

# PASTOR'S REPORT

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## Mr. Armstrong Speaks at SEP Again

Greetings, Ministers and wives:

I flew up to Orr, Minnesota again to speak to the second contingent at SEP--Summer Educational Program.

This winds up the second camp session at Orr for the summer of 1979. I found this second group of teen-agers slightly larger than the first contingent, to which I spoke three weeks before. This SEP program is a wonderful thing. It brings the teen-agers (12 to 18) into an activity that definitely increases their interest in the activities of God's Church.

I spoke on a subject that will appear as an article in the September GOOD NEWS.

It involves a whole new program in the church, bringing our young people and still younger children into a far greater relationship than before with their parents.

I am exuberant, enthusiastic and vitally interested in the new YES (Youth Educational Service) program now being launched in the church. It works in conjunction with the YOU program. But I feel it is even far more important. So much so that I am bringing both YOU and YES programs directly under my own personal direction and supervision, and the leaders of both will work directly under me, and in close personal touch with me.

By way of brief summary of my message this last Sabbath at Orr: There were more than 600 there altogether, including teen-age campers, crew, and about 100 visiting parents, since these youths will be returning home about Wednesday this week.

I put emphasis on the fact that God Himself has a very special interest in children of all ages--from infants on through teen-agers.

What the world does NOT know is that God, at the creation of MAN, set a definite Master Plan for reproducing Himself--a Plan that definitely involves the entire FAMILY as the basic unit of society. God's Great Master Plan includes children from infancy to adults.

As God's renewing of the face of the earth--recorded in Genesis, verses 2 through 31, and even into following chapters--took place in seven literal days (including creation of the Sabbath day), and since a day is as a thousand years to God, and a thousand years as a day, so those first seven days represented the 7,000 years of God's Master Plan.

When God drove Adam and Eve out from the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:22-24), He said, to put it in modern language, "YOU have made your own decision,

for yourselves and all humanity that shall be born from you. You have rejected my government. You have rejected me as your God and Savior. You have rejected me as Revealer of basic knowledge. Therefore I SENTENCE YOU AND ALL HUMANITY to be CUT OFF FROM ME FOR SIX THOUSAND YEARS--EXCEPT FOR THE VERY FEW I shall specially call, for special service preparing for the KINGDOM OF GOD, which shall begin after the 6,000 years. GO form your own knowledge, form your own gods and religions, form your own governments over nations. You will NOT be cut off from Satan, and therefore he will sway you in all you do into HIS WAY of vanity, lust and coveting, jealousy and envy, competition and strife, rebellion and destruction."

This present evil world resulted.

God did call a few. He called Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Moses and, though He denied them His Holy Spirit except for the prophets, the nation Israel. He sent Christ. He has called a comparatively VERY FEW into SPECIAL SERVICE preparing for the KINGDOM OF GOD--and these have formed GOD'S CHURCH!

Jesus said plainly and emphatically, "NO MAN CAN come to me, except the Father...draw him" (John 6:44). No man CAN. Except for those specially called for special duty, all humanity has been CUT OFF from God! God has NOT, as yet, been trying to GET THE WORLD "saved."

But the children of those called are SET APART in a SEPARATE CATEGORY. This is BIG NEWS, not heretofore been taught in God's CHURCH!

In I Corinthians 7:8-9, Paul addresses THE UNMARRIED and widows. In verses 10-11 he addresses THE MARRIED! In verses 12-16 he addresses "the rest." Who can that be? The context explains.

"If any brother hath a wife that believeth not (Verse 12), and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away." A church member CANNOT divorce a non-church member, so long as that non-church member is willing to keep the marriage intact. Too many of our people are getting "liberal" at this point! The same is true of a believing wife who has a non-believing husband. As long as they can live in reasonable peace, THERE CAN BE NO DIVORCE!

Now verse 14: "For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife." What does that mean? Not made "sanctimonious," but put in a SEPARATE CATEGORY--although non-believer, such non-member husband is NOT CUT OFF from God. Verse 16: "For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband?" He is not converted, but he is NOT CUT OFF--meaning he CAN come to Christ IF WILLING!

Now notice verse 14 again: "For the unbelieving husband is sanctified" (put in a special category--not necessarily called, but NOT CUT OFF--free to come to Christ IF HE WISHES!) Continue: "else were your children unclean"--that is, CUT OFF from God like other children are! "But now are they holy." Or, in other words, the children of a believing parent are SET APART, in the sense that THEY ARE NOT CUT OFF FROM GOD as are other children!

It does not mean they are converted. Just that they are NOT "cut off" from God--the believing parent can TEACH THEM, and when they are mature, hopefully they may be converted.

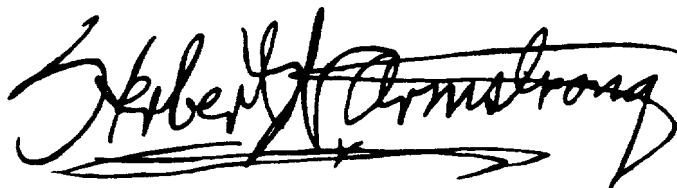
THIS IS THE GREAT NEWS!

Children of even one converted parent may be TAUGHT by that parent, to offset Satan's reaching them through the human spirit within them.

THIS ALSO PLACES A RESPONSIBILITY ON GOD'S CHURCH, and on ALL PARENTS IN THE CHURCH to work with our children from babyhood until adult!

THIS IS A WONDERFUL TRUTH. The YES Program is going to definitely help in this regard.

Those at Orr last Sabbath received this Message with elation--parents as well as teen-agers! I am personally enthusiastic about it!



FROM PASTORAL ADMINISTRATION

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings from Pasadena! Mr. Herbert Armstrong is back from a successful trip to the SEP camp at Orr, Minnesota. He wanted to go back to speak to the kids for the final session this year, and I'm sure it was very encouraging and inspiring to everyone concerned.

Dennis Luker just got back from a conference of the ministers in the Northwest--in Portland, Oregon. He reports that over fifty ministers and wives were there in a very warm and upbeat conference. He said all of the men and wives were very positive and reaffirmed their loyalty to Mr. Armstrong and this Work.

Many doctrinal and Christian living questions came in, however, and we have already planned to see Mr. Herbert Armstrong soon--in a series of meetings--on doctrinal questions such as the details of divorce and re-marriage, beginning this week.

Everyone is fine here in Pasadena. The students had a great beach party yesterday, and a few of next year's class are already starting to arrive. They look like very fine young people.

On the sad side, it is my duty to inform you that Mr. Jack Pyle and Mr. Bronson James have both been disfellowshipped from God's Church. They are to be marked in all areas of their activity, as both are consorting with and helping the enemies of the Work of God.

Now for some INSTRUCTION: Please, all ministers get in your own festival applications soon so we can have up-to-date information for your housing, etc. Mr. McMichael reports that some areas are already heavily booked and we don't know how many units to reserve for the ministers and families until we hear from you. If some of you are going to bring a relative or friend to share your accommodations, etc., arrangements for this

must be made NOW. So please, everyone get in your forms to the Feast Office immediately--even those of you here in the Pasadena area who may be traveling from site to site--so the Festival Office may know how many members of the family to plan for, etc.

Looking forward to the festival season, I want to ask all of you to prepare a sermon soon pointing toward and preparing the brethren to go to the Feast, keep all eight days of the Feast, and truly worship God during this coming, glorious festival season. Be sure to remind everyone that they should be saving their second tithe and preparing themselves in every way for "the best Feast ever."

Also, I want to ask all of you ministers to take more care to oversee and "screen" the type of music and dancing your individual churches are participating in. We want to upgrade the type of music presented during Church services. And we definitely want to upgrade the type of music played at Church and Church-related and YOU dances and parties. We are going to send you more definitive information on this within a couple of months, but all of us who have been around Mr. Armstrong and have had any type of cultural training whatever certainly can help our areas to avoid the extremes so often found in the world which are beginning to creep into God's Church! Truly we want to honor God in every phase and facet of life--and that includes music, dancing, dating, courtship, how to handle liquor, the type and atmosphere of socials we participate in, etc. Christ is moving to clean up His Church and prepare it as an unblemished bride. Again, I hope all of us will catch this vision and do all that we can to follow Mr. Armstrong's lead in this matter with all of our hearts. This is where Christ is leading His Church now.

That's all for this time.

With Christian love,  
Roderick C. Meredith

#### FURTHER INSIGHTS INTO THE STATE'S LAWSUIT AGAINST THE CHURCH

(Editor's Note: The following analysis of, and insights into our church/state confrontation, were recently given in overview commentary by Mr. Stanley R. Rader. His comments were videotaped for a TV documentary currently being produced by our TV Department. Those comments of special interest to the ministry have been extracted for publication in the Pastor's Report.)

#### Wishes His and Mr. Helge's Hands Weren't Tied

From the outset in this conflict between the state of California (the largest, most powerful state in the Union) and the Worldwide Church of God, Mr. Helge and I have been as frustrated as two people could possibly be. Because from the outset, though we are lawyers we have had to use other lawyers as our mouthpieces in every forum, except the times that we were personally appearing before the media.

We have the very best lawyers, and we like them all very much. They're so much better than what the state can muster that it isn't even a ball

game. I mean it's like child's play. But Mr. Helge and I have such a firm handle on the law concerning our case and a firm handle on the facts, that in dealing with our own lawyers it's like we're light years ahead of them. We know what we know about the law, and we know what we know about the facts because we have been dealing with Church matters here for a collective period of forty years between the two of us, in a highly specialized set of circumstances. On top of that, we are members of the Church.

We've been able to help our lawyers draft the pleadings /our answers to the court in response to the allegations/. We've been able to help them prepare the oral arguments. We've been able to plan the strategy, develop the tactics. But the two people in the Church who know the most about the Church--in terms of the law, in terms of the relationship of the Church to the sovereign state of California, and to the federal government for that matter--have literally been hamstrung and hog-tied by the sham lawsuit that was filed by the state of California and the so-called six relators, seven months ago.

But for Mr. Helge and me being named as defendants, we would have been able to defend the Church as we always have. We have had other lawsuits at other times just as irresponsible as this one. I could go to my files and show you case after case over the years where wild allegations had been made. And in each and every case Mr. Helge and I have managed to literally destroy the opposition by pointing out to the courts (whether it be a federal court or a state court, and sometimes as far away as Alaska) that the complaint was a sham.

But in this particular case, with Mr. Helge and I being named as defendants, we have had to try to coach our lawyers, to coordinate the team, and to speed up the vertical learning curve of all of our lawyers. And as I told Mr. Armstrong, I realize it's impossible to get them to feel about the case--to react as we would--short of converting them.

#### Why He Fights So Hard For the Church

I was always a very good advocate for the Church, even before 1975 when I became a member. I was always able, as a good advocate, to get a lot of the necessary emotion into my pleadings, whatever they might be--whatever I was arguing for or pleading about or advocating--because of the tremendous love and admiration and respect that I had not only for Mr. Armstrong, but for the church brethren that I had met over the years, and for colleagues to a certain extent that I had worked with closely here.

But then in 1975 when I became a member--which I didn't have to do; there was no reason on earth why I should become a member, but I had that particular calling that we who are members know something about. I mean, I was earning more money before, and I didn't have political problems before. Maybe some people were saying, "We wonder why Mr. Armstrong spends so much time with an unconverted man," but that was his problem, wasn't it? It wasn't mine. And then I became a member and all of a sudden people began to be even more concerned about me and my presence.

But once I became a member, then I was not only fighting for the cause of a client, but I was now fighting for something that I believed in very strongly myself! So, Mr. Helge and I are constantly inciting and urging our lawyers up to that same level of knowledge as to the law and the facts pertaining to our case.

Why the Church Is Outraged

It's not that our lawyers are not working hard at it, it's not that they are not learning; but there's something about this lawsuit that makes Mr. Helge and me, as well as Mr. Armstrong and other members of the Church, rise up in indignation. Not because we were sued, because unfortunately, in this world anyone can sue anybody. We know that. People can be grieved over non-existing injuries and they sue parties A, B, or C and sometimes they are thrown out of court immediately, and sometimes it takes a little bit longer.

But in this particular case, to see Mr. Armstrong, the leader of the Church for forty-seven years, accused of siphoning and pilfering millions of dollars each year for his own benefit; to hear the state accuse him of using the Church and its assets for his own personal benefit; to hear them describe his spreading of the gospel, his fulfilling of the commission as laid out by Matthew 28:19-20 as so-called "travel expense," makes Mr. Helge and I want to rise up out of our chairs and literally throttle the person responsible for making such wild and utterly false allegations!

Nothing about the State's position is true. They know that it is false--a sham. They know that it's been a naked, raw, abuse of power. And yet, but for the Living God; but for the immediate and massive support of the members of the Church; but for Mr. Armstrong's inspired leadership; and but for the financial resources that are available to few organizations, the State would have accomplished its will!

Why a SHAM Lawsuit

The state has come up with no evidence of any wrongdoing to in any way offset or counter our mountain of evidence indicating clearly, for any impartial person, that all the allegations in the lawsuit are false and without foundation. The burden of proof, by the way, is not even on us but rather is on the state. Nonetheless, we have come forward with an overwhelming amount of evidence on the Church's behalf.

The state gives everyone reason to believe that they are never going to be able to prove the allegations of their complaint. That is because they have hundreds and thousands of pages of church documents--maybe 60,000 pieces of paper--and they still can't find any evidence of any wrongdoing. Judge Julius Title himself said as early as January 12 there was no evidence of any wrong-doing, and as late as March, indicated that all the state had been doing is making accusations. Notwithstanding that, the lawsuit has not been dismissed!

The reason is quite plain. The court itself is a little intimidated by the fact that the state of California is involved and they, as the judiciary, are part of "the system." Mr. Armstrong has always said human government is the enemy of the Church. Government, to a great extent, is the enemy of the people. There is no justice in this world. We've all learned those things and it's coming home now. Everyday we are being reminded of that.

Now, when I talk about a sham lawsuit, what do I mean? I mean a lawsuit that is based upon hearsay and gossip, and a lawsuit that is contrived under such circumstances as to be apparent to any person that the plaintiff, in this case the state, had no reason to believe that it would ever be able to prove the allegations of the complaint.

### Why the State Jumped Into a Bad Fight

When you analyze the preceding you might say, "Well, that being the case, how did they ever expect to prove up the lawsuit?" Well, any shrewd observer would realize immediately that the state of California never asked itself whether what they were doing was right or wrong, legal or illegal, ethical or unethical. They only asked themselves, "Can we get away with it?" It was the raw use of power.

Now, when they asked themselves that question, what factors did they consider? They considered the information that had been brought to them. They were told that this church was relatively small, which was good. They were told that it was divided, that there was a lot of dissension in the ranks; they were told that its spiritual leader and modern-day founder, you might say, was a much disliked person--an autocrat, living in Arizona, cut off from the brethren, cut off from the employees, cut off from the ministry--and that if someone made a move on him like the state of California, why he would just fold up and go away.

He was described as senile by a person whom he treated, for all practical purposes, as a son. He was called drug-ridden, confined to bed, unable to hear, unable to see--you name it, they mentioned it. They were told that there were other people who were equally disliked and I became a target. They were told that what all the people are waiting for was the power of the state to move on the Church, throw out Mr. Armstrong, throw out other people --the "palace guard"--and the state believed what they were told. They wanted to believe it.

Consequently, a little bit of the "Bay of Pigs philosophy" is perhaps what we are talking about. All of you remember how the C.I.A. was convinced that with a handful of people they would be able to invade Cuba--didn't work out very well. Same thing occurred here. These people landed on our shores and within a few weeks they were routed!

### The State's Real Interest

There has been, in this state of California, a concerted effort for some time now which Mr. Helge and I have been very mindful of. We had been attending state legislature's committee meetings where they have been drafting non-profit corporation legislation over a period of years. All of us who are engaged in the constitutional law field have been concerned about the creeping effort of the state to take control of church property at least from a supervisory standpoint. And we have been resisting their efforts. The Mormons have been resisting it, and other religious groups have been resisting it.

I believe that the state liked the "facts," which were non-facts, that were brought to it by the lawyers representing the six dissenters. We were just in the aftermath or the fallout of the Guyana tragedy. So we had that militating against us. And there was a tendency in the Los Angeles office of the Attorney General in the Charitable Trusts Division, to be quite officious in their approach above and beyond what normal bureaucratic procedure would be.

So our case looked perfect. We looked like we were small enough to be easily handled by this kind of action, and we looked like we were divided (which we were not). The Church looked to them as though it would give no

resistance because the members were literally going to greet these people from the receiver's office and the state as "liberators." And yet the Church was big enough to be able to pay out a ton of money in fees which was important for the receiver. And also "big enough" in the sense that if the state were to actually succeed in accomplishing its will, this would set a precedent.

### First Amendment Begins With Freedom of Religion

In talking to the press, what I say is varied. If the press has been accusatory in tone and has missed by a mile what I thought the facts were, I thought it was important to put the press in its place because I thought they were very shortsighted in not realizing that the First Amendment begins with freedom of religion, not freedom of press. And as I told them in the /court's/ corridors the very first week in January when this whole thing broke, they cry like stuck pigs where their own First Amendment rights are concerned. And sure enough since then, in the last four or five months, the U.S. Supreme Court has been kicking them around and they have literally been crying on the front pages of the newspapers, on the television networks, and on the editorial pages as well.

But that is the aspect of it that is hard to get people today excited about--the First Amendment. I've told the newspaper people and the media that when this country was founded two hundred years ago, people were very concerned about the First Amendment. Because so much bloodshed has occurred over matters of religion. So much persecution has taken place over matters of religion. Wars almost invariably have been fought over matters of religion. And the people who established this country two hundred years ago were determined to have no state interference with anyone's religious beliefs. They were determined to have no state establishment as was the case in England. And God and religion were very important to these people --maybe not each person to the same degree, but certainly no one would have thought of publishing a TIME magazine in 1790 stating, "Is God Dead?" That would never have occurred to anybody. They were quite sure God was alive and that they were quite accountable to Him.

Today we live in a different society, and although we are very much concerned about the abridgment of our religious freedoms, not everybody is all that excited about it. So that is a problem we are forced to contend with constantly.

Yet in all of this we have an anomaly! Our most successful ad--the ad that we designed to bring to the public certain facts about the lawsuit--was the one that stated, "We have nothing to hide but much to protect!" By that Mr. Armstrong meant we literally had nothing to hide because that has never been our approach to begin with before the lawsuit. We have been a very open institution, much more open than the law requires us to be, much more open than most churches are. Mr. Armstrong, in a way, is like the lover who wears his heart on his sleeve. He is always telling people just about everything that comes to his mind and he himself has said he would rather err on the side of being, shall we say, too willing to reveal things about himself and about the institution than to be secretive. And as a consequence for us now, to be in a position of protecting our First Amendment rights and everybody's First Amendment rights /by resisting the setting of a wrong precedent/, while the state accuses us of hiding something, creates somewhat of an anomaly.



Now, if the state hadn't attacked the Church, then the issues would have been different. Mr. Armstrong and I have said from the very outset, "You have no business (this is addressing ourselves to the state) attacking the Church, you have no right to be here. Get your feet off our property, get your dirty hands off of our property. If you have something to complain about concerning Mr. Armstrong, or Mr. Rader, or Mr. Helge, or anybody for that matter, there's a proper forum for that type of matter. And although no one likes to be accused of activity that even sounds like criminal activity, we'd still be very happy to defend ourselves in that forum at the right time and in the right place."

And we would not have been able to raise the First Amendment and we never would have thought of raising the First Amendment. Maybe Mr. Armstrong would be required from time to time to raise a clergyman-penitent privilege. Maybe on occasion Mr. Helge would have to raise the question of attorney-client privilege, and maybe on occasion I would have had to do the same, but we certainly could not have raised the First Amendment. But the moment that the state of California intruded upon Church affairs, we had a duty, an absolute duty, to raise the First Amendment--not only a duty to ourselves, but to all other people for whom the freedom of religion is important.

So, we have had to assert our First Amendment rights for ourselves as well as for others. And as some of you may have seen recently, the National Council of Churches has come out very vigorously in our defense. It really has attacked the government for interfering with our rights. And the Seventh Day Adventists, through their LIBERTY magazine, have done the same.

Gradually, more and more people are coming to the fore and are letting us know in one way or another that they are watching what is going on; they are very concerned about it--about what's happening, and what has happened --and that when they can be of the most help, they will be there. (We're still at a very low procedural level of activity because we are resisting on constitutional grounds step by step.)

Not literally do we refuse to answer our name when we are asked, but for all practical purposes we are not going to answer any question until the Supreme Court of the United States tells us in very plain language that we must. And once the Supreme Court of the United States tells us that we must, then in our opinion and the opinion of many others now, there will be no more religious freedom in the United States! It will be a thing of the past. But once we've crossed that bridge and the Supreme Court of the United States has said, you must do this, you must do that, you must refrain from this, you must refrain from that, then we will answer the questions.

#### Knew We Would Lead the Fight for Religious Freedom

I told Mr. Armstrong (and he remembers this very, very clearly) the very first day I met him back in 1956, when he told me how big the Church would ultimately grow and how great the Work would be and what its impact would be--he told me that we would suffer persecution, meaning he would suffer persecution, but he used the word "we." I said, "Mr. Armstrong, if what you say is true, and if it comes to pass, and I have no reason to believe that it will not, I want to remind you that you will then be in the vanguard of all those at that time fighting for the freedom of religion, because you have had a free ride so far."

He said, "What do you mean?" And I said, "Well, certainly, you know of the Jehovah's Witnesses." And he said, "Yes." I continued, "Well, in the thirties they fought all the battles--freedom of the press, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and most importantly, freedom of religion. The local state governments and city governments wanted to impose a tax on the Jehovah's Witnesses who could have very easily paid what was really tantamount to a token licensing fee. A fee was going to be extracted from them for the privilege of disseminating their literature, as they still do today on street corners. And they argued that it would be paying ransom for their First Amendment rights.

Human government, as I have learned, is clearly an enemy of the Church. The brethren have found out that we now need protection from oppression by the government at the very time that the government is saying they are only here to "protect" us. That has always been a fiction; that's always been a fraud upon the people. God forbid that any of us need protection, real protection, from the government! It's one thing to talk about protection when dealing with matters of public safety, and another when we're dealing with the so-called police powers of the state. But really, our Constitution was designed so that the power of the state was cut down. Federal government, for example, is only supposed to defend our shores from invasion from without, and state governments were not supposed to rule the lives of the people at the local level.

But you know what has happened over the years. There has been creeping socialism and creeping bureaucracy to the point now that some fellow who gets himself a career job with the Attorney General can entertain the notion that he would like to be able to supervise the Work of the Worldwide Church of God. He would like to set the standards, he would like to determine what we should do, when we should do it, how much it should cost us and who should do it. This Mr. Armstrong would never tolerate. None of us would, knowing that we serve God and live in a land where the Constitution confirms basic religious rights and freedoms!

#### Learns He Was Wrong About Government and the Judicial System

I was asked a very good question a few months ago by Michael Jackson, who is a local radio and television interviewer. It was a perfect question--totally impromptu. He asked, "Has this whole affair affected you in any way? Has it changed you?" He has known me for sometime and he didn't see any visible changes. I explained to him, "Well, I was equipped to handle this type of thing because I had the training for it, and stress doesn't bother me, and having God on our side makes it all that much easier."

But I said that I have changed in one very important respect. I said, "For years I argued with Mr. Armstrong--literally argued with him tooth and nail --because I thought many of his views about lawyers, judges and government were immoderate. I always thought he was going a little bit beyond the pale beyond the limits or boundaries of reason."

"Now," continuing my answer to Michael Jackson, "maybe I was a little defensive because I was a lawyer by training and a law professor, and I considered myself as part of the system to that extent, and I wasn't a church member until just recently. And it was somewhat of a 'putdown.' And in a nice way, as nice as I could be in the circumstances, I would tell Mr. Armstrong, 'Well, all the judges aren't bad, Mr. Armstrong, all govern-

ment isn't bad.' 'No, Stan, you're wrong,' he answered. 'The Bible says unjust judges in the only reference directly relating to judges. Everybody knows about shyster lawyers. Everybody who should know, would know that big government is bad, bigger government is worse, and that human government basically is the enemy of the people, and is also the enemy of churches and religion.'

"So I argued with Mr. Armstrong. But once again I found out, as I have found out in almost every important issue about which I've ever disagreed with Mr. Armstrong, that I was wrong and he was right. And I asked him since then, 'What made you so sure you were right, and what made you so sure that I was wrong in this particular instance?' And he smiled and said, 'Because the Bible, which is the foundation of all knowledge, told me so.'"

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### PUBLISHING UPDATE

Publishing Services has now consolidated its various sections into one area. Thanks to men like Ellis LaRavia, with Bob Ashland and his team, we are now all together in what used to be the Press Building. We can now offer Church, Foundation, and College departments a complete publishing service under one roof.

The services include graphics design with advertising copywriting, direct mail planning and production, Plain Truth and Good News circulation management including newsstand coordination, and a small in-house multiprint facility with increased capacity. We still offer, of course, the full Plain Truth, Good News, Quest and booklet production facilities. This includes typesetting, pasteup, camera work, color separation and film assembly. This total service is offered in five languages: English, Dutch, French, German and Spanish, with capacity to handle additional languages as required. We also offer outside print buying and coordination for the various departments here in Pasadena.

One last piece of news. Pan American Airways will now carry Quest magazine on most, if not all, of its commercial flights worldwide. This is a real compliment for us as Pan American is very selective. Many publishers try hard to get into this prestigious market.

--Roger G. Lippross, Publishing Services

### IMPORTANT FESTIVAL UPDATE

The period of assigning housing for the Feast of Tabernacles is now in full swing, with Feast Office personnel spending long hours readying for the 1979 feast. The first run of housing confirmations should be in the mail in August.

Here is a brief update on some sites across the U.S.:

Biloxi: All transfer requests to Biloxi had to be turned down for this year, with the exception of hardship cases, because fewer people than anticipated asked for camping facilities. Motel rooms, therefore, are in short supply and will have to go first to those assigned to the site.

There is, however, a surplus of camping spaces and the Festival Office says it can accept more campers at Biloxi!

St. Petersburg: All people who transferred to Florida last year have been turned down this year, except obvious hardship situations. Anyone denied a transfer with an important reason for attending in Florida which has been overlooked should notify the Feast Office as quickly as possible through their Festival advisor.

Lake of the Ozarks: More campers can be accepted at the Ozarks.

Saratoga Springs: Because of the crush of transfer requests for St. Pete and Biloxi, which were granted on a first-come, first-serve basis, many requests from this area will be processed in the assigned Saratoga Springs area. With the Feast falling earlier this year, and temperatures warmer, Saratoga promises to be a beautiful site.

International Sites: In addition to the sites in the United States, three international sites are now closed to transfers: Penticton (Canada), Lewiston (Canada) and Mexico. However, the Jerusalem Feast site and tour is still open for reservations.

--Festival Office

#### PLEASE READ TO YOUR CONGREGATIONS

Announcements recently placed in the July 9 edition of the Worldwide News concerning chorale participants and services for the deaf at the Feast of Tabernacles have received little response, so the Festival Office is asking ministers to read them in services. For your convenience we have reproduced both announcements as they appeared in the above mentioned Worldwide News.

--Festival Office

### **SIGN LANGUAGE AT THE FEAST**

Sign language interpreting at the Feast of Tabernacles will be available in both Norfolk, Va., and Fresno, Calif. Interpreting in one or two other areas may be provided if enough interpreters are available.

It is important that we hear from those wanting this service and also from interpreters and helpers.

Gerrie Leimbach has taken Lana Kreivis' position as coordinator in the Pasadena churches and will help coordinate the interpreting for U.S. Feast sites. If you have contacted her, she will forward the information to the Feast Office. If not, please write Hugh Mauck at the Feast Office in Pasadena, 300 W. Green St., Pasadena, Calif., 91123.

If it is important to be housed near another person or family let us know. Don't hold up your Festival application pending decisions regarding the interpreting. We can always reassign you once we have all the information needed.

### **NOTICE CONCERNING FESTIVAL MUSIC**

In order to provide the finest music from among the Church membership for this Feast of Tabernacles, we request those who wish to be chorale directors, singers and helpers to please let us know your desires, experience and suggestions.

Even if you have been assigned to a specific chorale, we need to know what your assignment is, who assigned you, what assignment you desire, which area you will attend and your past experience.

If your chorale is already organized and rehearsing, please let us know who the members of your chorale are, what music you plan to sing and any other information you feel might be helpful.

Write to Hugh Mauck, Festival chorale coordinator, at the Feast Office in Pasadena, 300 W. Green St., Pasadena, Calif., 91123.

INTERNATIONAL NEWSAfrica

Several weeks ago we printed excerpts from a letter from Melvin Rhodes, our minister in Ghana, on the situation he and the members were experiencing after a coup in that country. As a follow-up, here are excerpts from a subsequent letter of his to the Radlett office in the U.K. (dated 26th June):

We haven't got much food left, but are leaving for Cameroon on Thursday morning anyway, so don't have to worry about ourselves. But Felicia has come back from market with nothing the last five days. They are still O.K., living off rice and other things they have.

I don't think this will go on for long. The government will have to do something. There's plenty of food in the country, so really the problem is political. After the decree on prices issued the day after the revolution, all "essential" manufactured items disappeared. So we can't get milk or flour, or anything else for that matter.

This morning, six more people were executed, including two former Heads of State. It seems like the last lot of expatriates is leaving tonight. Well, not exactly. But somebody from the High Commission we spoke to this afternoon, said it seemed that way. Many of the Lebanese have simply disappeared, and many Americans are not returning from their annual summer leave (our neighbours failed to turn up on yesterday's PAN AM flight; other families and friends waiting at the airport to meet people were disappointed, so it seems like we're getting a bad press overseas.)

Your prayers would be much appreciated for God's people in East, Central and West Africa (331 members and 3 ministers)--both that God would protect them and allow His Work to go forward without undue restrictions. The ministers concerned are Melvin Rhodes (Accra, Ghana), Harold Jackson (Lagos, Nigeria) and Owen Willis (Nairobi, Kenya).

In addition to three sub-offices in Accra, Lagos and Nairobi, there are six churches in this part of the world--Accra and Kumasi in Ghana, Lagos and Oguta in Nigeria, and Nairobi and Meru in Kenya. There are further Bible studies in Victoria (United Republic of Cameroons), Lusaka (Zambia), Blantyre (Malawi) and Mauritius, plus other small groups of members scattered throughout Tanzania, Liberia and the Seychelles.

United Kingdom

Income is still buoyant. The month of June showed a rise of 19% over June 1978 and is continuing the healthy upward trend. The calendar year-to-date increase is 20%, with the year to 30th June 1979 registering a 16% rise over the previous fiscal year.

With figures in from around half of the exhibitions, and with household distributions now completed in 12 cities, almost 2,000 PLAIN TRUTH trial offer brochures have been returned to date. Many were still coming in from the latest exhibitions and household drops at the time of going to press. This encouraging response has been in addition to the exposure

gained by multiple thousands of the public to the name and content of The PLAIN TRUTH via the display and audio-visual presentation.

In some cases the recent promotions have more than doubled PLAIN TRUTH circulation in a particular town and in most a substantial increase has been achieved.

As of July 20th almost 14,000 responses had been received to a total of 36 recent advertisements in national newspapers and special-interest magazines offering booklets and/or The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. Many more are expected before the final figure is known.

Over 6,500 of the present total have come from 8 insertions advertising the booklet Why Were You Born? (2,009 from The Sun alone). The Occult Exploision has been requested by over 2,500, also from 8 ads, while The Seven Laws of Success has reached 3,200 homes via 10 insertions. Other booklets advertised in selected media were Building a Happy Family, Does God Exist? and Principles of Healthful Living.

#### New Zealand

Income for the first six months of 1979 is 30.7% up on the same period last year, with June's figure registering a 12.7% increase. We received 25.2% more mail than in June 1978, bringing the year-to-date mail count to a plus 67.7% over last year. The Pentecost offering was up 39.4%, with attendance up 12.8%. The cumulative total for holy day offerings this year is 33.8% higher than that for last year.

The New Zealand economy is in real trouble, and the Government's annual budget, delivered during June, contained very bad news for God's Work. Postal charges for registered magazines were increased by a staggering 80% and rates for letters and other articles were increased by 40%. In one fell swoop, this has lifted our annual postage bill by \$30,000, causing us to have to seriously rethink our budget. If Satan wanted to deal a blow to God's Church and no one else, he certainly hit on the way to do it. Of all organizations affected by the governmental budget, we got hurt the most!

Responses to our ongoing householder card promotion of The PLAIN TRUTH and The Dilemma of Drugs are still flooding in, bringing our current PLAIN TRUTH mailing list to 37,750.

--Compiled by Rod Matthews, International Office

#### ON THE WORLD SCENE

EURO-PARLIAMENT UPDATE: On Tuesday July 17, the first session of the enlarged and directly-elected European Parliament convened in Strasbourg, France. The first order of business for the 410 delegates was the election of the assembly's president. The post went to a woman--Simone Veil of France. Mrs. Veil, 52, the former French minister of health and social services, is also a Jew. She and her family were taken from France to the Auschwitz death camp in 1944 when she was 17 years old. She alone survived the ordeal--with a tattooed concentration camp number on her arm which she conceals to this day beneath long-sleeved dresses.

The election of Mrs. Veil (the former Simone Jacob) was not too surprising. She is a popular political figure in France, though somewhat controversial. She has been a leading subject on French magazine covers for several years, sharing space with movie and rock stars, Princess Grace and Princess Caroline. President Giscard d'Estaing shrewdly employed Mrs. Veil, as a Jewess in Catholic France, to push a pro-abortion bill through the National Assembly.

Mrs. Veil's close ties to Giscard d'Estaing (some say she could eventually become the first woman premier of France) made her a natural to head the Giscardian Union for French Democracy ticket in the Euro-parliament elections. The party came out on top in the French voting--for the first time topping the Socialists, the Communists and the fading Gaullists.

Some of her fellow Parliamentarians in Strasbourg, while admiring her political skills, nevertheless see Mrs. Veil's election as an attempt by the French government to control the new assembly and prevent it from becoming any kind of threat to national sovereignty.

The issue of national sovereignty versus growth of a European supra-nationalism remains the fundamental one, of course. Will the new directly-elected parliament aid the pan-European cause?

"You can't mobilize 180 million voters and then have such a parliament do nothing, believe nothing or prove that nothing has changed," said former Belgian Premier Leo Tindemans. Yet the parliament has extremely limited powers. It has authority over the European Economic Community's \$21 billion budget and it can legally (though it is not likely to do so) dismiss the EEC Commission, which oversees Common Market policy. But it cannot bring down a national government, cannot force a policy on a member state, and will be under constant scrutiny by governments to make sure it does not overstep its authority. "At most, it will be a powerful moral voice," reports an Associated Press correspondent in Strasbourg.

Mrs. Louis Weiss, the oldest member at 86 and president of honor on the first day said the parliament has the task of inspiring a new breed of international men and women like those who made Europe great during the middle ages, the renaissance and the age of enlightenment.

"Our institutions have succeeded /through Common Market standardization/ in producing European beets, butter, cheese, wine, calves, even European pigs. What they have not succeeded in doing is making Europeans," Mrs. Weiss said.

"To be truthful," concluded a UPI dispatch from Strasbourg, "the parliament has not been very inspiring so far. To be fair, it is too soon to judge whether it will be."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau

# MEMBER'S HOTLINE

WORLDWIDE EDITION

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## MR. ARMSTRONG EXPOUNDS WONDERFUL TRUTH AT S.E.P.

Last Sabbath, July 28th, Mr. Armstrong flew to Orr, Minnesota to speak with the second session of campers at the Church's Summer Educational Program (S.E.P.). He had spoken to the teen-agers at the first session at Orr just three weeks before.

In a Pastor's Report letter to the ministry (July 30th), Mr. Armstrong spoke exuberently about the YES (Youth Educational Service) program about to be launched in the Church. He stated his intention to work directly and very closely with the leaders of YOU and YES so that these programs will have his personal direction and supervision.

Mr. Armstrong was also very enthusiastic about the SEP program in general and said it is "a wonderful thing. It brings the teen-agers (12 to 18) into an activity that definitely increases their interest in the activities of God's Church."

Mr. Armstrong went on to summarize for the ministry the sermon he gave to approximately 600 campers, crew and visiting parents. He stressed how God does take a special interest in children--not just their parents and other adults. God's plan includes young people of all ages. Mr. Armstrong then expounded the wonderful truth that children of a converted member are sanctified along with the parent even if that parent is the only believer. "The children of a believing parent are set apart, in the sense that they are not cut off from God as are other children!" (I Cor. 7:14.) He went on to explain that, of course, doesn't mean children of Church members are converted, but God has made special provision for them making it possible for believing parents to teach them, thereby offsetting Satan's influence, so that they may hopefully be converted when mature.

This wonderful truth, Mr. Armstrong emphasized, "places a responsibility on God's Church and on all parents in the Church to work with their children from babyhood until adults." An article based on the subject of his sermon will appear in the September GOOD NEWS. Be watching for it!

## DALLAS TO RECEIVE A WITNESS THIS WEEKEND

Mr. Dennis Luker will be conducting a personal appearance campaign in Dallas, Texas this weekend. The campaign will be the last of the current series of mini-evangelistic campaigns begun earlier this year. Your prayers for God's guidance and blessing on the speaking and the hearing will certainly be appreciated!

## PAN AM WELCOMES QUEST

Publishing Services recently announced that Pan American Airways will now carry Quest magazine on most, if not all, of its commercial flights worldwide. This is a real compliment for us as Pan American is very selective. Many publishers try hard to get into this prestigious market.