

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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COMPLETION OF WORK NEAR???

by

Herbert W. Armstrong

Signs are now fast appearing that our Work of the GREAT COMMISSION may be much more nearly completed than we have realized.

Mark you, I say "may be." It is not yet sure.

World conditions MAY force European nations and possibly some Balkan nations (ten in all) to unite, bringing to pass the revived "Holy Roman Empire" of 554-1814 A.D. even yet this very year--or possibly next. Our Work (Philadelphia era) probably will be finished about the time this European empire is united. Those nations have WANTED to unite politically, with a common currency and common military force, for some time--but have been unable. It can be accomplished only through the Vatican.

There are no "great" men heading any nation, such as Stalin or Churchill, any more. The one man now ascending to the stature of such strength is Pope John Paul II. Already he is the most travelled pope in history.

He has just finished a tour through three nations in Africa, and now has just completed a four-day crucial visit to France--the first time in nearly 200 years any Pope has visited France. France is more than 95% Roman Catholic, but mostly nominal--not fervent or active Catholic. The Pope was much perturbed about this and strove to correct it.

Last night I watched on TV an interview with the Foreign Minister of France. (The French are seriously "turned off" against the U.S.) Asked his opinion of President Carter's boycott of the Olympics, he said, in effect, it was only a slap on the wrist. Asked what would stop Russia's advances which began with the invasion of Afghanistan, he said, in effect, ONLY SUPERIOR MILITARY POWER. That is true and the nations of Europe know it. But they no longer have faith in U.S. military power being used to stop Russian advances beyond Afghanistan.

More than ever, European governments realize their very LIFE now depends on their own UNIFICATION in MILITARY MIGHT to stop Russia, who is virtually on their borders now.

The debacle of President Carter's military attempt to free the hostages in Iran, added to other Carter weaknesses and blunders, has turned off European confidence in relying on U.S. military power to protect them from the USSR.

The Kremlin has made its first move toward complete world domination, on moving into Afghanistan. One more small leap and they are in control of the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf--and in CONTROL of nearly all the world's oil. The death of Tito, the hostage situation, the United States' display of having lost "the pride of our power," all combine to frighten European leaders, preparing the way for a lightning-fast move through the Vatican to politically and militarily UNITE EUROPE to protect herself against a danger OTHERWISE NOW UNSTOPPABLE.

It may not jell so rapidly--yet I warn you IT MAY--so rapidly it will take our breath!

Once the Roman Empire is resurrected in Europe and the Balkans, our Great Commission will be virtually COMPLETED. Quickly the Laodicean church will rise up. It will go through the GREAT TRIBULATION. We shall be taken (by flight) to a place of protection for 3 1/2 years, till the coming of Christ.

I have rechecked Revelation 3:10 again, and from the original Greek it definitely refers to our being taken to a place of safety from the Great Tribulation.

Meanwhile, let us redouble our efforts, and PRAY as never before, that we draw yet closer to Jesus Christ and to God. Time is short and daily growing shorter. Please pray for me personally with intensive fervor right now!

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GOVERNMENT AGENCY CLEARS US OF FALSE ALLEGATIONS

Our decision making process

by

Herbert W. Armstrong

There are many levels of government in the United States. There is municipal city government, County government, State government, and Federal government.

God Almighty whose Church we are, has been sued by the government of the State of California through the Attorney General's office, in a civil lawsuit. That is, His Church has been sued--and since it BELONGS to God and is called by His name, the State government is actually suing God Almighty.

Since Jesus Christ is the living and guiding HEAD of God's Church, the State is suing Jesus Christ. As Christ's chosen Apostle, the State government is suing me, and as Treasurer of God's Church they are suing Stanley R. Rader.

Screaming page-wide, front-page newspaper headlines blared forth that Mr. Rader and I had been alleged to have siphoned off millions of dollars every year for our own accounts and benefit. But no such charge was made in the lawsuit. Instead, the Attorney General claimed that the state government actually owns, and should direct, guide and manage all churches

in California. An ex-judge was appointed, secretly in a Los Angeles Superior Court judge's private chambers, as receiver of God's Church.

Yes, after almost a year and a half--still UNBELIEVABLE! Nothing like it had ever happened in this land of the FREE and home of the BRAVE!

Now nearly all the large churches of the United States are behind us, giving legal assistance in this lawsuit. They know this is a TEST CASE. If we fall, they will fall.

God's Church did not cave in. We did not fight back in the sense of attacking the State, but we did effectively DEFEND ourselves.

On the very first day, January 3, last year, the receiver "fired" me, Mr. Rader, and the entire Board. He claimed he was running the Church from here on and would decide all policies, doctrines to be believed, type of services and all activities.

But God had foreseen it all, and had moved me to a home in Tucson, Arizona. The RECEIVER stopped my first letter to ministers and members asking for special funds for defense at the Pasadena post office. But I immediately wrote another letter which was mailed from another post office, directing all tithes and offerings sent to me, here. GOD'S CHURCH NEVER STOPPED OPERATING. The Work continued to GROW!

But the names of God's Apostle and Treasurer had been blackened by false witnesses, just as that of Jesus was by false witnesses.

And so another level of government started its own independent investigation into the false allegations against Mr. Rader and me, and against general mismanagement of the Church and Work. This government office has been investigating us for some time. A few days ago, at my invitation, two official investigators came to Tucson for a talk with me in my home. They had talked personally with the false accusers. They had checked out records--everything. They told me their investigation was now almost finished. We will, I am certain, be totally exonerated of any wrong doing.

But I was especially interested in one question they asked me. Since we operate on the Biblical hierarchical form of government, from the top down, and I am responsible for making policies, establishing procedures, doctrines, etc., WHAT IS MY DECISION MAKING PROCESS?

I was glad to answer that!

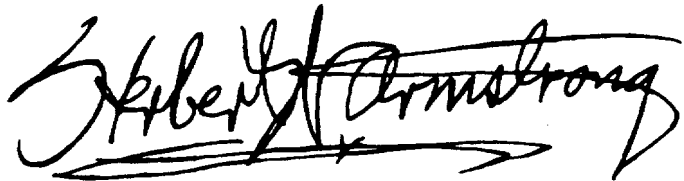
First, Jesus Christ is living HEAD of the Church and Work. He is the WORD of God in Person, and the Bible is the same Word of God in print. I follow His teachings and ways. I pray constantly for leading and guidance. I follow the Biblical teaching and examples. I follow the Biblical admonition, "In multitude of counsellors there is safety." On various problems I counsel with our leading ministers best qualified in the area of the problem for counsel. On all major policies or decisions, I call a Board meeting, and we counsel together. When we are all unanimous--because we seek not our own ideas or wills, but God's, a motion is made and the vote is unanimous. The final decision, it is true, is mine--but in all meetings on such problems or decisions we have all been unanimous. The motion is not put until we are.

Thus we follow the Biblical teaching that we all must speak the same thing, avoiding disharmony and division. Some who have been SELF-willed, controversial, causing division in the Church have been excommunicated. That was true of the malcontent ex-members who brought the false allegations--and the Attorney General's office acted on their false allegations without a shred of evidence!

The investigators were fully satisfied.

GOD'S CHURCH FOLLOWS GOD'S WAY!

Our GOD will vindicate His name and His Church before the world!



RECENT U.S. SUPREME COURT ACTION EXPLAINED AT EMPLOYEE FORUM

Monday morning, June 2, the nation's highest court announced its denial of the Church's request for a hearing concerning our legal battle with the State of California. That same afternoon, Mr. Rader conducted a press conference in his office in the Hall of Administration to inform the media of the court's action and what it means to the Church. Reporters and cameramen from six Los Angeles television stations and several radio stations were present, along with representatives of the print media.

On the following day Mr. Rader covered basically the same points in an employee meeting and answered questions about the court's refusal to act. Following is a summary of the key points he discussed and excerpts from the press conference and employee forum. (Mr. Rader's Pastor General's Hotline tape of June 2 also contained basically the same news and an analysis of the high court's refusal to intervene at this time.)

What Does the High Court's Decision Mean?

Mr. Rader explained that the decision was disappointing but not really surprising and should be viewed in context: "All the Supreme Court decided to do is nothing. So it didn't rule for us, it didn't rule against us. It didn't say we should do something, it didn't say we should not do something. It didn't give the state any greater powers and it didn't impose upon us any more onerous burdens."

Mr. Rader continued, "We requested an appointment with a very august body" He said that the Supreme Court receives 4000 to 5000 requests like ours every year. These are called "writs of certiorari" and are requests that the high court review matters that are in the hands of lower courts to see if there have been any irregularities. Yet, as Mr. Rader explained, 90% of these requests are not granted for any one of a variety of reasons.

People think that one has an automatic right to go to that court. But this simply isn't true. This lofty institution doesn't have to hear cases that it doesn't want to hear. It makes its decision, without explanation to the public, upon criteria including such considerations as the "exhaustion of other remedies."

Why We Hoped the Court Would Take Our Case NOW

As Mr. Rader said, we consider the discovery orders of the Los Angeles Superior Court judges as a very ominous threat to our First Amendment rights of freedom of religion. He reminded us that 83 million other Americans, as represented by their duly designated representatives, were convinced this is true and joined us by urging the U.S. Supreme Court to hear this case now.

Using the analogy that once a bell is rung it cannot be unring, the Church hoped to avoid a more hollow victory later as would be the case when we are vindicated after we have already done what we felt would be contrary to our basic constitutional rights. Mr. Rader noted that if the Supreme Court had taken our case now "it would have saved us a lot of time, it would have saved us a lot of money, it would have saved us a lot of energy and it would have brought the matter to resolution, we believe, very quickly. We are very confident," he went on, "that when and if the Supreme Court hears this case [it may yet be won at a lower court level], there would be no possibility of the court ruling against us."

Since the Supreme Court is about to recess, the court wouldn't have heard our oral argument until the fall. It wouldn't be handing down a decision until late fall and meanwhile we would have to be defending ourselves in the state courts. Mr. Rader further explained that the U.S. Supreme Court is very reluctant to take a case that might win a major victory in a lower court, thus making its involvement become moot.

From "Paper Battle" to Real Confrontation?

Mr. Rader pointed out that so far the Church has essentially waged a "paper battle." Though we have emphasized that the first amendment is important to us, "we have not been exposed to any real threat. In other words, we haven't had to bite any bullets, yet. We've simply said, 'No, we're not going to do this. No, we're not going to do that' when we have gone into court."

He went on to explain that the members of the Church here in the Southland have already been in a showdown when they stood very strong against the receiver early in 1979. "But the Church officers and directors have not been put to that test as yet because it's been a paper battle." Mr. Rader reminded us of the time Mr. Armstrong said early last year in a telephone hookup from Tucson that when there is a conflict between God's law and man's law, we must obey God's law. "So we may be coming closer and closer to that confrontation."

So What Happens Next?

When asked in the forum what happens now, Mr. Rader said, "The next move is fairly predictable. We have already tentatively, even prior to this decision yesterday, worked out a schedule for the turnover of documents, and the answering of interrogatories and the appearance for deposition of certain people, beginning in August and running through November. We have not made any such agreement with respect to Mr. Armstrong or me. [Mr. Rader has already appeared for depositions three times]. We haven't said that we would necessarily comply with that schedule either, but that is the schedule that they, the state, and we are working toward. So that would mean starting in August we would probably have some fireworks."

So the discovery phase of the lawsuit will proceed without the intervention we felt we needed. Again, "discovery" is the pre-trial procedure of gaining information from the opposing party through depositions, interrogatories and requests for documents. Mr. Rader especially wanted to make very clear a point he has made before regarding depositions and the turning over of documents:

"A lot of emphasis has been placed repeatedly by the press on our so-called refusal to make available documents, and our refusal to make ourselves available for deposition or for testimony. And what they do not make plain is that that is true, but only true with respect to the Attorney General. We have cooperated fully with every other agency of the federal and state governments that have evinced an interest in knowing anything at all about us. Even Mr. Armstrong has made himself available.

"So what we have done is simply thrown up a stone wall in front of ourselves vis-a-vis the Attorney General, because he has lied and he has invented and he has maligned and he has slandered. He is a totally dishonest man.

"But we have cooperated with everybody else to a much greater extent than we will ever cooperate with the Attorney General under any conceivable set of circumstances. It's one thing to sit down with people who treat you as they should, who treat what you give them in a confidential manner, and are only interested in satisfying whatever obligation they feel they have.

"It's another thing to be accused of all kinds of wrongdoing, [and] to have that, as Mr. Armstrong said, plastered over all the newspapers around the country.

"The other agencies have not done that. They have worked with us in such a way as we were able to give them the answers to every single question they have had and every scrap of paper. Even our auditors, Arthur Anderson, know very well that they will never find another client that is so cooperative, never....Even Mr. Armstrong has made himself available. That's very, very important.

Summing up the weeks ahead of us in the pre-trial aspects of the lawsuit, Mr. Rader said, "The next step will be when they ask us questions that we feel we cannot answer or they ask us for documents that we do not think under any conceivable circumstances we can turn over, etc."

Controversy Over Law, Not the Facts

Observers of the lawsuit have noticed that there is basically little real controversy over the facts in this case, although Mr. Rader noted at the press conference that the Attorney General doesn't want to admit it yet. James J. Kilpatrick, a syndicated columnist, didn't overlook that in his very insightful and favorable article when he said, "The facts are not even significantly in dispute."

Mr. Rader told the media that many of the facts that are still being put forward as sinister and indicative of "self-dealing" and "fraud" have been volunteered in a lengthy affidavit by Mr. Rader early in January! "Consequently, everything the Attorney General has done in the last 18 months has been designed to work the media up and the courts into believing that

there's some controversy over the facts. [But] there is no controversy over the facts. This thing will boil down to a matter of law. Is it wrong, for example, for Mr. Herbert Armstrong, God's Apostle...to travel the world fulfilling the Great Commission? If it is wrong for him to do so, why is it wrong? And why should he have to account to the Attorney General for those activities?"

The facts of the case are well known to our members. Therefore, many of them, Mr. Rader told the media, would be willing to testify concerning them. "Remember our members tried to intervene in this action. They tried to be heard from. They filed a lawsuit. And they were told, 'You don't have any right.' This is again a question of law. You mean to tell me that the members of the Worldwide Church of God have no rights?"

Litigation Is Costly

One reporter inquired about the cost of litigating the case thus far. In being thrust into a position where the Church had to defend itself and some of its officers, it follows that a lot of money has been spent in litigation, acknowledged Mr. Rader. "And [the Church] will have to continue spending a lot of money in litigation. When you are attacked, you must defend. There's no [other] way. If the Church had not spent the money it spent, a little ex-judge would be sitting here in this office and he would be ripping this Church off, himself, for 150 dollars an hour. The associate from his law firm would also be getting 150 dollars an hour. And that associate's daughter [also a lawyer] would be getting 100 dollars an hour, not to mention all the other people. They would have spent four million dollars a year just to line their pockets! We've spent considerably less."

Advertising Campaign Goes East

On the morning of the employee forum, Mr. Rader was interviewed on the telephone by the New York Times. He said they were very impressed with our full-page newspaper advertising campaign and wanted to know if we were going East with it. Mr. Rader answered in the affirmative and said we would have moved east earlier, but we were cautioned not to do so for fear that the Supreme Court would take it as an attempt to pressure them. So our campaign to accurately inform and educate the public about the State's attack will be moving across the country. And, of course, Mr. Armstrong is hard at work preparing new ads.

Media Helps Heighten Public Interest

Splashy headlines and inaccurate conclusions have been drawn by much of the media from the latest Supreme Court decision. "But remember," Mr. Rader said, "newspaper and television people want to sell newspapers and they want to attract listeners and viewers. And therefore they try to sensationalize what has occurred. And in a way that isn't bad for us frankly, because our Church members will know what happened and we do want the public to be aware of this entire battle. We do not want this to simply be a 'paper battle' fought in quiet courtrooms. We do want it brought to a level of consciousness amongst the widest number of people throughout this nation.

"So in that sense they again do us somewhat of a favor by heightening the interest of the public. As a result, I had the phone call today from the

Churches Outlawed in U.S.S.R.

Don't say it can't happen here!!

80 million Americans fight back!

YOUR CHURCH is being threatened! Ours already is under attack. We are fighting the battle for you!

The First Amendment of the Constitution was adopted to protect the freedom of religion from the State, as well as freedom of the press and the right of peaceable assembly.

But the organized move to DESTROY the United States Constitution is already under way through corrupt politicians. You need to know the facts!

This conspiracy to destroy all churches and the freedom of the press in the U.S.A. by corrupt politicians has been launched in America's number one populated state by the office of the California Attorney General. He maintains that all churches are the ward of the political government—that the State owns all church property and assets—and the political State should run and operate all churches.

This is the most heinous and unconstitutional assault on American FREEDOM, and start toward a Communist Dictator State.

Those in political corruption believe in the domino theory. If our Church, singled out for the beginning attack against Constitutional rights succeeds, other churches will next be destroyed, until all churches are non-existent!

Eighty million Americans already are fighting back. Already those coming to our aid in submitting legal briefs to higher courts include the Roman Catholic, the Methodist, the Baptist national association, the National Council of Churches, and many more of the leading church organizations in America.

They do not believe all our doctrines, nor one another's, nor we theirs. But they, and we, do believe in the right of others to freedom of belief and of peaceful assembly.

Our Church, the Worldwide Church of God, is nearly fifty years old in its present era of the Church started by Jesus Christ in A.D. 31. We are comparatively small—less than 100,000 baptized adult members. Yet we are worldwide, we are non-proselyting, do not solicit members of other churches, do not solicit funds from the public. We believe sincerely and deeply in our Church, even as you do in yours.

A MODERN POGROM

Pogrom is a word that may be unfamiliar to most Americans. It refers to the systematic or organized persecution or destruction of a minority group within a society. Most often it has been used to describe Tsarist Russian attacks on Jews there. It has not often been used in this country.

Pogrom, however, may be the only word suitable for describing the ghastly attack on our Church by the attorney general. Conservative columnist James J. Kilpatrick, on March 25,



1980, writing in the Washington Star, described it this way:

... you might have to go back to the days of Thomas Jefferson to find a case more mind-boggling than the assault of the State of California upon the Worldwide Church of God.

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

What "this" is, in case you have missed news stories, is the takeover of our Church. Again, the words of Mr. Kilpatrick:

"The facts are not even significantly in dispute. Toward the end of 1978, a schism developed within the Pasadena-based Worldwide Church of God. The patriarchal leader of the Church, 86-year-old Herbert W. Armstrong, split with his 48-year-old son Garner Ted Armstrong.

"Half a dozen dissident members of the Church complained to the California attorney general that the senior Armstrong and his close associate, Stanley R. Rader, were overpaid; that they were pilfering Church property; that they had conspired to sell Church property at less than its fair value; that they had shredded Church documents to prevent their disclosure; and that they were living in luxury at the expense of the Church's 70,000 members."

On no more evidence than the complaint of those six former Church members, the State of California raided the Church's property and headquarters on January 3, 1979, and announced that a court-appointed receiver was in charge.

The receiver, again as Mr. Kilpatrick describes, "came armed with a reefer court order directing him to take possession and control of the Church, including all its assets, to take over the management of the Church to the extent that he deemed necessary in his sole discretion; to suspend or terminate any employee, and so on. One of [the receiver's] first acts was to fire the Church's executive secretary...."

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

"At no point has the Church been accused of any injury to the public health or safety; the trial court has stressed that the Church 'has not been accused of any wrongdoing.' The most

serious allegations, having to do with the below-value sale of real estate for private gain, have been dismissed as mere hearsay.

"It is beyond comprehension—beyond my comprehension anyhow—how the state of California can assert a power to control what a Church employee is paid. That issue lies at the very heart of this case."

It is beyond our comprehension too. Our Church's work has been seriously disrupted. All because the attorney general believes, or says he believes, that a Church's money is public money, not the Church's, that the State has the right and obligation to make sure a Church's money is spent properly, and that he is the person who can decide what proper spending is.

As Mr. Kilpatrick noted, "It is apparently immaterial that a Church, as in this case, has never solicited funds from the general public, but relies only upon the contributions of its own members scattered across the nation."

And that is the whole crux of the matter. It is God's money. We give it freely to our Church because we want to and because we trust our Church's leaders to use it wisely in carrying out work that we support and of which we approve.

You don't have to approve of us or support our work. Certainly, the attorney general's support or approval is of no concern to us. We want only to be left alone to go about our religious business as we see fit, as we believe you should be.

Can you imagine the attorney general overseeing the spending of the Roman Catholic Church in California? Can you imagine a Catholic cardinal's compensation being subject to the attorney general's review?

Would he have attacked the Methodist Church, the Presbyterian or Lutheran?

Would he have undertaken to raid a Synagogue?

Will he? He might well, given his apparent determination to be the religious arbiter for California's citizens, UNLESS HE IS STOPPED NOW. He chose what he thought was a small, helpless group, perhaps expecting us to disappear without a whimper, leaving him with an important legal precedent.

We tried out to be somewhat bigger and less helpless than he expected. We do not intend to disappear, whimperingly or otherwise. We intend to continue defending our Church because our religion and our right to practice that religion as we wish matter more to us than our property or even our lives.

What about you? What matters to you? Your religion? Your politics? Your sex? Your profession? Your race?

Again, we don't ask you to care about the Worldwide Church of God. We ask you to care about yourself and about what you believe in and to ask yourself whether you don't have a cause in common with us.

We think you do. It's called, the Constitution of the United States.

As we said earlier, we do not seek members, but we will be happy to provide any information about us that you wish. Write us: The Worldwide Church of God, Box 111, Pasadena, California, 91123, or call our toll-free number: (800) 423-4444. In California, call collect (213) 877-5225.

Herbert W. Armstrong
Herbert W. Armstrong

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New York Times. They haven't called me in over a year and a half. So they want to do a big story. They had a small story that came out of Washington today which was fairly accurate, but they want to do a bigger story. So we will get some more attention."

It is hoped that more publications will begin to deal with our case below the surface. "What we need are some more articles from other newspapers and magazines dealing with the issue not in headlines and lead paragraphs and rehashing old things, but in depth," Mr. Rader said.

New Book Offers a Close Look At the Case

At the forum Mr. Rader showed the audience an advance copy of a book he recently authored. Against the Gates of Hell is the title, and the cover caption on the jacket reads as follows: "The shattering story of an assault mounted by a big state against a small church, and how its members fought back to protect the vital liberties of all of us."

The book is designed to help educate the general public and should be very useful to members who would like to have on hand a complete and accurate account of the lawsuit of the century. While the book is around 450 pages in length, 300 pages are devoted to "telling everybody about us and our fight without offering much of a defense, actually. It isn't an effort to defend ourselves; it's an effort to explain what happened and what is happening and to make it of interest to everybody," said Mr. Rader. Some 30 pages of pictures and a rather extensive appendix are also included. It will be made available to members at the feast, if not before!

Top Constitutional Lawyer On Our Team

Even as we are hoping and looking for more really good coverage which will set a lead for other publications, Harpers magazine has asked one of our most prominent attorneys to write an article about the case. He is now working on it and Mr. Rader was happy to announce it will be appearing soon.

Telling us a little more about this man, Mr. Rader said it was very significant that Professor Laurence Tribe took our case. "He is not just a lawyer in practice. A lawyer in practice takes all kinds of cases. [Such a lawyer may] take all kinds of cases where people are guilty as well as innocent because everybody is entitled to defense.

"But [Mr. Tribe] is not only from Harvard but he is not in private practice. But he is allowed, on a selected basis, to take cases of paramount importance. And once he convinced himself of our integrity and the nature of this case, he has been an absolute dedicated servant...he is the outstanding constitutional lawyer in the United States today. He is working around the clock to try to vindicate us.

"I just wanted you to know that, not that the other lawyers don't believe in our cause as well. I'm only pointing out that he's got a lot at stake reputationwise, and Harvard would look down on him if he got involved in the wrong case at the wrong time because it's just too much of an educational institution to have their leading law professor in that field running around after bad causes."

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICESThank You, Mr. Armstrong!

Many times I have been moved by Mr. Armstrong's example, especially in recent months. Perhaps a public expression of appreciation for his labor of love and sacrifice would be in order here. I am sure many of you have felt the same way and could join me in spirit in saying "Thank you, Mr. Armstrong!"

God's Apostle, through the abundance of his inspired writing and speaking, has built this Work. His articles have unquestionably been inspired. He writes with a special, God-given insight about world conditions, and ties those momentous happenings in with end-time prophecy. I was especially moved by his latest PLAIN TRUTH article, "A Voice Cries Out Amid Religious Confusion (Part Five)" and the GOOD NEWS article about Church history--both outstanding examples of what I mean.

Mr. Armstrong certainly does not believe in retiring. His vigorous and forthright speaking and writing is setting a tremendous example for all of us. The voluminous work he has produced, especially in the last year, should stop the mouth of even the most foolish gainsayer who might be tempted to falsely accuse him of being "senile"! As the saying goes, "There is none so blind as he who will not see."

Writing in his book Sixty-five Plus, Charles B. Randall notes how Winston Churchill at sixty-five was by all odds the number one man in the world in terms of personal leadership and achievement. Yet he was largely unknown in the United States. "His wisdom, and that vast resource of undaunted courage which he transmitted so radiantly to multitudes everywhere came nowhere near their full expression until after normal retirement [age]. His life reached its greatest usefulness at sixty-five plus, and then went on growing through seventy-five plus....Not until his very senior years did he reach the unshakeable peak of leadership."

So it is with God's Apostle today!

God knew His Church would have to be put back on the track. Through long years of dedicated and fruitful service, Mr. Armstrong was prepared and then led to act decisively when God had seen it was time to act.

Mr. Armstrong has indeed been setting the Church back on the track, as He is led by Jesus Christ. And the fruits are everywhere. People's lives are being changed by the television and radio broadcasts, The PLAIN TRUTH, The GOOD NEWS and other publications. God is giving remarkable and steady increase throughout His Work, and everywhere a renewed spirit of brotherhood and cooperation is being manifested--especially here in Pasadena. It has been very moving to me personally to see and experience the genuine, positive changes that have taken place.

For the labor of love and sacrifice of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong who has been setting such an outstanding example for all of us, thank you, Mr. Armstrong!

Update From Germany

The Church's worldwide revitalized growth was reflected in the Spring and Pentecost feast statistics for the German-speaking area. Attendance was up 21% over last year for the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and up 16.6% for Pentecost.

Of course, offerings reflected the rise in attendance. Offerings for the Feasts of Unleavened Bread and Pentecost were up 24% and 11.3% respectively.

The high attendance plus many enthusiastic comments revealed that the German-speaking brethren's commitment to the Work is as strong as ever. The Swiss brethren had the additional pleasure of greeting Local Elder Tom Lapacka from Texas on the last Holy Day. Tom and Linda Lapacka and their two boys moved to Europe in mid-May in order to serve the Swiss churches (Zurich and Basel) from southernmost Germany.

Additional news for the month of April involved an increase in the number of services for West Berlin. Now the people attending services there will be able to meet twice a month instead of just once. The availability of a new hall plus increased attendance (due to the January campaign) gave impetus to the decision to increase the number of services.

The month of April showed a 16.5% increase in mail income over last year. That gives the German area of God's Work a year-to-date mail income increase of 14%.

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

SALEM, OR--DAVID H. MILLS: The brethren here are very inspired following the best spring Holy Days ever and a fantastic visit by Mr. Waterhouse! Some who had problems, like smoking, drinking, etc. are facing their problems and overcoming. There was very good support for the public Bible studies.

OLYMPIA, WA--LAMBERT GREER: Everyone was uplifted by Mr. Gerald Waterhouse's visit. The Church is excited about the Feast and plans for housing, etc.

SHREVEPORT, LA--BILL BRADFORD: Attendance continues to be high. Many comments from members about how much the Feast of Unleavened Bread meant to them this year.

LONGVIEW, TX--BILL BRADFORD: Things are going very well in Longview. The attendance continues to set records.

ST. PAUL, MN--BILL JAHNS: All's well in St. Paul. Attendance has started to rise. Mr. Armstrong's taped sermon from Tucson was very fine.

GARDEN GROVE, CA--DOUG HORCHAK: Brethren are excited about renewed direction in God's Church and anxious to be given the direction from Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong that they hadn't had for years.

SCOTT CITY, KS--KELLY BARFIELD: Many hard hit by winter, but things improving. Everyone loyal to the Work and Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

RENO, NV--JIM CHAPMAN: Appreciated the Holy Days. A lot of excitement being generated because of world events and Feast of Tabernacles plans. Very favorable reaction to recent T.V. programs.

BIG SANDY, TX--DON WARD: We had an all-time record per person offering on the last Day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (\$25.08 per person) which was a 48% increase over last year!

BISMARCK, ND--DAN CREED: I certainly appreciate the many things that Mr. Armstrong is able to write about and clear up any questions on. It was good to hear his clarification on saving a tithe on the gross as opposed to the net. I also appreciated him determining who should attend the Passover services. His comments on such issues really help.

LAS VEGAS, NV--BERNIE SCHNIPPERT: Attendance keeps increasing for seemingly no obvious reasons. Many people interested in Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's upcoming trips, etc.

MONROE, LA--BRISCOE ELLETT, II: There seems to be more sickness than there should be. But all in all the people are allowing these trials to draw them closer to God. Attendance, with the exception of one Sabbath of bad weather, is really up. God's Spirit is certainly evident.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

NEW HOTLINE TAPE SCHEDULE

The Pastor General's Hotline tape, which has been made available on our 800-423-4444 WATS number, will now be taped once a week beginning this month.

In order to distribute the incoming calls over the entire week, we're asking that each area call on a specific day of the week. Also, we would still like to have either you, your wife or someone you designate call in. A few have given the number out for anyone to call in and, of course, this tends to crowd the lines used by those calling in for booklets, etc.

Because of the once-a-week tapings during the summer, the following schedule will apply:

- *Pacific time zone churches -- Tuesday
- *Mountain time zone churches -- Wednesday
- *Central time zone churches -- Thursday
- *Eastern time zone churches -- Friday

*Please call during our regular working hours (8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.) here in Pasadena.

Thank you for your dedicated support and cooperation.

--Bill Butler, Telephone Response

FESTIVAL UPDATE

Several questions have arisen regarding the booths and dorms at Big Sandy. This space, along with the camp spaces, will be assigned in July. Members will be informed as soon as possible thereafter exactly where they are assigned. Please remind your congregation(s) that camping in the Piney Woods must be assigned. It is not on an own-arrangement basis. It appears that the booths and dorms are now filled to capacity. We regret that we will not be able to take any more requests until further notice.

With 67% of the members in the U.S. having responded, Hawaii and Vail are now full; however, for those wishing to travel, there is still room in Biloxi and Orlando. Housing in Eugene is very scarce, but camping is still plentiful.

The reason for these sites filling up so quickly is that almost 50% of those responding so far have requested transfers. The overall figure in years past has been about 30%. However, as long as space is available, transfers will be approved.

--Festival Coordination Team

A POSITIVE NEW TREND FOR THE WORK

Mail processing recently sent the following memo to Mr. Herbert Armstrong. It illustrates a dramatic change that has occurred since he has taken direct charge of God's Church and His Work. We hope you will be as encouraged by this news as we are.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

Here's an astonishing bit of information we in MPC thought you would find interesting.

Before you started to put the Church back on track about 1 1/2 years ago, we were receiving 30%-33% negative comments from people. (This was during the period when Ted had to be put out, when negative publicity in the news media about the Work was widespread, when the receiver came in, etc.). People were upset, had questions, and were writing to us about the turmoil that was going on.

Now, however, all that has changed! Since you have begun to take a firm hand in the operation of the Work, negative comments have dropped to almost nothing.

During the period of January to May 1980, nearly 99% of letters directed to our Comments Section were overwhelmingly positive! Looking at all the mail received by MPC since January of this year, less than one letter out of 10,000 from members, co-workers, donors and regular subscribers was considered a "negative comment."

This is very encouraging and inspiring to us who work in Mail Processing. It shows that the guidance and direction you are giving to the Work are having a tremendously POSITIVE effect! People are being reassured again of God's leadership.

We wanted to share this with you--and hope that it can be encouraging to you, as it is to us.

PLAIN TRUTH INCREASING IN EFFECTIVENESS

The literature request cards we have been inserting in The PLAIN TRUTH continue to produce very positive results.

So far, nearly 34,000 responses have come in for the booklets advertised in the April PLAIN TRUTH. All together nearly 110,000 booklets and reprints have been requested from this one issue alone. Last month 57% of all booklet requests came in through The PLAIN TRUTH.

Since May of last year, nearly every issue has had a literature request card bound inside advertising Mr. Armstrong's basic booklets. These cards have generated greatly increased numbers of booklet requests, and in the future should result in increased growth.

--Publishing Services

MAIL COMMENTS

The letters this week show a very good response to Mr. Armstrong's member and co-worker letters (April 28th) on tithing. Readers also expressed appreciation for The WORLDWIDE NEWS, especially Dexter Faulkner's column, "Just One More Thing." Finally, a couple of members share remarkable details of recent healings.

--Mail Processing Center

Members Respond to Tithing Letter

Your letter about the importance of tithing came today. I'm sorry you had to write it. I hope the people not paying tithes are in a small minority. We came into God's Church at a time when we were not very well off financially, but through learning the truth and doing our best to be faithful and pay tithes, we have been blessed. We know we have and are grateful.

--Mr. & Mrs. H.H. (Houston, TX)

Thanks for your helpful letter admonishing us to continue putting God first where our incomes are concerned. My fixed income grows smaller even with the raises from time to time. But we know that when we trust and obey God and put our faith in Christ, He will always come through with His promises.

--Mary S. (Columbus, OH)

Thank you so much for your recent letter dated April 28 on the subject of tithing. I did not realize how wrong I've been for 5 years. I've been ignorantly tithing on take-home pay. May God richly bless you for waking me up to this mistake. As soon as I read your letter, I fell on my knees and repented to God for holding back tithes on the gross amount. I could never repay God for what I've held back. One thing is for sure though, I shall be tithing on the gross from now on.

--Member (New Jersey)

Your letter was very timely and very much appreciated. I pray, with you, that all of God's people will remember that He blesses the tithe payer. I can testify to that personally and I hope I never, never forget it.

--Mrs. Lorraine F. (Tremont, IL)

We want to thank you for correcting us on our tithe. We sure don't want to rob God and we know that although on the surface it would appear we can't afford to tithe, our Father always provides the things we need. He never lets us down and we don't want to let Him down either.

--Mrs. Rachel J. (Topeka, KS)

I just got through reading your letter about tithing; a timely warning to me. While I would not dream of robbing God of my first tithe, I've had my doubts about the third tithe and offering. There is very little left for groceries, utilities, insurance. I was on third tithe for a number of years and know how deeply thankful I was to get that help--and I want to help others. God has promised to supply our needs so I'm going to claim that promise and pay my third tithe, too.

We just got your April 28th letter. Thank you for speaking plainly and clarifying the important point about tithing on one's income before taxes. For at least the last three or four years and probably longer, I've been tithing after deducting federal and state income taxes. Thank you for clearing up this point! I'd wondered about it off and on for years. But had taken the "easy" way out because I thought we'd been told we could and the arguments to do so sounded convincing. Now for the first time in years, we can rejoice that our financial situation, too, has been set back on track!

--Member (North Carolina)

Readers Appreciate Worldwide News

It never fails to give me a thrill to open my mailbox and discover The WORLDWIDE NEWS there. "Just One More Thing," by Dexter Faulkner, is so helpful. And the things Gene H. Hogberg understands and writes!!!! I only hope all of you who put our paper and magazines together enjoy that job half as much as we do when reading them.

--Peggy H. (Mill Run, PA)

I'm so thankful for The WORLDWIDE NEWS as it covers things we otherwise wouldn't know.

--Mildred R. (Urbana, OH)

Thank you for The WORLDWIDE NEWS which is like a "Family Circle" and interesting to read. The little article, "Just One More Thing," is a fine education in a very loving way. Thank you.

--Miss E.V. (Long Island, NY)

I also wanted to mention how much I appreciate Mr. Dexter Faulkner's "Just One More Thing." These short articles have been very helpful.

--Janet F. (St. Petersburg, FL)

Members Share Details of Healings

Approximately three weeks ago I had a spot form in the very center of my left eye and I couldn't see or read as everything was completely blurred out. I went to an eye specialist and he told me a blood vessel had leaked into the center of my eye and there wasn't anything he could do. He also said he didn't think it would clear itself and I would have to live with it.

On the 27th of February I went to Wednesday night Bible study and had Mr. Bierer anoint my eye and pray for me. Thank God it is almost cleared up and I can see through it as clear as the right eye.

--Alfonse D. (Kenmore, NJ)

January 1, 1980, I became age 82 and on the same night I was struck blind to the point that I could not drive or even walk without stumbling. A member called for the prayer cloth (anointed cloth). I followed the instructions and do you know I was completely healed on the same Sabbath day in only a few hours!

--John D. (Oroville, CA)

ON THE WORLD SCENEUNDERDOG STRAUSS REVERTS TO FORM: FROM NOW ON IT'S NO MORE "MR. NICE GUY"

Franz Josef Strauss has at last discarded his kid gloves and carefully cultivated statesmanlike image. Mr. Strauss has no choice but to revert to his preferred style of rough-and-tumble politics. The "ineffective mantle of a prudent statesman" (Times of London description) wasn't working. It's now do-or-die for the burly Bavarian.

The turning point was the key May 11 state election in North Rhine-Westphalia. The populous state has about a third of West Germany's electorate. Its election was considered to be a dress rehearsal for the October 5 general election.

The results in this bellweather land proved to be a stunning setback for Mr. Strauss and the conservative CDU-CSU "sister parties." The CDU plunged from its habitual top position in the state to a bitterly disappointing second place, with only 43.2% to 48.4% for Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's Social Democratic Party (SPD).

Although Strauss downplayed the results ("This election was fought on local issues") he was angered at SPD sloganeering which portrayed the SPD as the party of peace and, by implication, the CDU and Strauss as harbingers of war. (One poster proclaimed "We Don't Want War Any More" and featured the pictures of 36 women who had lost sons, husbands, or fathers in World War II and vowed never to let such a thing happen again.)

Nine days later Mr. Strauss came out swinging at the Christian Democratic Congress convention in West Berlin. In a two-hour long fighting speech to the 780 assembled delegates, the chancellor-challenger lashed out at the left-wingers in the SPD who, he said, were taking Germany on a dangerous course of neutralization, gradually disengaging Bonn from the Western Alliance. He accused Chancellor Schmidt of wrangling an invitation to Moscow (he goes in late June) by watering down a NATO decision to station improved missiles in Western Europe.

The speech, reported Patricia Clough in the Times of London, May 20, "was vintage Strauss, a tough, fighting speech, witty, provocative, colourful and rousing. At the end many--though not all--of the skeptical Christian Democrats gave him a rousing ovation with shouts of 'Franz Josef, Franz Josef.' It seemed as if last week's debacle in the North Rhine-Westphalian Land elections had finally brought out the fighting spirit which had seemed to fail him in the 10 months since he became the Opposition's candidate for Chancellor. By the end he appeared to have won over, or at least encouraged, the Christian Democrats." (Prior to the speech some disgruntled CDU members had even talked of dumping Strauss. But they also realized it is too late in the campaign to do this.)

Mr. Strauss, it is apparent, will be hammering hard at the powerful left-wing of the SPD and its barely concealed appeasement preferences toward Moscow. He will hit not only the SPD's vociferous youth organization, but also leaders such as Herbert Wehner (a former East German Communist), Egon Bahr, and ex-Chancellor Willy Brandt. Brandt is certainly fair game, having recently equated Soviet action in Afghanistan with U.S. policy in the Caribbean.

The North Rhine Westphalia election, bad as it was for Strauss and the CDU, nevertheless contained one ray of hope for them. Although the SPD won big, their coalition partner in Bonn, the Free Democrats (FDP) lost out completely. The FDP just barely missed the 5% minimum vote threshold. There is thus the danger--to Chancellor Schmidt--that the Free Democrats might suffer the same fate in the October 5 election. This would remove at a stroke the FDP from the Bonn Parliament, where its 39 members provide vital coalition support without which Herr Schmidt's government could tumble. The FDP was hit hard in North Rhine-Westphalia by the "Greens"--the environmentalists --who robbed them of 40,000 votes.

Thus, despite the May 11 setback, all is not lost for Mr. Strauss, especially now that he has hit the campaign trail in true Straussian form. "With a hard hitting Herr Strauss at the hustings," reports the Daily Telegraph of May 13, "and signs of fierce Left Wing agitation breaking out afresh, West Germany could see its most turbulent election campaign since 1949." New York's Journal of Commerce, in a dispatch from Bonn, adds that the campaign promises to be "one of the most aggressively, bitterly and brutally fought political contests" in German history.

Postcript: The Common Market, in a decision reached by its finance ministers last Friday, apparently has healed for now the budget dispute reported in last week's Pastor General's Report. However, bitter feelings across the Channel still run deep. And speaking of the Channel, plans for the Channel tunnel (reported in this publication on Feb. 15, 1980) continue to advance. The Channel project (which if started is expected to be completed by 1988) is curiously tied into the EEC budget dispute. Note this comment from the article "The 'Chunnel' Lives" in the latest issue (May-June, 1980) of Europe, a semi-official publication of EEC activities: "None of the [tunnel] projects would have a chance of getting off the ground without the present crisis in the Community over Britain's contributions to the EC budget. Britain claims it is 'owed' a repayment of over \$2 billion because its EC contributions are too large. None of its partners are prepared to pay back the cash by writing out a check. Officials in the EC Commission, particularly those in transport, are privately working on a package of schemes for EC funding that could benefit Britain. One of those items is the Channel tunnel. Britain is reluctant to accept payment in this way, but the only alternative might be to leave the Community, which Prime Minister Thatcher is not keen to do either. If the Chunnel does indeed get the go-ahead, it will thus be not as a project born of European idealism and aimed to improve transport links, but as a compromise designed to paper over massive disagreements in the financing of the Community."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau