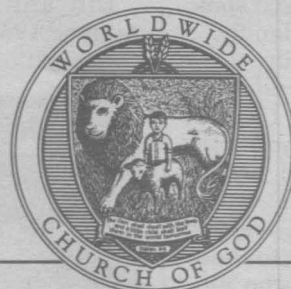


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The Worldwide News



VOL. XXIII, NO. 3
FEBRUARY 7, 1995



Personal from...

JOSEPH W. TKACH

Our agreement with God

When we were baptized, we made an agreement with God. We accepted Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, and we agreed to obey him in everything he commanded. We were warned that the road was narrow and difficult. We would have to make sacrifices for our Lord and Master. We would be criticized by family and friends. It was not just a one-time sacrifice, but a lifetime commitment. Our allegiance is given entirely to God.

Our standard is the Bible. We do not always understand it perfectly, of course, and we do not perfectly follow the lead of Christ and the Holy Spirit. But we continue to study the Bible, because we are convinced that God directs us through his Word. The Bible is the standard by which our traditions, our experiences, our thought processes and our actions are judged. When we learn something new in the Bible, we have to submit to the authority of God's Word.

This is what I have had to do. The Bible surprised me and taught me something I had not known before. I had to accept the word of truth.

I'm sure you will understand that I have nothing personal to gain from our recent doctrinal changes. In fact, I may end up with a few more enemies and more difficult decisions regarding how to manage our income. I did not make my decision rashly. Rather, I based it on the Word of God. I must teach the commandments of Christ, not the traditions of men regarding those commandments. I must not bind burdens on people that Christ does not require. It is to him that I must answer, and it is to him that each of you must answer.

The critics and rumormongers love to sow seeds of doubt and discord. They want people to answer the matter before they listen to it. They want people to make decisions before they study the Bible to see whether these things are so. But I remind you of your baptismal commitment: We give our allegiance to Jesus Christ, not to a particular doctrine.

If our understanding of a doctrine is called into question, we must go back to the Word of God to study it afresh. That is what I have had to do; that is what each of you should do. Don't just take my word for it—blow the dust off Galatians and read it again. See what Paul tells us in Romans and Ephesians; see what John's Gospel focuses on as of greatest importance.

It's not easy to change our opinions. The Word of God is a sharp two-edged sword, and it sometimes hurts as it penetrates us. Right now, it is challenging us to put more faith in Christ and to put no faith in our own works, no matter how good they may be.

Some people have already done this and find the doctrinal changes easy to understand. Others find it more difficult and even discouraging. They worry about the past, as if previous sacrifices were all for nothing. And I say, absolutely not! "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Now, Christ has judged us ready for a better understanding of the new covenant and its implications. How do we respond to this? By allegiance to Christ, or by stubbornly clinging to the symbolism that was designed to lead us to Christ? It takes faith, brethren—faith that God is willing to give to all who ask.

Many of us have already faced trials of faith concerning the Sabbath; we can face yet one more, and our Savior will be faithful toward us. We do not always know how or when, but we know that he never forgets our labors of love—whatever we do in allegiance to him.

Some of our actions, including many of my own, had more zeal than wisdom, but God rewards the zeal if we are willing to be taught how to direct it.

Church employees appreciated

Our employees have made many sacrifices for the Church. They have given many years learning skills that, in some cases, are of limit-

Continued on page 5

Concert series to end after current season

By Paul Monteith

After 20 years of providing the best in the performing arts, Ambassador Auditorium, as a performing arts center, will close its doors May 17 at the end of the current concert season, announced David Hulme, director of performing arts, Jan. 27.

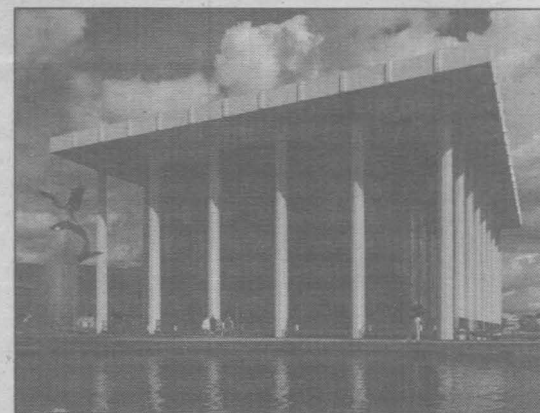
Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach said: "The Performing Arts program, inaugurated some 20 years ago by Mr. [Herbert W.] Armstrong as part of Ambassador Foundation, aspired to promote understanding between peoples through music.

"The program set an outstanding example of promoting excellence in the performing arts and achieved an internationally renowned status in the concert world.

"I commend David Hulme and the Performing Arts staff for the impressive job they have done with this program, and Church members who served as ushers. Together they earned an excellent reputation for outstanding service and set a good example for the Church."

While Performing Arts paid for about 50 percent of its operating expenses each year, the remaining 50 percent has come in the form of a subsidy from the Church, which it can no longer provide.

Loss of the subsidy makes any alternative fund-raising goals for this year



Ambassador Auditorium

impossible to fulfill and results in the cancellation of the 1995-96 season.

Cancellation of the concert series will mean the loss of about 50 jobs, affecting ticket office staff, stagehands, light and sound engineers and directors.

News of the cancellation was a disappointment to many in the community.

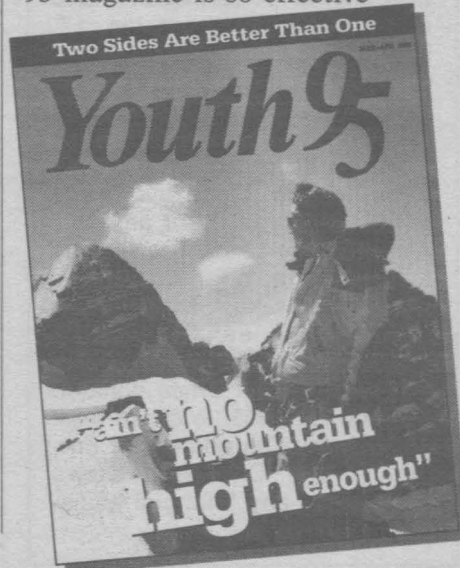
"There was no denying the world-class quality of the concert series," said Martin Bernheimer, music critic for *The Los Angeles Times*, in its Jan. 27 edition. "It was a rare pleasure to hear music in an elegant hall that seated only 1,200."

Kathryn Nack, Pasadena mayor, said the news was devastating, according to the Jan. 28 *Pasadena Star-News*. "The Ambassador is the highest quality auditorium of its size maybe in all of California. It's really a big blow to the cultural aspect of the city."

Wally Smith, president and general
See Auditorium, page 8

Youth 95 magazine seeks to become self-supporting

People in the publishing and media fields have told us that *Youth 95* magazine is so effective



that we need to make it more widely available, said Roger Lippross, who is heading up a study of how to make the magazine self-supporting.

Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach gave the OK to move ahead with the study at a meeting Feb. 1.

More than once during these difficult times of rising costs and declining budgets, the Church has had to consider eliminating the *Youth* magazine or restricting its circulation to just Church families. (Although circulation of the magazine is 350,000, only about 25,000 copies go to Church teens. The others are sent to interested readers around the world. See "Into All the World," page 2.)

In spite of the financial difficulties, "we would like to see the circulation of the *Youth* magazine reach as
See *Youth* magazine, page 2

Generations: Legacy of a Church pioneer

By Bill Hall

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—The last two years have marked some important milestones in my family.

My oldest daughter, Emily, went from kindergarten into grade one and now grade two. My son, Liam, is fast approaching his second birthday. As my wife, Averil, and I (both second generation Christians) reflect on our third generation, we are struck by how much we owe to those who have gone before us—the pioneers of the Church. One such pioneer was my uncle, Bill Coyne.

Radio Church of God

Bill and his wife, Lil, were typical of many Canadians who were called into the Church during the 1950s. They first learned of the Radio Church of God through my mother, Bertie. It was on a visit in 1956 that my mother showed Lil a copy of *The Plain Truth*. Lil said that after reading the magazine she suddenly felt that many of the questions she had were answered. She remembers calling Bill into the room to read him parts of this or that article.

This experience prompted the

Bill Hall is the Canadian Plain Truth editor.

Coyne to purchase a new radio so they could pick up a radio station in Wheeling, West Virginia, that aired *The World Tomorrow*.

Bill and Lil were baptized in August 1958. Since there were no congregations where they lived near



Bill and Lil Coyne

Sarnia, Ontario, they kept their first Passover in their home.

Later that same year of 1959 they drove 400 miles to Chicago, Illinois, to attend Pentecost services. In those early years fellowship with the Church usually meant a long drive to Chicago and staying there for the Unleavened Bread period. They kept the Feast of Tabernacles in Big Sandy in a tent trailer they

towed all the way from Canada.

Changed clothes in the car

When Sabbath services were conducted on Friday evenings in Toledo, Ohio, Lil picked Bill up at work. He then changed clothes in the car on the way to services, which were three hours away. After services the long drive home meant they usually got home around 4 Saturday morning. It wasn't until 1973, when a congregation was started 60 miles from Sarnia in London, Ontario, that the Coyne could regularly attend services in Canada.

Over the years the Coyne were active in the Church. Bill was ordained a deacon in 1966 and my early memories of him were always of him serving. In addition to working

long hours at various Feast sites, their farm outside of Sarnia was the site of innumerable Church picnics, youth camp outs, weddings and other activities. The Coyne home always was open to the traveling family, or hungry visitor on his or her way to some other location.

In 1975 Bill and Lil moved to White Lake, about 50 miles from Ottawa, Canada's capital. Bill contin-

ued to be active in the Ottawa congregation there until his death in 1994.

Lil said that she will always remember the special place Bill had in the hearts of the children of the congregations they attended. He was always there for a hug or a word of encouragement and knew each child by name.

Famous handshake

I still recall his \$5 handshake at the Feast of Tabernacles, where he would give me a gift hidden in his hand. I also remember the year at the Feast in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, how although he did not have an assigned responsibility Bill placed himself at the door of the meeting hall and shook everyone's hand as they entered.

Even after his death his example lives on. At a Coyne family reunion his wife, Lil, was asked to ask the blessing on the meal, a job that was always assigned to him, because his relatives always respected his Christian life-style.

Bill Coyne and many others like him helped form what the Worldwide Church of God is today. We who remain are their legacy of the sacrifice and effort they gave in their devotion to Jesus Christ. To those pioneers, we who follow in your footsteps say thank you.

Youth magazine

Continued from page 1

many young people as possible," said Bernie Schnippert, director of Media Operations. "The magazine has done extremely well in reaching teens, and it has developed a character and editorial style that has a broad following with many young people."

Because we feel so strongly about the need to continue with the *Youth* magazine, and want to expand the message of help and hope to the young people of this world, we have to consider creative ways to expand the publishing budget. We hope to still give it free to YOU members, said Mr. Lippross.

The most effective option is to make the *Youth* magazine a regular sub-

scription magazine, paid for by the readers to cover the costs of printing and mailing. Encouraging readers to be part of funding the magazine could not only keep the magazine alive, but could allow us to make it more widely available to a broader segment of the reading public. It would also give us more credibility in the world of publishers and distributors.

"We hope to continue to make it available to those who really want it, but can't afford it," said Mike Bennett, editor. "I know we have many

generous readers who would donate extra to help others receive the magazine."

Final decisions have not been made. "However, we wanted to update you about the study so you can include it in your prayers," Mr. Schnippert said.

"Today's reading audience has changed," said Mr. Lippross, "and this new *Youth* magazine concept has the real potential of giving us a wider distribution than we ever thought possible."

The Worldwide News



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Members safe after Japanese quake

MANILA, Philippines—Members in the Kobe and Osaka area are safe after a 7.2 earthquake killed more than 5,000 there Jan. 17, according to Gil Laneza, manager of Church Support Services in the Philippine Office, which oversees Japan.

Makiko Tsuchitani, who lives in Kobe, told Mr. Laneza, "Please tell the brethren that I am OK." Also safe are Laura Tessel, who lives in Nara, near Kobe, Ben Carullo of Osaka, Sara Hamilton of Hirakata, near Osaka, and Barend Kamperman of Osaka.

The Philippine Office donated P10,000 (US\$405) to quake relief through the Department of Foreign Affairs. Church members don't need any financial assistance.

"Into All the World..."

Your involvement in the Work produces fruit. In this column subscribers to the Work's publications express their views and opinions.

Youth 95 meets needs

Your magazine comes to our library at West Junior High School. I wish you could see the students choosing *Youth 95* from among 35 magazine choices. They do read and enjoy it. When I see a particular need or interest in the magazine, I mail the card in for the magazine to go to that student. It is a good publication and meeting definite needs of youths today.

Blytheville, Arkansas

I have really enjoyed *Youth 95* because it really relates the everyday issues in the world with the Bible and God. This has made my beliefs in God a lot stronger. I also enjoy the fact that some of the articles and stories are written from a point of view by kids my age (I'm 13). This magazine is great!

Chariton, Iowa

Thank you for your magazine. It has helped me throughout my difficult moments. Your articles have guided my life through the path that leads to Jesus Christ. Thank you once more for changing my life and making it better.

Puerto Rico

We had an assembly with our fifth to eighth grade girls to talk to them about the "facts of life." There were two teachers who are receiving your *Youth 95* magazine. We shared parts of stories we had read. It really made an impression on our young girls. I also use your articles to teach my youth classes in Sunday school. God bless you and your organization for your help.

Kentucky

Why Be Christian?

I appreciate your article "Why Be Christian?" in the November *Plain Truth*. Your grasp of human adversity is truly evident. The answers that many give to those who are struggling emotionally to make sense of disappointments are often simplistic and leave a sense of emptiness. This type of an answer is a "shoot-from-the-hip solution." These are the answers certain people gave to Job, which were not helpful.

Your article was not this way. It answered serious questions thoughtfully and compassionately. As a nurse, I see so much sorrow and pain among the moments of joy. I hurt with them and know there are no easy answers. As an educator I try to help students make sense of the same experience. Your message reaches into the heart of the Christian experience.

Nashville, Tennessee

Running in pursuit of a dream

Beverley Walker
overcomes age and
misunderstanding in
going the extra mile

By Vera Markey Walker

FALCONER, New York—Thin and wiry at 74, Beverley Walker is still running, still competing, still winning, despite illness, aging and the problem race officials have with his feminine-sounding name.

Beverley, who began to run in his 60s, was soon addicted to the feel of earth beneath fast-moving feet, the cool morning breeze across his body, the adrenaline of the race and the sheer joy of running. The thrill of winning is undeniable, but the importance is finishing, whether first or last, or somewhere in between.

He won several local races in his age category, and, in 1988, when he was 70, he ran the Erie, Pennsylvania, marathon within the time frame, but far short of qualifying for his goal—the Boston Marathon.

Training all of 1989, in good weather and bad, he was in excellent shape until a few days before the race, when he just didn't feel good.

We could not understand his sudden loss of energy and strength. In the following days he experienced headaches, a stiff neck, and flu-like symptoms. Then he developed a bullet-centered rash that prompted a test for Lyme disease, which was positive. At last we had a reason.

With quick diagnosis and proper medication he had a minimum of problems from it and soon was back to his regular schedule of activity.

In January 1990, he had a stroke. We were fortunate here also as he only had a slight weakness on his right side that soon disappeared. With a lowered level of energy, he began the slow road to recovery.

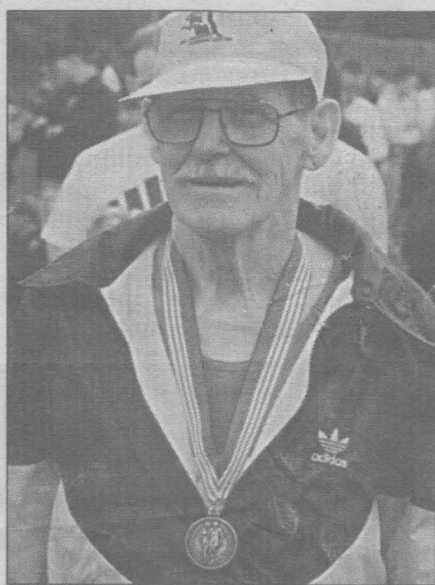
He was anxious to resume running. His brother and sister told him it was time to stop running, but he was miserable if he could not run. When the doctor gave him the OK, he began running again.

In 1990, at the age of 72, he entered the Army Ten Miler Race in Washington, D.C., where he placed second. He ran the race again in 1991, but because of his first name, there was a mix-up. His name was announced in the women's division. Because his time had not been considered in the male category, the placing times of the announced male winners were wrong.

Eventually it was decided he had been the 70-plus winner. Though he had been given one medal, another one soon arrived, but let me tell it to you in the words of one of America's most well-known commentators.

Without telling my husband, I had written to Paul Harvey, telling him the frustrating yet comical problem.

One February day as we were eating lunch, Harvey's familiar voice was coming from the radio, and we were startled at the following words: "For what it's worth: In Falconer, New York, Beverley Walker of Elmwood Avenue is a veteran runner. Beverley is a man. He got that name a generation ago when Beverley was an entirely appropriate name for a man. Beverley, now 72, is quite a man. He ran the D.C. 10-mile in 1:30:50. But in the awards ceremony,



Beverley Walker

Beverley was announced as the winner in the women's division.

"Well, Beverley stepped forward and explained that though his name may not sound like it, he is a he. On the official race entry form he had clearly written in *male*. So the officials apologized and they said they were sorry for their mistake. And Beverley and his wife, Vera Walker, said they understand, and today arriving in the mail at 221 Elmwood, is the official victory confirmation, plus his gold medal....

"But the medal is inscribed for the winner of women's division! Now Beverley thought about asking race officials what they would like him to do with the medal, but having lived for three years on an Army post, he was afraid of what the answer might be!

"Paul Harvey, Good day!"

We sat in stunned silence. It was beyond belief and a shock to him, but he had no trouble enjoying the situation immensely. The radio station gave us a complimentary tape and he was a local celebrity for some time.

There were phone calls from an army officer expressing regrets and offering free registration for the next race, and a third medal engraved in the men's division was sent.

Our offer to return the women's medal was refused, and the trophy wall proudly exhibited three medals suspended by the red, white and blue ribbons, all from the same race.

As a runner grows older and reaches the 40-to 50-year-old mark, he begins

to worry about the age category. Many races go only as high as 50- or 60-plus, so the older runner whose age is above the race categories is competing against much younger runners, putting him at a distinct disadvantage. Washington had taken the lead in adding the higher category of 70-plus.

When the Ten Miler information arrived for the 1993 race, we were delighted to see a 69-74 category as well as a 75-plus group.

During the race, I did not see my 44-year-old-son, Patrick, until he had crossed the finish line. His time was good, but he knew he would not place in the finishing numbers. He had faithfully run every day for several years, but he had entered the race only to run with his father.

Waiting near the finish line we could see the incoming runners along the upper level of the course. Patrick yelled, "Here he comes, Mom!" and I poised myself to snap the picture! Then above the noise of the crowd, we heard the voice of the race official over the loudspeaker.

"And here comes, B. McMillen

Walker of Falconer, New York, number 74, in 1:47:27 minutes, and 74 years old!" Racing fans really appreciate the effort an older runner makes, and the roar of the crowd brought him in with glory.

We waited through the long list of winners, up to the announcement of 69-74 male. His was the first name announced: "In third place ... B. McMillen Walker!"

At last! He had been kept in the proper gender recording! He accepted the congratulations, the ribbon was hung around his neck, and for the first time in three races, he was kept in the proper status!

Beverley ran the Army Ten Miler race again last October, placing first in the 75-plus age category with a time of 1:43.37, coming in well ahead of more than 1,000 runners.

Beverley said that it was probably his last race, and that might be wise. He trains too hard and gets too thin. Maybe he should be content with his morning run. Yet come next fall, he might be like the old fire horse hearing the siren ... and off he'll go.

1996 Festival Cruise

After the successful 1994 Alaska Festival cruise, many members asked, "When are you offering the next one?" Well, given sufficient interest, the next Feast of Tabernacles cruise will be offered in 1996.

Festival Administration, together with WCG Travel, will offer a 13-night cruise aboard one of Holland America's brand-new ships sailing from Los Angeles Sept. 26, the day before the Feast begins. The itinerary will include the Panama Canal and ports of call along the Mexican Riviera as well as the Caribbean, and the ship will arrive in Florida Oct. 9, four days after the Feast ends.

Holland America's new ships feature inside and outside cabins, as well as a number of suites, including a deluxe penthouse suite. Of the 633 cabins, 149 feature private verandas. These ships are 50,000 gross tons holding about 1,266 passengers, providing an excellent space ratio.

The two-level formal dining room offers panoramic views, and the ship offers two outdoor swimming pools, one of which can be covered by a retractable dome.

Prices will range from \$2,290 to \$5,580 per person, including port charges and gratuities. By comparison, current Holland America fares for similar cruises range from \$3,545 to \$9,555 per person.

If you would be interested in participating in this 1996 Festival cruise, we need to hear from you by Feb. 28. Please contact WCG Travel with your address, phone number, and the names and ages of people in your party. If enough interest is shown, we will contact you with full details and an application packet.

You can reach WCG Travel by mail at 169 S. St. John, Pasadena, California, 91129; phone 1-818-304-8123; fax 1-818-304-8125; INTERNET: Sharon_Roybal@WCG.ccmail.compuserve.com; or COMPUSERVE: CCMail:Sharon_Roybal at WCG.

Care for some colorful Caribbean culture for the Feast?

Friendly Caribbean members invite you to spend the Feast with them on their subtropical islands.

Members from Jamaica, Barbados and St. Lucia invite you to share the Feast with them this year.

The Caribbean islands are blessed with a subtropical climate, sparkling blue water, magnificent beaches and a blend of American, English and European culture. Each island has something different to offer the visitor. What they have in common is some of the friendliest, happiest people you will ever meet.

WCG Travel can help you make your arrangements to visit these places and people you will never forget. We have organized a

package tour to each of these islands.

Barbados: Not too big, not too small, not too hot and never cold, Barbados is a perfect island for visitors who want to relax. Barbados offers a gentle countryside, magnificent beaches and people who know how to make the visitor feel at home. The Feast will be conducted in Christ Church.

Jamaica: Once the home base of Buccaneers and pirates, Jamaica is rich in history and culture.

Jamaica has a many-faceted culture and its motto is "One nation, many people." The island offers superb sun, sea and sand attractions. And of course, the Jamaicans themselves. The Feast will be conducted in Ocho Rios to meet the Festival needs of Jamaican members as well as international transfers.

St Lucia: A volcanic island with a

world of variety. St. Lucia has lush jungles, rolling agricultural land and sandy beaches, and even a drive-in volcano. Church members in St. Lucia look forward to showing you their beautiful homeland.

The packages range from \$720 to \$1,600 per person and include air transportation from Miami, Florida, hotel and transfers. Some sites include meals, sports activities and special tours. Add-on airfare from your home city to Miami is also available.

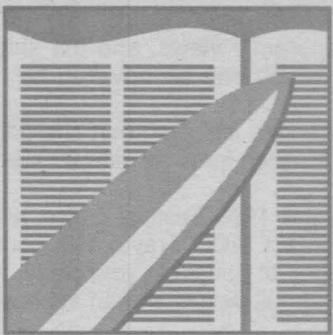
If you want to keep the Feast in Jamaica, Barbados or St. Lucia, send your name, address and phone number to WCG Travel/Caribbean Feast Package, 169 S. St. John Ave., Pasadena California. 91129, or fax to 1-818-304-8125. Space is limited. Please respond before March 3.

If you have any questions, please call Donna Hall at 1-800-858-7999.

Vera Walker, a professional seamstress who loves to write, and her retired husband, Beverley, are members who attend the Olean, New York, church.

Iron Sharpens Iron

Proverbs 27:17 - As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.



Who baptized Herbert Armstrong?

Why Mr. Armstrong was not rebaptized by the Church of God

By Ralph Orr

In the December 1978 *Plain Truth*, Herbert Armstrong told his readers who had baptized him. Because of his Quaker upbringing, Mr. Armstrong had not been baptized immediately after he had accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior. That is because Quakers do not practice that rite. Yet he was concerned enough to study the subject further.

"I went to four preachers for help, but relied solely on the Bible for the final decision," he wrote. "A Seventh-day Adventist preacher seemed coldly legalistic, lacking spiritual warmth. A Church of God (Seventh Day, Stanberry, Missouri) preacher didn't want to be bothered and was insulting.

"A Quaker minister was friendly, but had to admit finally, that he himself questioned his church's doctrine on this point and only went along with it because other 'holy men of God' (as he called them) in his church did. A Baptist minister had the best and clearest explanation, was warm and friendly and, I felt more spiritual in a sane and sensible way.

"So I asked him to baptize me, not into his church, but into Christ. For this I had to obtain permission from the rather august and dignified board of the church."

Who performed the baptism?

While Mr. Armstrong in that article did not name the man who baptized him, or the location of the baptism, the 1967 edition of his autobiography provides several clues.

In a section describing his investi-

Ralph Orr is a minister in the Editorial Department. A special thanks to evangelist Leroy Neff for taking the time to copy the letters from the Herbert W. Armstrong papers collection that were used in this article.

gation into baptism, Mr. Armstrong wrote: "I went to a Baptist minister in Portland [Oregon], to learn why Baptists believe in baptism. He was courteous and patient, glad to explain his church's teachings. He seemed sincere" (page 303).

As to the location of the baptism itself, the autobiography did not speak directly. Yet in a curiously worded section found only in the 1967 edition, Mr. Armstrong described his baptism in the context of a visit to Portland's Hinson Memorial Baptist Church.

"Mrs. Armstrong and I began to attend many different churches. I wanted to check on each—compare it with the Bible ... [I also] continued almost daily study at the Portland public library."

He continued: "It was probably May or June, 1927, when I was baptized. One Sunday evening we attended a service at the Hinson Memorial Baptist Church" (page 311).

It seems inexplicable that Mr. Armstrong would have mentioned his baptism in the context of this visit, unless he was baptized at about the same time in that church.

No other publicly available evidence is known to supply any additional insights into this subject. However, documents in the Herbert W. Armstrong private papers collection, stored in Pasadena, prove not only that the above conclusion is true, but provide additional insights into his relationship with the Baptists at Hinson Memorial.

The question of rebaptism

In a letter to A.N. Dugger, editor of *The Bible Advocate*, Mr. Armstrong explained why he chose to be baptized by a Sunday-observing Baptist preacher. Written about two years afterward, Mr. Armstrong had come under increasing pressure to be rebaptized.

"Last summer [1928] while Bro. Stith [an elder from Idaho] was here in Oregon, I began to notice among Church of God people at Dever [Oregon] an under-current of feeling against me because I was originally baptized by a first-day preacher, and

would not be baptized again by Bro. Stith," he wrote.

"Every possible pressure was brought to bear upon me to make me 'dissatisfied with my former baptism,' as it was put, and to be baptized all over again" (Herbert W. Armstrong to A.N. Dugger, May 8, 1929, Herbert W. Armstrong papers collection [HWAP, Worldwide Church of God, Pasadena, California], No. 2404, page 1)

In addition to Stith, another minister, elder Roy Dailey, also complained. A comparison of what Mr. Armstrong wrote in his autobiography with letters in the Herbert W. Armstrong papers collection suggests that Dailey wrote to A.N. Dugger to claim that Herbert Armstrong's failure to be baptized by a seventh-day minister was sufficient warrant to have Mr. Armstrong's articles withdrawn from *The Bible Advocate*.

Apparently in response to these concerns, G.A. Hobbs, a leading member in Oregon, wrote to Dugger in support of Mr. Armstrong's articles continuing.

In response to Hobbs, Dugger wrote: "I do not like the action of Brother Armstrong in going to a first-day Baptist minister to be baptized when he could have easily chosen one who was keeping all of God's commandments" (A.N. Dugger to G.A. Hobbs, Feb. 7, 1929, HWAP, No. 7619).

The correspondence between Hobbs and Dugger occurred during the time Mr. Armstrong was hoping his newly submitted manuscript, which later evolved into *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, would be accepted by the Church of God (Seventh Day).

He was concerned that this difference over his baptism might prevent his paper from receiving a fair appraisal.

So he felt compelled to write the previously mentioned letter to Dugger, both to "explain why he was baptized by a first-day Baptist and to urge that his paper be given a fair hearing.

In that letter, Mr. Armstrong related—See Mr. Armstrong, page 7

Coming to Pasadena for the Feast? Add a German flavor to it

How would you like to experience international Feast site flavor without leaving the United States?

Among the visitors to the Pasadena Festival site will be 100 members from Germany, most of whom have not visited the United States. An additional 50 places are available for members from North America to join their tour. It is an opportunity for U.S. and Canadian members who speak German or who are learning the language, or who just want to share two weeks of excitement and fellowship with their German brethren.

Here are the details of this 13-day package tour. The members from Germany are scheduled to arrive in Los Angeles Oct. 5. WCG Travel can arrange for North American members to arrive on that date also. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to your first-class hotel, Los Angeles Renaissance, for three nights. Here you will meet your German friends at a get-acquainted reception. Your hotel during the Feast will be the Holiday Inn, Monrovia.

In addition to celebrating the Feast in the Ambassador Auditorium, organized excursions will be made to many Southern Californian attractions. After the Feast there will be a farewell dinner with the German brethren.

The cost is \$1,380 per person (add \$350 for single occupancy; children's rates quoted upon request). This includes transfer from airport to hotel, 12 nights accommodation, full breakfast daily, most meals, portage of two pieces of luggage per person, tour guides, deluxe motor coaches for transportation to and from services and sight-seeing, and all admission fees to the theme parks and attractions.

Airfare to and from Los Angeles is separate. WCG Travel will be happy to assist you with travel from your home city.

This is an opportunity to be a tourist and a host. You'll make some wonderful new friends, and help them get the most out of their visit. And if you are studying German, *dies ist ein großartige Gelegenheit, sich in*

der Sprache zu üben.

We also offer an eight-day all-inclusive Northern California tour beginning Oct. 17. Accommodations are in first-class hotels, three meals daily, deluxe motor coaches for sight-seeing, all admission fees and tips.

This tour includes Hearst Castle,

Monterey, San Francisco, Napa Valley wine country and Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks. The Northern California seven-night tour is \$1,250 per person double occupancy. Please add \$250 for single occupancy. Children's rates will be quoted upon request.

Group trip to Australia's Gold Coast

The Church is organizing a fully escorted group trip to Australia's Gold Coast Festival site for the 1995 Feast of Tabernacles.

The itinerary will include an overnight in Los Angeles for the Day of Atonement; two nights in Sydney; and nine nights at the Feast in Gold Coast. Self-contained accommodations, ground transfers, many meals and attractions are included.

Price will be about \$2,600 per adult. Children's prices can be provided upon request.

Would you like to join us? Then please send your name, address and telephone number to WCG Travel/Australia Group Feast Package, 169 S. St. John Ave., Pasadena, California, 91129, or fax this information to 1-818-304-8125.

If you use computer electronic mail, please use one of the following addresses: COMPUSERVE: CCMAIL:Raymond Epperson at WCG, or INTERNET: RAYMOND_EPPERSONWCG.CCMAIL.COMPUSERVE.COM

Space is limited, so please respond before March 3. If you have any questions, please call Raymond Epperson at 1-800-858-7999.

Personal: We must keep learning

Continued from page 1

ed value in the job market. They could have done better financially if they had gone into business, for example, but some are now too old to make a good career change. I praise God for their dedication. I also know that the Church has given them many good years and many intangible benefits.

Many careers in the world require occasional retraining. Computer programmers, for example, have to learn new computer languages just to stay in the same career. We in the Church also have to keep learning—and continue being responsive to what we learn.

I would like to guarantee incomes and jobs for all our employees, but I simply cannot. Nor can I maintain the doctrinal status quo simply for the sake of mammon. When I am faced with biblical evidence that changes are needed, I must obey my Lord and Master.

To keep our income up, it might be temporarily useful to continue teaching our old doctrines—but it would be unethical for me to teach traditions as requirements when the Bible does not require those traditions in the form we have become accustomed to. To be true to our Savior, we need to change our approach, regardless of the short-term consequences.

Some members have said they would leave the Church if they could meet with a group that teaches our old doctrines, if a particular person leaves or if a certain percentage of their current congregation leaves. How sad that these people are looking to humans and not to Christ! Ministers and brethren, please look to the Word of God—not just a few familiar verses that say what we want to hear, but look to the Word as a whole. It will take some time and some humility.

There will always be critics and skeptics, and there will always be people who leave. That's because some people have been among us for the wrong reasons. Some people psychologically want a religion of rules and rigor. Some people want religion for selfish reasons—to save their skins from coming tribulation, to get power and glory for themselves in the world to come, to feel wiser or better than other folks in this life, etc. Some of our doctrines appealed to these human desires, and it is no surprise that some people drop out when the personal appeal is gone. Of course, God will add others to take their place, but it is painful when anyone leaves.

Promises for all believers

Our duty in this life is to serve Jesus Christ, not ourselves. We are to glorify God in everything we do. We seek to please him, not humans. And it is good for us to do so—God has promised to richly bless us if we are faithful to him. Not that we could ever earn the privilege of being with God forever, or that we could add to God in any way, but the promises of our eternal inheritance are there for all who believe. Even though the promises are great, we do not serve Christ for selfish benefit. The Christian life has many trials, and we must persevere through them all, always looking to Jesus for guidance and faith.

It takes faith to forsake the things of this life—whether they are money, or status, or our own estimation of how well we understand the things of God. It's not easy to admit that we were wrong, and it's even harder to admit it when we vigorously defended as true what we now see was not. But we cannot bury our heads in the

sand—we must let the truth change us and direct our lives.

Bible is our foundation

We were wrong before, so isn't it possible that we are wrong again? That is certainly possible. But our anchor point is the Word of God. That's what we have to keep coming back to time and again. That is the very reason I have felt it necessary to make changes—in order to be honest with the Scriptures. When we study the covenants, we have nowhere else to go but to the Bible. When we want to find out what kind of relationship God has revealed to us through his Son Jesus Christ, we have nowhere else to go. Traditions and experiences and logic may be used in addition to the Bible only if they do not contradict it.

The Bible is a big book, and it contains some very profound teachings. There's enough in it for a lifetime of study. We all have much to learn from the Word of God, so I hope that no one gets tired of studying it. We should all hunger and thirst for this contact with God. We should have a desire in our hearts to make time to study the Word. And we should desire to do what it says, to allow it to exhort us to do good works and have love for one another.

We should have a desire to draw closer to God in study and in prayer. We should have a desire to thank him and praise him for what he has done and what he has promised. We should have a desire to fellowship with others, to encourage and exhort one another in the way of Jesus Christ.

There is a time for strong meat, Hebrews says, and a time for milk. Although we ought to be mature enough to be able to teach, sometimes we need remedial instruction instead. That was written to the Jewish Christians, who were putting too much emphasis on old covenant practices and not enough on Christ. Throughout the letter to the Hebrews, the superiority of Jesus is stressed. It was something they needed to hear, and some today need to hear it as well.

Willing to be taught

We have sometimes compared ourselves to the first-century Church, and it is an accurate comparison. We have amongst us cliques and divisions, like the Corinthian church had. We have the strong and the weak, as in Rome; we have the Judaizers and the Gnostics. What was written aforetime is now preserved for our edification if only we will read and heed.

As we study with a willingness to be taught, we will learn, and we will have to make changes. I am not anxious to make changes, and yet I know that more will come when the Holy Spirit convinces me that they are necessary. But when I have not yet been convinced of the need for change, it would be silly for me to announce which topics are under study.

This is not dishonest—it is simply part of my responsibilities as a leader. A wise and caring leader doesn't blab all the truth all at once—he is led by God to teach in a pace and an order for the good of the sheep. God doesn't reveal to us all our sinfulness all at once. He doesn't reveal all the trials we will have to go through. He has a plan for us.

I am thankful for the continuing faithfulness of many members. Some are giving more than ever, thankful for the better blessings of Jesus Christ and wanting to share their prosperity with others. Our drop in income results in part from members who leave. Unfortunately, we as a Church have not

been as effective as we should have been in giving all of you a firm foundation of faith in Jesus Christ.

These doctrinal changes are unsettling, in part, because of our failure to help our members focus on the true foundation. And I am partly to blame for that, and Christ now holds me accountable for helping correct it whether everybody likes it or not. The only viable option is to go forward!

Brethren, the decisions I make are not easy. That is why I often ask you to pray for me, just as Paul asked his people to pray for him. I would like to do more work with less money, but I don't always know how. I would like to preach more gospel and make more disciples. I would like to balance short-term needs with long-term needs, but I don't always know just what we will need in the long-term future.

No matter what decisions I will make, whether doctrinal, policy or

Our duty in this life is to serve Jesus Christ, not ourselves. We are to glorify God in everything we do. We seek to please him, not humans. And it is good for us to do so—God has promised to richly bless us if we are faithful to him.

financial, I will be criticized. What can I say? I pray, and I press forward. My Master is Jesus Christ, not mammon, and I serve him and you, not myself.

We'll never have 100 percent unity in doctrine or administrative ideas—rather, our unity should be in Christian love. Unity comes through love for one another, so I want to remind everyone to avoid judging one another. The strict should not condemn the less strict, and the less strict ones should not look down on the strict. The reason that Sabbath-keeping groups are prone to schisms is that some people put more emphasis on their own interpretations of the Sabbath than they do on love for one another. We want to avoid this human tendency.

Encourage one another

I also want to emphasize the new covenant command we find in Hebrews 10:25: "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." This is a two-fold command. We are to assemble together, and we are to encourage one another.

As verse 24 says, we should "consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." And I repeat that these are new covenant commands. Because Jesus has given his life for us, we ought to live to serve one another. That is our calling, part of the cost we should have counted. It's not Christian to be self-centered. We should go to church services to give, not to get. We are to build up, not tear down. We are to be thankful for the spiritual blessings Christ gives us, not complaining about things he hasn't done for us lately.

You see, Christianity is a costly faith. It demands all that we have. We should know that before we even

start. It's not just one day in seven, but seven days in seven. We are told to love our neighbors, not ignore them. We are to pray for them, not just ourselves. We are to esteem others better than ourselves. We are to live honestly, without deceit, serving, having compassion, devoting ourselves to our spouses, providing for our families, being generous with the needy, not greedy or selfish, not proud or boastful, always thankful, praying constantly, sexually pure in thought and deed, not crude in language, always filled with the Spirit (Romans 12:3-21; 1 Thessalonians 5:14-22; Ephesians 4:25-5:20, etc.).

How can we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? The ancient Israelites did not escape when they neglected the old covenant, and we shall not escape if we neglect the much more glorious covenant we have through faith in Jesus Christ. Because of the sin that so easily besets us, we are perpetually challenged to serve righteousness instead of ourselves. We are challenged to bear witness for Christ, not ourselves. We are challenged to bring every thought into obedience, every action into conformity, all in service to our Savior.

This is Christian maturity, my brothers and sisters, and it comes only through works of service, with unity in faith, with knowing the Son of God and using him only as our standard of what is right (Ephesians 4:12-13). It is only as we anchor our faith in him that we will be doctrinally stabilized, growing in him as we work with each other according to our respective abilities (verses 14-16).

Here again we see the importance of faithful attendance at church meetings and the importance of edifying conversation rather than negative rumor-spreading. So there are two commands: Come to church, and come willing to give to others. Give an encouraging word, a word of thanks or praise, a word of faith in our Savior. Give practical help, too, when that is needed.

The Sabbath will always be important to us, and a time of joy in which we can spend time in Christian fellowship and worship.

When we argue for tolerance, we do not want to encourage people to devote less time to God. Rather, we want to encourage everyone to devote as much time as possible to serving Christ, studying his teachings, living his way and encouraging one another in the faith. We do not want anyone to be less zealous than they were before.

Be tolerant of others

Above all, I ask that you put your faith in Christ, and avoid judging one another in matters of days and foods. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind regarding his own behavior and faith, but more tolerant of others who express faith in Christ in different ways. We are simply not competent to judge the Lord's servants. He is the judge, and if we are to be counted as righteous, it must be on the basis of *faith*, not on our always-imperfect works and less-than-acceptable righteousness.

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.... Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many" (Hebrews 12:2, 14-15).

We have not come to the old
See Personal, page 8

Mr. Armstrong: 'Would you advise ... two baptisms?'

Continued from page 4

ed how he had counseled with ministers from four different denominations, including the Church of God elder who had treated him rudely. In addition to the rude treatment, this elder had pressured Mr. Armstrong to be baptized when Mr. Armstrong was still uncertain that baptism was necessary and unclear as to whether immersion was the proper method.

Mr. Armstrong would not be baptized until he was convinced both of its need and method. He confessed to Dugger that his Quaker background had instilled "an antipathy to all form, ceremony and ordinance—to regard it with prejudice and contempt."

Because the Church of God elder (M.W. Unzicker) lived in a distant state (Texas?), by the time Mr. Armstrong decided to be baptized no Church of God (Seventh Day) minister was immediately available.

But what about the Seventh-day Adventists? Could he not have been baptized by one of them?

"I did not feel that I agreed with these Adventists nearly as far as I did with the Baptist minister," Mr. Armstrong wrote. He commented that after he met several Seventh-day Adventist elders, he did not feel these were "true spiritual Christian men." His feelings about the Baptist pastor were quite different.

The Baptist pastor

"While I disagreed with the Baptist man on a number of points of doctrine, I did feel that he was a sincere spiritual Christian man" (Herbert Armstrong to A.N. Dugger, page 3).

Mr. Armstrong's respect for this minister went beyond mere recognition of his sincere spirituality.

"Now aside from doctrine, this Baptist minister appeared to be the most spiritual and the nearest to a sincere honest Christian of any I found in Portland.... Most of the things this Baptist minister is preaching in his pulpit are doing good rather than harm. It isn't my conception of what preaching ought to be, but it was the best in Portland.... The man himself came nearer being qualified to administer the ordinance of baptism than any at the time available" (Ibid., page 4).

In explaining his decision to Dugger, Mr. Armstrong emphasized that he "did not regard the minister as the important element in baptism." Being baptized was the baptismal candidate's act, not the minister's.

Nevertheless, he wanted a minister "whom God would regard as a duly ordained minister in his sight." Mr. Armstrong believed this Baptist preacher was just such a man.

The Sabbath question

Mr. Armstrong had another reason for choosing this man. Dwight Armstrong, Herbert's younger brother, had recently accepted Christ while attending a Quaker congregation in Salem, Oregon.

"While I had not yet had any opportunity to get the Sabbath truth before him, I did get the truth about baptism before him, and he was willing to go along with me and be baptized at the time" (Ibid., page 5).

Mr. Armstrong expressed concern that, had he made an issue of the Sabbath, his brother's prejudices against it might have hindered him from being baptized. "He had no prejudice against the Baptists, and was willing to go along with me there."

This raises the interesting fact that Mr. Armstrong did not feel it neces-

sary for a minister to teach converts about the Sabbath before baptizing them. He himself often baptized repentant individuals who had no belief in the Sabbath.

This was part of the controversy involving the July 1933 Firbutte campaign that led directly to the establishment of the Eugene church. Two other ministers, elders Oberg and Ray, sought to have Mr. Armstrong expelled from the Oregon Conference of the Church of God on the grounds that he did not teach his converts God's commandments before their baptism. This issue gets to the core of how the Worldwide Church of God began.

According to Mr. Armstrong, at a special Conference meeting, Oberg and Ray spoke for about two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon denouncing "my baptizing people on repentance and faith, before they had been given a complete education about God's Law" (*The Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong*, page 490 [pagination varies with edition]).

In his 15-minute defense, Mr. Armstrong argued that his converts were repentant, though they had only a rudimentary understanding of God's commandments.

Reasoning from Matthew 28, he said: "I baptized them after repentance and faith, just as the Bible instructs—and then, after laying on hands with prayer for their receiving of the Holy Spirit ... I taught them God's Commandments" (Ibid., page 491).

In the end, Oberg and Ray got the Conference to vote (in a rather controversial manner), that if Mr. Armstrong were to remain in the Conference, he had to baptize their way "instead of," as Mr. Armstrong put it, "the Scriptural way."

He wrote: "As soon as I heard of the action taken, I immediately wrote a letter canceling the \$3 per week salary, and suggesting they give it to Messrs. Oberg and Ray or else throw it in the Pacific Ocean! I did not resign from the Conference, nor was I put out. But I refused further salary" (Ibid., page 492).

Mr. Armstrong later felt that this decision to refuse the \$3 salary, so as to not compromise his determination to baptize those who had not yet been taught the Commandments, was the "crucial test," the turning point in his life. It was the defining moment that made possible the establishment of the Worldwide Church of God.

That he continued to baptize those who had no conviction on the Sabbath is evident from a typewritten paper he apparently composed in 1937, six years following his ordination.

"Shall the minister or evangelist cause the candidate to disobey the command to be baptized, following every scriptural example of doing it immediately, in order to first go into the Sabbath question which usually requires a great deal of time before it can be made clear, or permit them to obey the baptism command at once, then teaching them to observe the commandment?... Shall we cause disobedience to one command in order to gain obedience to the other?" (Herbert W. Armstrong, "When Does One Become a Fit Subject for Water Baptism?" *HWAP*, No. 8860, document 1, page 3).

Another paper written about that same time supports this conclusion. In it, Mr. Armstrong explained that there was no scriptural basis for instructing a repentant sinner about

"the Sabbath, pork and tobacco questions" before baptizing him. He understood the conditions for baptism to be quite simple: a repentant attitude and faith in Jesus.

He concluded by saying: "I feel I must baptize all who repent and accept Jesus in faith, at the very first opportunity, teaching doctrine afterward" (Herbert Armstrong, "Water Baptism: When Does One Become a Fit Subject for Baptism?" *HWAP*, No. 8860, document 3, page 3).

As we have seen, Mr. Armstrong believed that Sabbath observance did not inherently qualify a minister to baptize. He even believed some Sunday-observing ministers were better qualified than their seventh-day counterparts. He believed the same to be true of the baptismal candidates themselves. "A man can be truly repentant without being instructed in all that constitutes unrighteousness or sin."

So, following that reasoning, both Dwight and Herbert Armstrong were baptized together at the Hinson Memorial Baptist Church in Portland, Oregon.

Defending himself, Mr. Armstrong responded to the suggestion that he needed to be rebaptized.

"Would you advise me to indulge in two baptisms, when our Bible says one baptism? Would you advise me to be buried with Christ unto death a second time?"

"If I, then and there, presented my body a living sacrifice, burying self, and the old self is already dead and buried, how would you advise me to go about burying again a thing that is already dead and buried?... And if I am already risen with Christ unto newness of life, and am trying as far as I am able to live the new life for Him, can I be so risen a second time without going back to the former state?" (Armstrong to Dugger, page 6).

In August 1928, six months before this correspondence with Dugger, Mr. Armstrong wrote to his parents and grandparents about their need for baptism. His in-laws and grandparents were coming to Portland to be baptized and he wanted his parents to join them.

Dr. Dean

In his letter to his parents we learn that the pastor at Hinson Memorial was Dr. Dean. He assures his parents that the baptismal tank at Hinson is

"almost secluded from the congregation, except those in the balcony," and that the water was warm.

"Dr. Dean, the preacher, is a very spiritual man, and an earnest fundamental Christian, who believes as you do on all important questions. I believe it [Hinson Memorial] is the nicest place you could go" (Armstrong to "Mother and Dad," Aug. 30, 1928, *HWAP*, No. 859, page 1).

To his grandparents (whom he called "Dear Folks"), his Uncle Walt and other relatives he wrote: "If you do not honestly feel sure in your own mind that God wants you to rest and keep holy the time between Friday and Saturday sunsets, it is not disobedience not to do it.... I now realize it has nothing to do with salvation.... Until you had taken that step [of baptism] I have felt you should not be bothered with the Sabbath question" (Armstrong to "Dear Folks," Aug. 30, 1928, *HWAP*, No. 892, page 12).

Having discussed these issues, Mr. Armstrong then encouraged his family to arrive early Sunday morning so that they could attend the morning services at Hinson Memorial.

"It would be better for all of you to see the church and hear Dr. Dean and see and know who is to baptize you in the evening.... You'll like the church, their facilities for baptism, and the preacher, I am sure" (Ibid.).

Mr. Armstrong prodded his parents to be baptized upon their repentance of sin and their faith in Christ. Speaking of his own, earlier baptism, he later wrote: "And so I was baptized forthwith and without delay. Immediately upon coming up out of the water, a change was experienced in attitude and in mind generally.... For the first time, I felt clean! I knew, now, that the terribly heavy load of sin had been taken off my shoulders. Christ had paid the penalty for me. All past sins were now blotted out by his blood.

"My conscience was clean and clear. For the first time in my life I experienced real inner peace of mind!... There was a quiet, wonderful happiness of mind in the sure knowledge that now I was actually a begotten son of God! I could really call God Father!" (*The Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong*, pages 307-308).

It was this experience, this sure knowledge, this reality, that he so dearly wanted to share with them.

1995 Envoy order form

The Communication Department at Ambassador University is taking orders for the university yearbook, the 1995 *Envoy*. To place an order, please complete the form below.

Since a limited number will be printed, we must receive the completed form and payment no later than Feb. 28. Books will be mailed out in early June.

Quantity	Price (\$30 per book)	Shipping (\$5 per book)	Total
Please type or print:			
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Mailing Address _____			
City		State	
Zip			
Phone (Day) () _____		Phone (Eve.) () _____	
Please make check or money order payable to Ambassador University. No cash or credit cards. Mail completed form and payment to Ambassador University, Communication Department, Envoy Sales, P.O. Box 111, Big Sandy, Texas, 75755.			

Update

NEWS OF PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS

Israel dig open to members

BIG SANDY—Members can participate in an archaeological dig in Hazor, Israel, and visit historical sites June 23 to Aug. 6.

The excavation of ancient Hazor is the largest biblical-era site in Israel. Hazor, played a key role in the Israelite conquest of Canaan.

You can help unearth remains of Canaanite palaces and Israelite structures and hear lectures by Israeli archaeologist **Amnon Ben-Tor**.

Accommodations will be in Jerusalem and the Galilean city of Safed. You will visit historical sites such as Masada, the Dead Sea, Dan, Megiddo, Caesarea Maritima, Akko, Capernaum and the Sea of Galilee.

Two options are available: the full package (June 23-Aug. 6) and the first-half package, which includes a stay in Jerusalem for a week, two weeks of excavation and Sunday trips to northern Israel sites (June 23-July 16).

If you want to join the Ambassador University contingent, call **Rick Sherrod** at 1-903-636-2160.

Church anniversaries

ROCHESTER, Minnesota—The Rochester church will celebrate its 25th anniversary July 15. Afternoon services will be followed by a dinner and program.

Former ministers and members from the area are invited. For more information

contact **Walt Josephson**, 14 63rd Ave. SW, Rochester, Minnesota, 55901, phone 1-507-288-4862. *Paul Shumway.*

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—The church here, the 10th oldest U.S. congregation, celebrated its 40th anniversary Nov. 26 with a country-western dance after services.

About 750 people were present to hear the history of the congregation as former pastor **John Bald** delivered the sermon. Mr. Bald and his wife, **Nancy**, served the congregation from 1974 to 1980.

Burk McNair and his wife, **Billie Sue**, pastor the San Antonio West and Uvalde churches. **Steve Moody** and his wife, **Vivian**, pastor the San Antonio East church. *J.E. Jordan.*

Members reach out to prison ministry

ROCKFORD, Illinois—On Oct. 27 members of the Rockford church helped clean out the attic of Freedom House, an aftercare ministry intended to change the lives of nonviolent offenders who wish to develop a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

John Boreen of Freedom House wrote to pastor **Gary Petty**: "I was impressed with the humble spirit and willingness to serve on the part of the men from your church. May God bless each volunteer with his grace and tender love. God's kingdom has certainly begun in the hearts of members of your church who are willing to be of service to others in the community."

New sign language interpreting at Feast

The Church will offer sign language interpreting at 11 U.S. sites and two in Canada. Two of these sites, Vail, Colorado, and Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, will also have a new visual interpreting system, real-time paraphrasing.

U.S. sites with sign language interpreting are Dayton, Ohio; Daytona Beach, Florida; Fort Worth, Texas; Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; Pasadena and Redding, California; Saratoga Springs, New York; Seaside, Oregon; Tucson, Arizona; Vail, Colorado; and Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin.

In Canada interpreting

will be available in Penticton, British Columbia; and Mount Orford, Quebec.

Real-time paraphrasing presents the interpretation as words on a screen rather than hand signs. A person listening to the message types a paraphrase on a computer. The computer output is then converted into television signals that are sent to a video projector or large screen television.

This new system is valuable for both deaf and hard-of-hearing brethren. It is especially beneficial for those who don't know sign language. Reading a paraphrase normally provides for better understanding than sign interpretation. A word for word display is not used because it is too difficult to read quickly.

Scriptures can be put on the screen during the message. This allows the audience to compare the scriptures with the explanation.

Plans also call for a copy of the notes to be made available to those who desire a copy.

Most who have used this type system are excited about it. In addition, many educators for the deaf recommend real-time paraphrasing over other interpreting methods. If you feel this new form of interpreting will benefit you,



COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY—David Hulme (left), Ambassador Foundation vice president, presented the eighth Ambassador Award for Excellence to singer Mel Tormé (second from left), at Ambassador Auditorium Jan. 12. The award is bestowed annually for outstanding humanitarian and educational service, in addition to artistic excellence in the performing arts. Mr. Tormé participates in many charitable causes, including the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the Minority AIDS project and Planet Hope, which benefits the homeless. Also pictured are Lee Meriwether (actress) and her husband, Marshall Borden. [Photo by G.A. Belluche]

plan to attend the Feast in either Vail or Wisconsin Dells. *Gerald Schnarrenberger.*

Ambassador reunion

FORT WAYNE, Indiana—All Midwest Ambassador alumni are invited to a reunion here March 4 and 5.

Events include a Sabbath

brunch at the Marriott Hotel, services, an evening reception and slide show, and a Sunday brunch.

If you plan to attend, or for more information, contact **Laura Scott**, 703 Hendricks St., Berne, Indiana, 46711; phone 1-219-589-8741 (daytime) or 1-219-589-8690 (evening); fax 1-219-589-8093.

Auditorium: thanks for the joy

Continued from page 1

manager of KUSC radio station, which broadcasts "In Recital at Ambassador" nationwide, told the *Star-News* he was stunned by the announcement. "It's an enormous loss to Pasadena and Southern California. It leaves an enormous hole, and will have an impact on Los Angeles as a tour stop for the best and the brightest."

Mr. Hulme has received a flood of telephone calls since the announcement was made Jan. 27. "People want to know what they can do," he said. "They want to see the performing arts continue here. Some of the patrons said they will gladly

pay double for the tickets if it helps us continue, and there has been an offer of outside funding, so there is reason for cautious optimism.

"It has been very encouraging to see the response from the community," Mr. Hulme continued. "We see that the 20 years of activity in this area has certainly been a light to people."

Thanks for all the joy

In the Jan. 29 *Star-News*, John Farrell, the newspaper's classical music reviewer, said cancellation of the concert series at the "jewel-like Ambassador Auditorium ... is certain to provoke a lot of grieving" among those who love the performing arts.

The program at Amba-

sador was a generous gift to the community by the Church, he said. "For 20 years we could see and hear the best the world had to offer in a hall that always sparkled and shone like new. Losing it now only reminds me of how lucky we were. I'm going to miss you, Ambassador. Thousands of us are. For myself and uncounted others, let me say one thing: Thanks for all the joy you have given us."

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Personal: Christian maturity comes through service

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covenant at Mt. Sinai, which was so frightening that even Moses trembled with fear (verses 19-21), but we have come to "Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks" (verses 22-25).

I will close with Hebrews 13:16-21: "Do not forget to

do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way.... May the God of

peace ... equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

I have much more to say to you, brethren, but it will have to wait for another time. I love you and pray for you, that we all come to greater unity in the faith that we have in Jesus Christ. Join me in these prayers and in special

prayer for all our Church employees who are being terminated.

Brethren, it breaks my heart to see faithful employees having to find work elsewhere. Please pray earnestly for them, and please let our Human Resources department know if you are aware of potential employment opportunities.

Thank you for your support. Let's keep the faith and spread it—again, a two-fold responsibility.