PASTOR GENERAL'S



REPORT TO THE MINISTRY OF THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

VOL.1, NO.1

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 6, 1979

CHRIST NOW SETS HIS MINISTRY BACK ON GOD'S TRACK

The system that has led to competitive power blocks within God's Church, from the Director of the Ministry on down, is now a thing of the past. There is no room for special power blocks seeking competitive political power in God's Church.

We in the Church of God are ONE BODY, under Jesus Christ as our Head.

Through His chosen Apostle, the living Christ, as HEAD of God's Church has continued moving swiftly to restore PEACE, and HARMONY and UNITY within this specially called Body of Christ. I am reminded of my mother's favorite passage in the Bible, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133:1).

At a meeting yesterday in Tucson, with the four Regional Assistants, Messrs. Dean Blackwell, Dennis Luker, Burk McNair and Leroy Neff, together with Mr. Raymond McNair and my personal assistants Joseph Tkach and Kevin Dean, the offices of "Area Coordinators" were abolished.

For the present, Mr. Burk McNair will be my Regional Assistant in the far east Atlantic Coast states, from New England to Florida. Mr. Leroy Neff will serve in the same capacity from eastern Great Lakes states on the north to New Orleans on the south. Mr. Dean Blackwell will represent me in a general area from Milwaukee to Texas on the south, and Mr. Dennis Luker the Pacific area from Washington to San Diego.

A map outlining the territory served by each Regional Assistant is enclosed with this Pastor General's Report.

This, for the present, will replace the "Area Coordinator structure," which seemed to lead to competitive areas of power and authority.

The following former Area Coordinators will come to Pasadena for a Sabbatical period: Messrs. Elbert Atlas, Tony Hammer, Paul Flatt and Edward Smith.

Mr. Norman Smith will become Senior Pastor at Nashville. Mr. Ron Kelly will remain at Denver as Senior Pastor. Mr. Ken Swisher will be Senior Pastor at Dallas. Mr. Ray Wooten will remain at Kansas City as Senior Pastor. Carl McNair will remain at Milwaukee as Senior Pastor. Guy Englbart will remain at Cleveland as Senior Pastor, and Larry Salyer will be Senior Pastor at Washington, D.C.

There will be no line authority under Senior Pastors.

As I stated in the most recent Pastor's Report, this entire system of Pastoral Administration has brought only disharmony, a competitive spirit, and a coveting of power within the Church of God.

God teaches us that we must have UNITY! We must all SPEAK THE SAME THING, and be of ONE MIND--the mind of CHRIST and God's Holy Spirit. Self-seeking has no place in the Church of God, and the Church has been full of it. As Christ leads, we are trying to eliminate all that, and restore humility, the attitude of "GIVE" instead of "GET," and eliminate power struggles for dominant authority in the Church of the living GOD!

I ask you all to PRAY fervently and earnestly for PEACE, HARMONY, and UNITY and a self-sacrificing spirit within God's Church.

Jesus Christ GAVE HIMSELF for the church that it might be holy, without spot or wrinkle or blemish. We must confess we have been full of spots, wrinkles and blemishes. Christ is coming very soon. TIME IS SHORT. Revelation 19 says the Church will have made herself READY when Christ comes. WE ARE NOT YET READY!

PLEASE HELP ME, dear Ministers of the living GOD, to make God's Church READY!

Skiber Comstrong

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

WORLD HEADQUARTERS
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91123

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG President and Pastor

August 3, 1979

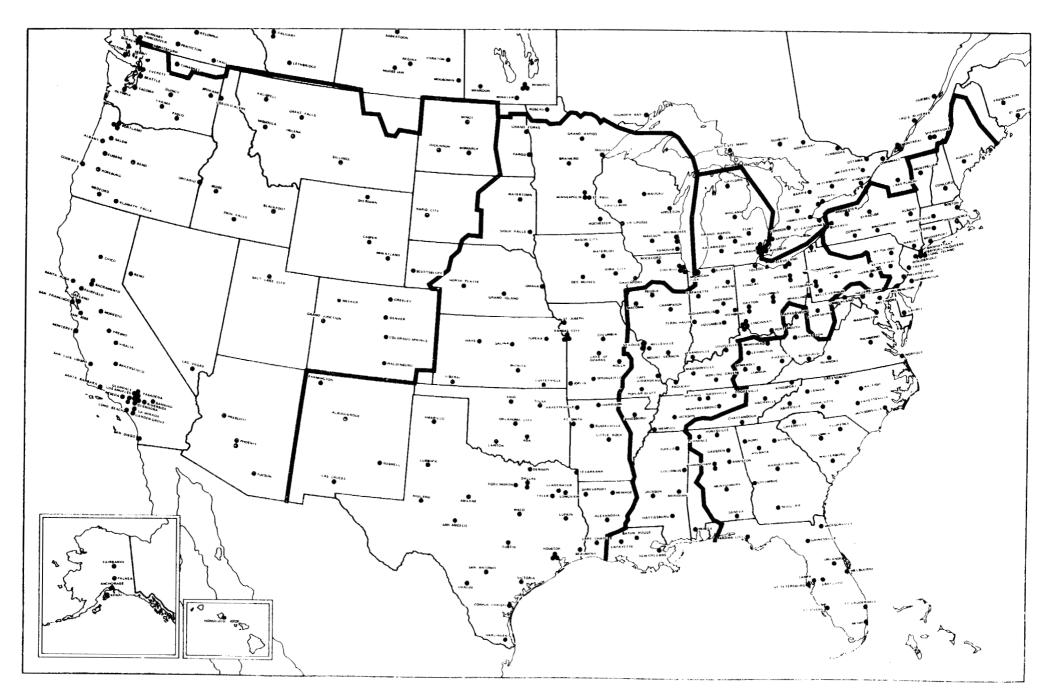
A DIRECTIVE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE

PASTOR GENERAL

I am hereby installing Mr. Joseph W. Tkach in charge of the Office of Ministerial Services, with Dr. William Kessler as assistant.

Mr. Ted Herlofson is to be transferred to a ministerial post in the field. This directive is effective immediately.

Pastor General



PACIFIC AREA--Dennis Luker MIDWESTERN AREA--Dean Blackwell

U.S. CHURCH AREAS

GREAT LAKES AREA--heroy Neff ATLANTIC AREA--Burk McNair

PREPARATIONS BEING MADE FOR MR. ARMSTRONG'S TRIP TO MAINLAND CHINA

(Editor's Note: The following is from a press release distributed to the news media Friday, August 3. It reports on the plans being developed for Mr. Armstrong's initial contact with the leadership of the world's most populous nation.)

Stanley Rader, spokesman for the Pasadena based Worldwide Church of God, announced that the final preparations are being made for the Church founder Herbert W. Armstrong's early September visit to mainland China.

Mr. Rader met today with Japanese officials, who are also invited to China, regarding the coming joint meetings with leading Chinese government officials.

Next week Mr. Rader is slated to visit Peking, Nanking, and Shanghai in order to set up the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation's latest humanitarian project.

The Project entails the donating of American Published, English language books to the libraries of that vast country.

DALLAS CAMPAIGN DRAWS LARGEST CROWDS

The largest crowds of the current series of personal appearance campaigns were present for a two-night program at Dallas, Texas, Saturday and Sunday, August 4 and 5, according to Sherwin McMichael, director of the Personal Appearance Department.

A last-minute change of plans called for Mr. McMichael to speak at the campaign which drew a total of 1,606 people. First night attendance was 1,059 with 885 members and 174 new people. The second night drew 547 total with 418 members and 129 "new attendance." The campaign was emceed by Randy Dick; music was provided by soloist John Beaver accompanied by Allen Andrews.

COST OF LIVING RAISES

(An all-employee memo)

The financial area is aware that the lack of a cost-of-living raise this past spring has put a burden on many of you. Please do not think that we have forgotten you and do not care that it is getting harder each day to make ends meet.

At this time we are beginning to prepare the new budget for 1980 and I have instructed the financial area to also allow for a cost-of-living raise as well as merit raises to take effect November 1, 1979. This of course, depends on the solidifying of our bank credit. The banks have been waiting for the Arthur Andersen & Co. audit to be completed, and we are happy to say that it is now finished. Also, Arthur Andersen & Co. has given us a "clean bill of health" in their audit.

I hope this will take some of the worry off your shoulders and would like to take the opportunity at this time to thank each of you for your loyal support over the past months that have been so trying for us all. Mr. Armstrong especially appreciates your support, not just financially, but with your actions. Thank you for all the hard work and for being patient with us while we have struggled to correct our credit situation.

--Stanley R. Rader, Financial Affairs

A REMINDER TO ALL PASTORS ABOUT THE "MEMBER'S HOTLINE"

On March 19 of this year, the first issue of the "Worldwide Church of God NEWS SUMMARY" was sent along with the Pastor's Report--both of which have since been renamed "MEMBER'S HOTLINE" and "PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT" respectively.

The original instructions for the "NEWS SUMMARY/MEMBER'S HOTLINE" called for each Church Pastor to duplicate enough copies locally for distribution to all heads of households in their congregations on the following Sabbath. Subsequently, we have learned that not all congregations around the world have been receiving copies of the MEMBER'S HOTLINE.

The following statement regarding the purpose of the MEMBER'S HOTLINE appeared in the June 25th PASTOR'S REPORT: "Actually, the MEMBER'S HOTLINE is a summary of special late-breaking news in God's Work which would normally be announced from the pulpit each week /from the PASTOR'S REPORT/. Thus this publication, intended to be made available to heads of house-holds in God's Church, allows our ministers more time for their sermons. Primarily, this publication has contained news updates concerning various aspects of the State of California's attack on God's Church. However, often other Church and College news from the Pastor's Report, which should get to the brethren quickly, is also summarized and included in the MEMBER'S HOTLINE."

Mr. Armstrong is very concerned that the brethren be informed about developments in the Work of God as soon as possible. The MEMBER'S HOTLINE is a means of accomplishing this end. As you have probably noticed already, this week's issue of the MEMBER'S HOTLINE contains the entire text of Mr. Armstrong's special PASTOR'S REPORT letter dated August 2nd.

As originally suggested in the March 19 PASTOR'S REPORT, "a small donation of a dollar or so per person per year in each local area would take care of all paper and duplicating costs in each church." A number of those pastors who have requested such donations have reported receiving enthusiastic responses from the brethren-both monetarily for the HOTLINE'S reproduction costs, and for the news it provides them every week! (One resource-ful pastor reported that he was able to purchase a relatively inexpensive used copier machine which now reproduces all the church's announcements, etc., in addition to the HOTLINE.)

Those pastors who have any questions regarding the MEMBER'S HOTLINE, or who have encountered special difficulties in its distribution, should write or call Mr. Joseph Tkach of Ministerial Services.

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

Here is an update on three projects we have been working on in PT Circulation: Responses are now all in from the letter we sent to subscribers who were getting the magazine before it went to tabloid format and who did not renew when a \$5 donation was suggested. We have added 44,500 of these former subscribers back on the mailing list, many of whom expressed gratitude at the opportunity to resubscribe.

Also, we have gained 10,400 new subscribers from an envelope which was stitched into The Plain Truth offering a gift subscription to a friend. This envelope will be used again in the August U.S. PTs which are printed in England. In the same edition which is printed in the U.S., we will be inserting a Reader Service Envelope. This is designed to help the subscriber notify us of name or address changes, subscription problems or literature requests. When last used in February, 5,800 people sent them

-- Roger Lippross, Publishing Services Director

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Germany

The German Work needs some help in a very important matter. We need about 20 to 30 more brethren to attend the Feast of Tabernacles at Karlsbad, in Czechoslovakia. This is necessary to assure our being able to continue to have a "real" Feast behind the Iron Curtain for our brethren in East Germany, Poland and Yugoslavia.

Last year God gave us favor with the Czech government and they permitted us to hold the Feast with their full approval at the beautiful health spa at Karlsbad. This year they want us back but they want a minimum of 120 attending and we are still between 20 and 30 short of that goal. The Czechs do not feel it is worth their while if we are only 85 as last year. They, of course, are interested in the foreign exchange our people from the West bring.

Many of those attending Karlsbad last year, especially families with children, have expressed their desire to return again this year. It is a very lovely Feast site.

First class accommodations including breakfast and one warm main meal costs \$23.50 per person, per day (children 3 to 12: \$19.50), and second class is only \$16.00 (children \$12.00). Babies under 3 are free.

We provide a professional-quality, simultaneous translation of all services into English.

If anyone in your congregation could attend at Karlsbad and help keep this door to the Iron Curtain open for our brethren there, we can assure a memorable and blessed Feast experience.

Please contact the Bonn office of Ambassador College, POPPELSDORFER ALLEE 53, 5300 BONN, WEST GERMANY by air mail or telegram. The phone number is Bonn 218061.

Burma

Saw Lay Beh, our leader in Burma, recently reported in a letter the following unusual situation that arose on a recent visiting tour he made to the northern Chin Hills district of Burma. We include it for your interest.

"On my recent trip to the Chin Hills, while at a village where several members live, I was asked by a member's father (who is a Catholic pastor there) to speak to the villagers--Catholics and Baptists--who gathered on the occasion of the building of a tomb for the son of Mr. Tum Kio who died a year ago. Then with the help of our assistant, Mr. Thomas Hoe, as interpreter (I spoke in English) to about 150 old and young, for about a half hour on the origin of Satan and the purposes of Christ's first coming and his second coming.

They listened attentively and they were very amazed and astonished with the TRUTH they were never taught or fed--and as it is, their church leaders themselves are totally ignorant of--the living truth that we have wonderfully got from God through His apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong! Their pastor listening from a little distant spot (might be he would feel ashamed if he came near and listened openly), later said that he had never heard of this kind of truth before, though he graduated, with first position, from their Bible School. Yes, they at least heard a small part of the truth, and I do not know how many will react to the truth they had neard, but our great commission from our Lord Jesus Christ is to preach the gospel to the world as a witness! As I could have inferred from what I have experienced each trip to the Chin Hills, prospect for furture gospel work in the Chin Hills State, especially, is very good and encouraging."

--Compiled by Rod Matthews, International Office

ON THE WORLD SCENE

SHOCKWAVES POUND AMERICA'S "SOFT UNDERBELLY": The victory of the Sandinista rebels in Nicaragua is a portent of a great upheaval to occur throughout Central America and the Caribbean area. And what a role Havana is playing in America's downfall!

A new "domino theory" is in full operation: Today Nicaragua; tomorrow El Salvador and Guatemala, both of which are "full of dry kindling"--homegrown Marxist insurgents in the bush, trained in Cuba, inspired by the Sandinista victory. And that's just the beginning of trouble for the United States in the area commonly called "America's Soft Underbelly."

In Nicaragua, the pro-Cuban Marxists are not in complete control--yet. Much of the revolutionary council is composed of nationalist revolutionaries united, on the surface, by their hatred of the deposed dictator Anastacio Somoza. The Sandinistas are split into three main factions-but the most powerful is the pro-Cuban group. The Communist element is clever, too. Reconstruction of war-torn Nicaragua will take 4 to 5 billion dollars, much of it expected to come from the United States (Cuba and Russia can't afford it!). Gullible Washington will probably come across with the money--hoping it can gain the favor of the moderates. Meanwhile the revolutionary junta is nationalizing practically every important industry in the country but will allow foreign private banks to operate in order to maintain a non-Communist facade.

Meanwhile, Cuba is stepping up the training of Communist guerrillas from El Salvador and Guatemala, the latter country now left very much exposed by its open pro-U.S. stance (woe be to any country trusting in America these days; its a recipe for revolution). El Salvador is considered to be the ripest plum. Says a priest in El Salvador: "Once the Sandinista's send arms here, the revolution will be more violent than in Nicaragua."

Cuba's Castro believes furthermore, that the entire Central America isthmus --from Mexico in the north to Colombia in the south--can be turned into one string of Marxist states. And, suggested one news source: If Central America, with its strategic Panama Canal, falls to the revolutionary left, can Mexico and Venezuela, with their strategic oil supplies, be far behind? (As he left for exile in Florida, Somoza himself warned that Communist insurgents could "be on the Rio Grande" in a few years time.)

In the entire revolutionary process, Cuba has been aided by Panama--which incidentally gets control of the U.S. Canal Zone on October 1. Nevertheless, most of Panama's National Guard is non-communist in philosophy. Yet, the United States will be trusting largely in this corrupt force to guard the canal from now on. "It is at heart a calculated risk that the guard can stay in power, and that its corruption will not become so great as to lead to some new counter-force arising in the crucial next 20 years." (Los Angeles Times, March 14, 1979).

As U.S. prestige sinks to new lows throughout the hemisphere, that of Cuba rises. The entire Caribbean area is subject to a great deal of Cuban influence, especially in that ring of largely weak, independent islands guarding the eastern rim of the Caribbean Sea--and the entrance to the Canal sea lanes.

According to a special CIA report prepared for President Carter, the "Cubans are all over the place in the Caribbean," and what especially worries such men as Henry Forde, the foreign minister of Barbados and Prime Minister Eric Williams of Trinidad and Tobago and Premier Lee Moore of St. Kitts and Nevis is the total lack of an American response.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau

MEMBER'S HOTLINE WORLDWIDE EDITION

CHRIST NOW MOVES TO PUT GOD'S GOVERNMENT BACK ON THE TRACK

There is only ONE PLACE ON EARTH where the GOVERNMENT OF GOD is administered--and even that has been side-tracked. Now Christ the living HEAD of the Church sets it back.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

THE WORLD DOES NOT realize that the GOVERNMENT OF GOD once ruled over the earth. God's Government does rule the UNIVERSE!

Angels inhabited this earth before MAN. As RULER over the UNIVERSE, God set a throne on the earth, and placed the super archangel Lucifer on that throne to administer GOD'S Government over the earth.

But Lucifer rebelled. He led his angels into rebellion -- a third of all the angels. Chaos, destruction came to the face of the earth. Lucifer became SATAN, His angels became demons.

In six days God RENEWED the face of the earth (Ps. 104:30). God set out to REPRODUCE HIMSELF THROUGH MAN!

On the 6th day of this re-creation, God formed MAN of the dust of the ground, out of matter. The MAN, Adam, was composed of matter. But God formed him and his wife with human MINDS--capable of absorbing knowledge, and of reasoning and making decisions.

God gave Adam the opportunity to SIT ON Lucifer's throne--IF Adam, fully instructed by God, would reject the ways of Satan, and accept GOD'S WAY--that of GOD'S LAW! But Adam rebelled against God, and chose to go HIS OWN WAY--not realizing, perhaps, he and his human race would be led and swayed by Satan.

God pronounced sentence on the man, and through him on MANKIND! was CUT OFF from access to God--all except the VERY FEW God would specially call for special service preparing for the KINGDOM OF GOD, to be ruled by the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, to be established after 6,000 years.

Some 4,000 years later, the SECOND Adam, Jesus Christ, came to earth, born of the human virgin Mary. He overcame Satan, chose the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, based on the LAW OF GOD. But He was not to take over the throne of the earth until the end of 6,000 years. He raised up His Church, with the GOVERNMENT OF GOD ruling IN THE CHURCH. Satanic persecution drove the Church virtually underground, and the Gospel Message proclaimed by Jesus Christ was suppressed and not proclaimed to the world for approximately 1900 years.

Now we are near the end of the 6,000 years. Christ is soon to come and set up the KINGDOM OF GOD and rule all the earth once again with the GOVERNMENT OF GOD!

Forty-six years ago, God raised up Herbert W. Armstrong, opening his mind to GOD'S TRUTH, using him as Christ's instrument in raising up the present era of the CHURCH OF GOD. Through Mr. Armstrong, Jesus Christ RESTORED THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD--not, of course, yet over the world, but over the Church--as the ONLY PLACE ON EARTH where the GOVERNMENT OF GOD is administered, preparing for the SOON-COMING OF CHRIST IN SUPREME POWER AND GLORY TO SET UP THE KINGDOM OF GOD OVER ALL THE EARTH!

Jesus Christ is coming this second time TO HIS TEMPLE. The CHURCH OF GOD is to grow "unto an holy TEMPLE in the Lord" (Eph. 2:21) -- the TEMPLE to which Christ shall come. Christ set GOD'S GOVERNMENT in the Church.

But today the Church is composed of HUMANS, subject to human error-though humans chosen and led by CHRIST (as was David--a man after His own heart--who corrected his mistakes) will likewise correct errors when led to see them by Christ.

The present era of the Church of God started small--19 newly-converted members. The Work of God, however, GREW. Some mistakes were naturally made, but corrected when Christ revealed them.

Ambassador College was founded in 1947. After a few years a number of small local churches were growing up, ministered by ordained graduates of Ambassador College.

In those early days I used Raymond Cole, a pioneer student, as a "trouble-shooter," to restore peace where frictions had developed. He set up an office at Big Sandy, Texas. I moved him to Pasadena. Soon he moved to Eugene, Oregon. It was becoming extremely difficult for him to direct the growing ministry from there.

A CAD (Church Administration Department) was set up in Pasadena, with Roderick C. Meredith administering the department.

By about 1971 my son, Garner Ted Armstrong, had removed Mr. Meredith from that office, sent him to England as Dean of the Faculty, and installed David Antion as Director of the Ministry. This was a mistake, but not then recognized. It became apparent by 1974 that David Antion had gone too far.

A conspiracy was growing among certain of the ministers to bolt the Church of God, or, they hoped, through David Antion and Albert Portune at Headquarters, to simply TAKE OVER the Church of God. The conspiracy was thwarted. But Mr. Antion decided his LOYALTIES were with the ministers, not the Apostle Christ had raised up and used in BUILDING the Church.

The ministerial revolt, however, resulted in some 35 ministers leaving the Church, and taking two or three thousand members with them.

Mr. Armstrong succeeded in persuading Mr. Antion to stay with the Church. A small few of the revolters formed what they called "The Associated Church of God," with headquarters in or near Washington, D.C. A few ministers took a portion of their local members with them, each forming his own little local church. However it all came to naught. GOD was not

IN this revolt. God was in HIS CHURCH, and in a few months God added to His Church more new members than the number who went out.

My son, Garner Ted, about this time began his own conspiracy to TAKE OVER the Church--and if his father did not oblige him by dying, to put Herbert W. Armstrong into retirement. Ted brought four or five men in from the field to work on a peer basis with Wayne Cole in supervision over the ministry.

After a period of time Mr. Cole managed to eliminate the others. Mr. Cole managed to set himself up as "the head" of the Ministry.

When some of his personal aberrations became known, he was dispatched to Canada and Garner Ted put Ron Dart in as "head" of the ministry. He was to a great extent a "Yes-man" to Garner Ted, and Ted's conspiracy to take over the Church-by cutting his father off from the ministry, and by taking authority never delegated to him in two areas--Policy setting, and doctrine.

Ted and others had lobbied aggressively to get the college accredited. I refused for some time, saying it would be impossible to achieve accreditation and keep it GOD'S college. Their persistence, assuring me we could achieve accreditation and still keep it God's college, finally caused me to say, "Go ahead, then."

Result? A number of PhD's from various universities were brought into the college, and the Big Sandy student body was moved to Pasadena. Bible truth was being rapidly watered down and permissiveness escalated. God Almighty and Jesus Christ were virtually thrown out of the college--and were rapidly being thrown out of the Church!

During these years from 1970 on, I was overseas a great deal of the time--even up to 300 out of the 365 days of the year. Garner Ted had threatened ministers, or those who knew what was going on, with being fired if they communicated to me what was being done.

There came to be a total lack of response from ministers when I repeated requests during 1975 and thereafter. I was being SHUT OUT of all authority in the Church Christ had used me in starting and building.

Ministers were crying for more and more watering down of truths Christ had put into His Church through His Apostle. For example, a number of ministers either had never been really converted, or had slipped so far from Christ by lack of prayer, that it was too embarrassing for them to annoint and pray for healing. They were demanding that healing be eliminated.

Meanwhile, in these same years, a small group of self-professed "intellectuals" were busy preparing the STP (Systematic Theology Project).

I had repeatedly asked ministers or members to contact me personally on problems in the field--but my requests fell on deaf ears.

Mr. Dart was sent away by Ted to Texas on a sabbatical for further study at the University of Texas. Garner Ted then brought C. Wayne Cole back as "head of the ministry." He was Ted's tool, working with Dr. Robert

Kuhn and the "intellectuals." Ministers who should have been fired were left in. Mr. Cole always has worked to keep people "friendly" to him. As the ancient prophet Eli was condemned and punished by God for allowing his sinning sons to remain in the priesthood, so ministers who should have been eliminated were left in. Mr. Cole would offend no one. After Garner Ted was put out of the Church, Mr. Cole did all he could to keep disqualified ministers loyal to him personally, building power for himself.

What has happened, through the years? A power bloc has developed in the Work--a power bloc headed by these various "heads of the ministry"-- of ministers that were NOT loyal to Christ or His Apostle, but to the one using politics at Pasadena.

When the massive invasion by the State of California struck the Church on January 3rd, Mr. Wayne Cole and Mr. David Antion called me on a telephone conference call—with both of them on the phone. They raised their voices to me, DEMANDING that I fire Mr. Stanley Rader, and allow the attorney who brought this evil suit against us to select our defense attorney. This was the last straw. I immediately disfellowshipped both from the Church. It has developed also what I felt sure of—Mr. Wayne Cole was "IN" on this whole conspiracy to bring on the unconstitutional attack by the State of California. Only he kept his name out of it.

In the emergency, I set Mr. Roderick Meredith as head of the ministry until I could decide how to eliminate this POWER BLOC by having a man as "head of the ministry"--which is virtually the same as being head of the Church and the entire Work. Such an office simply does not belong in God's Church.

Therefore I am ABOLISHING that office entirely. Christ's Apostle is the human head over the ministry, and MUST NOT BE CUT OFF FROM THE MINISTERS! Mr. Meredith is being transferred back as Dean of the Faculty of Ambassador College.

Jesus Christ is the LIVING HEAD of the Worldwide Church of God, and of the College and the Foundation. I have prayed urgently and repeatedly for His guidance, and I know that I have it.

Jesus Christ has been moving swiftly the past year to SET HIS CHURCH BACK ON GOD'S TRACK! Christ's second coming is near--and His Church is NOT yet ready. Christ is moving through His Apostle to MAKE US READY!

Steber Comstrong

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