show of patching things up, falling back on the hoary old technique on such occasions of claiming that the whole thing had been got up by the Press."

Impact on Coming Election

Many German political analysts regarded Schmidt's trip to Moscow as largely an election gimmick. Franz-Josef Strauss called it, in so many words, appeasement a la' Chamberlain in 1938. A bit much, perhaps, nevertheless, it showed how fine a line Helmut Schmidt must walk between continued loyalty to the USA and NATO and the need to preserve Ostpolitik and the German benefits from detente.

And speaking of the October 5 election, the Daily Telegraph comments that Schmidt "enjoys what looks like an unassailable lead in the polls." Nevertheless, Schmidt's SDP party is taking no chances in its campaign strategy. And, curiously enough, that strategy could backfire. A special Reuters dispatch from Bonn, dated July 7, gives an update on the campaign:

"Guitars, loudspeakers, a driving drum beat and raucous lyrics have become the latest weapons in a left-wing campaign to stop conservative candidate Franz Josef Strauss from becoming West Germany's next chancellor. They are part of an arsenal of propoganda arms, including posters, badges and bumper stickers, used by the 'stop Strauss' movement and its musical brother, 'Rock Against the Right.'

"The groups portray Mr. Strauss as a dangerous rightwinger who would turn the Federal Republic into a police state if he won October's National elections. They have evoked a predictable response from Mr. Strauss and his Christian Socialist (CSU) and Christian Democrat (CDU) alliance. They say the activists are using Nazi smear tactics to defame the conservative candidate. As if to demonstrate that music is not the exclusive preserve of the left, the CDU has also commissioned two records titled 'Songs Against The Left.' The public has not rushed out to buy either.

"Despite posters portraying their opponent as a latter-day Hitler, a warmonger and a strike-breaker, many supporters of the Social Democratic (SPD) and Free Democratic (FDP) parties fear the 'Stop Strauss' campaigners may play right into Mr. Strauss' hands.

"'Strauss loves this sort of opposition, he thrives on it. Those "stop Strauss" people really get his adrenalin going," grumbled one SPD activist in Bonn. The movement, he added, was actually arousing sympathy for the conservative leader. 'Many people are beginning to see Strauss as a victim of unfair and dirty tactics rather than as a reactionary with some anti-democratic instincts,' he said.

"Some experts believe the campaign is being manipulated by East Germany and its Communist supporters in this country, a sensitive issue in ferociously anti-Communist West Germany. West German television recently showed a film of a 'stop Strauss' weekend holiday camp near Frankfurt. The camp was organized by the West Germany Communist Party's Youth Movement (SDAJ) and attended by a large delegation from East Berlin's official youth organization. The film also showed SDAJ leaflets encouraging people to throw rotten eggs and fruit during Mr. Strauss' rallies.

"Mr. Strauss does not seem worried by the hate campaign directed at him. 'It consoles me to think that each time these "stop Strauss" insects show their faces, it probably wins a few more votes for the conservative cause,' he told a television interviewer."

We'll try to keep you continuously posted about the progress of the West German election campaign.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau